the fleet sheet's final word friday edition

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German companies are taking flight.

Columnist Jan Fleischhauer wrote in

Focus that Germany no longer wants a

with skepticism and considers genetic

engineering to be the devil's work. Bu-

car industry, views the financial industry

reaucracy is thriving, but

Thomas Sigmund of

Germany is in a recession

and risks being dropped into

the B-league, but the politi-

cians are discussing all the

wrong topics. Perhaps they

should introduce a four-day

workweek for themselves, he

said sarcastically, so that they

finally have time to concentrate on what is important.

Ex-CNB Gov. Miroslav

Singer told LN that the CR is

over-reliant on Germany and

has no choice but to start

thinking about where to

look next. German companies will likely stop investing

in their Czech businesses and will wind them down,

he said. He was especially

German project" of convert-

ing to e-vehicles, with the

result of not very competi-

car industry. Labor leader

tive European e-cars and the destruction of the traditional

critical of the "primarily

nation alive, he asked?

Handelsblatt said that

can it keep an industrialized

The Czech problem called Germany

An optimistic Finance Min. Zbyněk Stanjura spoke in the last few days about more or less staying within the Kč 295bn approved budget deficit for this year and cutting the deficit for next year by Kč 94bn by taking advantage of the improv-

ing economy. He's expecting a triple three next year of economic growth, inflation and unemployment of about 3% each. Noticeably absent from his comments about the Czech economy is any mention of what is happening next door in Germany, the CR's most-important trading partner.

The Deutsche Bundesbank is expecting real GDP growth in Germany this year of negative 0.3%, while Stanjura is expecting Czech growth this year of 0.1%. Next year the German economy is expected to rebound to growth of 1.2%, which is less than half of what Stanjura is forecasting for the CR next year.

Many in German business are even less optimistic than this about their economy. Advisory Board Chair Nikolas Stihl of Stihl chainsaw and tool manufacturer said that the government of Olaf Scholz is micromanaging with over-regulation instead of developing a strategy. Germany is now Stihl's most-expensive production location (it also has plants

in Austria, Brazil, Switzerland, the U.S., China, Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines), he said, and Germany is even more expensive than Switzerland. The hourly wage is higher in Switzerland, he said, but the hourly cost is lower because the Swiss work significantly longer hours and have fewer vacations and public holidays. Stihl also has a more competitive tax and duty situation at its chainsaw factory there, he said. It's not as if Germany will just collapse in a big bang, he said, but investments that used to come to Germany are increasingly going to Eastern Europe, the U.S. or Asia. Biontech's decision to conduct cancer research in the U.K. must have set off alarm bells in Berlin, he said.

CEO Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller of Trumpf machine-tool manufacturer

complained that Germany has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world (29%) and the second-highest electricity prices. Politicians should realize, she said, that German industry is at a historical crossroads. Handelsblatt reported that



"Deutschland ist sogar teurer als die Schweiz"

Der Beiratschef des Motorsägenhersteller<u>s Stihl hält Deutschland</u>

für abgeschlagen, die Bundesregierung fü Kanzlerkandidatur von Robert Habeck



Investoren auf der Flucht

Deutschland fällt international zurück: Firmen klagen über hohe Kosten und investieren bevorzugt im Ausland. Insbesondere die USA profitieren davon.

InVeStieren DeVotzugt IIII Aus

InfScholz (SPD) kam aus dem Schwämen
nicht mehr heraus, Mit dieser Inwestition
nicht mehr heraus, die dieser Inwestition
nicht mehr heraus, die dieser Inwestition
ze auf*, linbelte der Kanzlet über die Anstiedlung des US-Chipkonzerns Intel. Es ist
die größte Inwestition, die je ein ausländisches
Unternehmen in Deutschland getätigt hat. Die
Bundesregierung hat dafür zehn Milliarden
Euro Subventionen lockergemacht.
Doch während die Ampelkoaltion sich solbst
beglückwünscht, vollziehr sich an anderer Stelle
eine schleichene die hrestitionsleuth aus Deutschland. 2022 flossen 132 Milliarden Dollar mehr Direktinwestitionen ah, sie in Deutschland inwestier
wurden. Unter 46 Straten war das der stärkste
Abfluss. Das geht aus einer Studie des arbeitregebernahen Instituts der deutschen Wirrschaft
(IW) hervor, die dem Handelsblatt vorliegt.



der Standort verliert an Attraktivität.

Christian Rusche Institut der deut-schen Wirtschaft

Die Zahlen dürften die Standortdebatte weiter beleben. Sie "sind als Warnsignal zu verstehen, dass der Standort an Attraktivität verliert: Demografie oder hohe Energiepreise setzen Deutschland zu", sagt IW-Ökonom Christian Rusche. "Viele Probleme sind aber hausgemacht." Hohe Unternehmensteuern, bleierne Bürokratie und eine marode Infrastruktur hätten Deutschland immer unattraktiver gemacht.

struktur hatten Deutschland immer unattraktiver gemacht.
Diese Defizite kann sich die Bundesrepublik in scharfen internationalen Wettbewerb
immer weniger leisten. Gerade die USA werben erfolgreich investtionen ab. Die Ausgaben für den Bau neuer Fabriken haben sich
dort im vergangenen Jahr mehr als verdoppelt. Børt Friedhoft, Marin Greive, Annett Maritz,
Julian Olik » Frotsetzung auf Seite 4

Das Deutschland-**Experiment**

Wir wollen keine Autoindustrie mehr, die Finanzindustrie sehen wir mit Skepsis und Gentechnik halten wir für Teufelswerk. Die Bürokratie gedeiht, immerhin. Aber ob sich damit eine Industrienation am Leben halten lässt?

<u>Jaroslav Povšík</u> of Škoda Auto has since spoken about the risk of the end of Volkswagen's production in the CR.

Germans complain that their politicians aren't paying enough attention to their country's real problems, while Czech politicians aren't paying any attention to Germany's problems. Yet Germany's problems are now very much the CR's problems too.

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