BUSINESS FOR CLIMATE - DECISIONS OF CLIMATE CONFERENCE COP21 AND WORLD OF BUSINESS

On Wednesday (June 22nd, 2016) took place a business breakfast in Warsaw that was entirely devoted to the application of decisions of climate conference COP21 on the commercial real estate market in Poland and the region. The meeting was arranged within the European Sustainable Energy Week that is organised i.a. by Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (EASME) and Directorate-General for Energy. The Ministry of Energy and the Mayor of the Capital City of Warsaw took the honorary patronage of the event.

All cities have their own current problems and challenges but they do not have an equal start. When the coal combustion in furnaces was banned in London 1952, in Warsaw was being built the third of the six existing coal heating plants. This shows with what tasks we are tackling today in the capital, said Michał Olszewski, Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, at the very beginning.

On the conference for the first time the results of the study on energy consumption of certified and not certified buildings on the domestic market were presented in Poland. They were collected and analysed by the key players on the commercial real estate market within the project "Operating Costs of Office Buildings" which was created as the continuation of a report titled "Analysis of sustainable construction market in Poland", initiated by Construction Marketing Group. The members of a working group are the companies: BuroHappold Engineering, Skanska, Cushman&Wakefield, Knight Frank, Colliers International, Savills, IBC and the coordinator of the project is SPIE Polska. The analysis of the data is supported by the National Energy Conservation Agency. The working group’s activities were entered into the range of actions of the international EEB Platform.

The EEB Platform was created in order to integrate the activities that support the energy productivity on the Polish market. By taking part in the organising of the event Business for Climate we wanted to emphasise the role of the sustainable construction in the reducing of the negative impact of buildings on the natural environment and users. Business for Climate is an attempt to unite the Polish market in order to achieve the objectives of COP21 concerning the construction sector and cities, added Katarzyna Chwalbińska-Kusek, cochair of EEB Platform on behalf of BuroHappold Engineering.
Many examples of measures that are being taken by companies within the corporate social responsibility to protect the natural environment were presented during a panel discussion "Good practices".

The global seat of BNP Paribas Real Estate is situated in a Parisian, ecological district which, interestingly, was built on the revitalised post-factory areas. The aim of designers were not only the energy-efficient buildings but also a comfortable and easy access to the district by public transport. The office of BNP Paribas Real Estate adopted to a style of the area by offering many eco-friendly solutions, pointed out Katarzyna Lemańska, Marketing & PR Director in BNP Paribas Real Estate, Central and Eastern Europe, the speaker representing the event’s partner. An interesting solution used in the Parisian office of BNP Paribas Real Estate is a segregation system and the system of processing organic waste from a company's canteen for compost and subsequently for manure. The modern technology allows to produce up to 300 kilograms of compost per week, from which nearly 50 kilograms of manure is produced. The other interesting practice is the placement of 3 beehives for urban bees on the office roof which allow to manufacture ca. 100 kilograms of honey per year.

Panellists pointed out daily solutions and habits that on the one hand facilitate work and on the other hand in a significant way reduce the human and business impact on the environment. As it was emphasised by Ian Booth, the partner of BuroHappold Engineering, the ecological education and investment in this education in early stages - at schools or kindergartens - seems to be essential in this aspect. The company has recently moved to its new seat which office space became an active laboratory of solutions that cares not only about energy productivity but first of all about the comfort and health of employees.

Experts drew attention to significant area of an office and commercial real estate market which is formed by already existing buildings. These projects are and will be subject to various modernisations aiming at the improvement of their green profile.

Additionally, the conversationalists raised an issue of the deficit of proper support mechanisms for ecological solution both on nationwide and local government level. The experts unanimously underline the significance of the cooperation of business representatives and authorities concerning the implementation of solutions that in a functional way reduce the human impact on the natural environment.

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