



SLOVAKIA

PROTEST OF DOCTORS

Doctors will take to the square in front of the Government's Office to protest following the failure of the government and the doctors' unions representatives to come to an agreement. About one quarter of all hospital doctors in Slovakia have filed resignation notices, most of which expire as of December 1. Last week, the government proposed a memorandum to the doctors, but they rejected it, saying that it only meets half of their demands. The protest is expected to take place on 17 November.

14/11/2022 <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23069468/doctors-to-gather-for-a-protest-in-bratislava.html>

INFLATION

In October 2022, consumer prices of goods and services sharply increased by 1.2% month-on-month, and the average level of price increases month-on-month this year is 1.3%. Year-on-year inflation has been growing continuously since last January and currently reaches 14.9%, the highest value since the beginning of the millennium. The most important expenditure items of Slovak households - food and non-alcoholic beverages and housing with energy increased their year-on-year growth in October as well.

14/11/2022

https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/products/informationmessages/inf_sprava_detail!/ut/p/z1/tVFBbslwEHwNR8t2bMfOMSCahFJUoCnEI8qJnZICToAoLb-vU_VSlah66F52V5pZzexACddQWtVVr6qtaqt2bs-k_zLniRgOcYjQcEpQMrlfzulRnReIDK5-AsRsMUbJU_gYLSYUI8qgvM1_hhLKwrZNu4FZnZ_UBhgLKIsCtW0HyA31ce_UdNaAU3NU3XmAupNpt64TRgXJsQHcNwGgjHpAMFyA3C99T5e5yTnuzzdFpWHGhM-4DgLGkawBLQIDVO5zkJvAaG005ezCzqXe3g66UiFyPfkFGUVhTPkUITGNGERCOF0Ec0JQSL4BN25kTgO_qgF

[zuOoq8w5T239mB5d_tBgiOPktFRd79XY4yNBIU9vWfLRw_R_hNPt0L8gZbMuHMaEy-wQjA42a/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/](https://www.euractiv.com/section/all/news/czech-border-controls-blocking-migrants-route-to-germany-frustrate-slovakia/)

MIGRATION

Slovakia on 10 November put pressure on the Czech Republic to ease border controls in place for weeks to combat an increase in the number of migrants, mainly from Syria, who are heading to Germany and Western Europe. The controls have raised tensions between the allies, with Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger challenging their use under European Union rules. He discussed the issue with his Czech counterpart, Petr Fiala. Slovakia says the controls violate principles of the EU's visa-free Schengen zone, of which both countries are part.

11/11/2022 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/all/news/czech-border-controls-blocking-migrants-route-to-germany-frustrate-slovakia/>

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Employment dropped in only half of the monitored sectors, industry and wholesale were the most affected. In September 2022, according to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, the year-on-year growth of the nominal monthly wage was maintained in all 10 monitored sectors, but only employees in accommodation earned more in real terms. The number of persons employed in September 2022 significantly rose year-on-year in information and communication by 4.3%, more than two percent employment growth was also seen in transportation and storage and construction, and employment in two sectors - in retail trade and accommodation - rose by 0.6%. Besides industry where employment has been continuously decreasing year-on-year since March 2022, there was a decline also in wholesale, sale and repair of motor vehicles and food and beverage service activities.

10/11/2022

https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/products/informationmessages/inf_sprava_detail!/ut/p/z1/tVHBUslwEP0ajplsSELSY2GwLSljlEJzcdl0IQqkBTpV_t7geFEHHA_uZXdn3tt5bx9WeIWW0235rJuycnrr91T1nqYikf0-CQH6YwrJ6HY-iQc33WjB8flrQE5mQ0gewvtoNmIEGMfqOv8RK6yMa-pmjdmQo-o1sg6VrkB603TAD9Vh59W0zqJjfdDtqQPt0TYb37UJtOySAOWCSMQCkqEszw3qCQq6IClogDmfr02Z45RJsF4oGVWIMaKHtLCWFRkhhPOieFcfzfzU-ZDlyoEDxffUAGURgzMQaQ44hDEsaLWTCIFEL6Cbhyl_UaxEUNROBIW9pXvHDnz2zx_I8WY8Cj31LxsZcv-70KfTaVa-xbg1f_EU69W-wkPaFNcTekTKXv-jzN9w!!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/

VELVET REVOLUTION

Fewer people in Slovakia see the Velvet Revolution which ended the communist regime in Czechoslovakia positively with less than half viewing it favorably, a new survey has revealed. Research by the Focus agency for the Institute for Public Affairs (IVO) asked over 1,000 people for their opinion of the peaceful 1989 revolution. While 48 percent said they saw it as largely positive, 29 percent saw it as neither positive nor negative, 15 percent viewed it negatively, and eight percent had no opinion on the matter. It was the first time in eight years that positive opinion of the event had fallen below 50 percent.

10/11/2022 <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23066827/velvet-revolution-falling-out-of-favour.html>

BUSINESS ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Electricity consumption decreased 18% among businesses in September compared to the same time last year, according to the data provided by Slovak short-term electricity market operator OKTE. The dramatic drop can be explained by the need to save energy and therefore money, because of the high energy prices. Some big companies such as aluminium producer Slovalco, ferroalloy producer OFZ or fertiliser producer Duslo decided to tone-down production, which also contributed to lower consumption. At the same time, consumption also decreased among households, but only by 6%. The decrease is due to the pandemic, during which consumption was higher. Numbers will likely decrease even further, according to OKTE's Michal Cabala who believes Slovakia will have no issues achieving the EU's 15% electricity saving target.

9/11/2022 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/slovakia-sees-dramatic-drop-in-business-electricity-consumption/>

MOST PROFITABLE FIRMS OF THE LAST YEAR

On 8 November, Finstat unveiled most profitable firms of the year 2021. Compared to 2020, when the amount of payable tax decreased by 0.89 percent year-on-year, FinStat recorded an increase in payable tax on the analyzed sample of 250,000 Slovak companies that submitted financial statements for 2021, by up to 30.3 percent. According to TASR news agency, the first 100 largest payers paid a total of 43.5 percent of the total amount of tax due, €3.4 billion. U.S. Steel Košice had the largest year-on-year increase in payable tax and its sales compared to 2020 increased by 110 percent to almost €3.6 billion.

8/11/2022 <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23064803/finstat-unveils-slovakias-most-profitable-firms-of-last-year.html>

SLOVAKIA AND SPACE

Although Slovak scientists are playing a key role in some cutting-edge projects – for example, observations from the High Tatras are crucial to the development of the future European Solar Telescope – it might best be described as a niche activity in the country. One of the reasons for this is that Slovakia is not a full member of the European Space Agency (ESA). But that is set to change after President Zuzana Čaputová earlier this month signed Slovakia's associate membership of the ESA. Experts are already predicting the move will bring with it new projects, strengthen Slovakia's research potential and open up new markets for companies, with the first project calls to be announced by the end of the year.

3/11/2022 <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23018829/slovakia-looks-to-new-horizons-with-space-agency-membership.html>

RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

As the 6th member state of the European Union, Slovakia submitted a request for the second RRF tranche following the successful completion of 16 milestones and goals we committed ourselves to in the total amount of 815 mil. EUR. Most importantly critical changes and improvements in health care, education, environment, talent acquisition and retention, social care, digital technology implementation and public procurement will significantly improve the quality of citizens' life.

25/10/2022
<https://www.planobnovy.sk/aktuality/slovensko-si-ziada-o-dalsich-815-milionov-eur-z-planu-obnovy/>

EUROPE & WORLD

EU BUDGET 2023

On 14 November, the negotiators from the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the 2023 EU Budget, shortly before the deadline of the conciliation period, ending on Monday 14 November at midnight. Parliament has obtained in total €1048.7 million for its priorities on top of what the Commission had initially proposed in the draft budget. The preliminary figures are €186,6 billion in commitment appropriations and €168,7 billion in payment appropriations. Detailed figures will be available later.

15/11/2022

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221107IPR49301/eu-budget-2023-deal-focus-on-ukraine-energy-and-recovery>

EU-RUSSIA RELATIONS

EU member states kicked off the discussion about the future of EU-Russia relations on 14 November, with the bloc's chief diplomat, Josep Borrell, presenting a new draft set of principles for engagement with Moscow. Until recently, the EU's engagement with Russia has been governed by five "guiding principles" laid out by Borrell's predecessor, Federica Mogherini. However, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, most of the provisions have been effectively deemed dead. In the context of Russia's war in Ukraine, the EU has so far promoted a three-way strategy towards Moscow, consisting of isolating Russia, supporting Ukraine, and aiming to reduce the fallout of the war. On 14 November, Borrell presented to EU foreign ministers a new draft set of principles, meant to serve as the basis for a discussion about the bloc's long-term relations with Moscow.

14/11/2022

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/leak-eu-starts-reviewing-relations-with-russia/>

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The position of the EU Council on the flagship legislation to regulate Artificial Intelligence was shared on 11 November with some final last-minute adjustments made by the Czech Presidency. The text has been sent to the other member states to obtain the go-ahead from EU ambassadors on Friday 18 November. In the EU Council, a heated topic was which AI applications in the insurance field should be deemed at risk of causing considerable harm. In a final tweak to the text, only algorithms used for the risk assessment and pricing of health and life insurance are considered high risk. In contrast, the rest remains covered by sectorial legislation.

14/11/2022

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/last-minute-changes-to-eu-councils-ai-act-text-ahead-of-general-approach/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

There are limits to the capacity of humans to adapt to the most severe impacts of global warming, scientists have warned in a recent study, saying the more we approach 1.5°C or 2.0°C of warming above pre-industrial temperatures, the harder it will be to adapt. The Earth is currently on track to warm by around 2.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels by the century's end, the United Nation's climate change organization said in a recent report, warning that the world is failing to act with sufficient urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions. And while humans have the capacity to adapt, the warmer the planet will become, the more intolerable the impacts of climate change on people and ecosystems will be, scientists warn.

14/11/2022 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-environment/news/humanitys-capacity-to-adapt-to-global-heating-is-not-limitless-scientists-warn/>

US-CHINESE RELATIONS

Chinese leader Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden met on 14 November for long-awaited talks that come as relations between their countries are at their lowest in decades, marred by disagreements over a host of issues from Taiwan to trade. The two, holding their first in-person talks since Biden became president, met on the Indonesian island of Bali ahead of a Group of 20 (G20) summit that is set to be fraught with tension over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

14/11/2022 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/biden-xi-stress-need-to-work-together-as-they-meet-for-talks/>

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The EU Commission welcomes the provisional deal on the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry regulation reached late last night with the European Parliament and Council to increase the EU's target for net carbon removals by natural sinks to 310 million tons of CO₂ equivalent by 2030. This agreement sets ambitious and fair targets for each Member State to reverse the decreasing trend of the EU's carbon sink. This agreement is another step in the adoption of the Commission's 'Fit for 55' legislative package to deliver the EU's climate ambition under the European Green Deal, following recent deals to end the sale of new CO₂ emitting cars in Europe by 2035 and to increase national emission reduction targets in the transport, buildings, waste and agriculture sectors.

11/11/2022 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_6784

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

If regarded as a single state, V4 would be the fifth-largest economy in Europe. The countries of the Visegrad Group V4 - the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia - are economically interconnected. Entrepreneurs based in the region are open to mutual cooperation and seek synergic effects. In terms of

international trade, the V4 is not only at the forefront of Europe, but also the world – fourth in the EU, fifth in Europe and eighth in the world.

10/11/2022 <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23066844/if-regarded-as-a-single-state-v4-would-be-the-fifth-largest-economy-in-europe.html>

CORPORATE TAXES

The EU's attempts to crack down on sweetheart tax deals between corporate giants and national treasuries suffered a major setback after the European Court of Justice struck down a European Commission ruling that Luxembourg had granted selective tax advantages to Fiat through transfer pricing. On 8 November, the Luxembourg-based ECJ overruled a previous ruling which said that the Commission was entitled to take steps to claim additional taxes to compensate for 'unlawful state aid' and that the decision lay in the hands of national governments.

8/11/2022 <https://www.euractiv.com/section/competition/news/blow-to-eu-after-top-court-strikes-down-sweetheart-tax-ruling/>

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