



Economic Forum



27th Economic Forum: Dialog above all

Every year in September in Krynica, we can sense the pulse of Central and Eastern Europe, as the topics discussed during the Economic Forum are always up-to-date, important, tackling economic, social and political issues in Europe. This year we were debating under the theme 'Project: Europe. What recipe for the next decades?'

There isn't just one answer to the question about the future of Europe. It isn't a simple equation. Pluralism of the views and unpredictable dynamics of events make us look at the reality and ready solutions with humility and scepticism. Only one thing is certain: we must remember about dialogue. Let's build Europe upon conversation, just like it is every year in Krynica. And if we manage to avoid mistakes and wrong decisions, it will be a big success.

More than 4 thousand guests: politicians, heads of the biggest companies from all over the world, culture, science and media representatives from 60 countries from Europe, Asia and America attended the 27th Economic Forum in Krynica. Approximately 600 press, radio, tv and Internet journalists came to the conference.

We achieved what we had planned – to mark the most important challenges of European integration and to try to talk about it.

Zygmunt Berdychowski

Chairman

Economic Forum Programme Council



The Plenary Session "Unfinished Integration – Aspirations of European Countries"



Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia; Andrzej Duda, President of Poland and Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia

'Project: Europe. What recipe for the next decades?'

The record-breaking amount of registered participants and accredited journalists, more than 200 debates and special events, participation of heads of states, representatives of governments and parliaments, presidents of the biggest companies, experts, science and local government representatives. The 27th Economic Forum took place in Krynica-Zdrój on 5th-7th September 2017. Almost 4 thousand guests were debating the current issues of world economy, policy and society and about 600 representatives of media from several dozen countries covered the Economic Forum. The mission statement of the biggest conference in Central and Eastern Europe was 'Project: Europe. What recipe for the next decades?'

Presidents of the European countries in Krynica

The answer to the main question was searched for by the guests of the plenary session 'Unfinished Integration - Aspirations of European Countries'. Presidents of Poland, Macedonia and Georgia came to the conclusion that European integration must continue, but it cannot be divided into different stages, because the founders saw EU as a union of different countries.

– We, Poles, are the citizens of a country, that for years stood for being a member of the European Union. We succeeded in it and a vast majority consider it as a great value – said President **Andrzej Duda**.

The Polish President also talked about a number of problems that the EU has been recently facing, such as the financial crisis, the question of refugees



and Brexit. He said that although there were a lot of critical moments, the EU is now working to tackle existing problems.

– *Our aim in Poland is to improve the quality of life of Poles and to reach the level of Western European countries* – President **Duda** added.

According to the Polish President the civilizational backwardness caused by the communism era in Eastern Europe is among the most important challenges for the countries integrating with Europe, whose representatives were present at the session.

– *The EU should continue to be open to new members. It would be a true defeat of the Union if it divided into many speeds, which might result in its disintegration* – **Andrzej Duda** emphasised.

Macedonian President **Gjorge Ivanov** thanked the Visegrad Group for their help during the refugee crisis.

– *We urge the European countries, not just the EU members, to stay together and meet together the challenges of the 21st century* – **Ivanov** continued.

The president of Macedonia added that the EU is failing countries like the one he represents, especially when it operates slowly. He offered to help with working with Muslim immigrants as a representative of a country that has co-existed with the culture of Islam for centuries and understands the civilizational needs of its followers.

Georgian President **Giorgi Margvelashvili**, who was also present in Krynica, said that every step of the Georgian way towards integration with the EU, such as signing an association agreement or visa liberalisation, is celebrated in his country. He added that his country's aspirations for EU membership stem from its history and affiliation with the European culture.

– *The success of the Union is its model of state management, fundamental rights, economic freedom and security* – **Margvelashvili** stressed. In his opinion maintaining a European perspective for its neighbours is a key to the success of the EU as well as its most important challenge.

– *I am convinced that Georgia will eventually be-*



come a member of the European Union – the Georgian president concluded.

Participants of the session agreed that integration process must be maintained in order to build a strong position of Europe and to ensure the competitiveness of its economy towards other powers in the world.

Krynica – a place of international debate

The participants of the Krynica discussions included VIPs representing the political circles of the European countries, i.e.: **Andriy Parubiy**, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, three ministers of Lithuania: **Rokas Masiulis**, Minister of Transport and Communication, **Žygimantas Vaičiūnas**, Minister of Energy and **Aurelijus Veryga**, Minister of Health. Minister **Veryga** together with **Ellen Trane Norby**, Minister of Health in Denmark and **Laszlo Nemeth**, Director General of the National Healthcare Service Center in Hungary took part in the plenary session of the Healthcare Forum.

Viktor Yushchenko, former President of Ukraine,

Traian Băsescu, former President of Romania, **Stjepan Mesić**, former President of Croatia and **Andrius Kubilius**, Former Prime Minister of Lithuania spoke in the Statesmen The Debate

Former President of Ukraine was also among the speakers of the debate “Politics. A Matter of Values or Interests?”. Talking about populism he noted that every politician may be criticised unscrupulously.

– *If we win a discussion about ideas, about principles, we can easily agree also when it comes to the system of interests. If we are driven solely by interests, we will forget the values very quickly* said Mr. **Yushchenko**.

Their views on further development of the European community were also shared in Krynica by **Ferdinando Nelli Feroci** (Italy, EU Commissioner 2014), **Franz Fischler** (Austria, EU Commissioner between 1995-2004) and **Andris Piebalgs** (Latvia, EU Commissioner 2004-2014). **Timo S. Koster**, Director of the Defense Policy and Capabilities at the NATO Headquarters (Belgium), **Arup Banerji**, Regional Director for the EU, Europe and Central Asia, World Bank



Plenary Session “Growth Recovery Plan for Europe”: **Vazil Hudak**, Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Slovakia; **Arup Banerji**, Regional Director for the European Union Countries, Europe and Central Asia, The World Bank, India; **Mateusz Morawiecki**, Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Minister of Development and Finance, Poland

(India), **Vazil Hudak**, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (Slovakia) also participated in the Forum’s debates.

Numerous representatives of national parliaments from across Europe, including **János Latorcai**, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly; **Gordana Čomić**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Serbia; **Fiona O’Loughlin**, Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and Skills, Houses of the Oireachtas; and **Charles Clarke**, former British Minister of Internal Affairs also took part in the conference.



Filip Thon, Member of the Executive Committee Retail, President of the Board, innogy SE

Some famous intellectuals such as: **Saul Singer**, economist and writer, author of the book “Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle” (Israel), **Jaś Gawroński**, journalist and writer (Italy), **Boris Reitschuster**, journalist (Germany) and **Andrei Ilarionov**, a Russian political scientist, appeared at the Forum.

Directions for cooperation of the Carpathian states

Europe of the Carpathians, the international conference initiated by **Marek Kuchcinski**, Speaker of the Polish Sejm, was an integral and a highly important part of the 27th Economic Forum.

It constitutes a forum for debate, for setting directions of cooperation of the Carpathian states, for discussion on the Future of the European Union, security on the border of the EU and NATO or on the future of regions.

– *We are discussing everything that is important and up to date, remembering that the most significant asset of the land is man* – underlined **Kuchcinski**. – *From a geopolitical point of view we are creating a certain centre of Europe.*

– *Apart from such countries like Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, we are collaborating with Ukraine, the Balkan states, Romania and Bulgaria* – he noted.

Kuchciński argued that the “Europe of the Carpathians” has a positive effect in areas such as infrastructure, economy, energy and the environment.



Marek Kuchcinski, Speaker, Parliament, Poland; Andriy Parubii, Chairman, Supreme Council, Ukraine



26th Economic Forum (2016): Robert Fico, Prime Minister of Slovakia; Volodymyr Groysman, Prime Minister of Ukraine; Beata Szydlo, Prime Minister of Poland; Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary; Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic



Debate “Migrants and Refugees Integration in Host Societies: Challenges and Opportunities”:

Hannes Schreiber, Head of Division Travel, Border, Residence and Migration Issues, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria;

Peter Balazs, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director, Professor, Central European University Center for European Neighborhood Studies, Hungary;

Mariana Barbosa, Executive Committee Member, PAR – the Refugee Support Platform, Portugal



Georg Milbradt, Professor, Minister President of Saxony (2002-2008), Dresden University of Technology, Germany

– *As a result, we are convinced that it is well worthwhile to seek the subjectivity of the whole region – and I mean our part of Europe - to strengthen its importance in European politics, but also to strengthen sovereignty of our states. So that the interests of the states are not ignored at the international forum – emphasized the Speaker. He added, that an example of the effectiveness of such activities is the project of the ViaCarpatia road.*

Speakers discussed infrastructure development, building a free gas market in Central Europe, deepening cooperation on cybersecurity, telecommunications and environmental protection among other issues.

In the opinion of **János Latorcai**, Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, strengthening cooperation within the European Carpathians is necessary.

– *I hope even EU bureaucrats will find it a good initiative not only for the region, but for the whole community – said the Hungarian politician.*

Andrius Kubilius, Vice-President of the European Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Seimas, spoke about the Lithuanian perspective on the Three Seas Initiative. He stressed that infrastructure and energy are yet other challenges for the integration of the region.



Mirek Topolánek, former Prime Minister, Member of the Board of Directors, Eustream, Czech Republic; **Martins Kazaks**, Council Member, The Fiscal Discipline Council, Latvia



Mateusz Morawiecki, Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Minister of Development and Finance, Poland and Vazil Hudak, Vice-President, European Investment Bank

– Energy independence from Moscow is a basis. Regional cooperation in these areas is really important – pointed out former Prime Minister of Lithuania.

On the other hand, **Domagoj Ivan Milosevic** – Chairman of the European Affairs Committee at the Croatian Sabor, noted that hundreds of thousands of people are leaving countries of the new European Union, and one of the main political goals of this group of countries should be stopping the outflow of young, talented people to the West.

– It is great that they are finding jobs but we must do all we can, so they are able to secure a job and develop in their home countries – he said.

Political and economic declarations in Krynica

As usual, during the Economic Forum in Krynica many important economic declarations were made. Prime Minister **Beata Szydło** declared that in the nearest future the government may suggest to appoint a council of advisers to the government that would consist of entrepreneurs.

– I was in a meeting with family companies, where I was asked to create an opportunity to consult and organise mutual meetings to talk about problems of this sector. I think that in the nearest future we will manage to introduce a proposal to appoint an advisory council consisting of entrepreneurs, which would be a backup



Himanshu Gulati, State Secretary for Sport, Ministry of Culture, Norway



Giedrimas Jeglinskas, Vice Minister of National Defence, Lithuania



Eamon Gilmore, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland



Debate “Investments in Poland – Steeplechase”: Jorgen Bang-Jensen, Chairman of the Board, PLAY, Denmark; Jerzy Kwiecinski, Secretary of State, Ministry of Development, Poland; Piotr Cwik, Voivode Malopolska Region, Malopolska Provincial Office, Poland



Debate “Free Trade Zone between the European Union and the Newly Associated Countries – Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. Who Benefits from It?": Slawomir Majman, Managing Director, Dentons, Poland; Ute Kochlowski-Kadjaia, Managing Director, Eastern Europe Business Association of Germany, Germany; Teimuraz Khomeriki, Chairman of the Board, Regional Development Resource Center, Georgia; Liubov Akulenko, Executive Director, Ukrainian Centre for European Policy (UCEP), Ukraine; Kristina Avramchenko, Deputy Director, Institute for Social and Economic Research, Ukraine

for the government – the Prime Minister said in Krynica.

On the other hand, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development and Finance – **Mateusz Morawiecki** announced the plans of his ministry regarding special economic zones.

– *We want to make the whole of Poland an investment zone* – stressed the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Minister of Energy – **Krzysztof Tchórzewski** announced in Krynica that Poland is able to activate the first block of its nuclear power plant around 2029 or 2030.

– *In 2022 Poland's gas supplies will come from other sources than now* – said the government's plenipotentiary for strategic energy infrastructure **Piotr Naimski**. He added that in 2022, thanks to the LNG terminal and the Baltic Pipe gas pipeline we will be able to import 16-18 billion cubic meters of gas a year, which will cover all of the Polish energy needs.

President of PGNiG – **Piotr Woźniak** said that Poland can then completely resign from the Russian gas imports.

– *The development of the gas hub in Świnoujście may finish by 2021 and the regasification capabilities of the terminal are to increase by 50%* – the President of Gaz-System – **Tomasz Stępień** informed in Krynica.

During the plenary session of the 27th Economic Forum, **Mateusz Morawiecki** explained the position of Poland with regards to the economic protectionism. He highlighted that in recent years foreign corporations avoiding taxes have developed their business in Poland. Meanwhile, Polish players are discriminated in Europe. What can push the European Union forward economically is a common service market: people will pay service taxes in the host country, and repatriate their earnings to their home country.

Deputy Prime Minister, **Morawiecki** pointed out that the years spent under communism, had severely devastated Poland and wasted its resources. Therefore, Western Europe should understand, that now is the time for Poland to make up for the losses. He also listed the negative consequences of the free movement of services. First of all – the phenomenon of the so called 'tax havens'. According to **Morawiecki**, it is incorrect that various companies earn money in one



Debate "Brexit – a Real Plan or a Skydive without a Parachute?": **Jonathan Knott**, Ambassador, British Embassy in Warsaw, United Kingdom and **Stephen Gethins**, Member of Parliament, Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Europe), House of Commons, United Kingdom



Debate "Energy in the 21st Century – European Trends, Regional Solutions": **Zygmantas Vaiciunas**, Minister of Energy, Lithuania; **Krzysztof Tchorzewski**, Minister of Energy, Poland



Vladimir Marinković, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, Serbia



Debate "The Future of the European Union in the Face of Rising Euroscepticism": **Ferdinando Nelli Feroci**, President, International Affairs Institute, Italy; **Piotr Głinski**, Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland



Stjepan Mesic, former President, Croatia



Viktor Yushchenko, former President, Ukraine

country, but pay their taxes in another. The other 'pathology' mentioned by **Morawiecki**, was the 'VAT mafias'. Every year, Europe loses circa EUR 200 billion due to their criminal activities. Polish Deputy Prime Minister said that the European Union should put greater emphasis on strengthening its tax system.

During the 27th Economic Forum, Poland has signed the agreement, by which the **European Investment Bank** undertook to provide the credit of EUR 1 billion for Polish strategic energy, science and research investments.

The Forum in Krynica was a great opportunity to gather Polish and international companies and organisations. The following participants attended the Economic Forum: Chairman of the KGHM Polska Miedź SA Company **Radosław Domagalski-Łabędzki**, Chairman of the PZU Group **Paweł Surówka**, Chairwoman of the IKEA Retail **Anna Pawlak-Kuliga**, Vice President for Operations of Amazon Europe **Steven Harman**, Director for Central and Eastern Europe of Facebook **Robert Bednarski**, VP Engineering, Google (USA) **Jason Titus**, Chairman of Play Denmark **Jorgen Bang-Jensen**, Managing Director of Canon Poland **Iain Maxmell**, Managing Director of Sage Sp. z o.o. **Piotr Ciski**, Chairman of Budimeks **Dariusz Blocher**, President of the Polish Development Fund **Paweł Borys**, Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland **Tony Housh**, Partner of the KPMG **Wojciech Drzymała**, Senior Partner of the McKinsey & Company **Daniel Boniecki**, Senior Partner of The Boston Consulting Group **Franciszek Hutten-Czapski**, Managing Partner of Deloitte **Marek Metrycki**, President of the Eastern Europe Region Danfoss Poland **Adam Jędrzejczak** and Country Director Google **Agnieszka Hryniewicz-Bieniek**. The representatives of the biggest Polish and international energy and oil companies discussed the most urgent economy issues; Chairman of PERN SA **Igor Wasilewski**, Chairman of Shell Poland Sp. z o.o. **Piotr Dziwok**, Chairman of ENEA SA **Mirosław Kowalik**, Chairman of Lotos Group SA **Marcin Jastrzębski**, Chairman of PGE Poland, Energy Group SA **Henryk Baranowski**, Vice President of PKN ORLEN SA **Mirosław Kochalski**, Vice Chairman of GAZ-SYSTEM **Artur Zawartko**, Chairman of Tauron Polish Energy SA **Filip Grzegorzycyk**, Chairman of Innogy Poland SA and Member of the Executive Committee Retail Innogy SE **Filip Thon**.



Debate: "Africa – Europe: How to Strengthen the Cooperation?": **Gian Guido Folloni**, Chairman, Isiamed Digitale - Italian Institute for Asia and the Mediterranean, Italy; **Piotr Pyzik**, Member, Parliament, Poland; **Okechukwu Nwafor**, Government Advisor for European Affairs, Ivory Coast; **Günter Nooke**, Personal Representative of the German Chancellor for Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany; **John Musinguzi**, Senior Presidential Advisor on Trade and Investment, Administration of the President, Uganda

Why was it so important to meet in Krynica-Zdrój? **Thon** admitted that the Economic Forum brings a very unique opportunity for valid discussions to politicians, economists and specialists. 'Energy, which is my main field of interest, can serve as a platform for an important discussion about the economy.'

Possible solutions for the current problems in the banking and finance industry have been searched for by the Chairman of PKO Polish Bank SA **Zbigniew Jagiełło**, Chairman of the Pekao Bank SA **Michał Krupiński**, Chairman of the HSBC Bank Poland SA **Michał Mrożek**, Chairman of mBank SA **Cezary**

Stypułkowski, Chairman of the CITI Handlowy Bank **Sławomir Sikora**, Head of Equity Capital Markets, The Standard Bank of South Africa Richard Stout and Chairman of Warsaw Stock Exchange Company SA **Wojciech Nagel**.

Health above all

The Healthcare Forum was one of the most crucial events of the Economic Forum in Krynica. For seven years it has been a great platform for the exchange of experiences and presentation of new ideas for the healthcare management as it shows its importance in the public The Debate.



Timo S. Koster, Director of the Defense Policy and Capabilities, NATO



Gordana Comic, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, Serbia



Debate "Scientific Cooperation Between the Carpathian States": **Jan Malicki**, Director, Centre for East European Studies, Warsaw University, Poland; **Mykola Kniazhytskyi**, Member, Supreme Council, Ukraine; **Igor Tsenda**, Rector, Vasyl Stefanyk Ciscarpathian National University, Ukraine

During the plenary session of the Healthcare Forum, Polish Minister of Health **Konstanty Radziwiłł**, said 'There is too much influence of the free market on the health service. It does not help the patients, nor the healthcare system itself'.

He also stated in Krynica that his ministry wants to expand the list of free medicines for people above 75 years (75+), but not in an irrational way.

– *We do not want this programme to be an incentive to buy more drugs* – the Minister said.

He informed that 2.2 million people benefited from the programme of free medicines (75+).

The following guests participated in the plenary

session of the Forum entitled "Health and Economic Development":

Konstanty Radziwiłł, Minister of Health of Poland, **Aurelijus Veryga**, Minister of Health of Lithuania, **Ellen Trane Norby**, Danish Minister of Health, **Roman Ilyk**, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine and **Laszlo Nemeth**, General Director of the National Health Centre of Hungary. Participants in the The Debate admitted that medicine is one of the most important government priorities in every country. Speakers also highlighted the problem of aging society and the need to continue working on a common EU public health programme. During the Forum in Krynica, the report "Healthcare Industry in Poland 2016" was pub-



Dirk Niebel, Former Minister (2009-2013), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany



Andrei Illarionov, President (IEA), Senior Fellow (Cato), IEA (Russia), Cato (USA), Russia



Markus Renner, Chairman, International Brand & Reputation Community (INBREC), Switzerland



Boguslaw Chrabota, Editor-in-Chief, Rzeczpospolita, Poland talks with Jas Gawronski, Journalist, Writer, Politician, Italy

lished.

Young visions

In 2017 in Krynica, topics about the young generation were also present. Nearly 400 representatives of youth organizations from 43 European countries took part in the ceremonial inaugural session of the **12th Economic Forum of Young Leaders**. In the Malopolska Cultural Center "Sokol" in Nowy Sacz, the participants of the meeting were welcomed by the hosts Marshal of Malopolska Region **Jacek Krupa** and by Vice Mayor of Nowy Sacz - **Wojciech Piech**.

Economic Forum of Young Leaders is Europe's largest international socio-economic meeting of young activists. Leaders of their branches meet in Poland to talk about the future of Europe. In the common discussions and during workshops, new ideas, inspirations and decisions about cooperation are born.

During the Forum, leaders of tomorrow from all over Europe tighten their contacts, meet prominent politicians, scientists and businessmen to discuss the future of the continent and create ideas that change the lives of new generations. The programme includes discussion panels, lectures, business presentations and thematic workshops. During this year's edition of the event, representatives of NGOs, social, economic, student, political youth, employers' associations as well as young researchers, journalists and entrepreneurs paid particular attention to issues such as: leadership and challenges for the modern leader, vision and ideas for reform of the European



Elzbieta Rafalska, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy, Poland



Thomas Kufen, Lord Mayor, City of Essen, Germany

Media



The Economist

The annual conference in Krynica is a kind of business card of today's Europe. The conference is officially conducted in three languages (Polish, English and Russian) but is more multilingual in the context of The Debate participants. The typical The Debate was attended by guests from Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Germany.

TVP

TELEWIZJA POLSKA

The speech by President Andrzej Duda opened the 27th Krynica Economic Forum. The economic and social challenges in a Polish Davos are discussed by more than 4,000 guests.



Le Monde

3,000 participants - Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, Moldovans, but also Lithuanians, Germans, Indians and the Chinese - have again come to Krynica to take part in Economic Forum to take the pulse of Central and Eastern Europe.

POLSKIE RADIO

The 27th Krynica Economic Forum addressed not only the current business issues, but also outlined strategic directions for companies, entrepreneurs and the entire Polish economy.



DIE ZEITUNG

Once a year, Krynica becomes a regional Davos, with slightly lower mountains. A meeting place for major politicians and business people from the neighbouring countries: Hungary, the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

UKRINFORM

The Europe of the Carpathians, a conference first launched in 2010 [as part of the Krynica Economic Forum], on the initiative of the Polish Sejm, is a meeting place for parliamentarians, members of government, local authorities and non-governmental organizations from the Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine).



wprost

4,500 participants, nearly 1,000 staff, 240 events prepared by the organiser, 70 events hosted by the partners of the Krynica Economic Forum, VIP guests from the world of politics and business.

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES

This week's Krynica Economic Forum, set in a spa town in the southern Polish mountains, is the most high-profile business conference for central and eastern Europe.

Media

euronews.

A mix of criticism and concerns is mounting in Central Europe against the two-speed Europe project. Some of the political leaders of Central Europe gathered at the Economic Forum held earlier this month in Poland's southern city of Krynica. The rift among new and old Europe was on the top of the agenda, with its controversial topics such as the two-speed Europe, the refugee crisis and the posted workers row.

Franfurter Allgemeine ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

For the 27th time, the regional leaders from the world of politics, business and science are meeting in the resort of Krynica to discuss the great challenges of our time. The organiser of the Krynica Economic Forum could hardly find a better motto for 2017 than „Project: Europe. What Recipe For The Next Decade?“

RZECZPOSPOLITA

The European Union should pursue an open-door policy – Andrzej Duda, President of Poland, Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia, and Gorge Ivanov, President of Macedonia (FYROM) agreed during the opening session of the 27th Krynica Economic Forum, titled: „Unfinished Integration vs. Aspirations of European Countries“. President Duda strongly criticised the idea of the Union of „two speeds“ and underlined the importance of membership in the Community against the background of Polish history.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

Mutual sense of injustice, which is the result of the most serious crisis between Moscow and the West since the Cold War, and communication regression after twenty years of tedious relations' building could be felt during the Krynica Economic Forum, the meeting which since 1990 gathers in what is called the "eastern Davos" decision-makers from the world of politics and business.

DZIENNIK GAZETA PRAWNA

For several days, a small mountain resort in Beskid Sąddecki has replaced Warsaw as centre of political and business meetings. During the 27th Krynica Economic Forum, Krynica-Zdroj has become the site of the largest international The Debate in our region.

Forbes

Brexit will be a difficult experience both for the EU and the UK, but which of them will lose more on a „hard Brexit“ is difficult to resolve today – such was the conclusion of the panel „How Will Brexit Affect the Financial Markets of Europe?“

GAZETA wyborcza

The presence of the most important public figures at the 27th Krynica Economic Forum testifies to the high profile of the event organised by the Institute of Eastern Studies. For the state authorities, it is a convenient place to get off to a good start after the summer break, and for entrepreneurs – an opportunity to talk business with the ruling elite.





Ellen Trane Norby, Minister of Health and Prevention, Denmark



Domagoj Ivan Milosevic, Chairman of the European Affairs Committee, Sabor, Croatia



Rokas Masiulis, Minister of Transport and Communications, Lithuania

Union (startup Europe), innovations, startups, business management, solidarity, volunteering and social entrepreneurship, education and the labour market.

Innovations at the Economic Forum

The **Startup Session** is a special event for young entrepreneurs. They were able to present innovative solutions to the guests of the Forum. There were 13 presentations, of multiple awarded startups from Poland. Participants presented their innovative solutions to the Expert Committee composed of well-known and respected people from the Polish startup community: **Pawel Bochniarz**, President of the Foundation for Technological Entrepreneurship, **Maciej Sadowski**, President of the Startup Hub Poland Foundation, **Lukasz Dziekonski** from PKO Bank of Poland and **Marguerite Fund**, as well as **Michal Sieczko** from Canon Poland.

A special event preceding the Startup Session was the presentation of **Saul Singer's** book "Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle". The researcher of the Israeli startup ecosystem explained, among other things, how Israel became one of the major startup capitals of the world.

Distinguished by the Programme Council

The first day of the 27th Economic Forum was crowned by the **Grand Gala Award Ceremony**. Prime Minister **Beata Szydlo** was chosen the Person Of The Year. Among her main highlighted successes were the 500+ Programme and the organisation of the World Youth Day in Cracow. – *Prime minister Szydlo is just effective. Before the elections, she promised the 500+ programme. When she became head of government she improved the tax collection and thus fulfilled her promise* – the laudatory speech emphasised.

The **Person of the Year Award** was presented by **Marek Kuchciński**, the Marshal of the Sejm. – *It is a reward for who Beata Szydlo is, a reward for her personality, reward for her courage and for her consistency. Because the programme of her government is consistently implemented* – said **Marshal Kuchciński**.

The recipient of the award thanked her government, in particular the Deputy Prime Minister **Mateusz Morawiecki** and Minister **Elzbieta Rafalska**. – *Once again it turned out that team play is a value to be cherished. I thank this white-and-red team* – she said.



Saul Singer, Writer, Singer Strategies Ltd, Israel



Krzysztof Szczerski, Chief of the Cabinet, Chancellery of the President, Poland



Janos Latorcai, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, Hungary

The Programme Committee of the Economic Forum decided to grant the **Company of the Year Award** to **Alior Bank SA**. **Michał Jan Chyczewski**, Chairman of the Board, received the award. The Georgian President **Giorgi Margvelashvili** received the **Special Award of the 27th Economic Forum**. In turn, the **New Culture - New Europe Award** was granted to **Svetlana Alexievich**, Nobel Prize winner, outstanding Belarusian writer and journalist.

Concerts, exhibitions and vernissages

Cultural events were also part of the Economic Forum in 2017. On the first day, the Gala of the Economic Forum was enriched by the **AUKSO Chamber Orchestra of Tychy**, one of the best chamber orchestras in Europe. Participants of the **"Georgian Evening"** could listen to the State Ensemble of Songs and Dance **"Rustavi"**. **Alexander Rybak**, a Norwegian singer, violinist and composer, who was born in Belarus and won the Eurovision Song Contest of 2009, also performed during the conference. On September 7th, during a farewell banquet, the participants of the Forum were entertained by the Slovakian band **Hrdza**.



Plenary Session: “Health and Economic Development”: Konstanty Radziwiłł, Minister of Health, Poland; Aurelijus Veryga, Minister of Health, Lithuania



Plenary Session: “What Future for Democracy and Free Market Economy?”: Andris Piebalgs, former EU Commissioner for Energy and for Development, Senior Fellow, The Florence School of Regulation (FSR), Latvia; Simone Rodan-Benzaquen, Director, American Jewish Committee - AJC Europe, France

The cultural programme of the 27th Economic Forum also included a photo exhibition of **prof. Grzegorz Kołodko** entitled “Windows” and the exhibition “Fighting Solidarity”.

Presentation “Adriatic – Baltic – Black Sea. Visions of Cooperation”

In 2017 the Institute for Eastern Studies organised a series of The Debates promoting the publication “Adriatic – Baltic – Black Sea. Visions of Cooperation”.

The publication was first presented by the authors at the Economic Forum. Then, it was presented in five European capitals.

The Three Seas Initiative is a project aimed at promoting and developing economic cooperation among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The project – understood today as strengthening of infrastructural cooperation in the region – may develop on many levels.

During the first presentation in Bucharest, it was highlighted that the priorities of the states involved should be identifying the most important challenges and problems and finding the right tools for solving these problems. For the first time it was stated that

the project also aims to strengthen the position of the countries in the region. The main areas of cooperation underlined were transport, infrastructure and energy.

The debate in Riga showed that the Three Seas Initiative has a huge potential but the main obstacle to it is a lack of infrastructural connections between the countries of the region. Of course, it changes slowly and the best examples brought up were Via Carpathia and Via Baltica.

The discussion in Tallinn was focused on the aspects that are important for Estonia. The most urgent need mentioned was to move the energy security of Estonia and other Baltic states away from Russia and towards the EU. In terms of transport access from Estonia to other EU states, it was judged quite limited and in need of improvements.

During the conference in Rome speakers compared the initiative with macroregions as Italy had been the promotor of the idea of macroregions. However, some differences were exposed. The first one discussed was that it is a continental project that goes to the European borders with Turkey and Russia, being a North-South initiative while most of the initiatives are East-West initiatives. The project was hailed as a new vision with a high level of strategic mission. It was judged as one which could also strengthen the cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The last presentation in Zagreb again focused on the main points of the Initiative. Investment was called for as badly needed not only in transport routes but also energy and digitisation. The geographical position of the project was perceived as bringing unique opportunities, therefore the countries involved would need to build the infrastructure and use it for economic and social development.

The partners of the project were:

- New Strategy Center (Romania)
- Latvian Institute of International Affairs (Latvia)
- International Center for Defence & Security (Estonia)
- Eastwest (Italy)
- iDEMO – Institute for Democracy (Croatia)



Sergiy Datsiuk, Consultant, Strategic Consulting Corporation 'Gardarica', Ukraine



Vitaly Portnikov, Anhorman, Espreso TV, Ukraine



Boris Reitschuster, Journalist, Author, Publisher Econ, Germany



Svetlana Alexievich, Writer, Laureate of the New Culture of New Europe Awards



Alexander Rybak, Belarusian-Norwegian Singer-Composer, Violinist, Pianist



The State Ensemble of Songs and Dance "Rustavi" (Georgia)



Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary and Beata Szydło, Prime Minister of Poland

Economic Forum



Małopolska Region
Main Partner
of the Economic Forum

The project is co-financed by the Minister of Development and Finance of the Republic of Poland.





4th European Congress of Local Governments (Cracow, 26th-27th April 2018)

The European Congress of Local Governments is a meeting platform for local governments' leaders and regional elites to exchange views with public administration, NGOs and business. The Debates of the Congress will refer to effective cooperation between local governments, business and citizens, ways of attracting investments to regions and increasing efficiency in using EU's structural funds. Nearly 2 000 people - regional elites, government officials, business executives, NGOs and journalists from all over Europe will participate in the event.

Congress Agenda:

- 2 days of The Debates and meetings
- Over 60 discussion panels, thematic blocks, workshops , lecturers and presentations
- 2 plenary sessions
- Awards Ceremony
- 2 receptions

Venue:

ICE KRAKÓW CONGRESS CENTRE

Host City:





4th Industry Forum (Karpacz, December 2018)

The 4th Industry Forum in Karpacz will offer an opportunity for a broad The Debate on the key issues of European industry. Over 700 participants of the Forum including representatives of major industrial conglomerates, parliamentarians, experts and economists from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will discuss which of the industry sector should be the most important for the EU. The main topics of the Forum will be innovations in industry, reindustrialisation, international investments, defence industry and army's modern equipment.

Forum's Agenda:

- 2 days of The Debates and meetings
- 2 plenary sessions
- Over 30 discussion panels, thematic blocks, workshops , lecturers and presentations
- Awards Ceremony
- 2 receptions

Venue:

Gołębiewski Hotel** Cofrence Centre**

made in  MAŁOPOLSKA



Main Partner



Host-city



Partners



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