

European Union of Public Relations

Mr. President,

Since its transition from Communism, Poland has been hailed as a robust role model for democracy. Poland has achieved a sweeping and successful transformation since 1989. By carefully sequencing its economic and political reforms, installing welfare policies designed to protect the most vulnerable, and maintaining a consensus around the transition's ultimate goals, the country has managed to build a robust democracy and thriving free-market economy.

Poland's economic programs have a strong component of socio-economic inclusion. Post-communist Poland has a range of public policies intended to address short-term poverty and rehabilitate the poorest individuals and households to become self-sufficient. These are delivered through Centres for Social Work (CSW) with a system of targeted cash benefits and social work as well as labour offices and other institutions. Poland has consistently devoted more than 20 percent of GDP to social expenditures, exceeding the OECD average.

Poland as a country actively engaged in the promotion of women's right. Women played a pivotal role in the country's successful and peaceful transformation from the totalitarian dictatorship into democracy. The equal status and equal rights of men and women, guaranteed in the core human rights documents, to which Poland is a state party, among many others the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, becomes reflected on the ground as well. In the past few years, Poland has been also ranked in the top ten at the so-called "Glass ceiling index"- the list of countries, where women have the best chances of equal treatment at work.

The Government targets inclusive economic growth with a focus on the poorer segments of society and less advanced regions. Its new policy measures include generous family spending under the Family 500+ program, while the additional social spending is to be funded from improved tax compliance. Poland's Government has recently adopted the Strategy for Responsible Development. It is aimed at boosting domestic investments, largely through a mobilization of domestic resources, improved business conditions, and the better coordination of investments from EU funds.

The foreign policy of Poland has an underlying objective of securing the welfare of the marginalised as well as ameliorating the condition of those who suffer in the conflict zones. In August 2016, the Polish Foreign Ministry announced that Poland's humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees and local communities in the Middle East countries will stand at PLN 34 million in 2016. This is two times more than in 2015. Thus Poland's actions in the international arena are a reflection of the values that are the foundation of its statehood: democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and solidarity.

Thank you.