

## MF: During an epidemic, we shorten the VAT refund time

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**The Ministry of Finance has announced that it is currently not working on a general shortening of the maximum VAT refund deadlines, but ensures that during the epidemic, recommendations were issued to tax authorities to reduce the tax refund time to a minimum.**

This is how Deputy Minister of Finance Jan Sarnowski (photo) responded to the Ombudsman, who asked the question on behalf of entrepreneurs reporting to him about this problem. He wrote that a general **shortening of statutory deadlines for VAT refunds could generate a risk of VAT fraud**. – It would deprive the heads of tax offices, in justified cases, of the necessary time to verify the taxpayer's tax

return – claims the deputy minister.

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– At this point it should be emphasized that the risk **exists not only on the state budget side, but also on the side of honest entrepreneurs who find it difficult to compete with entities that use illegal practices** in order to obtain unauthorized tax benefits – writes Jan Sarnowski. He also explains that the Ministry of Finance does not carry out work aimed at generally reducing the maximum time limits for VAT refunds. – Given the difficult situation of taxpayers resulting from the epidemic, however, recommendations were issued to tax authorities to make efforts to shorten and make refunds to taxpayers' bills immediately after they were considered justified, the time to consider VAT refunds to an absolute minimum – the deputy minister reads.