

# Dentons provides pro bono support to set up emergency fund for Polish film workers

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Global law firm Dentons provided pro bono legal advice on the “Producers help the crews” project, an emergency fund of PLN 2.5 million (approximately €570K) to support freelancers in the audio-visual and film sector in Poland. The project was initiated by Netflix in cooperation with the Polish Producers Alliance.

The initiative will provide ad hoc financial aid for scenographers, make-up artists, camera assistants, gaffers, costume designers, storyboard makers, light technicians and other staff engaged in movie and audio-visual production in Poland. The funds allocated by Netflix will be distributed among the 1,000 workers most affected by the suspension of film production due to COVID-19. As freelance workers, they do not enjoy the protection of an employment contract and are therefore entitled to only minimal social benefits to offset their lost income during the pandemic.

“There are many aid funds for the film sector, but they don’t go far enough. Many ‘below the line’ specialists do not receive any help,” said partner Igor Ostrowski, Global Co-Chair of Technology, Media and Telecommunications at Dentons. “Establishing the fund is a vital initiative, allowing producers to support crew members to whom they cannot pay a furlough salary, but whose contribution to the magic of the cinema is of key importance. Our involvement in the project is consistent with Dentons’ commitment to providing pro bono legal support to benefit the community.”

Dentons advised on the establishment of the fund, the rules of eligibility, and the distribution mechanism for the funding. This included legal advice related to civil law, tax structuring, and competition. Partner Igor Ostrowski led the Dentons team, supported by Cezary Przygodzki, Head of the Tax group in Warsaw, Patrick Radzimierski, Litigation and Arbitration partner, Agnieszka Stefanowicz-Barańska, Head of the Competition and Antitrust practice in Warsaw, and senior associates Tomasz Kolarczyk (Tax) and Adrian Bielecki (Competition).

Information on the fund is available on the website of the Polish Producers Alliance at: [www.kipa.pl/fundusz/](http://www.kipa.pl/fundusz/).

## About Dentons

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