

Housing and Commercial Space

Western business people coming to Poland may have problems securing suitable housing and commercial space, particularly since space is in such short supply in the larger cities. Much of the office space in buildings currently under construction is already allocated, and average costs run anywhere from \$US 25.00 to \$40.00 per square metre (m2). Several private agencies lease or sell accommodation, although such transactions require a permit from the Ministry of the Interior. Organizations that can provide assistance in this regard include:

- Intraco, ul Stawki 2, Warsaw, telex. 812-341, is a major Polish office construction firm;
- LIM Center, ul Nowogrodzka 62b. 02002 Warsaw, tel. 210-557, telex. 816-569, is a joint venture of the Polish airline company LOT and the US Marriott hotel chain;
- Dipservice, ul. Swietokrzyska 36-38, 00950 Warsaw, tel. 209-960. Dipservice specializes in finding apartments and/or villas suitable for office purposes.

Special arrangements are in the works to allow western firms to lease superior office and commercial space, particularly warehouses, in high-quality industrial parks. Such leases would not require the existence of formal joint-venture agreements with Polish partners, and could be negotiated without special permits from the Ministry of the Interior.

Health Insurance

Although it is advisable to have individual health care coverage, citizens of countries with which Poland has signed bilateral agreements can receive free medical aid during their stay in Poland. Visitors invited to Poland by Polish institutions or social organizations are entitled to free emergency treatment during their stay.

Phone Calls

Business people travelling in Poland should note that long distance calls can be placed from hotels or from the post office. It is advisable to check the surcharge if placing the call from a hotel, as it can sometimes double the basic price of the call. Telephoning in

Poland, especially long distance, and especially if there is no direct dialing connection, can be frustrating and time consuming. For international calls, service is better after midnight.

Debt Collection and Arbitration

Disputes arising from contracts covering the sale, transportation and insurance of goods, and from all types of commercial activities in which at least one of the parties is Polish, are handled by the Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce (*Kolegium Arbitrow przy PIHZ*) in Warsaw.

Disputes related to marine and inland navigation are handled by the International Court of Arbitration for Marine and Inland Navigation (*Miedzynarodowy Sad Arbitrazowy d/s Zeglugi Morskiej i Srodladowej*) located in Gdynia.

The Court of Conciliation at the Gdynia Wool Federation (*Izba Welny w Gdyni*) settles disputes arising from wool transactions. Similarly, the Court of Conciliation at the Gdynia Cotton Association (*Izba Bawelny w Gdyni*) deals with disputes in the cotton trade.

Arbitration

Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce
(*Kolegium Arbitrow przy Polskiej Izbie Handlu Zagranicznego*)
Warsaw, ul. Trebacka 4 tel. 27 47 54; telex. 814 361 pihz pl

Court of Conciliation at the Gdynia Wool Federation
(*Izba Welny w Gdyni*)
Gdynia, ul. Kielecka 7
tel. 20 95 01; telex. 054 328 wfed pl

Court of Conciliation at the Gdynia Cotton Association (*Izba Bawelny w Gdyni*)
Gdynia, ul. Derdowskiego 7
tel. 20 77 78; telex. 054 491 hart pl

International Court of Arbitration for Marine and Inland Navigation
(*Miedzynarodowy Sad Arbitrazowy d/s Zeglugi Morskiej i Srodladowej*)
Gdynia, ul. Pulaskiego 6
tel. 21 33 85; telex. 054 504