

Poland in International Organizations

Poland is a member of all major economic and political international organizations at the global level and regional level (Europe, Central Europe). After 1989 Poland began an intensive period of economic development, supported by its membership in various international organizations. This helped to accelerate development, promote Polish economy globally and enabled collaboration with other countries¹. The most important are:

- The United Nations (UN),
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),
- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
/ World Trade Organization (WTO),
- World Bank Group (WB),
- International Monetary Fund (IMF),
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),
- The European Union (EU)

and the other for example: The Council of Europe, The Council of Baltic Sea States, The Visegrad Group, The Weimar Triangle, The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Poland in The United Nations (UN)²



Poland is one of the founding members of the UN. It is so-called member of the original. Though not invited to the founding conference in San Francisco, however, after the art. 3 of the UN Charter had been changed, Poland was admitted among those countries.

¹Investor's Guide - Poland. How to do Business. Warsaw 2010; <http://www.paiz.gov.pl/publikacje>; p. 22-25.

² Based on: <http://www.un.org/en>

This allowed a representative of the Provisional Government of National Unity, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vincent Rzymowski, to sign the Charter – 15 October 1945. Poland from the beginning took an active part in the UN. A manifestation of this commitment was the occurrence of numerous initiatives in the General Assembly. The most important Polish proposals for disarmament include: the so-called “Rapacki’s Plan” in 1957, to establish a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe, and in 1964 “Gomulka Plan” concerning the freezing of arms in Central Europe. Poland also proposed in 1964 a conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In the field of social initiative of Poland, "Declaration of Rights of the Child" was proposed in 1959 and "Convention on Rights of the Child" in 1990. "International Year of the Family" was declared in 1994. In the field of law in 1996, the "Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”.

Poland took and takes part in UN peacekeeping missions. As a country has been participating actively in peacekeeping operations since 1953, such as: participation in peacekeeping observer mission in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Korea, during the years 1954–1975 Polish soldiers participated in similar operations in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia. Since 1973, Poland took part in UN peacekeeping operations in the Sinai Peninsula and the following year became a part of the UN Observer Force in the Golan Heights. Our soldiers also participated in Operation "Desert Storm" in the years 1990–1991, resulting from UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq, in case of they did not withdraw from occupied Kuwait in time. The United States led this operation in which took part a coalition of 25 countries. In the years 1994–1995 Poland took part in the operation in Haiti (Polish unit "Grom" in fact protected the democratically elected government of Haiti). In early 2001, nearly 2,000 Polish soldiers and civilian personnel served in 15 peacekeeping operations around the world, including eight conducted by the UN.

Poland in selected UN-Agencies.

The United Nations for Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO).



UNESCO was founded on November 16th, 1945 in London as a specialized UN organization. Paris is headquarters of UNESCO. UNESCO is an organization coordinating multilateral action for the development of international cultural cooperation, education and research.

Poland has been a member of UNESCO since the inception of this organization. Poland has had permanent representative at UNESCO headquarters in Paris since 1949. Polish Committee for UNESCO has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1946. is a Polish liaison with UNESCO. It is composed of representatives of government institutions cooperating with UNESCO and persons representing the scientific and creative. The Committee is an institution financed from the budget allocated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Individual projects can also count on financial support from UNESCO.

Under the auspices of UNESCO's work in Poland: International Network for Cell Biology, The National Node of the European Molecular Biology Network, The program "Memory of the World", The program "Man and Environment", The "Art in Hospital", The HUGO, UTWIN Program. UNESCO has given Poland many times financial and technical assistance including patronage of the International Piano Competition. Frederic Chopin International Book Fair in Warsaw. Many Polish libraries and schools have received financial support from the organization³.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Fund for Children UNICEF was founded over 60 years ago and is the largest organization in the world, whose activity is entirely dedicated to children. UNICEF works in over 190 countries fight hunger and malnutrition by providing access to clean water, protecting the rights of children to learn and live free from violence. UNICEF organizes medical care, medicines, and supplies leads vaccination programs. Years of experience and effectiveness of UNICEF puts the head of the organization have immediate assistance in situations of humanitarian disaster.

UNICEF origins date back to 1943. Then, anticipating the destruction of the war the Allies decided to establish UNRRA (Organization of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation). Later, however, there was need for an organization that would handle a child regardless of where the future of the world. This suggestion, put forward by the Polish delegate - Ludwig Rajchman in 1946, served as the basis for the creation of UNICEF - United Nations Fund for Children.

³Latoszek E; Proczek M; International Organizations in the modern World; Publishing House Ellipse; Warsaw 2006 oraz <http://www.unesco.pl>

UNICEF's mission in Poland started in 1947, and its task was to improve the living conditions of children in a country ravaged by war. The operation officially ended in 1950. At the same time the Ministry of Health established the Committee for Cooperation with UNICEF, the aim was to continue the projects launched by the fund. For many years, UNICEF purchased supplies for health centers, modernized and brought the dairy raw materials to manufacture products for children. In 1962 he formed Polish National Committee of UNICEF, acting on behalf of Polish children. In 2002 Profile of the committee was changed.

Today, Polish National Committee of UNICEF, is an association, and since 2008 has had the status of public benefit organizations. Currently, the main objective of UNICEF in Poland is to collect funds for programs of health and save children's lives in developing countries. An important part of UNICEF's activities in Poland is also the sale of products and charity, of which the income is transferred to programs helping children in the poorest countries in the world. In addition, UNICEF conducts education projects for school children, and works closely with student organizations.

The United Nations for Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



UNIDO was established in 1966. It has been operating, as a specialized agency acting within the UN system since 1985. It unites 172 countries. The organization's headquarters is in Vienna. UNIDO has 40 field offices and three offices in: Brussels (EU), Geneva (UN), New York (UN). UNIDO is aimed to promote industrial development, supporting the processes of industrialization in developing countries and are in the process of economic transformation and the promotion of international industrial cooperation. After 1989, UNIDO activities orient to work for sustainable development. The reform package entitled "Business Plan on the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO was agreed among the Member States and approved in 1997. It intended to increase efficiency and productivity by streamlining the UNIDO activities and management structures and narrowing of the merits of the organization of industrial development⁴.

Poland joined UNIDO under the resolution of the State Council in 1985 as a result of issuance of Governmental Statement on 11.10.1985 which covered the entry into force of the

⁴ Based on: <http://www.unido.org>; www.mg.gov.pl; www.wiedenun.polemb.net

Constitution of UNIDO, signed in Vienna 08.04.1979. Coordinating role in matters relating to cooperation with the government plays in the Ministry of Economy.

Poland has been actively participating in the work of UNIDO since the very beginning of its existence, including through multiple membership in political bodies of UNIDO: Industrial Development Council (Industrial Development Board, IDB), the Program and Budget Committee (Programme and Budget Committee, PBC) and the participation of high-level national delegations in the General Conferences. Now Poland is a member of both the IDB and PBC, which gives it an opportunity to actively influence the policies of the Organization.

Poland joining the European Union, lost the status of the recipient country's official development assistance (ODA) to the status of donor of official development assistance. UNIDO membership allows Polish companies and experts to be included in the programs initiated by the organization and implementation of selected political and economic Polish purposes in countries and regions, where, on account of geopolitical conditions, achieve them is difficult. In July 2008, Ordinance of the Minister of Economy Waldemar Pawlak appoints UNIDO interministerial team, whose mission is to improve the efficiency of the existing cooperation with the organization.

The United Nations Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD)



United Nations Conference on Trade Development - UN agency for the first time was convened in 1964 with the participation of 120 countries. In 1968 the second conference in New Delhi, UNCTAD was transformed into a permanent program of the UN secretariat in Geneva.

UNCTAD gradually evolve towards a scientific institution, whose activities aim to participate in the debates over the shape of contemporary development policy, with particular emphasis on coordination at national and international levels to ensure sustainable development. Organization perform its mandate through three primary functions: intergovernmental forum for debate, supported by expert meetings and exchange of experiences in order to build consensus, research and analysis in various areas, as well as the collection of statistics for the discussions between representatives of governments and experts and providing technical and substantive for developing countries.

An important objective of UNCTAD is to coordinate international activities in the field of economic cooperation and regional development policy. The members of UNCTAD are 192 countries, including Poland⁵.

The World Health Organization (WHO)



World Health Organization was established under the Convention signed on 22 July 1946 and entered into force 04.07.1948. WHO is an international operating unit to the UN, its seat is in Geneva, currently has 193 Member States.

The main objective of WHO is the attainment by all people the best possible health. The task of WHO is to promote increased cooperation between countries in the field of health and epidemic diseases. The organization also seeks to provide medical care to the world's population and to reduce infant mortality. The greatest success of this organization is to combat infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, plague, through mass immunization. The objectives pursued are constantly monitoring global outbreaks, sponsoring programs to prevent and cure diseases such as SARS, malaria, ADIS, or distribution of safe and effective vaccines and other drugs.

Office of the Legal Status of the World Health Organization is based on the agreement between the Polish Government and the World Health Organization in 1965 and the Geneva Convention on Privileges and Immunities, of which Poland has been a signatory since 1969. The main activities in Poland include: action to combat tuberculosis, The Children's Health and Environment Programme for Food Safety, Health Promoting Schools Network, the Network of Health Promoting Hospitals Network of Healthy Cities.

The United Nations for Food and Agriculture (FAO)



FAO was founded at the initiative of 44 countries participating in the conference on the problems of food and agriculture (in May 1943 in Hot Springs). October 16, 1945. the first session of the FAO Conference in Quebec, Canada signed an agreement setting up the. It is the largest specialized agency of the United Nations and leading in

⁵ Based on: <http://www.unctad.org>.

the field of agriculture and rural development. FAO Headquarters in Rome is located.

Poland was one of the founding members of the FAO. In the years 1949–1951 occurred occasionally (along with Czechoslovakia and Hungary) from the organization for political reasons to protest against the dominance of the U.S. government – the period known as the Cold War. 29.05.1957 Poland rejoined the FAO.

Poland in The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)⁶



NATO - the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – the political-military organization was established on 24th of August 1949 basing on the Treaty of Washington in April 1949 which was signed by 10 European countries and the United States and Canada. NATO's purpose is to put the collective protection of its members as a basis for keeping peace and strengthening international security. Its main objective is to ensure – by political and military means - the freedoms and security of all its Member States. It obliges each Member State to share the risks and responsibilities, as well as the benefits of collective security. According to NATO's principles its Members shouldn't enter into any other international commitments that might conflict with this Treaty.

The official contacts between Poland and NATO were launched by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, who paid an official visit to NATO Headquarters in Brussels on 21 March 1990. In the summer of 1990, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Brussels (headed at that time by Ambassador Tadeusz Olechowski) initiated permanent working relations with NATO. More intense contacts were developed by Ambassador Andrzej Krzeczunowicz in the years 1992-1996. After the introduction of the PfP (Partnership for Peace) programme in 1994, a Liaison Office was established within the structures of the Polish Embassy in Brussels. Among the Liaison Office staff there were Polish diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Polish officers designated by the Ministry of National Defence. Occasionally, there were also other Polish specialists supporting the Office activities.

⁶ Based on: <http://www.brukselanato.polemb.net> and <http://www.msz.gov.pl/Polska,w,NATO,1695.html> 2012.01.30.

The first post-Cold War round of NATO enlargement began in 1997, prepared her participation in the running in 1994, the Partnership for Peace. In Madrid, NATO countries issued an invitation to the three countries of Central Europe. In 1997 the Alliance invited the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary to negotiate with a view to adopting them as members of NATO. The Polish Office at NATO Headquarters started its operation in 1997. Along with maintaining contacts with NATO, the Office was also responsible for relations with WEU. The invitation to start negotiations on Poland's accession to NATO (July 1997) entailed a dynamic development of the Liaison Office in terms of its personnel and infrastructure. During the accession talks, initiated in September 1997, Poland was represented by a team of 9 persons, additionally supported by a group of experts.

Accession negotiations for full membership in NATO, Poland ended in November 1997. The status of full member of NATO Poland received in 12 March 1999. Then set up Polish Permanent Representation of the Republic to NATO and the WEU. The Permanent Representative (PERMREP) represents Poland in the North Atlantic Council. Each member state also has its Military Representation headed by the Military Representative (MILREP), who acts in the Military Committee on behalf of the Chief of General Staff. The Polish accession to NATO was one of the most important events in the modern history of our country. This alliance forms the basis of Polish security and defense; it is also a major factor in the political-military stability in Europe.

Poland after switching to the structures of NATO policy has become a proponent of "open door" of NATO, as the process of applying for a major contribution to broadening the zone of stability and security in Europe and the world. Poland participates in joint ventures aimed at bringing the candidate countries to the Alliance's structures and mechanisms. Poland also took part in the development of Action Plan for NATO Membership (Membership Action Plan) and its implementation.

During the NATO summit in Prague (11–12 November 2002) it was decided to extend the Alliance: Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. They shall cooperate with NATO participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and the work of the Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC). Since 1999 they have also been covered by a new mechanism – Action Plan for Membership (MAP). Poland actively supported their aspirations to NATO membership. These countries became members of the Alliance in March 2004.

Poland consistently supports the idea of continuing "open door policy". During the NATO summit in 2006 (Riga 28–29.11.2006) confirmed the importance of the enlargement of

the Alliance for the stability and security in Europe. It was stressed that any European state that meet certain standards is eligible for membership in NATO.

Poland in The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and later in The World Trade Organization (WTO)⁷



The predecessor of the WTO was General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The purpose of the GATT (and now WTO) was the liberalization of international trade by lowering tariffs, removing trade barriers and elimination of discrimination in trade.

In October 1957 the Polish Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva requested the GATT Secretariat with a proposal to strengthen relations Poland first participated in the twelfth session of the GATT Contracting Parties in 1957. Polish government made a formal request for accession to the GATT in May 1959. In November 1960, Poland was an associate member. Poland has been a full member of GATT formally since 18 October 1967. Poland participated in the successive rounds of GATT negotiations – the Uruguay Round (1986–1994), inclusive, when the GATT was transformed into the WTO.

The World Trade Organization was established on 1 January 1995. Poland was one of the founding countries. The main responsibility of the WTO is the liberalization of the international trade of goods and services, investment policies of trade support, the settlement of trade disputes, and the respect for intellectual property rights. Countries acceding to the WTO are required to adapt domestic legislation to the standards of the World Trade Organization and to grant concessions to foreign entities. The WTO has 153 members at present, was to join being the Republic of Cape Verde. The WTO has eliminated many barriers between countries and people by reducing tariffs. The rules of the WTO (contained in agreements and contracts) are the result of negotiations among the WTO members. The core document is The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT1994). GATT comprises 60 agreements, which were signed individually in specific areas by each Member State.

⁷ Based on: <http://www.wto.org>

Poland in The World Bank Group (WB)⁸



The World Bank has been operating since 27 December 1945, and its headquarters are located in Washington DC, USA. Currently, its main task is to support the development of the market economy whilst combating all the causes of poverty in the world. Currently, the World Bank is in fact a group consisting of: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) – established in 1944, The International Finance Corporation (IFC) – established in 1956, The International Development Association (IDA) – established in 1960, The International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) – established in 1966 and The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), established in 1988. Members of the World Bank may be countries of the International Monetary Fund. Number of countries belonging to different institutions making up the World Bank: IBRD - 185 countries, IFC – 179 countries, IDA – 166 countries, ICSID – 143 countries, MIGA – 171 countries. The World Trade Organization is a near-global organization, encompassing more than 95% of the world's population.

The date of Polish membership in the World Bank as the year 1986. Poland was one of the founding countries of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. However in 1950 withdrew from him, and again became a member in 1986. Poland is also a member of IDA, IFC, MIGA. Poland is the member of ICSID. Membership in various parts of the World Bank Group, however, Poland get acquired successively. When Poland acceded to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The President of the National Bank of Poland represents the country on the meetings of the World Bank.

International Finance Corporation is the largest international financial organization, granting financial assistance to the private sector and co-operative. Poland joined the IFC in December 29th, 1987. The involvement of IFC in Poland (more than 220 million U.S. dollars) includes loans granted for investment purposes, the acquisition of shares in privatized companies, shares of banks and investment funds, credit lines for small and medium enterprises, financing advisory and consulting services. Poland is the largest partner of IFC in Central and Eastern Europe. So far, financial support and technical assistance received

⁸ Based on: <http://www.worldbank.org>

projects in telecommunications, retail, gas and metallurgy, min. project to modernize a *Paper Factory in Kwidzyn*, network development plan *Globi* large stores.

International Development Association International is to create conditions of lasting economic development. First of all, this means supporting human resource development (birth planning, education, health) and the implementation of these programs to improve the efficiency of public and private sector. An important element of the work reported IDA is to increase the effectiveness of those programs implemented and undertaken investments by improving their planning. The Convention MIGA, signed in Seoul in October 1985, entered into force in April 12th, 1988. Subject to stimulate foreign investment in member countries. Poland signed the Convention in January 23th, 1989 year (ratified 28 December), the Agency has become a full member on 29 June 1990.

From 1990 until 1996, Poland received funds from the World Bank (equivalent to USD 3.374 billion) to assist in the transformation of Poland. 46% of this money was spent directly on the restructuring of the Polish economy to adapt it to the principles of the free market trade. By the year 2000, the World Bank supported the development of private sector industries and environmental protection. Today its function is gradually starting to comply with the European Investment Bank.

Poland in The International Monetary Fund (IMF)⁹



The International Monetary Fund has existed since 1945, while it has been operating on a permanent basis since 1947. Currently, it has more than 180 members, including Poland. Its head office is in Washington, USA. Its main tasks are: the development of international cooperation in the field of monetary policy, securing the stability of exchange rates, monitoring the international debt of Member States, supporting the development of trade in the world.

Poland has been a member of the IMF since 1986, at which time Poland received 1.8 billion SDR units (Special Drawing Rights, which function within the IMF as a unit of account). In 1995, Poland was able to repay its debts incurred in international institutions, before becoming a full member of the IMF.

⁹ Based on: <http://www.imf.org>

The IMF monitored the course of the changes in Poland in the fields of international trade liberalization, liberalization of capital movements, and the reform of central government and social security reform. Polish the IMF to be implemented in accordance with the aspirations of integration into the European Union. Fund authorities granted its Polish accession to the WTO and the OECD as a sign of Poland's adopt a policy of international cooperation. The impact of IMF relations – Poland was also a strong influence on the favorable consideration of applications for membership in these organizations. Currently, Polish relations with the IMF are governed by Article 4 of the Statute of the IMF. It applies to countries that do not benefit from credits (as now Poland), or use a little help (less than 25% of the country in the IMF). Overview of the Polish economy is held twice a year and is devoid of regulatory criteria.

Poland in The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)¹⁰



Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD) is an international organization bringing together 34 highly developed and democratic countries. The recently adopted state are: Israel, Estonia, Slovenia, Chile. OECD was founded by 20 countries that signed the Convention on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of 14 December 1960 (The Paris Convention). The organization has been operating since September 30 1961. OECD is the direct successor of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), founded in 1948 to integrate recovering from the devastation of war European economies, benefiting from aid under the Marshall Plan.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was set-up by the Convention of 1960, which came into force one year later. The headquarters of the institution is located in Paris. The main objective of the OECD is to coordinate socio-economic policies of the Member States in order to stimulate economic growth, employment, social development and international trade and capital flows. Therefore, the organization develops common rules to be applied in different areas of the economy, which takes the form of

¹⁰ Based on: <http://www.oecd.org>

recommendations, resolutions, declarations and agreements. The organization includes the most economically developed countries to create “the richest club”, an exclusive organization representing less than 1/6 of the world’s population, and providing about 2/3 of the global production of goods, 3/5 of world exports and 4/5 of the total public development aid. Poland started its cooperation with the OECD in 1990 and became a member in 1996. Thanks to its OECD membership, the regulation of foreign investment and changes in the foreign exchange law in Poland has been carried out more quickly. Its membership in the most prestigious club of economically developed countries in the world is concrete proof of Poland’s current economic stability. This undoubtedly improves the global image of Poland, because we are now seen as partners with a strongly growing economy and stable legal rules. Membership in the OECD facilitates access to preferential credit lines provided by international financial institutions. In addition, through its membership in the OECD, Poland was given the opportunity to co-liberate in the global economy, as well as forming a new identity for the OECD.

A characteristic mechanism of action of the OECD is the "pressure equals" (peer pressure), which consists of the fact that governments of all member countries mutually exert on each other pressures, in the course of making independent decisions on matters of national economy and social life into account the interests and position of the partners, and also account for adopted by consensus commitments.

Under the aegis of the OECD work The International Energy Agency and Nuclear Energy Agency.

The first Polish working relationship with the OECD Secretariat back to autumn 1987, a result of political and economic changes and the related Polish desire to obtain expert assistance in reforming the economy and to adapt it to operate in a free market in the second half of 1989 has extended cooperation.

In June 1991, Budapest, together with Poland and Czechoslovakia games ovation and was covered by the Program Partners in Transition (PIT) have CYM to promote market transformation and preparing the members of memberships. In October 15th, 1994, Poland submitted a Memorandum OECD du RP government about which you compatibility of Polish legislation and economic and social policy of corporate social OECD legal instruments.

On 4th June 1996 the Council of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 61/96 on the accession of the Polish Republic to the Convention on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and support services, for membership in this organization. In

July 11th, 1996 marked the official signing of the Agreement to invite Polish Republic to accede to the Convention on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Agreement was an integral part of the Polish Government Statement on the adoption of the Polish Republic of the obligations of membership in the OECD and the Memorandum – The position of the Polish Government to certain acts of the OECD. This was a closing stage of negotiation of Polish accession to the OECD.

Formally, Poland became a full member of the OECD on 22 November 1996, when the instrument of ratification and accession of Poland to the OECD Convention was deposited with the Depository of the Convention, ie: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. The first secretary of the Polish diplomatic missions to the OECD, and also the main negotiator on the Polish side was Mieczyslaw Szostak.

Poland blocked the early Russian accession to the OECD – in 2007, Prime Minister Donald Tusk in the Polish government has declared withdrawal from the "lock". It is expected that Russia will become a 35 member of the OECD at the end of 2012/2013.

Poland in The European Union (EU)



Polish membership in the EU seems to be the most important decision regarding the Polish participation in international organizations.

Poland became a member of the EU on 1 of May 2004, together with nine other countries, marking the culmination of a negotiation process which first began on 31 of March 1998.

On 21 of December 2007 Poland joined the Schengen area: a territory with no checks at internal borders formed in the 24 member State.

In 1989, Poland and the European Communities signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation. 16 December 1991 signed the European Agreement – Polish Association Agreement with the European Communities and their Member States. 21–22 June 1993 on session of European Council in Copenhagen defined the political and economic conditions for accession countries of Central and Eastern Europe herein Poland to the EU.

April 8, 1994, Poland submitted an official application for EU membership and 8-10 December, the European Council in Essen adopted a strategy of adopting associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In 1997, developed the National Integration Strategy

document, in July the European Commission announced in Agenda 2000 a positive opinion about Polish application for membership in the European Union.

March 31, 1998 Poland and Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary have been invited for talks on the conditions of accession to the European Union. Later joined Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. In November 1998, was opened in Brussels proper negotiations in the first 7 fields, in December 1999, the Polish side sent the last negotiating position (in terms of agriculture). In 2001, the Polish government presented its first report on The Costs of European Integration, which presents the profit and loss balance (benefits and costs) of Polish membership in the EU. 13 November 2001 in Strasbourg, the European Commission presented a document entitled "Strategy for EU Enlargement". Calendar of enlargement of the target date for Polish – 2004 appeared in this document. 31 December 2002, announced the conclusion of negotiations and readiness Polish to accession to the European Union.

On 7–8 June 2003 in Poland held a national referendum on Polish membership in the European Union. According to official results in this referendum participated 59% of citizens entitled to vote and 77.5% of them answered the Polish accession to EU structures. 1 May 2004 Poland became a full member of the European Union. In June 2004, held in Poland, the first elections to the European Parliament.

21 December 2007, there has been a Polish accession to the Schengen Agreement (crossing land and sea) and 29 March 2008 (airport). 30 July 2007, Poland has passed the technical tests of access to the Schengen system.

1 July 2011, Poland became the head of the European Union (EU). This is the first Polish presidency. For six months, Poland chaired the EU Council. Polish Presidency priorities included:

- completion of accession negotiations with Croatia,
- completion of the association negotiations with Ukraine and the signing of the Treaty Association,
- Development of the Eastern Partnership and the Neighborhood Policy,
- accelerating membership negotiations with Turkey,
- give Serbia candidate status and the start of membership negotiations,
- budget negotiations for 2014–2020,
- strengthening the cohesion policy,
- the development dimension of the military and security policy of the European Union

- fight against illegal immigration,
- deepening of the single market development
- creating a common energy policy and energy security dimension,
- Increased EU competitiveness in the international arena (including through an increase in intellectual capital),
- reduce disparities in health societies of Europe,
- foundation European Fund for Democracy.

Important events that have a place during the Polish Presidency are for example: Extension of the Single European Market for the Partner Countries, a new concept of European Neighbourhood Policy in Krynica (9 September), The European Women's Congress in Warsaw (17–18 September), The Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw (29-30 September), The Internal Market Forum in Krakow (2–4 October), The Forum “The European Union – Western Balkans” in Ohrid (3–4 October), The European Tourism Forum in Krakow (October 5–7), The European Forum Heritage in Wrocław (10–12 October), The Convention of the European Platform Against Poverty in Cracow (17–18 October), European Congress of Rural Development in Warsaw (19–20 October), Union for the Mediterranean Meeting in Krakow (20–21 October) Forum “The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea” and The Baltic Development Forum in Gdansk (24-26 October), European Migration Network Conference in Warsaw (25–26 October), Forum “The EU – USA” in the area of home affairs and justice in Washington, DC (November 7), The European Equality Summit in Poznan (15–18 November), The European Competition and Consumer Day in Poznan (24–25 November), The European Union – India Summit in Delhi (December), EU - Brazil Summit, The European Union – South Africa Summit, European Development Days in Warsaw (15–16 December).

Poles in the EU institutions such as:

- Jerzy Buzek (former Prime Minister of Poland) – Chairman of European Parliament (2009–2012),
- Danuta Hübner – Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy (2004–2009),
- Jacek Saryusz-Wolski – Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament (2007-2009), Vice-President of the European Parliament (2004–2009),
- Paweł Samecki – Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy (since 2009),
- Janusz Lewandowski – Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget of the

European Commission (since 2010).

Issues - test questions:

1. The Examples of the International Organizations
2. Poland in UN and NATO
3. Poland in WB, GATT/WTO and IMF
4. The role of Poland in Regional Integration in Europe
5. Poland in The European Union