



Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
in Washington, D.C.



## Poland's Presidency of the Council of the EU

July 1 - December 2011

## Beginnings:

„From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia (...) this is certainly not the liberated Europe we fought to build up.”

Sir Winston Churchill at  
Westminster College  
Fulton, Missouri,  
March 5, 1946





## From Division to Unity:

1951: European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

1957: Treaty of Rome, establishing European Economic Community

1968: Customs barriers abolished, common customs tariffs introduced

1981: First Mediterranean enlargement, 1987 Single European Act

1993: The Treaty of Maastricht establishes the European Union

Late 1940: Communist regimes take control in all Central and East European countries

1956: quelling riots in Poznan  
- Hungarian Uprising

1968: Invasion of Czechoslovakia  
- Suppression of student movements in Poland

1981: Solidarity Movement; Martial law, economic meltdown, massive foreign debt

1989/90: Fall of communism



## Poland's road to Euro-Atlantic and European Institutions:

1999 – Membership in NATO

2004 – Membership in the EU

# Poland's Presidency of the Council of the EU



## Major EU Institutions



European Council



European Parliament



Council of the  
European Union



European Commission

# Council of the European Union

## Voice of the Member States



### **Composition**

One minister from each  
Member State

### **Functions**

Decides on EU legislation  
together with Parliament

Manages common foreign and  
security policy



# Presidency of the Council of the European Union

## Rotating Role of the Member States



### Function

The responsibility of the Presidency is to organize and chair all meetings of the Council, apart from the Foreign Affairs Council, which is chaired by the High Representative.





## Priorities of Poland's Presidency



- Integration as a source of growth



- Secure Europe



- Europe benefiting from openness



## Growing Europe



- Designing stability measures



- Closer economic integration



- Multiannual Budget

# Secure Europe



- External Dimension of EU Energy Policy



- Common Security and Defense Policy



- Food Security

# Open Europe



- Enlargement

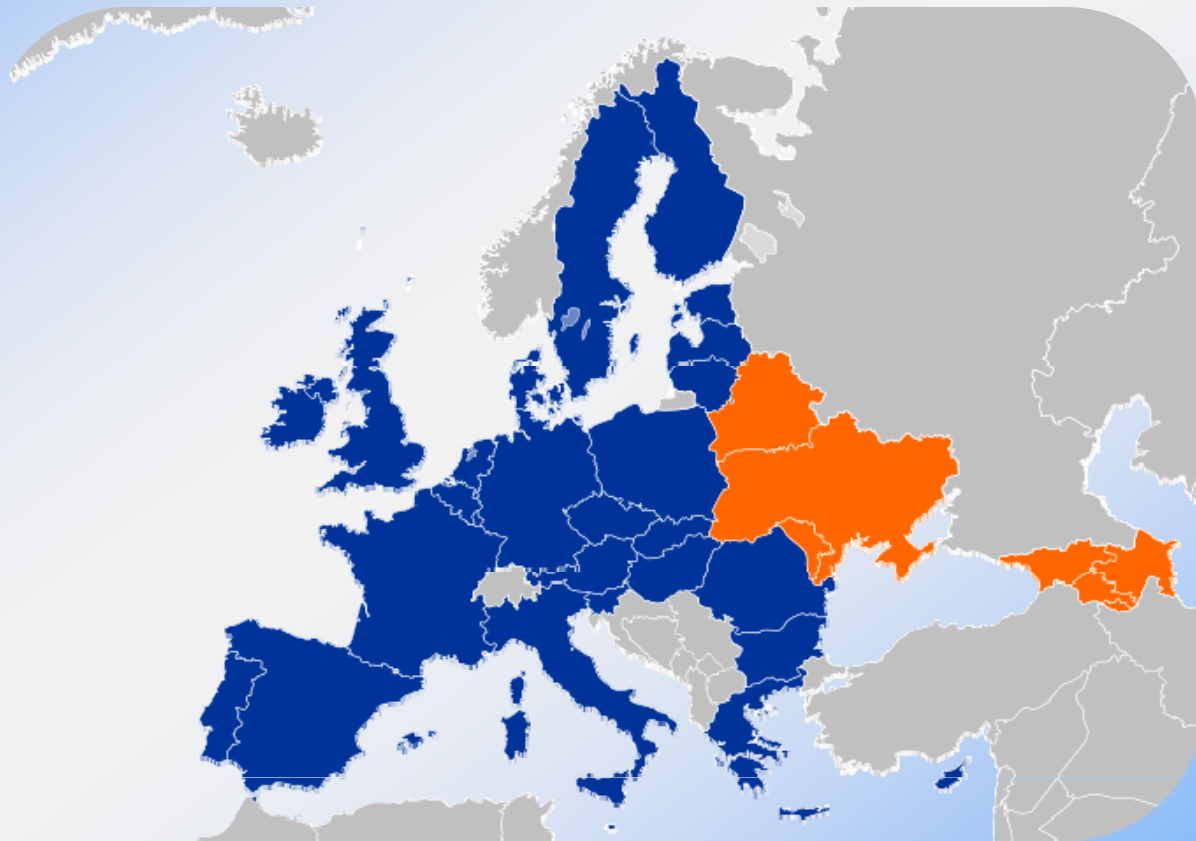


- Neighborhood Policy



- Common Commercial Policy

# Eastern Partnership





## Eastern Partnership

### Forms of cooperation:

- Bilateral cooperation
- Multilateral cooperation
- Parliamentary cooperation (EURONEST)
  - Civil Society Forum
  - EP Business Forum

### Polish-Swedish initiative (2008):

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Ukraine



## 2nd EP Summit

European aspirations  
acknowledged

„More for More” principle  
partners most engaged with reforms will  
benefit more from their relations with EU

Warsaw, September 29-  
30, 2011

Perspective of finalizing the  
Association Agreement with  
Ukraine

Perspective of opening  
negotiations on DCFTA with  
Georgia & Moldova



## **Poland in the EU**





## Catching Up

2010: Poland's GDP per capita =  
62% of EU/27

(1997 – 43% of EU/23)

2004-2010: Polish economy grew by  
30%; EU-27 grew by 6%

In 2010 Poland's GDP was almost 4 percent and a year earlier 1.9 percent when average for the EU was *minus* 4.3 percent.

## Catching Up

2010: Polish economy grew by 3.8%  
(2009 – 1.9%, EU/27 minus 4,3)




## Transfers from the EU budget

Poland is the biggest net beneficiary of European funds:

2007-2013 – €87 billion

and pay €22 billion



## Challenges still looming ... all data as of 2010

Unemployment - 11%

Public debt – 53% of GDP

Public deficit – 7.9% of GDP



## Attitude towards the EU

Poles are one of the most Euro-enthusiastic nations in the Union

82% approval for being part of the EU structure



Prime Minister Donald Tusk:

*the intention of my government shall be working for the strongest possible Poland's position in the very heart of the European Union.*

*Warsaw, November 18th, 2011*

Thank you!