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Corporate Social Responsibility

On 29 October 2014, the 3rd Corporate Social Responsibility Round Table was held about the CSR from the Point of View of Social Partners and Local Authorities in the Column Hall of the Marshal Office of Silesia. The event was organized by the Regional Office of Silesia in Brussels and the Council for Corporate Social Responsibility.

During the debate it was made clear that in Europe, including Poland, the awareness is increasingly growing of the fact that businesses must play an active and positive role in society. Their activities should not only focus on achieving profits and improving the quality of their products and services but also on the social and environmental effects of their operations. The concept of corporate social responsibility should be promoted not only by businesses and business associations but by government, state institutions, academies, NGOs and the media as well. The meeting was a good opportunity to exchange experiences and to develop common positions which will very much contribute to the discussion of social responsibility in the SMEs community.

Steel Safety Forum

The day of 5 November, 2014 saw the first Steel Safety Forum held in Warsaw. This was a joint initiative of the Chairman of the Polish Steel Association and of the CEO of the Management Board of ArcelorMittal Warszawa Sp. z o.o. The idea was to create a forum where experts from Polish steel plants could exchange best practices in health and safety. Welcoming the Forum participants, Marek Kempa, CEO, said that 'although we are competitors, competition does not exist in terms of safety. On the contrary, we should work together, mutually learn from each other and embrace solutions that raise the safety at work.

In turn, Chairman Dzienniak stressed that 'nothing is more important than

safety at our plants. When a company comes to get locked inside its limits, there are no external impulses that help one to grow. Therefore, to exchange experiences is so vital'.

At this first meeting of the Steel Safety Forum the good practices were presented by: Celsa Huta Ostrowiec Sp. z o.o., CMC Poland, Severstallat Silesia Sp. z o.o., Alchemia SA (Huta Batory Plant) and ArcelorMittal Warszawa. In addition to the speakers the Forum was attended by representatives of ArcelorMittal Poland, Re Alloys, Marcegaglia, Vesuvius Poland, Institute of Ferrous Metallurgy in Gliwice.

After presentations and discussions, the Forum participants visited the steelshop and the rolling mill of ArcelorMittal Warszawa. After the tour, the conclusions emphasized the commitment of shop floor operators in matters health and safety and the management leadership in this respect. Openness and integrity was recognized of both workers and organizers.

At the end it was decided that the Steel Safety Forum would become a permanent fixture on the events agenda of the Polish Steel Association. Meetings would be held every 6 months. The next one is planned for April 2015 at Ostrowiec wi tokrzyski to be followed up by another one to be held in the second half of the year at Zawiercie.

The attendees also agreed that next Forum would focus on specific topics such as subcontractors, scrap suppliers, changes in the safety law regulations pertaining to steel, etc.

The intention is to develop safety standards for the entire steel industry. Furthermore, it was proposed that HIPH build a platform on which to post good health and safety practices. The need was emphasized to involve smaller companies from the sector from whom good practices could be learned as well. The number of submitted ideas and lively discussions at the meeting of the Forum were a good proof that the new initiative anticipated the real needs of the Polish steel industry in Poland.

CDD ESTA Meeting

On 4 and 5 November in Düsseldorf, Germany a meeting of the Directors Committee of the European Steel Pipe Association (ESTA) was held. During the meeting the annual report and a draft budget for the following year were presented. The state of the economies of individual countries - members of ESTA was shown. The situation was described as difficult and having chances for a slight improvement in the near future. The output of tubes in the EU in the first half of 2014 amounted to 6.6 million metric tonnes, up 4.5% compared to the first half of 2013, of which

2.3 million tonnes were seamless pipe, 0.6 million tonnes were welded pipes above 406.4 mm, and 3.7 million tonnes were welded pipes below 406.4 mm. The AD proceedings were discussed, which will soon be submitted and reviewed. Also, the issue of trade defence instruments modernization was raised for the EU market, the European Steel Action Plan, and the granting of the market economy status to China was discussed.

Joint Session of the Budget and Public Finances and of the National Economy Committees

On 18 November, 2014 the joint meeting of the Budget and Public Finances and the National Economy Committees of the Senate was attended as regards the impact of legislative and administrative changes on the gray zone of the steel rebars market and in public finances. After the overview (in the form of presentations by HIPH, PUDS, EY and IGMNiR) of changes in the steel rebars market in Poland as a result of the introduction of the so-called reverse charge mechanism, the discussion entailed in which representatives of ArcelorMittal Warszawa and Miasteczko 1skie Zinc Smelter voiced their positions. They expressed their satisfaction that the industry's appeals, upheld by the joint meetings of the two Senate Committees, got the VAT reverse charge system successfully applied to steel and non-ferrous metals products. This made it possible to save a lot of factories and jobs. Such regulation of fiscal issues put a stop to abuse and fraud, which significantly impaired the competitiveness of legitimate trades and operating returns. Revenues of the state budget could be significantly increased at the same time. The members of the joint committees raised the issue of another amendment that would reduce the gray zone on the market of other non-ferrous metals and some other industries. The senators opined that solutions which seal the fiscal system do not only result in higher tax revenues, but also in tangible benefits for the economy at large.

The Market Stability Reserve

Between 22 November and 10 December 2014, the Board of the Polish Steel Association sent requests to MEPs, Members of the ENVI Committee, to support the steel sector proposals regarding amendments to the Market Stability Reserve under the CO₂ Emissions Trading Scheme.

Corporate Social Responsibility Conference

On 19 November 2014, the Silesian Province Marshal's Office held the Corporate Social Responsibility as Part of the Development of Entrepreneurship in the Silesian Province Conference.

The participants could learn that the Council of Regional Development Department of the Silesian Province Marshal's Office was about to finalize the [CSR] project with the European Union. This project involves the funding of activities that are sure to support the condition of the Province of Silesia. These would be activities related to corporate social responsibility since the interest was shown towards topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, environmental protection, regional labour market, revitalization of social and health care infrastructure, strengthening the capacity of educational potential, educational infrastructure, etc. A part of the funding is said to come from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. The Marshal's Office may, inter alia, use the above-mentioned EU funds to support organizations interested in such activities through training provision. It can also

initiate collaboration between research institutions and businesses and provide advisory services.

Trade Director Forum

On this 4 and 5 December Ustron saw another HIPH Trade Directors Forum. The Association provided an update on the current steel, coke and refractories markets. Topics discussed included topics such as the modernization of the EU Market Trade Defence Instruments Modernization, protective measures in the international trade of steel products and raw materials for the steel industry. The Coalition workings of the Chamber were summarized which are aimed at improving the competitiveness of the sector. The analysis of intra-EU trade in steel was done, with the effectiveness of legislative changes evaluated (after the introduction as of 01.10.2013 of the reverse charge mechanism to steel product trades). The discussion also analysed the current situation on the outlet markets for steel products in Europe and Poland as well as market forecasts for the first quarter of 2015.

HIPH Council

On 9 December, at the headquarters of AMP in D browa Górnicza, this year's final HIPH Council meeting was held. The Council Members were provided with the information about the situation in the steel, coke and refractory materials markets in 2014, performance after 10 months of 2014, and the summary of the status of the Coalition work formed with the participation of HIPH and law firms in the area of: colour certificates notification, improving the competitiveness of the steel industry in Poland, NCBiR rolling out a steel sector R&D programme.

HIPH attended:

- Numerous teleconferences with EY both within the Steering Committee and Working Groups operating within a coalition on Polish iron and steel competitiveness and on drafting of the feasibility study for the steel sectoral R&D programme
- Teleconference with DG Competition of the European Commission - on the complaint relating to the alleged state aid to Liepajas Metalurgs
- Expert seminar on 11.12.2014 about How to Effectively Combat VAT Fraud. The Polish Steel Association submitted a brief presentation, a year after the introduction of the Law on VAT reverse charge, to the Office of the President of Poland, Warsaw
- Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee of Eurofer, Brussels.

