

Newsletter



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Prime Minister Tusk announces new cabinet

Prime Minister Donald Tusk has given details of who will be playing which role in his new cabinet, following his meeting with President Bronislaw Komorowski. Prime Minister Tusk confirmed speculation that Jaroslaw Gowin, one of the more conservative members of the ruling Civic Platform party, has been put forward to replace Krzysztof Kwiatkowski as justice minister.

Jacek Rostowski will, as expected, remain finance minister and

Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski and Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak will retain their posts.

Jacek Cichocki will lead the Interior Ministry and Michal Boni will head the new Department of Administration and Digitization. Joanna Mucha is to be the new sports minister, an extremely important position as Poland co-hosts the Euro 2012 football championships with Ukraine next year. Sławomir Nowak will

be the new minister of transport and maritime affairs.

The junior coalition partner, the Polish Peasant's Party (PSL) will retain its three seats in the cabinet, at agriculture, economy and labour and social policy ministries.

PSL leader Wademar Pawlak will remain as deputy prime minister.



Poland's banking system goes from stable to negative

As the EU looks at the influence of ratings agencies on national economies, Moody's rating agency downgrades Poland's banking system from "stable" to "negative". The

outlook on Poland's banking system has been changed, reflecting the expectation that the banks' operating environment will deteriorate. Weaker economic growth will

trigger asset-quality deterioration and increase funding competition, limiting the banks' ability to expand their lending and therefore negatively impact revenues.

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LOT 767 emergency lands with no wheels at Warsaw airport

A LOT Polish airlines Boeing 767 made a dramatic landing at Warsaw's international airport, 1st of November, after a failure to the plane's landing gear. None of the 231 passengers or crew were injured in the incident.

Two F-16's escorted the plane, which was travelling from Newark, New Jersey, US, to Warsaw after the pilot of the Boeing 767 reported that he could not lower the landing gear.

After circling the airport, the pilots went ahead with the emergency landing with no wheels and astonished onlookers watched as the 767 landed on the belly of the aircraft.

Emergency services had prepared the runway with a special fire-proof foam before the emergency landing. Passengers were taken to medical facilities at the airport.



President Bronislaw Komorowski has awarded the captain one of Poland's highest distinctions for safely landing the stricken Boeing 767 at Warsaw's Chopin Airport. Tadeusz Wrona received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and his co-pilot, Jerzy Szwarc, received the Knight's Cross, for "outstanding achievements in the service of the state and society; for their professionalism and exemplary attitude in the face of threats to human life".

Siberia opens airspace for LOT airlines

Poland's national carrier, LOT Polish Airlines has been given the go-ahead by Russian authorities to fly over Siberia, with more Asian destinations planned for 2012 as a result.

The announcement came as Marcin Pirog, the Chariman of LOT told Polish Radio that the airline's losses for 2011 will be less by some 300 million zloty (68 million euro), "not taking into account the price of oil

and currency exchange rates."

Pirog stated the airline plans to make a profit in 2012, hinting that privatisation would be a good move for the company.

Meanwhile, the opening up of Siberian airspace has meant that LOT is planning to open routes when the airline takes delivery of Boeing's 787 Dreamliners next year.

Apart from opening a route to Beijing in first half of 2012, "we are thinking about Tokyo, Shanghai, Seoul, and Delhi," LOT's Marcin Pirog said.

LOT is expecting to exchange its fleet of 767s – one of which had an emergency landing in Warsaw on 1 November – with eight 787s by 2015.



LOT 787 Dreamliner

Poland's Independence Day celebrations marred by street riots

Twenty nine people, including several policemen, were taken to the hospital with injuries and more than two hundred people, including many Germans, were arrested as result of clashes between police and right-wing extremists during November 11 events held in Warsaw to commemorate Poland's Independence Day.

Riots started in Konstytucji Square even before a march of several thousand people scheduled for 3 pm by the far-right and nationalist groups All-Polish Youth and

National-Radical Camp began.

A rival peaceful demonstration called Colorful Independent group organized by the left wing November 11 Agreement and other anti-fascist groups turned out to block the nationalist march.

The police cordon, which was keeping the nationalist and leftist demonstrators apart became the object of attacks. Cobblestones, firecrackers and glass bottles were thrown at the police who responded with pepper gas and water cannons.

According to PAP news agency, nationalist

flags flew over the attacking crowd, as well as the national colors of Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia.

Rightist demonstrators destroyed several police vehicles and two television vans in a rampage.

The 11 November celebration marks the day in 1918 when Poland regained its independence, after 123 years of partitions by Austria, Prussia and Russia.



Poland gets green light for fast internet

Poland got the European Commission's approval for a PLN 1.4 billion investment in building an optical fiber network in five eastern regions of Poland, financed with EU funds, the Regional Development Ministry and the telecom market

regulator said on their websites.

Over 8 million residents and 300,000 businessmen from eastern Poland will have access to the broadband internet thanks to the project.

"It is the biggest telecom & IT investment in Europe financed with EU funds," the ministry wrote. "The European Commission's approval also means acceleration for similar projects carried out by local authorities."



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World Bank slashes Poland's growth forecast

The World Bank has significantly cut its growth forecast for Poland in 2012, from 4.2 percent as it predicted in April to 2.9 percent. The new report by the World Bank maintains its growth prediction in Poland for this year at 4 percent, however.

Poland's finance minister Jacek Rostowski has predicted growth rates of 3.2 percent next year.

Lithuania and Estonia will be the fastest growing economies out of the EU's central and eastern European members, with GDP growth in 2012 of 3.5 percent.

"Where we earlier expected growth to pick up next year, now we're seeing a weakening dynamic that will carry on into 2012," World Bank senior economist said in Warsaw.

He notes, however, that Poland has made significant progress in the last four years, with standards of living catching up with the 'old' EU countries by around 10 percent.

Poland's central banker given World Bank post

President of the National Bank of Poland Marek Belka has been chosen as the new chairman of the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Belka, a former prime minister of Poland, takes over the post from Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance for Bahrain.

According to the bank, the mandate of the committee is to advise the board of governors of the bank and the fund on "critical development

issues and on the financial resources required to promote economic development in developing countries."

Belka served as Prime Minister from May 2004 to October 2005, representing the government of the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

Having also served as twice as Finance Minister, Belka was nominated as the chairman of the National Bank of Poland in May 2010.

ZLOTY EXCHANGE MID-RATES /1st-15th Nov 2011/

USD	3,27	-0,75%
EUR	4,43	-0.23%
CHF	3,55	-0,15%
GBP	5,18	-0,19%