



PRESS RELEASE

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EFNI Participants adopt the Sopot Declaration

Over 1300 people from dozens of countries, including eminent economists, business leaders and scientists participated in the Second European Forum for New Ideas in Sopot that came to a close on September 28th. The event was organized by PKPP Lewiatan. Participants of the meeting adopted the Sopot Declaration, in which they declared that Europe needs greater political and monetary integration.

In the declaration we read that the world is moving forward. Europe, from a position of leader, is becoming a follower. Decisions in response to the on-going economic crisis are being introduced too slowly, and the tools being developed do not properly respond to the prevailing challenges. The most important expectations contained in the declaration from last year were not implemented. Lack of any effects and uncertainty among citizens are leading to a loss of trust in EU institutions, politics, business and people towards one another as well as causing a loss of solidarity throughout Europe. Doubts are rising about the sense and success of the European Union and the monetary union, although it is clear that no single European country will be able to compete alone in the global world.

- The beginning and the end of all European interests is a strong and united European Union. Our obligation is to work on the European



project, whose success is an example for the world – said Maciej Witucki, President of the Board of Orange Polska in his summary of the discussions in Sopot.

According to Henryka Bochniarz, President of PKPP Lewiatan, Europe needs swift political integration, a unified foreign policy and the inclusion of women and men, the citizens, in the European project. – Without these things, Europe will not only fail to be competitive but may also disintegrate – says Mrs. Bochniarz.

- There is no contradiction between the effectiveness of the economy and social policy. An effective social model requires money, and there is not any when the economy is not competitive – adds Jacek Krawiec, President of PKN ORLEN.

Participants of the 2012 European Forum for New Ideas, wishing for Europe to not lose its opportunities, call for:

- Swift creation of a road map for political and monetary integration of Europe. We need a constitution that will give the EU more competencies and give more influence to the citizens. Greater sovereignty of the European Union will strengthen our position on the international arena.
- Consistent integration – four pillars of the EU: free flow of people, capital, goods and services are inherent and inalienable, and bold and well prepared integration in terms of fiscal, banking and monetary policies, being flexible enough to allow all members to become involved.



- Introduction of a single and unified foreign policy as well as the creation of a truly centralised military potential. This is a condition for the Union to remain as one of the leaders of today's world.
- Together with transferring parts of the competencies from member states to the EU, there is a need to establish the European budget on new terms.
- Today, the EU is seen as a project by politicians and bureaucrats. There is a need to conduct and stimulate political and social debate from a European perspective, and not just from a national one, in order to include women and men, the citizens, in the European project.
- Introduce solutions, which will allow for bigger and deeper empowerment of women in social and political life along with economic decision-making.
- Reconstruction Trans-Atlantic relations as well as raise Europe's significance and its influence by expanding areas of political, economic and social cooperation, based on respect for independence in developing countries.

EFNI Participants declared their full support and engagement in these decisions and in such actions. They called for governments of member states and EU institutions to undertake bold, far-reaching and swift actions. Future generations will not forgive us if we will not be able to respond to the great challenges of today and if we ruin the great project that we inherited from past generations.

The European Forum for New Ideas, with its second edition in Sopot between September 26th and 28th 2012, is an international congress of



business communities, also attended by outstanding economists and other experts as well as representatives from the world of culture and politics. The Forum is organized by the Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan in collaboration with BUSINESSEUROPE, the City of Sopot, and leading companies and institutions. EFNI's Strategic Partners are Orange Polska, ORLEN, PZU, Rzeczpospolita and TVP.

Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan