



ZWIĄZEK BANKÓW POLSKICH



Business Centre
Club



Związek
Rzemiosła
Polskiego

Warsaw, 25 May 2020

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Dear President von der Leyen,

The European community and economy are facing a tremendous challenge resulting from the pandemic of SARS-CoV-2. The threat to health quickly turned into a serious threat to the stability of enterprises and jobs. Disruptions in supply chains, sanitary restrictions and decreased demand have led to the largest recession in 100 years. It has affected all EU countries, including Poland. In order to prevent mass enterprise bankruptcies and an increase in unemployment, this unprecedented situation calls for rapid and large-scale anti-crisis measures.

On 9 April 2020, Polish prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki presented the government rescue programme for the Polish economy called the Financial Shield from the Polish Development Fund (Polish: *Tarcza Finansowa z Polskiego Funduszu Rozwoju*). The programme is intended for small and medium-sized companies as well as large enterprises. With the threat of large-scale recession looming on the horizon, the programme was widely anticipated by Polish enterprises and their employees. On 15 April 2020, the Polish government applied to the European Commission for consent to public aid as part of the Financial Shield from the Polish

Development Fund for Large Companies (Polish: *Tarcza Finansowa z Polskiego Funduszu Rozwoju dla Dużych Firm*).

Polish enterprises expected that the funding would be granted by the Polish Development Fund by the end of April this year at the latest. Unfortunately, it is nearly the end of May and the programme has yet to be approved by the European Commission, which is hard to understand for Polish enterprises and their employees. The situation puts a number of the enterprises under the threat of bankruptcy, which will cause thousands of workers to lose their jobs. In this difficult and unprecedented situation, decisions of the European Commission on approval of the Member States' rescue packages should be made in a matter of days, not weeks – and certainly not months.

Taking account of the tremendous economic and social cost of each day of delay in acceptance of the programme, as representatives of the largest Polish organisations of employers and entrepreneurs we urge you to take immediate action and ensure that the government programme called the Financial Shield from the Polish Development Fund for Large Companies is approved as soon as possible. We are talking about the uncertainty faced by thousands of companies, millions of workers and their families. With this in mind, Europe and Poland currently need quick and decisive action to protect the development potential, enterprises and jobs.



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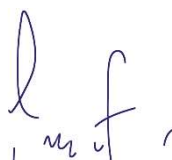
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