

Press release

IGCC: business claims resumption of international flights

Foreign investors in Poland claim a fast restart of international flights with a focus on Western European destinations - shows a survey conducted by bilateral Chambers of Commerce operating in Poland. Almost 60% of international companies in Poland see significant impact to their businesses due to the close-down of international air traffic. The International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) therefore considers that freezing international air connections has a highly negative impact on business operations and calls the Ministry of Infrastructure for a restart of operations.

Freezing international flights in Poland, while other countries have partly already started operations again, threatens to harm businesses operating in the country. This is the conclusion of the International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) after surveying 315 companies with foreign capital in Poland between 22 and 28 May. "Bearing in mind the strongly signalled needs of the airline industry, as well as of the entire international business environment, we have decided to appeal to the Ministry of Infrastructure as well as to Deputy Prime Minister Jadwiga Emilewicz for a decision on resuming international flights as soon as possible," says Dr. Lars Gutheil, Executive Board Member of the Polish-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, one of the survey initiators. The survey was conducted by the bilateral Chambers of Austria, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Scandinavia and Switzerland and supported by the rest of the IGCC Group.



As Gutheil adds, the demands expressed by the respondents of the survey reflect not only the dramatic situation of international air operators, which have recorded huge losses in the past two months, but also show the needs of the entire business environment, whose activity depends to a certain extent on the possibility of using international flights. Representatives of bilateral chambers stress that it will effect into saving tens of thousands of jobs in Poland.

29.5% of the surveyed companies admit that the current restrictions in international air traffic limit their activity noticeably, another 27% emphasize that it has an even significant negative impact on their financial results. Overall, therefore, more than half of the 315 respondents (57%) consider that freezing of international air traffic has negatively influenced their businesses.

Asked about the expected frequency of using international flights and preferred directions, 42% of the surveyed business representatives declare that after resuming international flights they will use planes once a month, another 27% expect to have two or three flights a month, and over 21% declare that they would need to fly three times a month or more. This totals to about 90% of respondents who have a personal business interest in resuming international flights.

As for the directions indicated by the respondents of the survey: 38% are interested in flying to Germany, the Benelux countries, Switzerland and Austria; about 15% of the respondents indicate a need to fly to Western destinations like France, the UK and Ireland as well as Southern European countries like Italy, Spain and Portugal. Approximately 11% state Eastern



European countries (Visegrad countries, Ukraine, Belarus) and Russia. Approximately 9% indicate a need to resume flights to Northern Europe (Baltic and Scandinavian destinations).

The IGCC - International Group of Chambers of Commerce - currently consists of 16 chambers:

- American Chamber of Commerce in Poland;
- Advantage Austria;
- British-Polish Chamber of Commerce;
- Belgian Business Chamber;
- French-Polish Chamber of Commerce;
- German-Polish Chamber of Industry and Commerce;
- Irish-Polish Chamber of Commerce;
- Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Poland;
- Netherlands-Polish Chamber of Commerce;
- Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce;
- Polish-Israeli Chamber of Commerce;
- Polish-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce;
- Polish-Romanian Bilateral Chamber of Commerce;
- Polish-Spanish Chamber of Commerce;
- Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Poland;
- Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce.

