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Poland

Post: Warsaw

Draft Law to Limit Commerce on Sunday

Report Categories:

Retail Foods

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Report Highlights:

On January 11, 2018, Poland's Parliament passed a law to restrict most retail and commercial activities on Sunday. Parliament forwarded the law to the Polish President for final approval. The law is currently scheduled to enter into force on March 1, 2018, after which, most commercial trade will only be permitted on the first and the last Sundays of the month. On January 1, 2019, trade will only be permitted on the last Sunday of the month. On January 1, 2020, commercial and retail sales will be restricted on all Sundays (although exceptions may be granted for Sundays preceding important holidays).

General Information:

On January 11, 2018, Poland's Parliament passed a law to restrict retail and commercial activities on Sunday. Parliament forwarded the law to Polish President for final approval. The law is currently scheduled to enter into force on March 1, 2018.

Once the law is implemented in March, most commercial trade and retail sales will only be allowed on the first and final Sundays of each month. As of January 1, 2019, trade will be permitted only on the last Sunday of the month. Finally, on January 1, 2020, these same restrictions will be further applied to all Sundays, although exceptions will be made for Sundays prior to important holidays, like Christmas and Easter. The Sunday trade ban will not apply to petrol stations, railway stations, pharmacies, bakeries, florists, pastry shops, ice cream parlors, wholesale food stores, or online retail.

In 2016, over 500,000 Poles signed a petition in support of the new law, allowing the petition to be submitted for legislative consideration under Poland's Citizens Legislative Initiative (CLI). This right is granted if at least 100,000 Polish citizens sign a petition in support of proposed law.

The primary drivers of the Sunday retail CLI consisted of labor unions, including the iconic labor union *Solidarnosc* (Solidarity), civil society groups, and Catholic organizations. Committee members from these groups stressed that Polish retail-sector workers need to dedicate Sundays to family activities.

For additional information, please see the following FAS Warsaw GAIN reports:

[Retail Sector Report](#) – 3/10/2017

[Proposed Retail Tax](#) – 10/20/2016

[Proposal to Prohibit Trade on Sundays in Poland](#) – 10/14/2016

End of Report.