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LIMITED EDITION

magazine

THE WARSAW VOICE

Multimedia Platform in Poland

EUROPEAN UNION



... Europeans have to join forces and capacities (...) to become a global player on an equal footing with existing and emerging powers.

— Günter Verheugen / page 4

NO TIME LEFT!



SPECIAL SECTION:
CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE FOCUS / pages 19–30





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European Union:

Günter Verheugen talks to the *Voice's* Juliusz Kłosowski:

Let's talk about the challenges for the most advanced international project our continent has ever had: the European Union. In your opinion, are they mainly of a global or rather an internal, European nature? In other words, do we have to solve the more continental issues first before being able to cope with some of the global challenges we face, like migration or major changes in global balance?

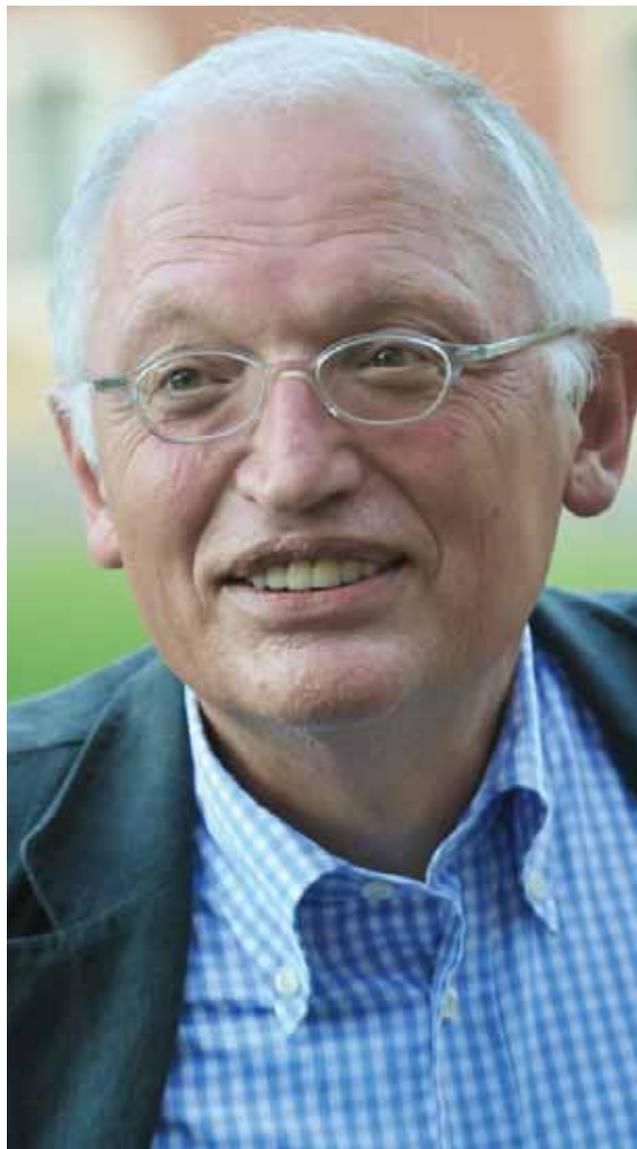
We are confronted with a frightening number of global challenges, which we have known already for some time. Here is a shortlist: proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons; migration flows as a result of war, political instability, climate change and economic disparities; conflicts between the only existing super-power and emerging powers, like China; conflicts between Western democracies and the Islamic world; transnational terrorism; cybercrime; effects of digitalization - just to name a few.

We are confronted with a frightening number of global challenges /.../

On top of that we have risks emanating from the policy of the present US president, for instance as regards the functioning of the global trade system. A new wave of protectionism might replace the present liberal trade system.

/.../ individual European nation states cannot deal with these challenges if they act alone

It goes without saying that individual European nation states cannot deal with these challenges if they act alone. In a global context, each and every European nation state can be marginalized. Could you imagine Latvia negotiating a favorable trade agreement with China? The answer to your question is therefore clear and I do not see any reasonable alternative: we Europeans have to join our forces and capacities and we have to become a global player on an equal footing with existing and emerging powers. I am well aware that it is a no-brainer to say that we need to speak with one voice. The question is how we will achieve it. The first priority for Europe must be the development of integrated structures that cover the whole continent. It



Often called "the Father of European Union enlargement", Günter Verheugen, former Vice-President of European Commission, was responsible for EU's enlargement until 2004. In 2002 he also took over the responsibility for the European neighbourhood policy. From 2004 to 2011 he was Vice-President in charge of enterprise and industry. He has published a number of books and essays on European and other issues. From 2015, he is one of the seven advisors of the Agency for Modernization of Ukraine, working in the area of models integrating Ukraine with the EU.

Prof. Verheugen is also co-chairman of the Program Council of Warsaw Economic Hub, the annual conference organized for 11 years by *The Warsaw Voice* and *The New York Times*.

No Time Left!

requires a strategy that goes far beyond the existing European Union, the famous stretch from Lisbon to Vladivostok. Having said this, the European Union has no time left to live up to its international responsibility. Sitting on the fence is not an option.

/.../ the European Union has no time left to live up to its international responsibility. Sitting on the fence is not an option

Are European institutions and structures prepared for challenges and changes? What about the member countries?

The EU is not sufficiently prepared to make sure that its citizens will enjoy peace and prosperity in the future /.../

My reflections on your first question lead me to a very uncomfortable conclusion. The EU is not sufficiently prepared to make sure that its citizens will enjoy peace and prosperity in the future, which is the basic promise of the European integration process. The present state of affairs does not look very promising. The EU is shaken by the rise of populist and nationalist forces which have one thing in common: they are against the whole concept of European integration. If we want to determine how influential these forces are already, we have to look at the EU migration policy. The populists and nationalists set the tone and dominate the agenda, whether they are in government or not. Furthermore, there are strong divisions within the EU: new and old, east and west, north and south, wealthy and poor. Moreover, we are losing a very important state due to Brexit and up to now it cannot be excluded that we will end up without any arrangement to soften the breakaway. The EU does not have a common vision for its own future.

The EU does not have a common vision for its own future

Moreover, the relationship between the EU and its most important neighbor Russia is in deep trouble. We are also approaching the point of no return and risk losing Turkey.

Countries like Ukraine, the Caucasus States and the States of the western Balkan region are put into a waiting room for an unforeseeable period of time. No wonder we do not see convincing transformation in that part of Europe. Nevertheless I am not without hope. There is still a lot of trust and confidence in the idea of European integration. We could build on that. However, what is needed the most are courageous politicians willing and able to stand up for the European idea.

/.../ what is needed the most are courageous politicians /.../

Which way should the EU go in order to strengthen its global position and build a long-term perspective for further development? More or less power in Brussels? Do we need a common European foreign policy more than a common European currency? What about European defense policy? A European army?

We need precise language here. Legally and technically, everything is in place in the EU that is needed for a common foreign and security policy. But a common policy does not mean a supranational, community policy. A common policy always depends on the good will of all the member states, because each of them has effective veto power in the Council. I do not think that foreign policy can become fully integrated in the nearer or farther future. It would require the foundation of a European state and I do not see that the idea of any United States of Europe as a federal state has much support. We could probably streamline the present instruments, but finally the question will be whether we can develop a joint strategy in foreign and security affairs, based on the recognition that a common European interest is much more important than short-term national advantages. Concerning the idea of an EU army, I have serious doubts. I would prefer a security arrangement along the lines of the Charter of Paris from 1990 that guarantees security for the whole continent and

/.../ finally the question will be whether we can develop a joint strategy in foreign and security affairs, based on the recognition that a common European interest is much more important than short-term national advantages

terminates the risks of military confrontation on our continent. If it comes to interventions outside Europe, the EU would be well advised to strengthen the role of the United Nations and of international law. The EU should be able to support peace-keeping missions of the UN if asked. That could be achieved by coordination and cooperation of existing forces, as it is already in the making between 25 member states.

Do we need a new leadership in the EU? How can we build a balance between the “old” and “new” EU? Is it possible at all?

We have a leadership problem in the EU. For various reasons the bigger member states are not willing to accept a leadership position, which would mean to act as an honest broker among the 28.

We have a leadership problem in the EU. For various reasons the bigger member states are not willing to accept a leadership position /.../

Emmanuel Macron clearly has the ambition but he does not have the means. Germany does not have a comprehensive European strategy and seems to be satisfied with a situation in which Germany can always get what it wants due to its mere size and weight. It is the European Council that carries the responsibility to lead. If Germany, France and Poland, for instance, would develop a joint initiative to overcome the present stalemate, I am convinced that a strong majority of member states would follow. Under the present political conditions, however, such a move is very unlikely to happen.

As concerns the balance between the so-called old and new member states, I see two obstacles. The first is a question of mindset. Many actors in the “old” member states still look at the “new” ones as second-class members, as the poor relatives that should be grateful and keep silent. This might change as a result of more people-to-people contacts. It is a pity that Central and Eastern Europe is still a largely unknown territory for the majority of people from the “old” EU. The second reason is of an economic nature. The main drivers of capital concentration are located in the western part of the EU and the economy of the “new” members is largely penetrated by EU capital. This makes the whole transformation and catching up extremely complicated.

Many actors in the “old” member states still look at the “new” ones as second-class members, as the poor relatives that should be grateful and keep silent

Poland has been a member of the EU since May 2004. You were the EU commissioner responsible for EU enlargement at the time, strongly supporting Poland’s efforts to join the EU. After almost a quarter of a century, what is your reflection on the enlargement? With all the knowledge you have now, would you support Poland and other CEE countries again to help them join the EU?

This is a question which is very often asked. I find it surprising, because the answer is quite simple. We simply have to ask ourselves the following questions: What would the EU and the continent as a whole look like without the enlargement rounds of 2004 and 2007? Would we have stronger democracies, better governance, more rule of law, less corruption, or not? Sure, there are still deficiencies in some of the “new” member states, particularly in the area of political culture. However, we have similar problems also in the “old” member states, which tend to be ignored. I have the feeling that very often double standards are applied. But generally, yes, the enlargement was, to quote Winston Churchill, our finest hour. And we should not forget that the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize especially for its enlargement policy. It is very disappointing that political leaders in Brussels and in member states do not tell the success story of enlargement. As a result, the enlargement policy continues to remain unpopular. The historical momentum that we had at the beginning of the century is gone.

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Does Poland use its international political and economic potential properly? Is there a chance for Warsaw to join the club of the few most powerful European capitals?

Poland belongs to the biggest EU member states. It was the key country for the success of the enlargement policy. It has profited from its EU membership. Since its accession in 2004, two Polish politicians got top posts in the EU: Jerzy Buzek as President of the European Parliament and Donald Tusk as President of the European Council. That shows that Poland’s political importance has been recognized. Nevertheless there is still ample room for improving Poland’s influence in the EU. How this plays out depends largely on Poland and its European agenda. It is legitimate that Poland defends its interests in the EU. However, to be successful it needs strong partners and convincing arguments.

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Business, Education and Security

Anna Maria Anders
Plenipotentiary of the Prime
Minister of Poland for
International Dialogue talks
to *Voice's* Juliusz Kłosowski
and Witold Żygulski:

There are millions of people with Polish roots in many countries outside Poland, living in big, strong Polish communities. What kind of potential for Poland could they represent?

Around the world there are approximately 60 million people of Polish origin. In the United States alone there are probably around 12 million. In the beginning Poles emigrated to America to seek a job, a better life. They were rather simple people. Now the situation is quite different - new generations are very highly educated, professional and aspire to high classes of American society.

I think we have not done enough to reach these people. One criticism that I often hear from Polonia in the United States is that people in Poland are under the impression that they are extremely wealthy. For this reason they do not get the help they need.

From the point of view of support for organizations, schools etc. I don't think they get enough assistance from Poland. Most of the money goes to the East. I am not saying that we should not give that money to Polish organizations in Eastern Europe, but there are also organizations and schools in the US that should be supported.

From the business point of view, I think what we have to do is to convince the American people of Polish descent to come to Poland. I am talking about the new generation I mentioned - professionals, among them CEOs of many American companies, who have Polish roots but have never



Anna Maria Anders (born 22 November 1950) is the daughter of the World War II Commander of the Polish Forces at the Battle of Monte Cassino, General Władysław Anders. She was born in London and graduated from Bristol University with an Honours Degree in Modern Languages. She also has an MBA from Boston University.

After graduating, Anders worked as an Account Executive at a financial PR and advertising firm in the City of London. In the late '70's she moved to Paris, France where she worked in the communications department of UNESCO. In 1980 she joined Rezayat Paris, a branch office of an international conglomerate with investments and joint ventures in the Middle East, Europe, USA and Asia.

In 1986 Anders married United States Army Colonel Robert Alexander Costa with whom she has a son Robert Władysław Costa who is also an officer in the US Army.

8 years later, she relocated to the United States with her family. Following the death of her mother in 2010 she took over her mother's role and began travelling to Poland on a regular basis visiting schools and attending military and government ceremonies.

In 2016, she was nominated Secretary of State in the government of Poland, the Plenipotentiary for International Dialogue.

The same year, she was elected to Poland's Senate in a by-election and represents Poland's Eastern flank which includes the towns of Łomża, Augustów and Suwałki.

visited the land of their ancestors. They know very little about Poland and about the potential of doing business here. They don't even speak Polish. What they see at the traditional Polish events in the US, like the Pulaski Parade, is not the real Poland of today. The national costumes, traditional music and food represent history and culture but give no information about the modern, European country that Poland is today. So we have to encourage these people to come and visit. Messages and news from Poland are one thing, but personal experience is a completely different issue. The present government is reaching out to the international Polish community with such an intention: to draw their attention to Poland and consequently to bring them here.

We are having this conversation just a few days before the 60 Million Congress in Rzeszów. This is going to be the third event with this title and follows conferences in Miami and Buffalo. You have been supporting this venture from the beginning. Why do you think it is important?

The 60 Million Congress is a really good series of events because it is attended by many people from all parts of the world. At the first conference, held in February in Florida, we had a very strong representation of Polish government officials and also politicians from the United Kingdom, a country with a huge group of people of Polish origin. A month ago I was in Buffalo, NY, at the second conference which was attended by two American Congressmen. I think we should have more politicians at these events - they have constituencies, they talk to the people. They are the ones who can say "I went to visit Poland and I was impressed".

The coming 60 Million Congress in Rzeszów also promises to be very good. It is under the patronage of the Polish Senate. One of the special guests will be Rita Cosby, a well-known American journalist of Polish origin, whose father took part in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. I am sure she will be Poland's best ambassador in the US.

You talk about Polonia in the United States: what about the Polish community in the United Kingdom?

We are trying to reach the second [after World War Two] generation of emigres, the people who escaped from communism in Poland in the 70s and 80s. Among them and their children we now have highly educated people with university degrees, many of whom are renowned professionals and successful businessmen.

These are the people we want to attract to come to Poland. We want them to work with us, to invest in their homeland, to set up businesses here.

The other group we concentrate on are young people in general. As in the case of the United States, we want young people to come to Poland to study. Not only members of Polonia but any youngsters.

How do you think we could make better use of Polonia's potential?

I think we can use Polonia to bring knowledge about Poland to the countries they live in. We can also encourage scientific centres to cooperate with Polish universities. There have been many positive examples of this in recent years, joint research in medicine, for example cancer treatment

and prevention. Polish young scientists are travelling to American universities to study and then are coming back with this knowledge.

So what you are doing is kind of a soft promotion, soft diplomacy?

Of course it is diplomacy, but it is also a business venture. My goal is to set up as many new jobs as possible in Poland. As our Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said we want young people from all over the world to come back to Poland and to work here. I would like to see more investments in Poland and thereby many more jobs and much better salaries for employees. I can say we are doing quite well. One of the best examples is JP Morgan opening a new branch in Poland. The more people we get back, the more opportunities we have. And of course we have to be competitive.

What else be done for the successful promotion of Poland?

Tourism of course. There is very limited knowledge about Poland as a tourist destination abroad. We try to promote tourism but in my opinion we are not doing enough. For example, many meetings and conferences in Poland, including Polonia events, are for people who speak Polish. We have very few bilingual conferences which are vital for successful promotion. I would like international people to come here. That is why events like the 60 Million Congress are so important. Of course it is also important to have proper media coverage. Our Minister of Investment and Economic Development Jerzy Kwieciński and I went to Seattle to meet with representatives of Amazon, Microsoft and Boeing, but there was no information about this in the Polish press. The same can be said about many other government officials and their promotional meetings. I think we have to change that. We have to start educating people about what government officials are doing during their foreign travels.

You are the daughter of Polish WWII hero, General Władysław Anders who, after surviving Soviet prison, formed the Polish Army in the USSR and was the Commander at the heroic battle of Monte Cassino in May 1944. Do you feel that your work has any connection with your Father's history?

Absolutely. When I joined the government, I said that I would like to add the last chapter to my Father's book. Part of it has already been written. 20 years after his passing Poland became a free, independent country, which is what he always wanted. His wish was for Poland to become the great country it once was. I am delighted to be here representing him. On top on my list now is probably the issue of Poland's security. If we do not have security, we can never achieve success. Nowadays, the crucial area is on Poland's north-eastern flank, the part of country most susceptible to Russian aggression. That is why I would like to promote the idea of permanent US Army bases in Poland. I want to bring this issue to the United States, talk to Congressmen and convince them that it would be good for European security. I believe this is my Father's legacy.

Poland: Big Stories To Be Shared

Rita Cosby talks to the *Voice's* Juliusz Kłosowski:

You are a successful journalist, TV anchor, Emmy Award winner. You've interviewed people like Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat and Slobodan Milosevic. You are also ranked by The New York Times as a bestselling book writer. In Poland we are especially familiar with *Quiet Hero*, your book about your father, who took part in the Warsaw Uprising against the Germans in 1944. Why did you write it? Is it some kind of message? If so, who do you address your message to?

I thought of it as an important message to the world. It happened in 2009 when I discovered all these items from the Warsaw Uprising in an old suitcase of my father's. It was after many years of separation with him, since my parents divorced when I was a teenager. At first it was a very personal journey: I found out who my father was and, by that, in a way, who I am, what is my background, where are my roots. And then, when my father started sharing the incredible story about heroes of Poland and the courage of the Polish people during WW2, I thought: Here I am! I grew up in the American school system, where we didn't learn about the Warsaw Uprising. We knew a little about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943, but really not much about the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. And I thought, here in my own family we have this amazing story of inspiration, sheer survival. The fact I didn't know about it as an edu-

cated journalist and someone educated by the American school system led me to the conclusion that many other American people probably do not know about it, but they should know. The instant thought was that I have a responsibility to tell them the story, especially since I'm a journalist with the ability to carry a message in a big way, on television, on radio, by writing the story. I thought also that this is a story many people can relate to and can be inspired by. So I got this great opportunity to shine a light on the incredible country of my heritage and my father's heritage. Also I thought it's a story with a universal message. You don't have to be Polish to be moved by it. I got letters from Africa, Australia from readers who felt inspired by the book and the story it tells.

You were born and raised as an American, however you do feel Polish as well?

I am telling everybody I'm Polish-American and Polish is the best part. I'm so proud to be Polish. I visited Poland for the first time with my father in 2009. He came back from the States the first time since he left Warsaw in autumn 1944, after the Uprising. For me then it was just a very new, but also very important experience. For him, after 65 years, it was like a fantasy: on one hand he came to a completely different country than he'd left, on the other hand the Warsaw Old Town, which he left entirely destroyed, was back, rebuilt and reconstructed. When he saw streets and buildings he fought in looking exactly like they looked before the war, it brought tears of joy.



It is because of your father's story that you are so much involved in making Poland more recognizable in the USA, isn't it?

What I try to do is of course kind of a tribute to my father but also a tribute to all the incredible quiet heroes of Poland who were never able to share their stories. Had I not pressed him so much to share his story, my father would never have told it. It was so hard for him to talk about those 63 days of fighting, the glory but also the death and tragedy of the city and its citizens. I am pretty sure there are in Poland a lot of untold stories like my father's. It was too difficult, too hard to share them for those humble people of the Warsaw Uprising! In many cases they took them untold to their graves.

There are at least 20 million people with Polish roots and Polish expats living around the world. You are one of them. What should be done in order to better utilize their potential for Poland?

I think we must have better dialogue, much better cooperation among all Poles around the world. When you think about 60 million Poles around the globe, including those who live in Poland, this a huge number. Ten to 12 million in America alone, by the way. This is a huge potential. Closer, better cooperation is in the interest of all of us, those living in Poland and outside of the country of our fathers or grandfathers. This is why I so tremendously support events like the 60 Million Congress with a mission to bring better communication and cooperation between us, Poles, around the world. I took part in the Miami edition last February and just recently, in August, in the Rzeszów edition of the congress. From the American perspective I can say what counts in many cases the most is power and numbers plus cooperation. Hence I hope that even American Poles will come together in a more cohesive fashion. This is one of the largest ethnic groups in the USA. I think we can do a better job even within America, but certainly between America and Poland. I would love to be able to see more Polish-Americans with the force of Poland behind them become members of Congress. It would be great to raise up more business leaders in the local Polish communities. There are some very successful Poles among Americans but I'd love to see more of them. I think culturally, too, there's much to be done. There is such a richness in the Polish culture and history!

Rita Cosby (born November 18, 1964) is a television news anchor and correspondent, radio host, and best selling author. She is currently a Special Correspondent for the CBS syndicated program *Inside Edition*, specializing in interviewing newsmakers and political figures.

In 2010, Cosby published a memoir *Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father's Past*. The book became a best-seller on several lists, including *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*. She uncovered a story of heroism and courage in her own family, detailing her father's youth as a Polish Resistance fighter who battled the Germans during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said it's "a beautiful tribute to the strength of the human spirit."

From the economic viewpoint, there is great potential to bring more Polish products to America. Some of them are already well recognized and I think there is a high appreciation of Polish attention to detail, workmanship, work ethic. So why not use this potential and bring more Polish products to the market?

With ca. 40 million permanent residents, Poland is a pretty big country, at least for Europe. However, we feel underestimated internationally in a way. There is too little knowledge about contemporary Poland. What's your opinion on how to change this, for Poles in general and for our politicians and people in government in particular?

There is a need for better international marketing of Poland, including big advertising campaigns, and for more effective spokespeople. The Polish government definitely needs a better PR machine. I think of it especially in times when negative stories happen to Poland – there is a need for louder voices to override them and tell the full story or the factual story. Poland had a big gap of silence because of what happened after WW2 and during the communist time. During so many decades between the forties and late eighties of the last century there was no one to tell the Polish story. This is the main reason there is a job to be done to make Poland better known. And there is a great story to tell about the contemporary Poland: a strong economy, low unemployment, well growing GDP, a safe and beautiful country with great state-of-the-art infrastructure, great people. This story must be widely shared. That's a very important job.



Augmented Hospitality

Steven Taylor, Global Chief Brand Officer, AccorHotels, talks to *Voice's* Juliusz Kłosowski

Several years ago I would say hotels are just more or less comfortable places to stay while traveling. However, today I'm not so sure if this is so. This business is changing very fast. How would you describe this change?

The hospitality business has been disrupted dramatically over last 10 years. If you think about internet, online travel agencies, the sharing economy platforms, if we think about what is happening worldwide with huge internet ecosystems like wechat, Amazon, Facebook and many others, it's becoming obvious that the fundamental value proposition of hotel companies has been challenged. AccorHotels has responded to that by making a series of fundamental and drastic transformative changes. We call that strategy "augmented hospitality".

What are the main points of the new strategy?

We are moving from just focusing on the stay and sleep to a lifestyle approach including the locals living near the destination. That's a really incredible change if you think that over the last hundred years, the hotel industry has just been focused on sleep. However we have millions of people on our doorstep, the locals within a destination, who can and should be engaged. So we introduced a huge change in public spaces of our hotels by not only renovating but rather redesigning and reorganizing them to really target locals as well as our travelers. So augmented hospitality is focusing on engaging locals, on expanding to new possibilities and services like concierge platforms, co-working brands. By adding new capabilities AccorHotels is moving beyond the traditional realms of the hospitality industry. So we purchased for example Fastbooking and Availpro, who are digital hotel agencies and John Paul digital concierge platform. By purchases of businesses like that and integrations within our ecosystem we build kind of digital factory which still serves also clients outside our core business but we can benefit from that capability and knowledge to accelerate our digital strategy moving forward.

The other huge piece of the new strategy in which I am involved is called "asset-light structure"; it includes a huge shift in our assets. We sold all of buildings that we used to own to AccorInvest and other owners and we now are focusing on our brand-building. We moved from owning buildings to owning the customer relationship through our brands. Now we can focus on how to drive the value of our brands to our owners through new services and solutions and how to drive value to our consumers through our brands and experiences. It's a huge, huge shift. It's like going from a midscale and economy hotel owner and operator to a travel and lifestyle platform. We have now over 30 different hospitality brands. This



Steven Taylor is Global Chief Brand Officer, AccorHotels

Steven is based in Paris and is a highly respected commercial & brand leader with extensive global marketing experience. He has a BA Commerce Honors from Napier University in Edinburgh and an Executive MBA from the Swiss School of Hospitality in Chur.

Steven spent 16 years with Starwood Hotels and Resorts in London, New York and Brussels during which he fulfilled a variety of roles including ecommerce, brand management, loyalty strategy, revenue management, strategic partnerships and digital marketing.

Steven was Global Chief Marketing Officer for Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts for two years based in Hong Kong and responsible for the global commercial organization including sales, marketing and communications strategy.

Steven now oversees the marketing strategies for over 25 brands across the AccorHotels portfolio and is responsible for the Masterbrand strategy at the group level.

allows us to take care of every single customer need. We are now focused on engaging people every day, both travelers and locals. To do so we are buying businesses to add a capability and to expand our services. We are also expanding and developing our traditional and newly acquired hotel brands into collections of lifestyle brands what allows us to be more relevant to our customers.

Ok, you are focusing on your new, definitely very appealing and first of all, I would say, revolutionary strategy. Still, would you explain why it was so important to sell your building properties before doing so?

Property ownership is very capital intensive business and the management business is much less capital demanding. You don't have to invest as much. After getting rid of properties we were able to invest in customers' engagement and to concentrate on development of our brands' portfolio. We can transform the AccorHotels ecosystem and make sure it will grow for decades to come.

So management and franchising will be now the main way to actually spread the business?

Certainly we want to work with additional owners of properties who can work with our brands. That means we need to work with franchisees and investors around the world. In order to be able to cope with almost every need and expectation in different parts of the world, we expanded our portfolio from about 10 brands to over 30 brands over the last few years, with a strong push on luxury brands. Think about yourself as a hotel owner. Previously, about ten years ago, you would be able to choose from 5 or 6 brands, now you can choose from among 30 different hotel brands, based on the neighborhood you have your property in. It really helps to drive our growth.

While talking about your brand portfolio: why do you have there so many luxury and premium brands comparing to midscale and economy? Is it just a consequence of how AccorHotels developed since its beginnings in 1967 or is it part of a strategy?

Economy and midscale brands tend to need to have a scale and strong awareness, while the luxury and lifestyle brands tend not to be quite so large. You don't see such brands to be represented by huge numbers of hotels worldwide. It doesn't work so. They address relatively small niches by targeting particular consumers' lifestyle needs. So yes, it is absolutely intentional. We acquired particular brands (like Fairmont, Raffles Europejski Warsaw, Swissôtel, Mövenpick...) to fill some gaps in our portfolio and to reach out to particular niches and parts of the world.

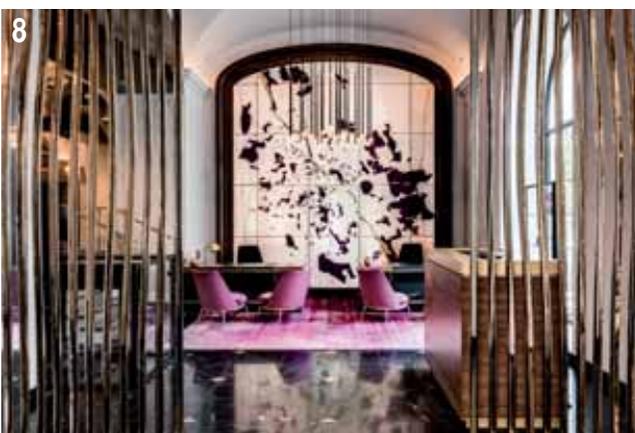
Could we say, that some luxury and lifestyle brands are more of local character then?

Even if they used to be so we believe we can grow them globally. A good example is MGallery, the brand which is growing now in Poland but which will grow globally in South and North America over the years to come. So I don't think that particular luxury brands need to be regarded as local.

After opening of Raffles Europejski Warsaw earlier this year and with at least three MGallery hotels coming soon in Poland, do you believe this market is still ready for more premium brands?

Absolutely. Poland is a quickly developing, very attractive market with huge potential and very good yields. There is strong domestic demand for hospitality services, also by affluent Poles, not speaking about international visitors who are visiting the country and are looking here for what they can get elsewhere. So we offer them what they are looking for. See the Raffles Europejski Warsaw. I saw many luxury properties





around the world and I can say the Raffles Europejski Warsaw represents the highest standards. The attention to detail, the design elements, storytelling integrated there, all are of world class. Having the properties like Raffles Europejski Warsaw but also like Sofitel Victoria in Warsaw or Sofitel Grand in Sopot elevates the type of consumers we are able to attract. What is important, those properties are pretty busy all the time. So yes, there is space for more luxury and lifestyle brands in Poland in the coming years.

With all these tremendous changes, after so many acquisitions, how is AccorHotels performing?

All the transformation and acquisitions have driven a huge momentum for the group. As the industry we are just blessed nowadays thanks to an increase within the affluent middle class, whether it is in developing markets like India, Asia or Eastern Europe. By average the industry is growing by 6% year on year and we are going to continue so thanks to the growing demand for what we offer now. So the results are very good. AccorHotels is outperforming the industry. We are moving forward very quickly with all of 250.000 of our employees, more than 4.500 hotels and over 30 brands around the world.

What about Orbis, AccorHotels' Polish arm? It's responsible for development of the AccorHotels brands in Eastern Europe region. How its performance looks on the mother company's background?

This part of Europe is very well contributing to AccorHotels' growth. Orbis is performing incredibly well. The yields continue to be great. The Polish team is doing also an incredible job over activating AccorHotels brands in the region. At the yearly AccorHotels regional meeting in Warsaw in September we've been talking how to evolve some of our traditional brands we have since 25 or over 30 years, like Novotel, ibis or Mercure. The Polish team has a great experience here. We know our consumers are looking for informal booking and check-in experience, that they are looking for a social house instead a traditional hotel. Our goals include invigorating of public spaces in our hotels. Polish team has great experience to share regarding those subjects. During our conference in Warsaw we were talking for example about the ibis dedicated music program "ibis. Music lives here" created by Polish talents and how to take this globally with ibis hotels around the world to modernize people's perception of ibis and connect with the younger consumer.

Mercure is another example. All of the new branding is based on consumers insight. So we know that consumers are looking for locally inspired authentic experience when they are traveling to a destination. The team here have done phenomenal job working with local designers and artists to bring that local experience to Mercure hotels. Again, that's something we are learning from globally and implementing world-wide.

Pictures 1÷6: The Bridge MGallery by Sofitel Wrocław
(to open in mid 2019)

Picture 7: Bachleđa Luxury Hotel Kraków MGallery by Sofitel
(to open in January 2019)

Picture 8: Raffles Europejski Warsaw

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Local elections - the final countdown

Poland heads to the polls October 21 to fill the full slate of some 38,600 posts at three levels of local and regional government.

August 31

Poland's governing party Law and Justice (PiS) is plotting unspecified billions in new government spending for a five-part program to support local governments, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told a party congress to kick off the party's local government election campaign.

"Five points on which the government of Law and Justice will spend the largest sum that central government has ever allocated for supporting local governments," Morawiecki said.

A program to insulate homes and ease other utility or communal services to cut down heating and other home bills will cost PLN 100 billion over 10 years, the party said in a tweet of the PM's lead-off proposal.

A program for neighborhoods, focused on housing and services for seniors, will see PLN 500 million in spending on neighborhood infrastructure for active lifestyles and double current spending levels for senior housing and lifestyle, Morawiecki said.

A program "Modern Municipality" will offer unspecified "billions" for remodeling public spaces, with an apparent focus on small towns.

Poland will spend PLN 4 billion over 3 to 4 years to provide 100 MB Internet connections "to all 20,000 schools and all municipalities," Morawiecki said.

The government will also put PLN 300 million in government subsidies to extend a program of 'citizen budgets' from their current application in larger cities to smaller towns.

August 31

The Polish government will fund the spending program for local governments proposed by Law and Justice with both state budget and EU moneys, Finance Minister Teresa Czerwińska told broadcaster Radio Zet.

"Those will be both budget and EU funds," Czerwińska said when asked about funding for a five-part program announced over the weekend with a price tag well above PLN 100 billion over ten years.

Among examples, a program for extending high-speed internet connections is already being funded by the Digital Poland Operational Program; an accessibility program for the disabled is funded with EU money, she likewise noted.

August 31

The weekend party convention of Law and Justice kicking off the local government election campaign shows that responsibility for the election is falling on the shoulders of Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, the daily *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* wrote. Governing party is sticking with its 2015 election strategies and campaign leadership. Morawiecki is leading the campaign with a bus reminiscent of the tours by President Andrzej Duda and former PM Beata Szydło tour and a message of promises kept by the central government in its first 3 years and a chance for greater synergies between local and the central government.

Sept 05

Poland's two main opposition parties Civic Platform (PO) and Nowoczesna, co-running in the upcoming local elections as *Koalicja Obywatelska*, added leftist grouping *Inicjatywa Polska* headed by Barbara Nowacka to the coalition, the daily *Gazeta Wyborcza* wrote citing the grouping's prominent member Dariusz Joński. PO and Nowoczesna thus hope to attract the supporters of the Polish left. The move is contested by some activists from *Inicjatywa Polska*, who fear that their voters might feel cheated seeing the grouping that they had considered to be progressive and leftist join the conservative-liberal PO.

Sept 07

Law and Justice leader Jarosław Kaczyński declared readiness to cooperate with the opposition in local governments while PM Morawiecki suggested state investments would depend on which party is in power locally, daily *Gazeta Wyborcza* wrote in its coverage of the two politicians' visit to Wrocław. Kaczyński seems to play the good cop in the duo, leaving the bad cop part to Morawiecki, the newspaper concluded.

Sept 07

Civic Platform will seek to differentiate itself from governing Law and Justice in the coming local government elections as the party of decentralization and pro-European policy. The euroskepticism of PiS plays well into the hand of Russian President Vladimir Putin, they are set to argue. A party platform reflected priorities seen in the governing party's own platform, but differs in details, the daily *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* wrote of its read. The plan includes free school lunches, free public transport nationwide for pupils, an end to homework and teachers raises in education, supporting help centers and support programs for seniors, spending at 0.5% GDP for anti-smog programs and a focus on local infrastructure.

Sept 07

A weekend election campaign convention of Civic Platform in tandem with fellow opposition group Nowoczesna worked hard to show the unity of the two parties, the daily *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* wrote. Nowoczesna leader Katarzyna Lubnauer was well displayed and a former candidate of leftist opposition party Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and its allies, Barbara Nowacka, was brought in to endorse the coalition's mayor candidate in Warsaw over the candidate of SLD.

Sept 07

Law and Justice has reached out to agrarian opposition Polish Peoples Party (PSL) with signals from both Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and party leader Jarosław Kaczyński that it is ready to consider coalitions with PSL in regional assemblies after the election. The turn-about seems strong given how PiS launched its local government campaign with signs it is focusing on stealing

PSL electorate, the daily Dziennik Gazeta Prawna wrote. PSL party leader Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz rejected the idea of coalitions.

Sept 07

Civic Platform seems to be strengthening its left wing, as many leftist postulates such as equality of chances, egalitarianism, social sensitivity and women rights were often repeated during party's convention over the weekend, Rzeczpospolita noted. The shift left was also marked by a tieup with prominent leftist politician Barbara Nowacka and her grouping.

Sept 07

Out-of-parliament Democratic Left Alliance invited Civic Platform and anti-establishment grouping Kukiz'15 to join an all-hands-on-deck pact against ruling party Law and Justice during its weekend local election convention.

Sept 13

Civic Platform wants to incorporate awareness of social issues into its program, hence the access of Barbara Nowacka and her leftist grouping Inicjatywa Polska into the common local elections front Koalicja Obywatelska headed by PO, party leader Grzegorz Schetyna told the daily Rzeczpospolita. Schetyna hopes that Koalicja Obywatelska will add new allies ahead of the elections to the European Parliament, possibly agrarian Polish Peoples Party and centre-left Democratic Left Alliance, the politician said. Koalicja Obywatelska will keep the family support program 500+ but will seek to include single mothers with one child into the scheme when it comes to power, Schetyna promised. PO has no "alternative scenario" for its candidate for Warsaw mayor Rafał Trzaskowski as the party believes in his victory over PiS nominee Patryk Jaki, according to Schetyna.

Sept 14

Polish Peoples Party continues to rule out any coalitions with Law and Justice ahead of or after the coming local government elections. The party has little choice, having been under direct attack by PiS over recent years, PSL leader Wojciech Kosiniak-Kamysz claimed. PiS appears to be focusing more of its attack on PSL than its larger rival Civic Platform, the daily Rzeczpospolita wrote.

Sept 21

Ruling party leader Jarosław Kaczyński and PM Mateusz Morawiecki endorsed the party's now centrist-leaning candidate for Warsaw mayor Patryk Jaki at a weekend local election convention in Poland's capital city. Kaczyński also attacked Poland's judicial circles, accusing them of dislike for their own nation.

Sept 24

An unnamed candidate for Warsaw mayor allegedly mulls boosting his or her chances in the race by bringing in busloads of people from outside the city on election day and having them cast their vote at a Warsaw polling station after registering as local voters, which would be entirely legal, an unspecified source told daily Rzeczpospolita. Both ruling party candidate Patryk Jaki and opposition coalition candidate Rafał Trzaskowski denounce such practices while at the same time encouraging "people tying their future to Warsaw" to register as voters in the city.

Sept 26

Poland's ruling camp, comprising PiS and its two parliamentary affiliates, suffered a 1 ppt month on month decline in voter support in elections to regional assemblies to 34% in July, while the opposition alliance of PO and Nowoczesna fell by 3 pps to 15%, a recent survey by pollster CBOS showed.

The survey was conducted in the period of September 6-13 on a representative sample of 1023 adult Poles, CBOS said.

74% of the survey participants declared their willingness to take part in general elections, down by 2 pps as compared with the August survey.

October 12

Law and Justice and allies secured 37% voter support in the latest survey by pollster IBRIS for the daily Rzeczpospolita, roughly flat as compared to the August survey.

Civic Platform and Nowoczesna under the common banner of Koalicja Obywatelska came in second with 30% voters support, also largely unchanged vs the previous poll.

Anti-establishment Kukiz'15 movement enjoyed a 3.1 pp increase in voters support to 10%, while leftist Democratic Left Alliance suffered a decline of 1.6 pp to 7%.

Agrarian Polish Peoples Party, traditionally strong in local elections, saw its voters support unchanged from August at a disappointing level of 5%.

October 13

Law and Justice will interpret any improvement in its score in the upcoming local elections vs. the 2014 elections as green light for further reforms, while a disappointing result may force it to revise some of its political plans, an unnamed prominent party official suggested as quoted by daily Dziennik Gazeta Prawna.

A poor score would also weaken the position of PM Mateusz Morawiecki, but his dismissal should not be expected, political scientist Antoni Dudek commented.

October 15

Law and Justice can only be sure of winning a majority in the Podkarpackie region but should also come first in Malopolska and Podlasie regions, unnamed PiS politicians told daily Rzeczpospolita.

The party also hopes for a "good result" in Lubelskie and Świętokrzyskie regions and wants to take over the top regional office in the Mazowsze region from agrarian Polish Peoples Party while expecting a defeat in most big cities, according to the newspaper.

Good scores in 3-6 regions would augur well for PiS ahead of the next year's parliamentary elections, whereas an outright win victory in just one region could trigger a major reshuffle in the ruling camp, Rzeczpospolita speculated.

October 16

The candidate of the coalition of opposition parties for Warsaw mayorship Rafał Trzaskowski could count on 40.5% support in the October 21 local election, while the candidate of ruling party Patryk Jaki on 33.5%, according to a survey by researcher Estymator commissioned by DoRzeczy.pl portal.



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Climate Change in Focus A Tale of Two Cities: Kaohsiung and Katowice



Climate change, initially underestimated, is one of the biggest threats to civilization. It affects economic and social development as well as threatens many nations around the world. Melting polar caps are causing sea levels to rise, flooding coastal communities and - in extreme cases - inundating regions and countries.

Taiwan and Poland, like-minded countries with similar experiences in successfully transitioning from authori-

tarian rule to democracy, are at the vanguard of a group of nations combating climate change. In this report, the ministers of environment for both countries discuss what it takes to mitigate the effects of global warming. Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan and Katowice in southern Poland are featured as examples of green cities ready to thrive, not just survive, in the 21st century and beyond.



Poland



Area: 312,696 sq. km
Population: 38,43 million
Density: 123/sq. km
GDP: USD 1,19 trillion

GDP per capita: USD 15,049

Capital: Warsaw

Official language: Polish



Taiwan



Area: 36,197 sq. km
Population: 23,57 million
Density: 650/sq. km
GDP: USD 573 billion

GDP per capita: USD 24,337

Capital: Taipei

Official language: Mandarin



Climate Change: Global Challenge Requiring Global Response

Dr. Lee Ying-yuan, Minister of the Environmental Protection Administration, Executive Yuan, ROC (Taiwan)

Continued growth in emissions of greenhouse gases around the world has caused abnormal and extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, and catastrophic torrential rains. These events are no longer just abstract future scenarios; they are happening today in all corners of the globe.

Average temperatures in Taiwan in the past two years have been the highest in 100 years. Since 2017, rainfall has dropped markedly, affecting Taiwan's hydroelectricity generation. Indeed, these recent developments are having a considerable impact and pose a significant threat.

Other parts of the world have witnessed similar trends. During the 2018 summer season, many countries across the Northern Hemisphere in Europe, Asia, North America, and North Africa have experienced record-breaking heatwaves and deadly wildfires that seriously jeopardize human health, agriculture, natural ecosystems, and infrastructure.

To further implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and achieve the goals outlined therein, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in addition to faithfully conducting important projects, consultations, and negotiations, has also invited parties from various fields to join the Talanoa Dialogue, so as to take full advantage of the collective wisdom of humankind in formulating workable solutions to climate change.

As a member of the global village, and in line with the Paris Agreement, Taiwan has actively encouraged all stakeholders to do their part and strengthen efforts toward reducing carbon emissions. Taiwan has passed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, under which five-year carbon reduction targets have been formulated. Taiwan has also created the National Climate Change Action Guidelines and implemented the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan, which targets six major sectors: energy, manufacturing, transportation, residential and commercial development, agriculture, and environmental management. By setting emission caps, promoting green finance initiatives, cultivating local talent pools and education, encouraging cooperation across central and local government agencies and across industries, and involving the general public, Taiwan seeks to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to less than 50% of 2005 levels.

Almost 90% of Taiwan's annual greenhouse gas emissions come from fuel combustion. The government is



striving to increase the share of renewable sources in overall energy generation to 20% by 2025, and raise the share of energy produced with natural gas up to 50%. At the same time, Taiwan is gradually reducing its reliance on coal, closing older coal facilities and equipping the remaining ones with high-efficiency ultra-supercritical units that cause less pollution. The government is also investing in other equipment and technology that can help reduce pollution, offering subsidies to encourage people to replace older vehicles as well as promoting electric vehicles. Earlier in 2018, Taiwan's Air Pollution Control Act was amended, with stronger measures to curtail air pollution and accelerate Taiwan's energy transition.

Taiwan's energy policies are being promoted in consideration of four core aspects: energy security, green economy, environmental sustainability, and social fairness. Furthermore, Taiwan is working on an energy transformation white paper and encouraging public participation and input during this process. It is also implementing key action plans under the Energy Development Guidelines, so as to make a decisive shift towards sustainable energy development.

The pursuit of economic growth often comes at the expense of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources. According to research by the Global Footprint Network, human consumption of natural resources is outpacing the ability of the planet's ecosystems to regenerate resources by a factor of 1.7. In fact, in 2018, Earth Overshoot Day fell on August 1, which was earlier than ever before.

In order to find a proper balance between economic development and environmental protection, Taiwan is promoting the circular economy as part of the Five Plus Two Innovative Industries program. There is a widespread international consensus that the circular economy plays a vital role in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Taiwan has already made significant progress over the past two decades in recycling and reusing resources. In fact, in 2017, Taiwan's resource recovery rate was 52.5%, a ratio surpassed only by Germany and Austria. The recycling rate of plastic bottles in Taiwan in 2017 was 95%. And during the 2018 FIFA World Cup, about half of the 32 teams in the tournament wore jerseys produced with recycled bottles from Taiwan.

Looking to the future, Taiwan will continue to strengthen technological R&D and innovation, so as to bolster recycling while building integrated industrial value chains. The goal is to achieve a situation in which there is zero waste and everything that can be recycled is

recycled. Taiwan is more than willing to share its technology and experience with the international community.

By advancing environmental sustainability, we can ensure that our planet remains as uniquely beautiful and habitable as it has been more for millions of years. All countries and parties should take part in this common endeavor. Having benefited tremendously from industrialization, Taiwan is now fully committed to playing a key role in saving the planet and its precious ecosystems. Taiwan is ready and willing to share its knowledge and experience in environmental management, disaster prevention and warning systems, energy efficiency enhancement technology, and application of innovative technology.

Climate change is a matter of our planet's survival, and should not be reduced to a political issue. Taiwan has long been unfairly disregarded by and isolated from the United Nations system. This has not discouraged us. On the contrary, we have doubled our efforts based on our belief in the Confucian saying that "a man of morality will never live in solitude; he will always attract companions." In a professional, pragmatic, and constructive manner, Taiwan will seek meaningful participation in international organizations and events, and fulfill its responsibilities as a member of the international community. Let Taiwan join the world, and let the world embrace Taiwan.

For more information visit: www.epa.gov.tw



Special report on climate change for COP24 in Katowice, Poland

One of the World Leaders of Climate Action

Henryk Kowalczyk, Minister of Environmental Protection, talks to the Voice:

The COP19 summit was held in 2013 in Warsaw, COP24 will be held in Katowice: what has been achieved in Poland in the field of environmental protection during the time between those meetings?

Since the COP19 summit both Poland and the global climate policy have undergone a significant transformation due to the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21 in Paris, where the mechanism of action against climate change was adopted - with actions determined at the national level. [Governments of states participating in the summit decided to declare their contributions every 5 years, so that more ambitious goals may be set - the Voice]. Poland as a European Union member state adopted commitments to participate in the reduction of greenhouse gasses emitted to the atmosphere (40% reduction by 2030), which is reflected in the adopted EU legislation. Poland aims to fulfil its undertakings through actions pursued in different sectors. Moreover, it has unvaryingly upheld the position that for an effective implementation of commitments adopted in the Paris Agreement, it is necessary for all countries to undertake actions, and actions of the most developed countries should correspond to the level of the EU's ambitions. It is worth emphasising that from December 2013 until June 2018 the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management paid out PLN 4.4 billion for climate and atmosphere protection. These funds were used to implement a significant number of investments connected directly or indirectly to climate protection.

Poland is hosting COP for the third time - does this mean that it aspires to the role of one of the leading global players in the battle for a "green planet"

Poland remains one of the world leaders of climate action. The COP24 presidency will be Poland's fourth, whereas the December summit in Katowice will be the third one hosted by Poland. In the

last 30 years, Poland reduced CO₂ emissions from all sectors by around 30 percent, accompanied by simultaneous dynamic economic growth. Poland still invests intensively in the improvement of energy efficiency and development of the renewable energy industry, remaining also an active country on the EU forum where it works on the development of the EU climate and environmental policies.

What programme do Poland's representatives intend to present at the summit in Katowice?

You should clearly differentiate between COP Presidency which will be held by Poland this year and the representation of Poland's interests. In order to ensure credibility and effectiveness of the international climate negotiation process, the Presidency keeping neutrality is of key importance, as it offers all parties an opportunity to reach a compromise and develop the Katowice package implementing the Paris Agreement, which at the same time will constitute the best reflection of the needs of all parties.

Poland aims to adopt a complex Katowice package which will allow for all sectors of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as take the role of absorption of greenhouse gases by forests and land into consideration. Poland wants to point out that it is necessary to conduct a fair transformation, protecting jobs in the adoption of climate change actions by all states. Moreover, Poland has emphasised the need to face greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors, thus sustainable transport, and in particular electromobility, will constitute one of the leading subjects at COP24.

The Polish economy is still based on coal as the basic energy resource; in the following decades, will this situation change? Will Poland look for alternative solutions (renewable energy, nuclear technology), or focus on the implementation of "clean" technologies based on coal?

Polish economy depends on energy generated with the use of hard bitumi-



nous coal and lignite, where these fuels constitute natural resources of the country and the guarantee of energy security and security of supply in the world which is becoming more and more energy-dependent. The share of coal in the energy mix is decreasing, however it still provides over 80% of the generated energy. Poland is diversifying its energy mix, but this process is of long-term nature.

The use of own resources for the production of electricity also constitutes a guarantor of Poland's energy security. This also means that renewable energy sources are used appropriately (biomass, geothermal energy, wind, water and solar power). Poland intends to continue investing in RES, having certain development potential, mainly with regard to geothermal and water power. Polish economy is developing, which leads to an increased demand for electrical energy and the need to cover this demand in a cost-effective way, while simultaneously ensuring the fulfilment of environmental goals, including the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Does Poland cooperate with countries from South-Eastern Asia with regard to environmental protection?

The Ministry of Environmental Protection is engaged in bilateral cooperation with selected countries from South-Eastern Asia, such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and Singapore. The cooperation with partners from the region is also conducted under multilateral agreements and conventions which Poland is a party to.

For more information visit:
www.mos.gov.pl



COP24 in Katowice

The 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), the 14th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP14) and the 1st Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement will be held in Katowice from 3 to 14 December.

The capital of Silesia will be visited by nearly 30,000 representatives of all the Parties to the Convention, namely, 196 countries and the EU to decide on further action to protect the climate and the operation of the Convention. COP24 will be attended by heads of state, prime ministers, representatives of governments, diplomacy and non-governmental organisations, scientists, activists, business representatives and other stakeholders interested in issues related to the climate. The COP24 Conference will be accompanied by scientific, social, as well as commercial events serving as a forum for presentation and exchange of ideas, innovations, strategies and solutions to combat global warming.

The plan for the COP24 is to adopt a full package implementing the Paris Agreement. The Agreement is the first international agreement in history, which compels all countries in the world to take action on climate protection. The implementation package will allow for the implementation of the Agreement in practice. It will thus set global climate and energy policy for the coming years.

The Paris Agreement does not provide for decarbonisation, but for so-called climate neutrality. This is a return to climate policy which is expected to protect the climate and, at same time, enable the preservation of the specificity of national economies - this is particularly important for Poland.

Poland's objective is to maintain the global character of the Paris Agreement, the voluntary choice of the method for limiting emissions, as well as the shaping of climate and energy policies depending on the possibilities and specific conditions in terms of raw materials and geography (using own natural resources).

United Nations states must act together in order to halt the dangerous climate change. However, these efforts must be tailored to the capabilities of the individual countries. They should ensure a balance in commitments between states in a different condition and at different stages of development.

Poland would like to be an ambassador of the sustainable approach to climate change. It would like to represent not only its own interests, but also those of the region and to defend the principle of voluntary action as the foundation of democracy and the European community.

For more information visit: www.cop24.gov.pl



Special report on climate change for COP24 in Katowice, Poland

Katowice – a City of Metamorphoses

The landscape of Katowice which, from a post-industrial city has become a dynamic centre of a metropolis with a population of over two million enrapturing anyone who has not seen it for a long time. The city is completely different today than it was 10 years ago.

In the Culture Zone, on land previously occupied by a coal mine, magnificent Silesia Museum was established, with its historic Warszawa Mineshaft from which you can admire the Katowice panorama, as well as the National Symphonic Orchestra of the Polish Radio. Next to it, near Spodek, the famous event and sports hall, the International Congress

Centre (MCK) was established – a meeting place for business, science, culture and sport. The extensive green areas of the city promote sports activity, and Spodek, MCK, or other facilities host many interesting games.

In Katowice first of all you should get on a bicycle, and anyone can do this because the city has its own bicycle rental chain. This way you can see the varied cityscape. The Three

Pond Valley (Dolina Trzech Stawów) is a gem – active people can go rollerblading on a special track – one of the first in the region. You can also go kayaking in Katowice, try angling, or use the extensive sports facilities currently expanded to include three swimming pools with sports halls. Active leisure enthusiasts may go running or cycling in parks, forests and around lakes which occupy half of the city area.

At the same time, Katowice remembers about the provision of jobs and the housing policy. Only such actions may make the city the right place to live.

After the great metamorphosis, the time has come for districts to change and for the transport system

International Congress Centre (MCK)



to undergo a great revolution. The municipal authorities place great emphasis on the development of sustainable transport, one that is friendly for pedestrians, drivers, cyclists and people using public transport alike. Four passenger transfer centres are being built, and a gigantic redevelopment of two junctions on national road No 81 is under way. Additionally, every few months, new modern buses roll out onto the roads, and recently over 47 million was allocated to create an Intelligent Transport Management System. City bike stations have appeared in many districts, and every year extra kilometres of cycle paths are built. As a result of all this, travel around Katowice will eventually be faster and more comfortable. In practice, smoothly flowing traffic means time and fuel savings as well as reduced exhaust fumes and noise emissions. In 2015-2018, a total of PLN 600 million was acquired for the investments mentioned above.

Business tourism has become a significant product offered by the city. Over 826,000 conference and trade fair visitors came to Katowice in 2017, 64,000 more than the year before. This means tangible profits for the city and its inhabitants. The hotel and conference base is developing, catering companies, restaurant owners, taxi drivers or local shopkeepers are all generating income. On average, a conference participant staying in local accommodation leaves nearly PLN 628 in Katowice, and one that does not stay the night – PLN 141. What is important, many people coming to Katowice for business, return happily for example to take the entire family to a concert at the National Symphonic Orchestra of the Polish Radio in one of the best concert halls in the world, or to see one of the Katowice music festivals well known in Europe.

Katowice is a strong brand in the eyes of entrepreneurs, composed of several factors: access to qualified personnel, excellent location and

developed support system. It is a truly European city in which modernity creatively refers to and merges with tradition. This is appreciated by entrepreneurs who are happy to invest here. In its strategy, Katowice placed strong emphasis on new technologies and innovation both as regards attracting investors and events. Thanks to 5 finals of the Intel Extreme Masters tournament, the city has become the global capital of eSport.

An intelligent city must be first and foremost attractive for its inhabitants, improve the quality of life, and at the same time continue changing, following modern trends. In the recent years, Katowice has been consistently becoming SMART.

During the climate summit, Katowice and the entire metropolis will play host to around 30,000 participants from nearly 200 countries. The role of the host of COP24 is an excellent opportunity for global promotion of the city and to show how much it has changed recently. The city will be visited by key global decision-makers – presidents, prime ministers, diplomats and scientists, who will debate in the International Congress Centre, Spodek and Culture Zone. It will be Katowice's task to ensure efficient transport. For this purpose among other things a mobile phone application will be created. A website devoted to COP24 has also been prepared. The summit participants will be able to take part in a number of accompanying events, organised in the debate zone and in the urban space, or use thematic excursions on offer. They will have the hotel and restaurant base at their disposal. Some of the restaurants will prepare a special menu for the duration of the conference. Delegates will receive gifts created by pupils of Katowice schools and gadgets prepared for the conference.

For more information visit:
www.cop24.katowice.eu



Marcin Krupa City Mayor of Katowice

Katowice is the host of the United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP24 – the most important global forum devoted to the global climate policy of key importance for the entire world. The Climate Change Conference organised in Katowice, in the heart of the metropolis, will constitute an excellent opportunity to present shared efforts undertaken for climate protection and the successes already achieved in this area. I am convinced that the organisation of the summit will on the one hand constitute a global promotion of the city, and on the other hand – an opportunity to undertake important ecological subjects with residents. We want to increase the residents' awareness with regard to climate protection and ecologically responsible environment management. The UN Climate Summit is an excellent opportunity to show how much our city has changed in the recent years.

KATOWICE – FACT SHEET

Region: Silesia

Area: 164,7 sq km

Population: city – 297,000 • urban zone – 2,700,000 • Silesian metropolitan area – 5,275,000

The whole metropolitan area is the 16th most economically powerful city by GDP in the European Union with an output amounting to USD114.5 billion

Kaohsiung – a Green City

Kaohsiung, a special municipality located in southern Taiwan, was once a center of heavy industry. But as the nation's economy shifted toward cleaner, potential-laden sectors of the 21st century and beyond, the local government seized the opportunity to transform the metropolis into a hub of eco-friendly, green and sustainable living. Energy-saving, carbon reduction and circular developments are the top priorities in responding to global climate change and building a more livable and sustainable city.

Thinking Outside the Box, Green Economy on the Rise

In order to achieve sustainability, the citizenry and public and private sectors were encouraged to get involved. Kaohsiung City Government introduced rolling-wave planning into its policymaking, and was the first local government in Taiwan to promote green financing for the photovoltaic industry. Such an approach channeled investment into the renewable-energy industry and increased the number of green rooftop installations.

Since the introduction of green financing in 2013, emissions have fallen 3,840 metric tons annually - equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by 10 Daan Forest Parks in Taipei City over 12 months. Kaohsiung is eliminating visually displeasing cement rooftops and replacing them with colorful PV installations producing clean energy and helping mitigate climate change. This achievement is testament to

concerted efforts by the local government and citizenry to advancing the green economy in the port metropolis.

Kaohsiung LOHAS Building Evolution

The Kaohsiung LOHAS Building policy was initiated in 2011 by the local government. Over the past seven years, the initiative has expanded to include an array of measures like Certification System for Kaohsiung LOHAS Building, Regulations for Designing and Rewarding Kaohsiung LOHAS Building and Self-Governance Articles for Kaohsiung's Green Building.

In 2015, Kaohsiung LOHAS Building 2.0 gave rise to the trend of designing functional balconies for new architecture projects in the city. The following year, universal design principles were implemented in Kaohsiung LOHAS Building 2.5, featuring residences accessible to all



Hsu Li-ming, acting mayor of Kaohsiung

KAOHSIUNG – FACT SHEET

Country: Taiwan
Region: Southern Taiwan
Area: 2,952/sq km
Population: 2,77 million
Density: 940/sq km
GDP per capita: USD 24,000



age groups. The Kaohsiung LOHAS building policy is a benchmark in designing sustainable architecture.

Colorful, Dazzling Green Roofs

Green roofs are one of the most distinctive characteristics of the Kaohsiung LOHAS building policy. The total coverage of green roofs in the city has reached the size of 40 football fields over the past 4 years on the back of strong incentives offered by the local government. This number is growing by more than 33,058 square meters each year.

180,000 Square Meters of Vertical Forests

In mitigating the impact of the scorching and long summer days in Kaohsiung, the city government elected to set the depth of a balcony at 3 meters, 50 percent more than the minimum set down under the national building regulations. This is complemented by a program rewarding those who help cool structures and save energy by potting flowers, shrubs and trees on their balconies. To date, applications for the establishment of such green living spaces have been submitted by more than 100 buildings and 300 houses. One after another, so-called vertical forests are springing up citywide.

Kaohsiung LOHAS Building 3.0 - Evolution to All-Age Residence

Given Taiwan's rapidly aging society, Kaohsiung City Government introduced an article to the Regulations for Designing and Rewarding Kaohsiung LOHAS Building. The new addition required the creation of a 200-square-meter public lounge for seniors-related activities on every ten floors of a structure.

This groundbreaking measure also called for the space to be equipped with bathrooms suitable for all ages. The idea was inspired by traditional Taiwan three-section compound building, allowing seniors living near the space to congregate and interact with neighbors in a pleasant setting.

Expanding Bikeway Network and Promoting Low-Carbon Vehicles

Taiwan's first bicycle-sharing system was launched in March 2009 by the

local government. The undertaking, which provided residents with a viable personal transportation alternative to cars and scooters, was seen as instrumental in improving air quality. Other efforts in this regard include building more rental stations and paths, as well as increasing space for bike parking. Kaohsiung's more than 926-kilometer cycle network, which complements light-rail and metro services, connects multifunctional lanes, recreational greenbelts and sightseeing routes. This helped the city win recognition eight years ago as one of the most bike friendly in Asia by CNN Travel.

As of 2017, the system boasted 450 stations with 3,800 bikes, while its annual ridership exceeded 4 million. In addition, air quality microsensing systems were installed at 50 stations, recording temperature and levels of humidity, carbon dioxide, and PM2.5 and PM10.

Building a Circular Light-Rail System

Last September, Kaohsiung took another step forward in the green stakes with launch of the 22.1-kilometer, 37-station circular light-rail system. First phase construction covered of 8.7 kilometers and encompassed Stations C1-C14. The second, which is in sync with progress on the city's metro extension project, is expected to be completed in 2019.

Adaptation Measures for Flood-Prone Areas

As per central government policy, the local government adopted the 2-year

Solar Power Promotion Plan. Working with the Water Resources Agency under the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Kaohsiung set about installing floating solar systems and maximizing use of public space. Cian Fengzi Flood Detention Pond, Dian-Bao-Chi Zone B Flood Detention Basin and Yongan Flood Detention Pond were selected as appropriate sites. All three generate 15 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year, sufficient to meet the demands of 4,200 households while reducing about 8,000 tons of emissions - equivalent to the carbon reduction of growing 275,000 trees.

In the past, detention ponds were only used for drainage system improvement and flood prevention. The facilities have taken on a broader mission, serving as ecological water parks, green power plants and spaces for various outdoor recreational activities during nonstorm seasons.

Kaohsiung joined Germany-based ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability in December 2006, making it Taiwan's first ICLEI member city. It has participated in international events and conferences, focusing on combating climate change. In 2015, Kaohsiung reached full compliance with the Compact of Mayors, committing itself to reducing emissions and promoting a climate adaptation plan. The city also vowed to advance policies in response to the Paris Agreement. Kaohsiung continues to evolve and is successfully transforming from a center of heavy industry into a hub of eco-friendly, green and sustainable living.



Combating Climate Change: Taiwan Can Help

Calling for Taiwan's Professional, Pragmatic, and Constructive Participation in the UNFCCC

Foreword

The 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Katowice, Poland this December. During the event, the participants are expected to work out and adopt a package of decisions to better ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. This will help focus international efforts on mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.

However, due to political constraints, Taiwan can only attend the COP sessions as an NGO observer. Being a responsible stakeholder in the international community, Taiwan will never let its exclusion become an excuse for not partaking in global efforts to combat climate change.

Taiwan has set ambitious reduction targets for its greenhouse gas emissions.

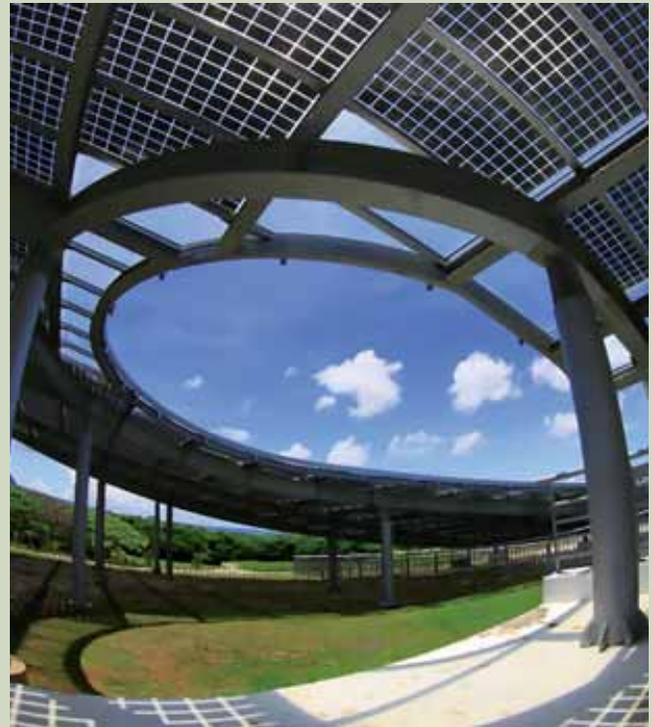
In June 2015, Taiwan passed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, setting five-year regulatory carbon reduction targets in the hope of reducing Taiwan's greenhouse gas emissions to 50 percent of 2005 (base year) levels by 2050. It seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by two percent by 2020, 10 percent by 2025, and 20 percent by 2030.

To better control and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration created the National Climate Change Action Guidelines, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control Action Program targeting six major fields: energy, manufacturing, transportation, residential and commercial buildings, agriculture, and environment management. The initiatives, which are to be reviewed once every five years, facilitate cross-ministerial cooperation within government.

Taiwan has set the goal of having 20 percent of its energy come from renewable sources and 50 percent from low-carbon natural gas by 2025, thus lowering its energy from coal-burning power plants to 30 percent of the total. Taiwan will continue to promote its energy restructuring in order to realize sustainable development.

In August 2018, Taiwan amended its Air Pollution Control Act to reduce air pollution and accelerate Taiwan's energy transformation. It also seeks to further restrict vehicle and factory emissions, improve air quality, and enhance the management of pollution sources and treatment of pollution.

Taiwan understands that the issues associated with climate change are inextricably linked to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is committed to helping achieve



the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In September 2017, Taiwan released its first Voluntary National Review to document the concrete progress it has made to this end.

II. Taiwan needs to participate in the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Taiwan's exclusion contradicts the spirit of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

The UNFCCC preamble acknowledges that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible participation of all countries in order to achieve an effective and appropriate response. In addition, the Paris Agreement highlights the important concept of climate justice, calling on all states to take action to address climate change. It is unjust to keep Taiwan excluded from the UNFCCC and leave the government to deal with the impact of climate change on its own. Taiwan's inclusion in UNFCCC initiatives would conform to the aims and spirit of the convention, as well as to the principles embodied in the UN Charter.

Taiwan is vulnerable to climate change.

The increasing frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels caused by global warming endanger Taiwan's environment and survival. Taiwan's average temperature in the past

two years has been the highest in 100 years. Atypical heat waves have been causing water shortages, damaging the economy, threatening the people's welfare, and restricting the generation of hydroelectric power. To make matters worse, just this August, sudden torrential rains from a tropical depression caused severe flooding across southern Taiwan, seriously impacting people's lives and damaging infrastructure and property.

Taiwan's lack of access to UNFCCC meetings and mechanisms and exclusion from the international response framework have weakened its ability to formulate adaptation strategies in response to the challenges posed by global warming and climate change. There is an urgent need for Taiwan to be included in early warning systems for disasters, gain access to real-time information, and contribute more to global climate change adaptation mechanisms.

Taiwan needs to mitigate the negative impact on its economy and trade.

One of the key elements to the implementation of the Paris Agreement is the realization of both economic development and environment protection. Taiwan's 5+2 Industrial Innovation plan includes measures to create a sustainable homeland through the promotion of green energy and a circular economy for waste management. The plan will help shift Taiwan's industrial base from traditional contract manufacturing to foster a high valued-added and environmentally friendly economy.

Taiwan's exclusion from access to the UNFCCC climate finance mechanism will make it difficult for Taiwan to offset the high economic costs of carbon reduction measures. This could seriously harm the competitive edge of Taiwan's industries and discourage them from helping the government develop a green industrial structure, in order to aid the transformation of Taiwan into a low-carbon society. Almost all World Trade Organization (WTO) members are contracting parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. However, Taiwan, a WTO member, remains excluded. As WTO trade rules permit countries to impose tariffs on imports due to environmental protection considerations, Taiwan's industries might be targeted as a result.

As an important world economy, Taiwan should contribute to the UNFCCC.

As the world's 22nd largest economy, Taiwan plays a major role in both the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region, as well as the global economic and trade system. Like other countries, Taiwan has a responsibility to help mitigate the effects of climate change and, therefore, should not be excluded from the UNFCCC. Taiwan calls on the international community to support the participation of its Environmental Protection Administration as a non-member government observer in the upcoming COP24 in Poland.

III. Taiwan is ready to contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

Taiwan can be a constructive partner in addressing climate change.

Taiwan is competitive on green technology. Many of our advanced renewable energy products are exported to other coun-

tries. Taiwan has much to offer the UNFCCC, not just in terms of technology, but also in ways of financial support and capacity building. Taiwan's experience with rapid economic development, industrialization, and environmental management would be extremely valuable to other island states and developing countries facing similar challenges associated with climate change. By drawing on Taiwan's advanced technologies and experience, these countries could modernize their economies, which minimizing harm to the environment.

Taiwanese is willing to share its experience and technology with other countries.

Over the decades, Taiwan has undertaken a wide array of projects in helping developing countries mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These include food and energy security, renewable energy, green technology, LED street lighting, biodiversity conservation, natural disaster management, post-disaster reconstruction, reforestation, environmental protection, water resource management, drought relief, and etc.

For example, Taiwan has sponsored the Enhancing Home Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy Project in the Marshall Islands. This significant climate change mitigation project is anticipated to help the Marshall Islands reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 992 tons annually.

In the Caribbean, Taiwan's modern agricultural techniques have helped countries adapt to climate change. For instance, Taiwan has worked with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to implement the Strengthening Farmers' Organizations and Improving Fruit and Vegetable Production Technology projects. With Saint Christopher and Nevis, we have worked on the Enhancing Agriculture Adaptive Capacity to Climate Variability Project. Both partner countries have been able to strengthen their ability to respond to natural disasters and improve the sustainability of natural resources.

Moreover, starting next year, Taiwan and Belize will launch the Urban Resilience and Disaster Prevention Project to help minimize the impact of extreme weather by introducing modern Geographic Information System technologies that enhance Belize's disaster management capabilities.

Taiwan, a leader in the field of seismic and maritime weather monitoring, has the highest concentration of monitoring stations of any nation, with around 800 currently in operation. Given the vulnerability of Pacific Island states to climate change, Taiwan offers training to their meteorological personnel and dispatches experts to improve their weather forecasting systems. For example, Taiwan develop an early warning system for extreme weather events and earthquakes in Solomon Islands. The weather data collected through the system will also help Solomon Islands issue dengue fever alerts, which has drawn the attention from internationally community.

Multilateral cooperation helps promote green technology and energy efficiency.

For instance, in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Taiwan's International Cooperation and Development Fund (Taiwan ICDF) has contributed US\$80 million to the Green Energy Special Fund. It is

used to cofinance EBRD investment projects containing green energy components, such as LED street lights, smart meters, solar-powered technologies, and public transportation and electric systems.

Through such cooperation, Taiwan has supported the Moldova Chisinau Urban Road Project to modernize Chisinau's street lighting system. It will replace traditional mercury lamps with modern LED ones, improving energy efficiency by up to 70 percent.

TaiwanICDF's contributions have also supported the Bosnia and Herzegovina Elektrokraina Power Distribution Upgrade Project. This initiative should reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 63,000 tons and save 80 GWh of electricity per year by introducing smart metering technology and upgrading the electricity distribution system.

Another cofinanced project is the Jordan Greater Amman Municipality Solid Waste Project, which has introduced gas col-

lection technology to Jordan. The landfill gas-generated power will be connected to the national grid, helping the country reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 150,000 tons annually, as well as its reliance on fossil fuel imports.

Conclusion

In May 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, "The sustainability train has left the station. Get on board or get left behind," urging the world to rally behind the landmark Paris Agreement. Taiwan, like other countries, should be afforded the opportunity to participate in global mechanisms, negotiations, and activities that promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, we call on all parties to look beyond political considerations and support Taiwan's professional, pragmatic and constructive participation in the UNFCCC. Let Taiwan help in global efforts to combat climate change.



Roads to Democracy

Poland and Taiwan, two countries located at different corners of the globe, have a strikingly similar history over the last three decades. In both nations, democratic transition was the most important process for both political classes and the whole of society as well.

In Poland, Martial Law, imposed by communist government on Dec. 13, 1981, was lifted July 22, 1984. In 1989, after the Round Table talks between government and democratic opposition, the first partly free elections took place June 4: the ruling Polish United Workers Party (PZPR) was heavily defeated. Eventually, the first non-communist government took office in November. A year later, the first direct presidential election took place; Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa won the presidency.

Wałęsa was a frequent visitor to Taiwan. The former Polish president believed that Taiwan would make an even larger contribution to global democracy in the future.

In Taiwan, Martial Law was lifted in 1987 and the first direct presidential election took place in 1996. In 2016, the first woman-president in the Chinese-speaking world – Tsai Ing-wen was elected the head of state. In 2018, she met in Taipei with Aleksander Kwaśniewski, the only re-elected President of Poland (1995-2005). During his visit, Kwaśniewski talked about a great similarity between the two nations in terms of geopolitical situation and in the experience of democratic transition.

Democratic transitions in Poland and Taiwan were key factors in the ecological awareness of citizens. After 1989, environmental protection movements got their voices heard by the ruling parties. Today, Poland and Taiwan are in the leading group of countries trying to make the Earth a more clean and safe place to live.

The first Pole in Taiwan

The first Polish guest arrived on the shores of the exotic island of Formosa in 1771, after a daring escape from exile to the Kamchatka Peninsula on a hijacked ship named "Św. Piotr i Paweł", captained by Maurycy Beniowski (1746–1786), a traveller, soldier and one of the most colourful characters in Poland's 18th century history.



In late August 1771, the escapees reached present-day Taiwan and stayed there for 18 days. Soon, upon a plea by Prince Huapo, local ruler of the eastern side of the island, Beniowski took part in the domestic conflict and supported him in a battle against Prince Hapuasingo's army, a puppet of the Chinese. The fighting ended when Beniowski's people captured the enemy prince. For his support, he received silver and gold, and was also offered land and a proposal to settle, which he did not accept and sailed on.

Krynica Economic Forum

During annual Krynica Economic Forum (September 4-6), government ministers and CEOs of leading Polish companies spoke about the current economic situation and plans for next years and decades. Excerpts:

Poland will face an unavoidable decline in its GDP dynamics should the global economy slow down considerably, even though the Polish economy enjoys solid fundamentals, Deputy Finance Minister Leszek Skiba said. The global economy is going to decelerate or even go into recession "within the perspective of several years," according to Skiba.

Poland could still enjoy some decline of the unemployment rate although "spectacular" declines will not take place, Family, Labor and Social Policy Minister Elżbieta Rafalska suggested.

"We already know that some spectacular unemployment declines will not occur, but at the same time we cannot say that this [unemployment decline] decelerated," Rafalska said, while also pointing to "the historical record" of the July unemployment rate at 5.9% according to stats office GUS data, as well as Eurostat figures speaking of Poland getting close to the natural unemployment level.

Polish power companies currently pay ca. 30% less for coal as compared to the growing international market prices due to the utilities' involvement in establishing the state mining group PGG, Minister of Energy Krzysztof Tchórzewski said. As a result, power companies may offer cheaper electricity to end-users, while at the same time ensuring their own profitability, he observed.

Poland would like to direct money gathered in power sector employee pension programs to the investment fund TFI Energia owned by power group PGE provided unions can be brought in to support the move, Tchórzewski also said.

"I hope that pension funds set up in power companies will move to this FIZAN [Energia]," he said, adding that "some PLN 20 billion" in savings under pension programs are located "in various funds around the world."

"I believe that it would be safer to have these means in an institution which raises money and functions close to large companies, in which the state has its share," the minister added.

Poland should have 6,500 electric car charging stations in 3 years' time Tchórzewski declared. The investments should not drive up sharply electricity prices in the coming 18 months, he asserted. Fuel firms should face no threat from the electro-mobility market for the next decade, according to the official.

Fuel group PKN Orlen will file a motion to the European Commission concerning the company's planned merger with peer Lotos at end-November 2018, CEO Daniel Obajtek informed.

"The proper motion concerning the consent to a merger with Lotos will be sent by us to the European Commission at end-November," Obajtek said. "We have already progressed from the stage of exchanging correspondence to direct talks with the Commission," the CEO added.

The process of due diligence at Lotos is "very advanced" and might soon come to an end, Obajtek also said.

Orlen will seek to boost its profits through volume increases rather than price hikes in order "not to burden our clients too much," Obajtek declared.

"We want to earn in a slightly different way, through volume increases and not by ripping off an individual," he said. "We will go more towards volumes, in order not to burden our clients too much," Obajtek added.

The macro environment is very volatile, Orlen's head warned, though, pointing to crude prices and FX.

"We will certainly want to maintain prices and, once a certain operational improvement is achieved and logistics costs are cut, we will lower them," Obajtek said.

Poland must increase utilization of its LNG port in Świnoujście in 2019 to 28 annual deliveries of the 38 representing full capacity, the CEO of state natgas firm PGNiG Piotr Woźniak said. Small volume sales of LNG should also increase the domestic market from the current 60,000 ton to some 200,000 ton annually, another PGNiG official added.

Builder Budimex expects to return to a growth path as of end-2019, following the "difficult" 2018 and 2019, CEO Dariusz Blocher said.

"As of end-2019, we should be coming back on the rising curve," Blocher added, while observing that the profit curve "is flattening" amid difficulties that are still ahead.

That end of 2019 is when the company expects to end works commissioned under the least favorable contracts inked in the 2016-2017 period, Blocher explained.

The construction sector keeps calling for introduction of price indexation in contracts, as well as fair risk distribution between orderers and contractors, Blocher reiterated.

The average prices of construction materials are expected to grow by 10-12% this year, while blue-collar wages are likely to increase by 7-10%, Blocher anticipated.

Source: Polish Press Agency (PAP)



The Polish Electromobility Leader

Barbara Deręgowska talks to Tadeusz Ferenc, the Mayor of Rzeszów.

You are the host of a city, which over the last dozen or so years has undergone a spectacular metamorphosis and has become a large regional industrial and academic centre. How did you manage to sustain such a growth rate?

Rzeszów is one of the fastest and most dynamically growing cities in Poland. I have lost count of the prizes, certificates and awards it has won. I primarily focused on enlarging the city which significantly boosted the economy. New investment lands became available, within which we established the "Rzeszów Dworzysko" Special Economic Zone. New businesses have appeared. Most are associated with the aviation industry. They are now known as the "aviation valley", which is home to approximately 150 businesses and represents more than 90 per cent of the domestic aviation industry. The academic centre is growing at an equally fast pace, where students can read subjects such as cosmonautics or nanotechnology. These unique and modern university subjects act like magnets. We have the largest proportion of students per one thousand inhabitants (353) in the entire European Union. We are seeing an ever increasing influx of people from other regions of Poland. Some come looking for work, some because they like the city which is an attractive place to live in. More and more students are staying on after completing their educations. We have begun intensive work on building new residential estates. In 2005 the population of Rzeszów was just under 160 thousand, spread across 53 square kilometres. Today approximately 200 thousand people live in the city which occupies an area of 120 square kilometres.



Joan Gajda

"Rzeszów - the innovation capital" is a slogan which has been reflecting the character of your city for a number of years. But what lies behind it?

You can find a plethora of innovative ideas here. We travel around the world, see how other cities function and try to bring home the more interesting ideas. For example we have air-conditioned bus stops with a voice announcement system for the blind, a round footbridge for pedestrians straight from Shanghai, illumi-



nated green belts along roads. Rzeszów's Transport Program, worth approximately 400 million zloty, was one of the more ambitious projects. We have rebuilt many roads and junctions, 80 modern and eco-friendly buses were purchased and an intelligent traffic management system was put in place. This was noticed by European experts, who awarded the CIVITAS AWARD 2016 to Rzeszów for being an example of excellence, which inspires and is used as a model for stimulating further sustainable mobility initiatives in Europe. As Rzeszów's mayor I also became a finalist of the "Innovation in Politics 2017" contest, which identifies the most creative and bold minds in Europe.

A single track overground rail system, maintenance free buses, electric buses, electric car, scooter and bicycle rental stations are some of the investments in the pipeline for Rzeszów. If they are all brought to a successful completion, then Rzeszów will unquestionably be the Polish electromobility leader.

Electric vehicles are here to stay. We have to keep up with world's trends, and that is why ten electric buses will appear on the streets of Rzeszów as early as in September of this year. And that is just the beginning. Private businesses are also focusing on developing electromobility. Next year, a taxi company is looking to open electric car rental sites in Rzeszów. Another business is just launching an electric bicycle and a two-man vehicle rental system. The city is getting ready to open ten electric vehicle charging stations. There should be more than one hundred of these in the coming years. We are also looking to introduce autonomous electric buses onto our streets. This modern, eco-friendly solution would be the perfect complement for our transport system. We discovered it in the Netherlands. Autonomous communication has been in use in Rotterdam for 15 years now. Such buses may carry up to 24 passengers at a time. They travel along a special track, with speeds of up to 40 km. Passengers call them by pressing a special button at a bus stop. In an hour these buses will be able to carry 6 to 7 thousand passengers to their destinations. Six of them operate dur-



ing the morning and afternoon rush hours (one every 2.5 minutes), and three are out on the roads at other times. Plans to build a monorail in Rzeszów is yet another innovative electromobility idea. The monorail travels over a single rail, approx. six m above street level. Such a solution is cheaper than building an underground system and more efficient than trams. The initial stage would see an approx. five km line, which would loop around and connect a number of residential estates. However, implementing this idea is difficult because there are no provisions in Polish law governing such types of transport and that is something we need to look into.



First Blockchain Smart Contract for Commercial Real Estate

Polish start-up ShareSpace (www.sharespace.pl) has created in August 2018 the first office rent transaction in Poland based on blockchain technology.

The use of blockchain technology by ShareSpace is an unprecedented event on the Polish real estate market and securing the integrity of commercial and legal conditions is a unique solution on a global scale.

ShareSpace is the marketplace that allows to find, compare and rent coworking or shared office spaces online, due to the analytical tools and standardization of all offers. The advantage of using blockchain in the lease process is not only transaction security. The whole operation is automated, so the office operator saves time and money on long-term negotiations. In turn, the tenant is able to find the right space and make a rent contract within a dozen of minutes.

In order to meet the expectations of platform users - freelancers, startups, small and medium enterprises and corporations - an innovative solution based on blockchain has been used to ensure the security of lease transactions, the irrevocability of commercial and legal conditions and the reduction of brokerage and advisory costs. Access, verification and validation of commercial documents and arrangements takes place through a decentralized blockchain process, which significantly shortens the time of negotiations and at the same time maintains the security, even with the involvement of many entities. The contract template between the parties of the transaction was also based on blockchain technologies.

Smart Contracts are self-executable programs created in the blockchain network, which may aim, as the standard contracts, to oblige two or more parties of the contract to meet a certain performance that has been indicated by them. Transactions are subsequently confirmed automatically by blockchain network users, while maintaining and guaranteeing the extremely important integrity of legal and commercial conditions.

"Most lease agreements on the real estate market are concluded in a traditional paper form. Until now, the parties have exchanged scans of signed documents, not seeing each other and with no possibility of checking the identity. This means that the contract could de facto be unjustifiable in case any of the parties turned



out to be false. However, we strongly believe in this electronic documentary form, secured by the blockchain technology, because it allows full verification of both sides of the transaction”, said Robert Chmielewski, ShareSpace co-founder.

“The challenge of all marketplace online portals is a lack of trust, because neither side is able to rely on each other completely. We solve this by using blockchain technology. Thanks to it, we can guarantee the integrity of data and all files sent via the platform, because after adding them to the blockchain, they cannot be removed or changed. Both sides of the transaction can refer to a given document knowing that it is original and intact”, added Marcin Dyszyński, second co-founder of the platform.

The first transaction was possible thanks to the cooperation of the pioneer working group of innovative companies.

The parties of the smart contract transaction were Business Link - Poland's largest coworking space operator, offering access to the business community of start-ups and corporations, and Ricoh Poland - the supplier of wide range of office equipment products, which found a suitable office through the platform and made a lease transaction in less than 10 minutes.

“Ricoh, being the leader of modern office solutions, thanks to the provided tools, not only gained the possibility of using blockchain technology, which accelerated the conclusion of the contract, but also enabled access to the Business Link community, which increases the potential of sales market for our services and products”, said Rafał Gutkowski, Ricoh Office Services Director.

“For Business Link, professionalism and innovation are priority, which is why signing a blockchain-based contract was quite natural for us. Thanks

to the automation of the entire process, we not only saved time, but also made it easier for professionals to access our network of 17 unique spaces located in the largest cities in Poland”, said Maciej Król, Chief Growth Director at Business Link.

A detailed description of test scenarios of blockchain based transaction and verification of applications with functional requirements was supported by Atende SA, a company listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange, specialized in providing advanced IT solutions.

“Implementation of blockchain in lease agreements is more than just-

fied. Thanks to the invariant attribute of the information stored in the blockchain, all parties of the transaction feel secure. Such a recording method is considered to meet the requirements of a so-called permanent record. The Atende solution also assumes the existence of trusted nodes that additionally increase the security of transactions. The blockchain nodes involved few locations; the ShareSpace network and the Atende network, as well as the trusted node of the Hogan Lovells lawyer's office”, commented Jacek Szczepański, Vice President of the Management Board of Atende SA



Robert Chmielewski and Marcin Dyszyński

➤ and Michał Legumina, company's Head of Research and Development.

International law company Hogan Lovells took care of the legal support of the transaction and preparation of flexible new-generation rent agreement in cooperation with ShareSpace, which can be used both for renting of small and large spaces. Hogan Lovells coordinated the implementation of the project in accordance with applicable legal provisions, also in the field of real estate law, competition and intellectual property. The contract template between the parties to the transaction was also based on blockchain technology.

"The rental of office space is extremely difficult and competitive therefore innovative solutions are needed. We are glad that our knowledge and experience could support such an disruptive project. From the legal point of view, it is extremely important to propose a solution that is simple and functional enough to protect the interests of the transaction parties and make use of all the benefits of blockchain technology at the same time", said Marek Wroniak, Partner, and Jan Starybrat, attorney, both rep-

resenting the Hogan Lovells in Poland.

Maintaining the highest commercial lease standards during the negotiations process was supported by international real estate consulting company Cushman & Wakefield, which cooperates with ShareSpace since September 2017, aiming to develop and promote technological and commercial solutions, revolutionizing the flexible office market in Poland.

"With the expansion of local players and the entry of new foreign flexible office operators, the development of the Polish coworking market has significantly accelerated in the last two years. We anticipate that by the end of 2018, the coworking space will be close to 75,000 sq m. Thanks to our cooperation with ShareSpace, our clients can quickly rent space in coworking centers and serviced offices on flexible terms in more than 14 cities throughout Poland, using more and more technologically advanced tools, which we have also seen in this transaction", said Mikołaj Niemczycki, Coworking Clients Manager in Office Department of Cushman & Wakefield Poland.

"Thanks to the dynamic development of the office market in all its segments and the emergence of completely new players, both on the demand and supply side, we have a chance to create a friendly area in Poland for companies engaging their capital in the development of blockchain based solutions, so that in the near future our country may be one of the leaders investing in this technology", said Richard Aboo, Partner, Head of Office Department in Cushman & Wakefield.

The real estate market could benefit from ShareSpace blockchain project in area of more standardized approach for short rent agreements, driving efficiency and moving the industry toward levels of rental process automation.

Leveraging the blockchain, an electronic marketplace can be created, where all parties will store property and transactional data such as lease conditions, pricing and availability directly on the blockchain. Property owners, tenants and brokers, will all share and have access to the historical data for both the specific property and the commercial real estate market as a whole.



Avant-garde Design and Modern Technology

Krzysztof Gacek, DS Brand Manager at the PSA Group, talks to *Voice*.

The DS brand is very little known. Could you introduce it to our readers?

The DS make is owned by the French corporation PSA (Peugeot, Citroen, Opel, Vauxhall and DS), it was officially established in 2014. Less than one year later, it had its debut on the Polish market, whereas DS branded cars were first distributed through a chain of Citroen salons. At the moment, PSA's youngest make is implementing a new development plan that assumes the establishment of its own, independent chain selling DS models.

What makes DS cars stand out?

Generally speaking, the combination of sophisticated design and ultramodern technology. For example, our latest model, the DS 7 CROSSBACK, which is an introduction to the second-generation models of the make, was designed from scratch by the DS make engineers. This model stands out due to its very sophisticated style which is immediately noticeable looking at the outline of the car and its interior. The DS 7 CROSSBACK is at the same time a very technologically advanced car. It has all of the currently available technologies which support the driver in handling the vehicle. The equipment includes among other things DS Night Vision allowing maximum optimisation of visibility during night time driving. On the other hand, DS Driver Attention Monitoring increases the level of safety thanks to continuous checks of the driver's concentration level.

What are the plans concerning the presence of this make on the Polish automotive market?

In the first place, the DS make focuses on the development of its own sales network. By 2020, we are planning to open eight facilities in the largest Polish cities. For several months DS 7 has been on sale in the DS Store in Warsaw, soon it will be available in Krakow and Katowice. We want to cover main agglomerations in Poland with the DS network, thus new locations are planned in the following years: Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, Trójmiasto and Szczecin. The DS brand is also developing a range of new models. A smaller DS SUV will appear already at the beginning of next year. In every subsequent year we will present a new model developed by DS Automobiles.

What features do you look for in cars as their user?

Purchasing a car is a very complex process, and how we perceive the given car depends in the first place on what it looks like and how we feel in it. These are very subjective feelings. An attractive design obviously attracts attention, but in the end it is the quality of driving, the driver's and passengers' comfort, as well as systems which passively and actively ensure safety that count. The model marketed this year, DS7 CROSSBACK, has all these features. It fully meets my expectations as a driver, but more importantly - I am convinced that it will meet all the expectations of our customers.



Workspace as a Service

The average share of flexible office space take-up in Europe reached 7.5% in Q1 2018, up from 7.2% in 2017 and almost three times higher than 2016, according to international real estate advisor Savills.

Over the past five quarters, more than 820,000 sq m of office space was taken by flexible workspace providers. Of this, 26% is located in London, 15% in Paris, 10% in Berlin, 6% in Warsaw and 5% in Hamburg.

"Social and technological changes have increased the popularity of sales models in which the customer can modify the range of the offer she/he wants and it is available practically immediately. In IT no one is surprised by the concept of software as a service. A similar solution is used by coworking space and serviced office operators offering the possibility of leasing even single desk for a short term. The global trend for flexible workplaces is also observed in Poland," says Wioleta Wojtczak, Associate Director, Head of Research at Savills Poland.

In Warsaw alone, at the end of March 2018, there were nearly 110 locations in which offices were offered as a service. In regional cities, the development of the market is also gaining momentum and flexible workplaces operators declare expansion into new locations. Between January 2017 and March 2018, WaaS operators leased in total 24,200 sq m in regional cities in Poland.

Across Europe, WeWork was the largest occupier with almost 295,000 sq m, followed by IWG (Regus/Spaces) with approximately 155,000 sq m. The average deal size was in the region of 3,600 sq m with 42% of the deals below 2,000 sq m size band, showing that the concept continues to predominantly service independent professionals (iPros), startups and small businesses.

Eri Mitsostergiou, Director, European Research, Savills, says: "Across the office space sector in Europe, we are seeing a demand for higher flexibility, shorter leases and personalised services. Looking forward, we expect to see further expansion of the brands that offer Workspace as a Service (WaaS), especially in the markets where the share of their activity is still low and where there is less diversity in the number of providers compared to London, Paris or Berlin. We should also see an increasing number of landlords offering parts of their portfolios on flexible terms with additional amenities and facilities."

New demand can also come from more traditional companies and larger corporates with more than 1,000 employees. Flexible and shorter leases are appealing to these companies, especially when expanding. According to Savills, this is a segment that WaaS providers will seek to tap into in order to ensure sizeable occupancy and income from their assets. In order to achieve this they will

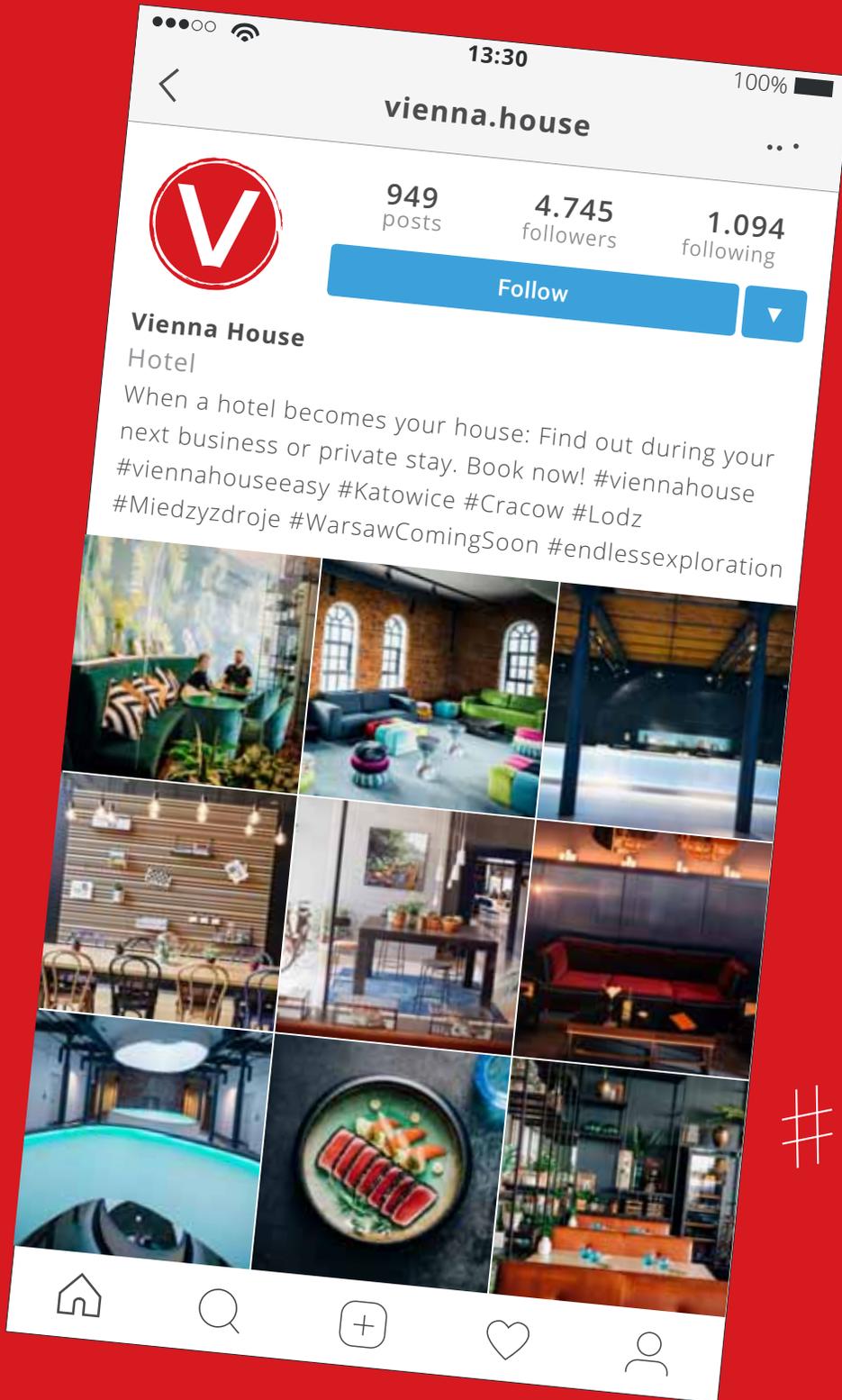
be providing a mix of collaborative and individual working areas to allow for different working styles and needs.

Cal Lee, head of Workthere, comments: "Businesses are quickly realising the benefits of serviced accommodation, not just the flexibility, but also the amenities these new spaces offer. As a result, we expect to see demand continue to grow over the next year, supported by further acquisitions by serviced office providers, particularly in those towns and cities that have a lower supply of flexible office space."

Wioleta Wojtczak,
Associate Director, Head of Research, Savills Warsaw



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Office Market in Poland Hits 10 Million sq m Mark for Space

The boom continues. At the end of H1 2018, supply on the office market in Poland exceeded 10 million sq m. Furthermore, 1.8 million sq m remains under construction, with 1.1 million sq m being developed outside Warsaw.

Advisory firm JLL summarizes the situation on the Polish office market in H1 2018.

"Cities across Poland are developing at a rapid pace and the commercial real estate sector is most definitely a catalyst of this reshaping process. The intangible benefits of place-making are becoming more and more important to office developers who wish to make their contribution in the processes of the expansion and evolution of cities. Some of the new developments, particularly mixed-use projects, create entire new city quarters and contribute to the reviving of an area. Some examples of these include Monopolis in Łódź, Nowy Rynek in Poznań and Unity Centre in Kraków. The joint investment efforts by both commercial developers and local authorities enhance these areas; and that will encourage firms to lease space which spells good news for local communities. This shift in thinking is spurred on by increasing occupier requirements and competition between developers", comments Karol Patynowski, Director of Regional Markets at JLL.

By the end of H1 2018, total demand on the Polish

office market was 686,500 sq m with the main markets outside Warsaw accounting for nearly 40%.

Kraków remains the most sought-after office market, especially amongst the business services and banking sectors. Wrocław and Poznań are also noteworthy, with the latter currently responsible for 14% of demand in the regions. Approximately 261,800 sq m was transacted on major office markets outside the capital city in H1 2018. There are signs that this pace will continue into the second half of the year", adds Patynowski.

The largest deals concluded in H1 2018 include: BZ WBK in its own office buildings (17,000 sq m in Wrocław), Financial Supervision Authority (14,800 sq m at Piękna 2.0 in Warsaw), BZ WBK (14,800 sq m in Business Garden Poznań), Cambridge Innovation Center (13,500 msq m at Varso II in Warsaw) and PLL LOT, which renewed its current lease agreement (11,800 sq m in Warsaw).

Proximo II in Warsaw





Karol Patynowski

430,000 sq m of new office space was completed in H1 2018, with 256,100 sq m being delivered to market outside the capital. There is 1.8 million sq m under construction across Poland.

“The Polish office market exceeded the volume of 10 million sq m of office space. Regions have been particularly active. H1 2018 saw a surge in new completions delivered in major business centres which comprised a 36% increase year on year.



Łukasz Dziedzic

In Wrocław, stock has now exceeded the 1 million sq m mark. This activity is focused mainly on Kraków, Wrocław and the Tri-City. The trio together accounts for 70% of all of the under-construction space; however, all of the regional markets are characterized by increased activity on the supply side of the market”, says Łukasz Dziedzic, Research Analyst at JLL.

The three largest office projects delivered to market in H1 2018 were in

major markets outside Warsaw namely Olivia Star in the Tri-City, an office tower and the tallest building in northern Poland (45,700 sq m), Sagittarius Business House in Wrocław (24,900 sq m) and High Five in Kraków - buildings 1 and 2 (20,600 sq m). Other major projects that have been delivered to tenants include Proximo II in Warsaw (20,000 sq m) and O3 Business Campus III in Kraków (19,200 sq m).

The overall vacancy rate for the Polish office market stands at 10.2%. The vacancy rate in Warsaw is 11.1%, while outside the capital it is 9.3%. The highest vacancy rate was recorded in Lublin (19.7%), while the lowest was in the Tri-City (6.7%).

In central Warsaw rents are currently quoted at 17 EUR to 23 EUR/sq m/month, while prime assets located in the best non-central areas lease for 11 EUR to 15 EUR/sq m/month. Currently the highest rents outside Warsaw are quoted in Kraków (13.5 EUR to 14.6 EUR/sq m/month), Wrocław (13.7 EUR – 14.5 EUR/sq m/month) and Poznań (13.6 – 14.5 EUR/sq m/ while the lowest are found in Lublin (10.5 – 11.5 EUR/sq m/month).



Sagittarius Business House in Wrocław

3D Printing Results in Happier, More Satisfied Customers

A new study commissioned by Ricoh Europe reveals the vital role retail business leaders see new printing technologies playing in driving their competitive advantage. 73% of those surveyed believe investments in 3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing, directly lead to greater customer satisfaction.

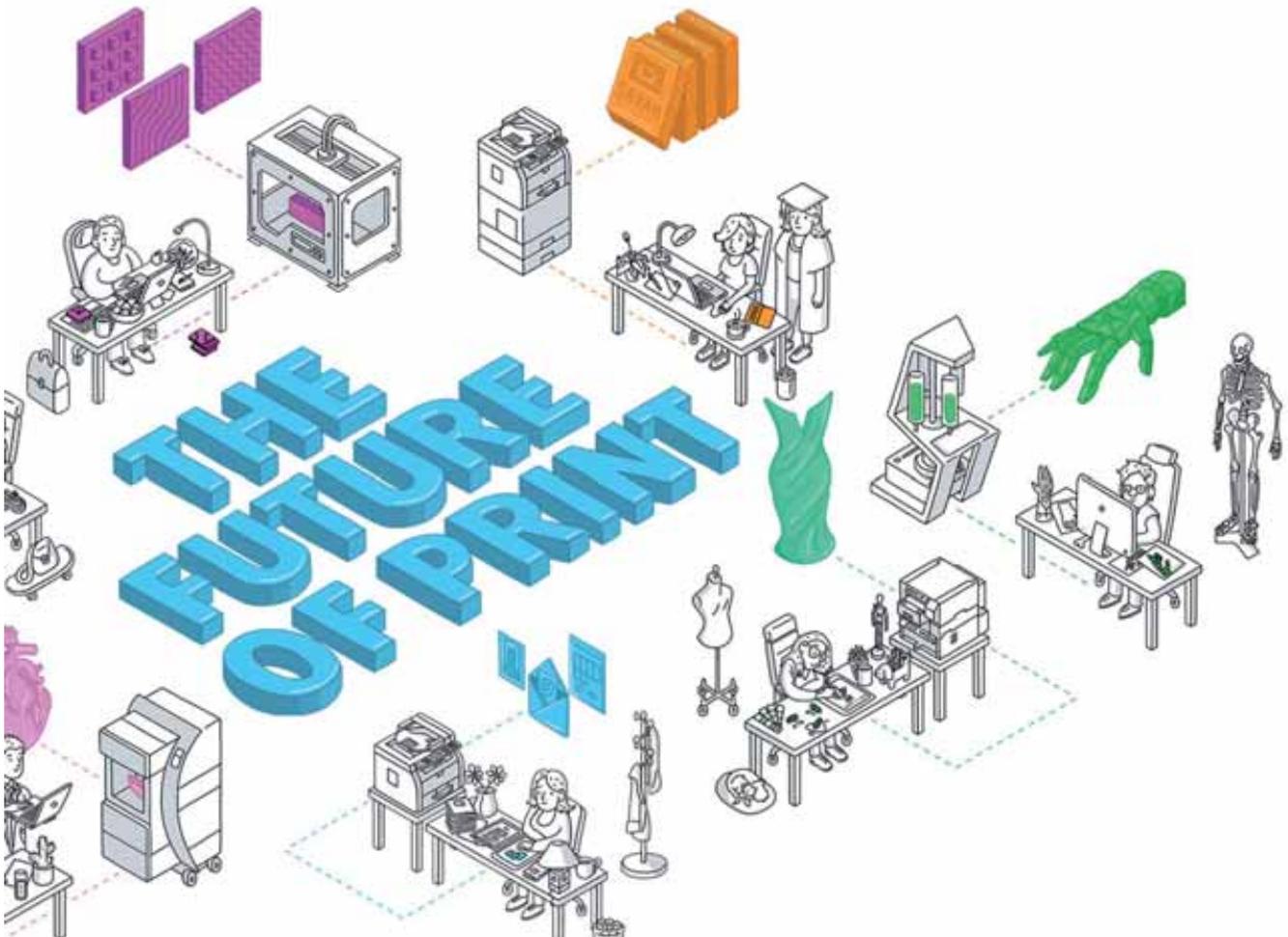
According to the research, 84% of retail leaders report a growing demand from customers for shorter delivery times and 74% say customers increasingly want more personalised products. With that in mind, 68% say new printing technologies provide a key source of differentiation for their business.

David Mills, CEO of Ricoh Europe says: "In the age of the mobile consumer, it is more crucial than ever to get the right product into customers' hands at the right time. Bricks-

and-mortar retailers are up against their digital rivals to deliver products on-demand, and personalise them to their customers' individual tastes. With store closures an increasingly common sight, leading retailers are turning towards print to enhance the consumer experience, more effectively fulfil orders and compete for customer loyalty."

To keep pace with changing consumer preferences, 68% of those surveyed plan on investing in 3D printing technologies within the next two years. Specifically, 60% believe 3D printing will speed-up their product development cycle. In addition, 73% believe new printing technologies will help them maximise new market opportunities.

Mills adds: "Bridging the gap between digital and physical objects, new technologies such as 3D printing simplify the way items are created, stocked, and distributed. As on-demand production becomes more localised, the nature of transactions will change as brands begin to emphasise the sale of infinitely replicable 3D products."



Education Will be the Heart of Poland-India Relations

Pradeep Kumar, PhD, President of Indo-European Education Foundation, lecturer at University of Applied Sciences (PWSZ) in Nysa and President of ABS Institute talks to the *Voice*:

How do you see India-Poland relations?

India and Poland established diplomatic missions and in 1957 Indian embassy in Warsaw came in existence. The two countries have shared common ideological inclinations, based on their opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism, and moving forward towards modernization and societal development. From 1954 to the celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations in 2014, India and Poland were known for good friendship but not devoted to develop trade relations and never been considered as serious potential partners for future business development.

This scenario has been changed since 2004, when Poland became full member of the European Union. By identifying market size and skilled labour forces along with other factors and advantages, India and Poland started to notice each other's importance and possibilities to develop trade relations.

What is current bilateral trade between India and Poland?

Poland and India has very unique identities and recognizes as fastest growing economies in the region as well as in the world scenarios. When Poland placed 3rd most attractive destination in Europe (after UK and Russia), India was ranked 1st in Asia-Pacific region as highest FDI receiver and 11th in the world ranking, and 1st as best place to do business. A variety of recent reforms have made its regulatory environment more business friendly, and economic growth is forecast to rebound this year. Bilateral trade has crossed 3 billion in 2016, which is expected to cross 5 billion by the end of 2018 and reach up to 10 billion by 2022.

Why education sector is so important for Poland and India business ties?

Today, the Polish educational system is going through transition process. Universities and other educational insti-

tutions are struggling to survive due to demographic changes, many private universities and schools are already closed, and many of them are on the way to be closed due to lack of financial support by not getting enough number of students to pay their tuition fees. Poland is losing millions of dollars every year and losing business opportunities in education sector.

India, with over 600 million people below the age of 25 years, is under tremendous pressure to expand educational sector. The young population has a huge appetite for education and as the growth in the size of the middle classes escalates, millions are increasingly able to pay for better education. India has 26 million students - it would need another 800 universities and over 40,000 colleges in the next eight years to provide the planned additional 14 million places. By 2023 India needs 40 million university places and by 2025 - 500 million skilled workers.

Despite of average growth rate of over 7.5 % in the last decade, India's GER in higher education is very low. By some estimates, even if India succeeds in its target of 30% GER by 2020, 100 million qualified students will still not have places at university. Therefore it is much easier for Indian students to get overseas higher education. According to presented data by Industry chamber 450,000 Indian students spend over USD 13 billion each year in acquiring higher education overseas.

Recent data shows that Indian youth started to take interest for Polish education system and willing to complete various degrees program from Polish universities. In 2014, total number of Indian students were studying in Poland was 227, in 2018 it has been increased dramatically up to 5,500, and is expected to cross 10,000 by 2025.

Education as a business sector has not been yet considered as potential area of cooperation between India and Poland. But it is a sector which will



open unlimited opportunities for both the countries by playing wider role to increase business ties and trade flows based on supply and demand equation.

India is a country of 1.35 billion people and fastest growing middle-class about 25 million households with in the position to pay up to \$15,000 as fee for their higher education. To get admission to Indian universities is very difficult - the successful selection ratio is 1:250 students. As an option foreign universities are much favorable due to less expensive programs and higher values of educational degrees. Global exposure within limited time frame also initiate Indian students to go abroad. Programs such as Erasmus+ mobility and internships during study course is another assets for EU and Polish universities to get more students from India. If students are getting such benefits of mobility and global exposures by paying even less tuition fees at the Polish Universities in comparison to India, then why not to select Poland as destination for higher education? Poland demands number of qualified students from foreign countries, and India has the largest youth group ready to go abroad for higher education, fluent in English and ready to adopt global culture.

It is a win-win situation for both - students as opportunities seekers and educational institutions as opportunity givers, and both nations to utilize such possibilities to increase trade relations.



Saving the Bees

According to the Greenpeace, the number of bee colonies has been decreasing dramatically since the end of the 1990s. All around the world beekeepers have been reporting sudden and unexplained vanishings of bees from their hives.

The role of bees in the ecosystem cannot be overestimated as one in three spoonfuls of our food depends on the pollination process. In Europe alone, more than 4000 varieties of vegetables are dependent on pollination by insects. Bees pollinate 70% of plant species that guarantee 90% of food.

Commitment of Wrocław hotels' employees to the Planet21 sustainable development programme, launched back in 2012, has neither faded nor lost its momentum. Their objectives are growing more and more ambitious. The "save the bees" idea emerged in 2017, following a number of publications on large hotel chains around the world supporting or setting up apiaries. Given the type of the project and the mostly downtown location of our 7 hotels, it was of great importance to ensure the utmost safety standards in group's surroundings, and so the group decided to set up project away from hotels. From among a few select





ed apiaries, the group was charmed by the apiary of Marcin Musiatczyk, an exceptional enthusiast and professional who started beekeeping at the age of 13 under the guidance of his uncle who was an experienced beekeeper. Marcin not only runs his own apiary, but is also active in the Lower Silesian Union of Beekeepers (*Dolnośląski Związek Pszczelarzy*). He constantly expands his knowledge on the subject, attends conferences and is willing to run workshops for children and classes for adults. He is also into garden design as well as selection and growing of appropriate species of melliferous plants.

On July 30, the first 7 beehives purchased by 7 hotels in Wrocław, belonging to Orbis Hotel Group, were set up in Marcin's apiary located on the outskirts of Wrocław. Each beehive is a bee hotel corresponding to one of the hotels. Hence, there is the Sofitel Wrocław Old Town beehive, the Novotel Wrocław Centre beehive, the Novotel Wrocław City beehive, the Mercure Wrocław Centre beehive, the Ibis Wrocław Centre beehive and the Ibis Budget Wrocław South and the Ibis Budget Wrocław Stadion beehives. All in all, "AccorHotels Wrocław Apiary" owns almost half a million bees. Each of the beehives houses 60 thousand bees.

The apiary owner will be caring for beehives in accordance with the best beekeeping practices.



Within the frame of this cooperation, starting from September, at breakfast time each hotel will hold animations and organise meetings with guests, neighbours and employees, during which the beekeeper will talk about the importance of caring for the bee population in our world and the benefits it brings to our environment and health.

The "AccorHotels Wrocław honey" in dedicated packaging and a booklet featuring the history of the Wrocław project will add to the selection of breakfast specials. It will also supplement the gift offer for guests. Hotel guests will be able to buy honey in hotel boutique shops.

The next phase of the project involves online monitoring of bee colonies. This remarkable idea originated from monitoring of storks. Under the project, direct online transmission of images on monitors located in every lobby in Wrocław hotels is to arouse interest, engage Guests and raise awareness of the importance of our natural environment.



From MET to Warsaw

"Manru", the only stage work by the Polish pianist and composer Ignacy Jan Paderewski, will premiere at the Teatr Wielki in Warsaw on October 12.

Manru was the only Polish opera staged at the Metropolitan Opera in New York more than 100 years ago. This was due to the unusual popularity enjoyed by the Polish pianist in America. However, after a short triumph, Manru fell into a long-term oblivion and did not appear on Polish stages. Teatr Wielki decided to break the silence and stage Paderewski's opera, under the direction of Marek Weiss and the baton of Grzegorz Nowak.

Manru is the first musical drama in Polish operatic art. It is a moving story of unhappy love, but also of social differences and intolerance. The heroes pay a high price for transgressing customary borders and their love is exposed to hard tests.

At the musical level, Paderewski combined the idea of drama with the operatic principles of the genre. The work does not have an overture, the action of the act begins immediately after the orchestra's several-measure introduc-

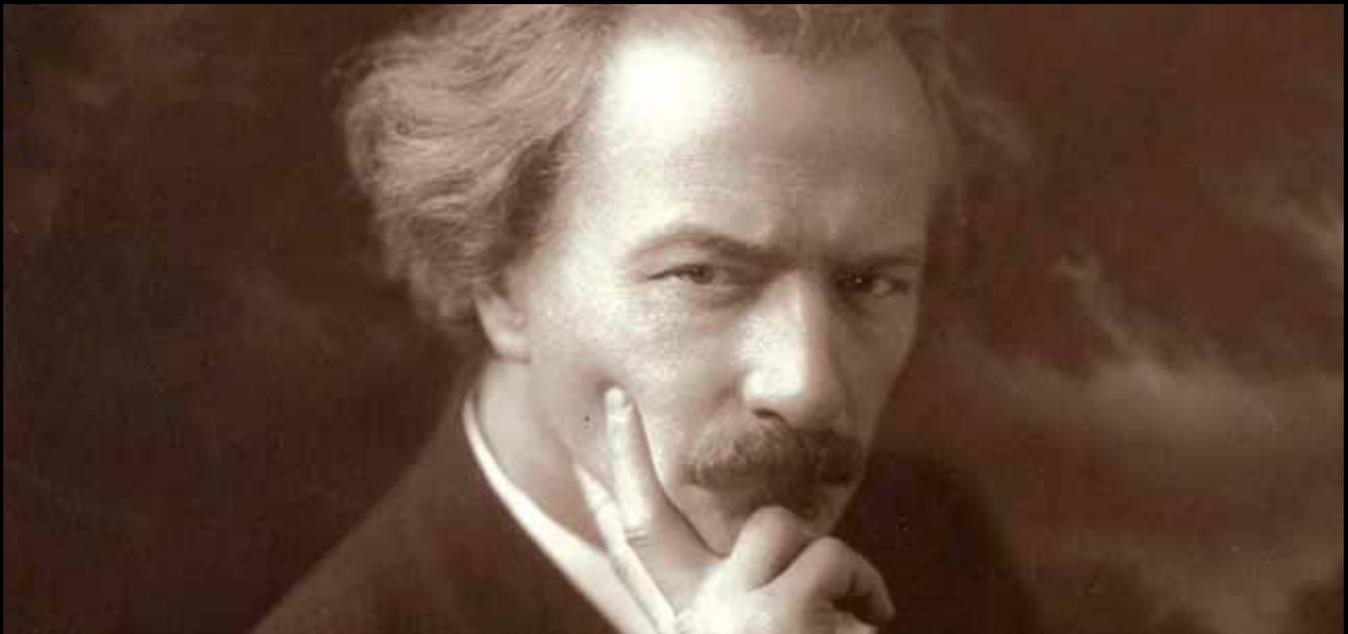
tion. Following the example of Richard Wagner's dramas, the composer applied the theme motifs accompanying the figures to reflect their mood and emotions. Apart from the main themes, there are also motifs of highlander and Gypsy tunes.

The first idea of the opera, based on the novel by Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, "Cottage outside the village", originally entitled "Manolo", was born in 1889, when the composer met a journalist and sculptor Alfred Nossig - the future author of the work's libretto. This fact coincided with the proposal to write an opera put forward to Ignacy Jan Paderewski by the Dresden theater.

Although the sketch of the whole work was ready after a few months, due to the busy calendar of Paderewski's piano performances, further work on the composition proceeded slowly and was repeatedly interrupted.

The premiere of "Manru" took place in Königliches Opernhaus in Dresden on 29 May 1901, conducted by Ernest von Schuch and in the presence of the composer. The Warsaw premiere was held a few days later, and the American one in February 1902.

Manru will be shown in the original Polish language version with English subtitles.





Penderecki's Birthday Concert

Internationally recognized Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki celebrates his 85th birthday this year. Warsaw's Teatr Wielki - Polish National Opera will mark the occasion with a unique concert devoted to the composer's work.

Few contemporary composers are able to match the pace of Penderecki's outstanding career. His works can be heard in concert halls and opera houses around the world and constitute some of Poland's most valuable export assets.

Penderecki's *St Luke Passion*, written over half a century ago and considered a masterpiece of sacred art, is among the most frequently performed pieces of music in the 20th century.

Penderecki has received several Grammy awards during his career - in 1988 for his 2nd Violin Concerto, in 1999 as best contemporary composer, in 2001 for the work

Credo, and in 2013 for an album of his orchestral compositions.

He has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by universities in: Rochester, Bordeaux, Leuven, Belgrade, Washington, Madrid, Poznań, Warsaw, Glasgow.

Penderecki's international career started when the 28-year-old won all the first three prizes at the Polish Composers' Union's 2nd Competition for Young Composers.

Shortly thereafter, his "Strophen" was played all over Europe and "Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima", written a year later, was broadcast by radio stations all over the world. Critics called him the leading representative of the musical avant-garde.

Today, enjoying unflagging popularity from Europe to the USA and Asia, the composer continues to implement further artistic projects, cooperating with the most prominent performers around the world.

The jubilee concert will take place on November 22 at 7.30 pm in the Moniuszko Hall of the Teatr Wielki.

Luxury is for Everyone

Stanisława Missala, owner and founder of Quality Missala perfumeries, offering artistic brands of fragrances by niche perfume houses as well as upmarket cosmetics, talks to *Voice's* Marzena Robinson.

You have recently launched a Quality Missala perfumery in Gdańsk. This is your eighth boutique offering perfumes and cosmetics created by the world's leading niche perfumers. And I still remember how this all started when you opened the post-communist Poland's first perfumery with elite cosmetics in Warsaw's Bemowo, in 1991. Were you not afraid it could be difficult to find customers for such luxurious goods in those difficult times?

No matter where we were born or what is going on around us, we have the right to dream about a better world. Poets are born in difficult times, so you can create art in every reality. Regardless of the circumstances in which I had to live, I wanted to sell the world's best fragrances and cosmetics. I wanted my clients to aspire to better and more effective products. Together with my whole family, I wanted to use healthy creams, wear

sophisticated and complex scents, wash with chemicals-free soap, launder clothes in products without kerosene. I wanted to run a company that was distinguished by the quality of its offer. Hence its name. And both then, more than a quarter of a century ago, and now, we do everything we can to ensure that Quality Missala represents true and real "quality".

Your second perfumery, opened in 1995 at the Marriott hotel in Warsaw, was not only a specific enclave of luxury, but also became famous for the cultural events, concerts and exhibitions organized there. Where did this idea come from?

From the very beginning, I wanted to give my clients something more than is usually expected from a perfumery. I find joy in sharing everything that I value and know something about. That's why I bake cookies, nougat, meringues and mazurkas to treat my clients and make them feel welcome in my perfumeries. For me, a scent cannot only be smelled, but also painted or heard. In fact, everything that surrounds us is art. I love music and I was very pleased that the concerts for customers, organized in the Marriott's lobby, were so popular. The last, tenth concert was attend-



ed by over 500 people, so we had to stop organizing them, as the hotel's management ceased to give their consent to such large gatherings.

There are now other places in Warsaw where you can buy top niche beauty brands. What makes Quality Missala stand out among them?

We still have the widest range of the highest quality, most beautiful, unique and artistic perfumes. We were the first in Poland to create a concept of showing the perfumery business from a different perspective. Regardless of the economic sense, we gave up the income-producing fragrance and skincare brands in favor of natural, artistic scents and beauty products, which stimulate the skin for action, mainly Japanese Menard and Swiss Bellefontaine. I am convinced that our offer is quite unique. The fragrance is to be a composition in which the nose-composer plays on every key, not just on a few. It has to be like a picture that lives, is full of colors, lights and shades. High quality skincare cosmetics, proper skin washing, its daily massage and systematic, proper care are equally important. We strive to convey the philosophy of a holistic approach to life, where perfumes, beauty cream or makeup will be in harmony with what is best and most healthy for each of us.

Quality Missala is also famous for organizing fragrance and skincare workshops whose guests can meet such great celebrities of modern perfumery as Olivier Durbano, Francis Kurkdjian or Martine Micallef. Who are these events targeted to?

By organizing meetings with renowned perfumers, we want to show our customers and all lovers of artistic fragrances, what niche cosmetics are really all about, how natural oils, essences and perfumes differ from those purely synthetic ones and why proper cleansing of your face is so important for skin-care to bring real results. We are particularly happy when our clients bring children to these workshops.

On the twentieth anniversary of Missala Quality, you created your own scent - Qessence, which was to be the essence of the values that guided you in creating your own brand. Who would you recommend this composition to?

Everyone may test it. Qessence is not a simple and obvious smell. This is eau de parfum, which consists of more than 130 natural essences. It changes and develops on the skin, so you should not smell it from the blotter strip, because it will tell you its story only in contact with the skin.

Quality Missala is a true family business, run by yourself, your husband Marek, sons Michał and Mateusz and their wives: Agnieszka and Joanna. How much do you enjoy working together?

We are extremely lucky that we are all passionate about what we do. Our family consists of six different personalities and the same number of opinions on any topic. We are educated in various fields and very independent. Each of us is different, and therefore when we reach an agreement, it is always for the benefit of the company and our customers.

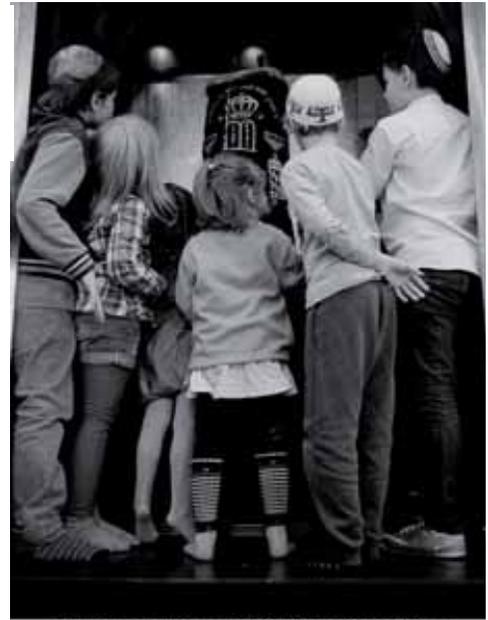


Polish Jews in Focus

An exhibition entitled “Re-Generation. Jewish life in Poland” at Warsaw’s Jewish Historical Institute showcases works of Chuck Fishman, an American press photographer documenting Jewish life in post-war Poland.

73 black and white images cover different periods and are divided into two parts. The earlier ones, taken in the 1970s and 1980s, depict the few remaining members of the “struggling” remnant Jewish communities in the Polish cities of Kraków, Wrocław, Warsaw, Lublin, Łódź and Przemyśl. In contrast, the photographs taken since 2000 (the most recent ones at the 75th commemoration of the Ghetto Uprising in 2018) present the renewed Jewish congregations and organizations where jubilant young people demonstrate enthusiasm and astuteness as they engage in the renewal of Jewish religious and cultural life in the country.

“43 years have passed between taking the oldest and the newest picture presented at the exhibition, which makes the Fishman’s project one of the most comprehensive photographic venture devoted to European Jews in the late 20th and the early 21st century,” the curator’s introduction to the exhibition reads.



Congregants’ children viewing the Torah in the ark after services at Eic Chaim Synagogue, Warsaw 2013

Fishman is known for his masterful and highly expressive portraits of jazz musicians. His photographs have earned him prestigious World Press Photo Foundation medals four times and have been featured on the covers of Life, Newsweek, Time, Fortune and many other magazines.

Until October 28.



Arriving for Friday night services in the courtyard of Kraków’s Remu Synagogue, 1983



Kiddush after Shabbat services in Warsaw’s Bet Midrash, 1979



Karoline Szykier-Kostuchka w/ husband Robert in Congregation Eic Chaim’s sukkah at Kibbutz Warszawa Sept. 2013.



Children playing with lulav and esrog in the Nowy Synagogue sukkah during Sukkot, Warsaw 2013

Residential Acrobatics at Zachęta

An exhibition "Tango on 16 square meters" at the National Gallery of Art Zachęta in Warsaw documents the ingenuity that must be demonstrated in the search for architectural solutions when there is a shortage of housing. It explores ways of utilizing space, between the past and present, Polish realities and global phenomena. The exhibition investigates precarious urban dwelling conditions and their architectural responses through the lenses of Zbigniew Rybczyński's Academy Award-winning short film *Tango* from 1980.

Contemporary urban living conditions are often associated with a more intensive use of available space and resources. In the need of 'squeezing more out' of the means at one's disposal, residential landscapes are shaped by the intricate planning of architects and designers, but also by the inventiveness, humor and imagination of their users.

Housing construction in the PRL (Polish People's Republic under communist control) is the starting point of this research into the interdependency between politics and architecture, external conditions and spatial responses. Using Rybczyński's *Tango* as an interpretive tool, the exhibition combines a broad perspective on the mechanisms governing daily life with concrete spatial proposals and novel visions on the functioning of people's homes then and now.

The main exhibit at Zachęta is a huge wall unit, which in the PRL was a synonym of luxury and functionality in small,

low and narrow flats. The installation combines the characteristic elements of the interior design of the times - wall units, sofa and shelf in one and an overhead storage cupboard.

Artists taking part in the project: Jakub Certowicz, Hugo Corbett, Alessandra Covini and Francesco Apostoli, Juan Camilo Gonzalez, OMMX, Jurren Pen, Studio Makkink & Bey, Tomasz Szerszeń and Wojciech Woźniak.

Until October 14.



TEPfactor Entertainment Concept Debuts in Poland

■ After the Czech Republic and Dubai, it's time for Warsaw. A new, unique concept of team entertainment, combining physical fitness, dexterity, logic and patience, will open in autumn in Warsaw.



TEPfactor is fun with a large dose of adrenaline. It contains elements of intellectual riddles, teaches logical thinking, patience, cooperation, but also requires physical fitness and endurance. It is an adventure that integrates, and allows to test team spirit.

Adults and children over 10 can take part in the game. The participants, in teams, go through a maze of 25 rooms



in which they have to carry out a different task. The game is monitored by a special electronic platform and animator, who ensures that participants have the best possible experience.

The first TEPfactor was launched in the Czech Republic in 2012 and since then over 200,000 people have visited it. In April, TEPfactor made its debut in Dubai, and in autumn the game will kick off in the Blue City Shopping Center in Warsaw.



Classical Music for Crowds

■ Warsaw's Wielki Theater hosted Sept. 28-30 its ninth La Folle Journée festival – the world's largest event promoting classical music.

Fifty-five concerts with nearly 1,000 musicians from all over the world took place during three days at the Wielki Theater/National Opera and in a concert tent on Teatralny Square. The low prices of tickets and the relatively short performances were meant to encourage large audiences to attend.

"Towards a new world" ("Vers un Monde nouveau") was the motto of the event.

"This year, we focused on the music of composers who for political or personal reasons have left their country in search of a new world where they could live and compose music," René Martin, the originator and artistic director of the festival said.

"This topic gains a special dimension in Warsaw, in the year marking the 100th anniversary of Poland's regaining independence," Janusz Marynowski, director of the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra, the organizer of the Polish edition of the festival, said. "Therefore, Polish music was strongly represented in concert programs," he added.

Works of Polish and foreign composers were performed by such orchestras as Sinfonia Varsovia, the National Philharmonic Orchestra and the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra

of Polish Radio, but also by young artists - Adam Bałdych and Piotr Orzechowski, known as "Pianohooligan".

Other artists who appeared on the stage of the Teatr Wielki included violinist Alena Baeva, bass-baritone Tomasz Konieczny and renowned chamber ensembles, such as Trio Owon or Quatuor Hermès. The repertoire included works by Frederic Chopin, Alexandre Tansman, Antonín Dvořák and many other artists whose biographies were defined by emigration.

The international La Folle Journée festival has been held for years in France, Spain, Japan and Brazil. It was launched in Poland in 2010. The local organizers are the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra, the Music Gardens Foundation, the Wielki Theater/National Opera and the French Institute in Warsaw.

For details go to www.follejournee.pl, www.szalonedn muzyki.pl



Oriental Treasures to Take Home

■ If you are looking for an original gift idea, visit the Asia and Pacific Museum. Ceramics from Iznik in Turkey, scarves from Nepal, Japanese kimonos, jewelry from Morocco - all these oriental handicrafts and more will be there on November 9, available to buy at the Oriental Bazaar.

Nearly 40 exhibitors from various parts of South, Southeast and Central Asia and the Middle East are expected to take part in the event.

It will be an opportunity not only to go shopping but also to meet with Oriental culture. Fashion enthusiasts will surely be delighted with the hand-decorated fabrics from China, India and Nepal as well as original ethnic jewelry from Afghanistan and Tibet. Lovers of beautiful objects will be able to choose from among unique decorative items - Tatar ceramics from the Crimea, paintings and handicrafts from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Visitors to the bazaar will also find exotic flavors and scents there. Aficionados of oriental cuisine will be able to buy food products and cosmetics from Palestine, Lebanon or Iran. Gourmets will have a great choice of aromatic spices, green and black teas.



Focus on Asian Film

A best-of selection of movies from various Asian countries will be screened in November during the 12th Five Flavors Film Festival in the Polish capital Warsaw.

This year's Festival will be held on Nov. 14-21. The program features films from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, China and Thailand. The spotlight, however, is going to be on Philippine film.

Since 2017, Five flavors has been cooperating with the Asian Film Awards Academy, an institution supporting the promotion of high quality Asian commercial cinema. The festival's section prepared in this partnership will include top productions in the genre and the latest hit movies by eminent artists, nominated and awarded during this year's Asian Film Awards.



Among them will be one of the most important Chinese productions of the last year, "Youth" by Feng Xiaogang, called the Chinese Spielberg. The widely commented on work of the popular director is an unobvious look at the period of the Cultural Revolution: the story of a group of young artists putting on performances for the army.

The festival's program also features shows of films of special importance to Asian cinematography and those made by such Thai artists as Pen-Ek Ratanaruang, already well-known to the festival audience from the previous years. His latest film "Samui Song" is a stylish psychological thriller inspired by Hitchcock cinema.

Other representatives of the Thai New Wave will appear as co-authors of the project "Ten Years Thailand", presented at this year's Cannes festival, which shows the potential social changes taking place in the near future as a result of current political decisions.

The festival's competition section, called New Asian Cinema, will feature movies by directors who are only starting in the film industry, but have already made a name for themselves as acute observers of Asian communities.

The festival will comprise discussions, lectures and meetings with filmmakers, in addition to film screenings.

For further information and tickets visit www.piecsmakow.pl

Inside a Korean House

■ Korean Gallery - a new unusual permanent exhibition dedicated to Korean culture at the State Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw is a replica of a traditional Korean house called hanok, with separate parts of saranbang (male) and anbang (female).

Visitors can take their shoes off and step into the hanok space to be able to feel like they are in Asia. In two spaces one can see how the Koreans functioned in their everyday life. However, this is not a journey into a very distant past.

The art of the late 19th century and the early 20th century is shown alongside the works of contemporary Korean artists. This clash shows the strength of the Korean craft art tradition, which still functions and is doing well.

Before the Korean Gallery was opened, the collection of the museum had only a dozen exhibits related to Korean culture. Due to this project, the museum is currently in possession of the largest collection of Korean artifacts in Poland, including wooden furniture from the 19th and 20th centuries, carved and decorated with metal fittings.

The exhibits also include antique and modern ceramics, decorative elements and contemporary furniture made of metal and plastic inspired by traditional design. Multimedia - touch screens show Korean customs and cuisine, while a video about the contemporary Korea presents the current everyday life in the country.

Most of the exhibits come from the private gallery of Dirk Pfannebecker - Chinese Arts & Crafts in Frankfurt am Main, and some were purchased from the Turin art gallery and at auctions in Hong Kong.



TIME FOR
CHOPIN

■ The Gallery of the Union of Polish Art Photographers (ZPAF), located next to the Royal Castle in Warsaw's Old Town, hosts every-day concerts of Frederic Chopin's music performed by renowned pianists.

This only all-year-round cultural event in Warsaw is organized by the Foundation for the Promotion of Polish Culture "Czas Warszawy". The project was born out of passion for music and love for Warsaw, and is coordinated by Katarzyna Kraszewska, a concert pianist specializing in Chopin's repertoire. Among the artists performing at ZPAF gallery are winners of international competitions Elżbieta Karaś-Krasziel, Agnieszka Przemys-Bryła, Wojciech Pyrc and Aleksandra Bobrowska.

The concerts are held daily at 6 pm. Tickets can be booked on the website www.TimeforChopin.pl



Musical Summer in Lower Silesia

After the Second World War, music life was successfully revived at spas in Lower Silesia. Music festivals on an international scale began to appear. The Chopin Festival made its first appearance in 1946 in Duszniki Zdrój, 1962 was the first year of the Moniuszko Festival in Kudowa Zdrój followed by the Wieniawski Festival three years later in Szczawno Zdrój.

Henryk Wieniawski is one of Poland's most prominent violinists and composers. The annual international festivals held in Szczawno Zdrój relate to the artist's two visits and concerts in this enchanting Lower Silesian spa in 1855 and 1857. And the festival is not only a venue for the patron's works but also

those of Józef Wieniawski - his brother and daughter Irena Poldowski. The works of other 19th and 20th century composers are also performed. Prominent Polish and foreign violinists appear at the concerts. Roksana Kwaśnikowska accompanied by the Zabrze Philharmonic performed Mieczysław Karłowicz's A major vio-

lin concerto this year. This young violinist is the winner of the Michał Spisak International Music Competition for Upper Silesia. Whereas Henryk Wieniawski's 2nd D minor op. 120 violin concerto was performed during the final concert. This was played by Seiji Okamoto from Japan, the winner of the 2nd ex aequo prize at the 15th Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poznań. The Opole Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra accompanied the artist.

The history of Chopin's concerts in Duszniki Zdrój goes back to 1826 and is associated with Frédéric Chopin's stay and piano recitals at that spa. The 73rd International Chopin Festival has just come to an end. As always, ever since the end of the Second World War, brilliant pianists, laureates of prestigious contests and awards from around the world performed there.

"Our mission, purpose and widely appreciated trait all around the world to promote and present exceptionally talented pianists of the younger generation sets our Festival apart from the others", says Piotr Paleczny, the Festival's longtime artistic director. "However, we are overjoyed to host artists - the festival's stars - in Chopin's Manohouse, who despite their tight schedules come here from far corners of the world. And some repeatedly, which testifies to the prominence of our event", he adds. This year the audience at the festival had an opportunity to listen to long-awaited guests, such as: Sergei Babayan, Alessio Bax, Rachel Cheung, Boris Giltburg and Jonathan Plowright, whose previous recitals were impos-



Seiji Okamoto accompanied by the Opole Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra

Janusz Biskowski



Rachel Cheung

Marek Gradowski



Boris Giltburg

Marek Gradowski

Crowds of music lovers, tourists and spa visitors from Poland and abroad converged on Kudowa for the 56th International Moniuszko Festival. "One should emphasise the presence of illustrious opera stars such as: Jadwiga Rappe and Jury Horodecki from Belarus as well as soloists and bands from the Wrocław Opera and Wojciech Rajski, an outstanding conductor", says Stanisław Rybarczyk, the Festival's artistic director. This year instead of Stanisław Moniuszko's popular "Halka", Teatr pod Blachą was the venue for the premiere of the little known comic opera by the Festival's patron: "Karmaniol albo Francuzi lubią żartować" [Carmagnola - the French like to joke]. Roberto Skolimowski staged and directed this multimedia performance on the basis of the French vaudeville, translated into Polish by Oskar Korwin-Milewski, who is also the libretto's author. Apart from concerts and recitals, the audience was also treated to a number of interesting facts about Moniuszko during a lecture in the Drinkery, given by prominent Moniuszko scholars: Sviatlena Niemahaj from Belarus and Grzegorz Ziezula from the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The final concert of the Festival "Od Moniuszki do Beatlesów czyli wszystko na jazzowo" [From Moniuszko to the Beatles, everything to the sounds of jazz] was a pleasant surprise from music lovers, within the scope of which the Spirituals Singers Band performed Moniuszko to the beat of gospel music.

sible to forget. On the year of Jubilee celebrating Poland's 100th anniversary of regaining independence, a plethora of excellent Polish artists were invited: Ewa Pobłocka with Multi Trio, Wojciech Świtata, Jakub Jakowicz, Tymoteusz Bies and Piotr Alexewicz as well as Lidia Grychtołówna, the nestor of Polish pianism. During the Festival, a Master's Class was also held, attended by young laureates of the most recent Polish National Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition. It was led by prof. Vanessa Lata arche from London's Royal College of Music and prof. Eugen Indjic, who lectures at the Schola Cantorum in Paris.

Spirituals Singers Band – Moniuszko to the rhythm of gospel at Teatr pod Blachą



Kinga Adach

ANTI-AGING TO THE FIFTH POWER?



Swiss luxury skincare brand Valmont has developed a new Anti-Wrinkle Firmness (AWF5) skincare collection which uses an exclusive complex of five active ingredients that act in synergy to target five key factors in the extracellular matrix of the dermis.

The AWF5 complex is formulated with cutting-edge ingredients: peptide cocktail that stimulates extracellular renewal, vitamin C with antioxidant power to protect the skin structure, fibro-boost to increase the production of elastin and collagen, a G.A.G. boost to redensify the matrix and Densi-Derm for better cohesion between the fibers and the fundamental substance.

By targeting all components in the skin's architecture, the AWF5 Complex strengthens the cutaneous structures that give the face its smooth and full appearance. The new AWF line is available in two

complementary product collections: the V-Line Lifting for targeting wrinkles and the V-Shape Filling for restoring the loss of skin density. Both lines comprise a serum, cream and eye treatment.

The V-Line Lifting Concentrate is a serum with a gel-cream texture meant to help rebuild the skin while smoothing wrinkles and fine lines. The V-Line Lifting Cream aims to reduce the appearance of both deep wrinkles and fine lines. The V-Line Lifting Eye Cream was created to smooth wrinkles, tighten skin and reduce dark circles in the eye area.

The V-Shape Filling Concentrate is a serum which targets sagging skin and re-plumping loss of volume. The V-Shape Filling Cream works to smooth nasolabial folds in the skin and restore firmness. The V-Shape Filling Eye Balm is meant to re-firm skin around the eyes while diminishing under eye bag.

Fly ME TO THE MOON

A Paris-based company that specializes in creating extravagant marriage proposals, the ApoteoSurprise agency, introduces a whole new service for 125 million euros which will allow to launch 21st century love birds from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida for their special day.

Starting in 2022 it will be possible to ask for the beloved's hand in marriage while flying over the lunar surface to the sound of Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon". The one-week interplanetary flight will be carried out using a self-contained and autonomous spacecraft allowing the two lovers to travel alone. The flight-plan envisages twelve weeks of pre-requisite technical and physical training.

www.proposeinparis.com



OLFACTORY TRIBUTE TO ICONIC ERA

International luxury perfume brand, Amouage, has launched a new pair of fragrances, named Imitation, which are the brand's creative director Christopher Chong's olfactory interpretation of New York City in the 70s.

Imitation Woman is a floral aldehyde fragrance with notes of black-currant buds, liquorice, rose, ylang ylang, orange blossom, jasmine, incense, sandalwood and patchouli.

Imitation Man is a chypre and leather creation with notes of cedrat, nutmeg, black pepper, rose, violet, orris, myrrh, vetiver, patchouli and castoreum.

The neon colours of the iconic crystal bottles emulate the dynamic vibrancy and energy of the "City that Never Sleeps".

www.missala.pl



VORDON DVR-195



The Vordon DVR-195 car rear mirror with a built-in traffic recorder is a great solution from the car electronics category. DVR-195 allows you to record in Full HD 1080p with a wide recording angle of 170 degrees. The mirror also contains a G-sensor, parking camera and supports micro SD cards up to 32 GB. Rear camera is included, it activates automatically when reverse gear is engaged. The image is displayed on the screen embedded in the mirror.



DODGEE S50

Dodge S50 designed in Spain smartphone has passed the IP68 and being a best outdoor companion especially in extreme environment. S50 got strong 5180 mAh battery and record with four cameras. S50 holds 18:9 aspect ratio in 5,7" HD display.



DIESEL DZ7414

Denim - one of Diesel's iconic materials - inspires this more classic interpretation of indigo blue in Diesel's best-selling watches. In contrast to the more modern take of transparent materials, this collection stays true to Diesel Timeframes roots. Dressed in classic materials detailed with blue IP plated cases, vintage toned leather straps, natural colored dial accents and a little attitude with a bright blue pop. This 57mm Mr. Daddy 2.0 watch features a Grey dial, chronograph movement and blue Steel bracelet.

SHELL Helix ULTRA ECT C2/C3 0W-30

Thanks to the Emissions Compatible Technology (ECT), Shell Helix Ultra ECT C2/C3 was developed to help keep the most modern diesel and gasoline engines free of dirt and build up. Combining Shell PurePlus Technology and high performance additives, Shell Helix Ultra delivers even higher levels of cleansing and protection, provides up to 2.6% greater fuel economy, up to 4x better wear protection than the latest industry standard and 45% cleaner pistons than the industry standard.



SONY RX100

The innovative and compact RX100 VI camera is the first of all the RX100 models to include an impressive ZEISS® Vario-Sonnar T* 24-200mm F2.8 - F4.5 lens. It's extensive zoom, impressive image quality and versatility for both still images and video make it an ideal choice for capturing daily life, cityscapes, portraiture, sports, wildlife and everything in between.

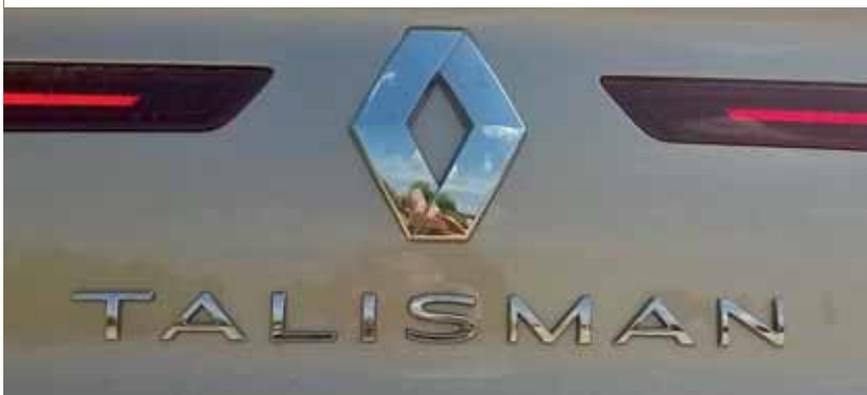
PLANTRONICS VOYAGER 6200 UC

With premium features and professional-grade audio, Voyager 6200 UC is a Bluetooth neckband headset with earbuds that has the versatility to go beyond the office. Transitioning to your next conversation is easy: connect with colleagues working remotely, listen to music to focus distraction-free or drop an earbud to tune in to the conversation around you. You can count on Plantronics Voyager 6200 UC for outstanding audio every time, everywhere.

Compiled by Bartosz Grzybinski

RENAULT TALISMAN GRANDTOUR 1.6 DCI 130 INTENS 4CONTROL

Chapeau bas!



Comfortable, spacious and.... economical – that is the Renault Talisman Grandtour in a nutshell, equipped with a 1.6 dCi engine. I would also add the adjective ‘elegant’ and I am certain that most people will agree.

It's been a long while since I've liked a test car at first sight. The elegant contours, with harmonious proportions and chrome elements are simply delightful. The body has been conceived to the finest details, which come together to make one complete whole – from the shape of the front lights, all the way to the rear bumper seemingly doubled by the body features and the rear light clusters. Even from the side, the well-balanced proportions and slim body of such a large car (4.86 m) are discreetly emphasised. In my opinion this is one of the most effective and graceful estate vehicles on the market.

The inside is spacious. With a wheelbase exceeding 2.8 meters, the passenger cabin is ample for five adults and a whole lot of luggage. With the rear seats folded, the 572 l boot suddenly explodes to 1681 l. This means the car can carry items up to 2 meters long. A low loading height and hands-free opening system make access to the luggage section a piece of cake.

The dashboard is clear and ergonomic. The driving position is ideally designed with a multidimensional driver's seat adjustment combined with steering wheel articulation in two dimensions. As expected from a brand long associated with comfort and safety, there is no shortage of driver assistance systems on board. A lane departure alert issues a visual and acoustic warning if the vehicle unintentionally begins to leave its lane without an indicator being activated. A safe distance indicator changes the cockpit illumination from green to orange and then red if the Talisman finds itself dangerously close to the car in front. Blind-spot monitoring is very useful when driving the vehicle: an LED diode comes on in the rear view mirror to warn against a potential collision risk with another vehicle in the blind spot. The adaptive cruise control automatically adjusts the speed to maintain a safe distance between vehicles, adding another safety feature.

The Easy Park Assist – an automatic parking system which can be used for parallel, perpendicular or diagonal parking manoeuvres helps in tight city spaces. Whereas Easy Park is known and used under various guises by



many car makers, the 4Control system is only used by the Renault corporation. Generally speaking the System takes advantage of rear-wheel steering to improve the car's traction. When manoeuvring in a car park, the rear wheels turn in the opposite direction to the front wheels reducing the turning circle radius to 10.8 meters!. In Talisman models without the optional 4Control system it is 11.6 m. When driving at speeds of 60 km/h and above, the rear wheels turn in the same direction as the front wheels, again reducing the turning radius and stabilising the vehicle when cornering.

An inline 1.6 l, 130 HP turbo diesel powers the car. The 320 Nm maximum torque generated at 1750 rev/min accelerates the vehicle from 0 to 100 km/h in less than 10.8 seconds and is sufficient to achieve a top

speed of 200 km/h. The well-proportioned gear ratios of the 6-speed manual transmission efficiently transfer power to the front wheels. While the engine's technical parameters do not appear outstanding on paper, in practice during day-to-day driving they are more than sufficient and this car can by no means be called a road-hog.

And now for the most important matter – fuel consumption. According to the manufacturer, the average fuel consumption of the Talisman Grandtour with its 1.6dCi engine stands at 4.4 l/100km. Few other cars are as competitive. After driving more than 800 kilometres, the average consumption shown by the on-board computer was 4.7l/100km. Taking into account the size of the car and the travel comfort, I am impressed. Chapeau bas!

Story and photos by Bartosz Grzybiński



Prologis Develops Third Park in Poznań



■ Prologis, Inc., the global leader in logistics real estate, has begun development of a Small Business Unit (SBU) facility totalling 13,000 square meters at its new Prologis Park Poznań III. The building is 14 percent pre-leased to Euro-net, the owner of RTV EURO AGD, a nationwide retail chain. Completion is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2018.

Prologis already owns two logistics parks in Poznan region comprising more than 163,800 square meters. Prologis Park Poznań III is located within Poznań city limits, in the Western district of Juników, 6 kilometers from the city center and near the A2 motorway that connects Berlin with Warsaw. The first phase of the park's development includes two modern logistics facilities totalling 60,000 square meters. There is also the possibility of further park expansion of additional 90,000 square metres.

With a portfolio of 2.3 million square meters of logistics space, Prologis is a leading provider of distribution facilities in Poland (as of 30 June 2018).

Another Increase in the Number of New Porsches Registered in Poland



■ Porsche has had the best six months in its history - both globally and on the Polish market. From January to June 2018, 885 new Porsche sports cars were registered in Poland, 26.4% more than in the first half of the previous year. This means that the Porsche sales in Poland have been growing significantly more dynamically than the entire automotive market, as well as the premium make segment.

Half a Million of Second-Hand Cars in Six Months

■ SAMAR, an institute monitoring the automotive market, states that after the first six months the import of second-hand passenger cars and delivery vans with GVW up to 3.5 tonnes is very high and has reached 497,782 units, which means an annual increase of 8.2%. The growing share of imports diesel cars - which has been increasing slowly but systematically - is another issue. After the first half of 2018 the trend stopped at 42.5%, whereas in the subsequent months of the 2nd quarter this share increased rapidly and amounted to 43.0%, 43.8% and 44.1%, respectively.

Vienna House Investing

■ In 2018 alone Vienna House invested around 4 million Euro in the renovation of hotels in Cracow and Katowice. All rooms in Vienna House Easy Cracow have a modern and even more functional design. Vienna House Andel's Cracow opened a new *Mavericks* restaurant, which offers Californian cuisine and style, as well as Bar Smok, which refers to the famous bar that operated there several dozen years ago. Its lobby was also refurbished. Renovation works also covered the lobby and bar area of Vienna House Easy Katowice. In 2019, Vienna House plans to continue making further investments in order to operate only freshly-renewed and guest-focused hotels in Poland.



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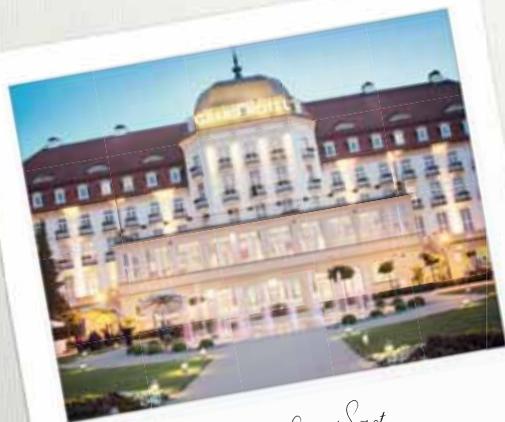


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