

Lower Silesian Political and Economic Forum



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and Economic Forum**

Changing Lower Silesia



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The Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forum was initiated during the intense discussion about subjectivity and forms of Lower-Silesian self-government. Even though the scope of the Forum meetings became much wider, it still discusses fundamental issues connected with the region.

Birth of idea

The idea of the Forum appeared on the turn of XX and XXI century – precisely before the Polish accession to European Union and the reform of self-government, constituting Lower Silesia as a one Voivodeship body.

Agreement considering appointment of The Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forum has been signed on 7th of May 1999 by its originators: professor Jan Waszkiewicz - the first Marshal of Lower Silesia, academic teacher, oppositionist to communist rule and oppositional publisher; and Janisław Muszyński, first not communist Wrocław's Province Governor after 1989, businessman, animator of business organisation in Lower Silesia.

From the start, Forum's mission was to initiate and develop dialogue between different Lower Silesian environments regarding crucial for the region issues. It was useful for creation of long-term development strategy for Lower Silesia. Participants of the Forum work on common opinions concerning social, political and economical issues. The place of the sessions remains the same – the Palace in Krzyżowa. Sessions of the Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forum are always held in the form of plenary sessions and working groups. The Forum also receives statements from interested environments, public opinion, national and local authorities.

Worth mentioning is complete independence of the Forum. This makes it possible to talk about controversial subjects, which are not in the centre of attention of public opinion and authorities. The mission of the Forum was always to create and expand new ways of the public debate and exploring the subject beyond the current political and economical situation. Quo Vadis Polonia debate was an example of such discussion, regarding the future development for next fifty years.

Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forum is totally self-financing private event – working on similar rules as Swiss Davos Forum. There were ten Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forums in Krzyżowa:

1999 year – ***Development Strategy for Lower Silesia***

2000 year – ***Unemployment and labor market in Lower Silesia***

2001 year - ***Knowledge – tool for shaping the region's future***

2002 year – ***European Future of Lower Silesia***

2003 year – ***How to reduce the distance between Lower Silesia and European Union***



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2004 year – *Social capital of Lower Silesia*

2005 year – *Lower Silesia – area of freedom*

2006 year – *Lower Silesia 2020- a good place to live*

2007 year – *Creative Lower Silesia for creative Europe*

2008 year – *Lower Silesia in a perspective of generational changes*

2009 year – *Lower Silesia – Polish-German reconciliation land*

Mission and Forum's objectives

The Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forum is a social movement which wants to create the future of Lower Silesia. The Forum mission is initiating and developing the social dialogue as an alternative to political struggle. The aims of this dialogue are: to define challenges, crucial for competitiveness of Lower Silesia in Poland and Europe; to propose objectives for regional development and to create social consensus for their realisation. Forum is looking for partnership areas from public and private sector to create balance regional development of Lower Silesia, with regard to transparency rule. By focusing the attention of Lower Silesians on main tasks, challenges and objectives, Forum aims at reducing the economic distance between the region and other European countries.

The objectives specified in the agreement on establishing the Forum are formulated as follows:

1. The hereby established LSP&EF aims are initiating and maintaining the dialogue among various Lower Silesian environments on subjects significant for the regional development of, especially within the economic and political areas.
2. The initiators are convinced that the idea of LSP&EF suits the regional integration aspirations, creates the economic growth and social development of Lower Silesia.
3. At least once a year, the LSP&EF shall organize a meeting of possibly the most numerous group of representatives of various environments to discuss the most crucial issues of the regional development. The meetings of LSP&EF are conducted on plenary sessions and in working groups. LSP&EF may take stands aimed at the interested groups, the public opinion, as well as local and national authorities.
4. The working groups should commence their work before the LSP&EF Summit starts and it is not necessary that this work finishes once the meeting is closed. The mode and scope of their work is chosen solely by the will of their participants.

The Forum does not use public funds and is entirely financed by its participants.



Forum 1999 – beginnings

One of the most interesting and surely the most important was the first Forum in 1999 year. The message of find this performance has turned out to be a guidance for the future:

“The effects convict us to organize next Forum sessions. We hope that Forum fill enter the calendar of important economic summits within the European scope and in future become Central European equivalent of Swiss Davos’.

In 1999 other important and on-going event was established – Lower Silesia Economic Certificate. The idea of professor Piotr Wrzecionarz, brought up during the first session of the Forum, was aimed to support local constructions enterprises. It was the answer to rather pessimistic panel session concerning constriction business, hosted by Minister Sławomir Najmiger. If Lower Silesia Political Economic Forum is an equivalent of Davos, Silesia Economic Certificate is compared to Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and Japanese Deming award and became more significant than European Quality Award. After some time the Certificate became an independent event, happening outside Krzyżowa. Although the Certificate and the Forum still have similar aims – to create profile of Lower Silesia as a friendly and innovative economy. In 2007 from the Certificate idea, new event was brought to life – Lower Silesia Economy Award. The theme: Regional Development Strategy for Lower Silesia, which was also first name of the Forum, still plays an important role. Even though Poland was not a member of European Union in 1999, the spirit of future integration was in the Krzyżowa’s air. During the first session the other subject was analyzed – cooperation of science and business; creation of innovative economy based on knowledge and research. First Lower Silesia Political and Economic Forum received great interest from media and public opinion. Some of mentioned during the first Forum issues appeared in next Forum’s sessions: innovative economy; financial instruments for Lower Silesia; economic areas; research and knowledge; new credit tranches; new market niches; support for small and medium enterprises; venture capital actions.

Forum 2000

The second 2000 year edition proceeded under the theme : “Unemployment and labour market in Lower Silesia”. At the beginning of 21st century our region was one of the regions with highest unemployment. In former Wałbrzych voivodeship unemployment reached 60 per cent. More than 500 participants, in eight thematic groups, paid their attention to the need of more strict correlation between educational system and of labour market requirements.

“It concerns the whole education system, from primary school education, through high school to Universities. Labour market requires also a recurrent education. Thank to this, it can be adjusted due to new economy, in which knowledge is most important pillar of economy”,



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we read in final message. In the 2000 year attention was also paid to the health services and agriculture region's state.

Forum 2001

Knowledge – the tool for shaping the future of the region – was the main theme of Forum 2001. During this summit, 12 laureates of first edition of Lower Silesia Economic Certificate received honourable diplomas in Krzyżowa. The main message of the Forum was:

“The Lower Silesia is awaiting for a strategic decision –if we are creating the society with knowledge and abilities or we do not respond to this challenge and delay making this choice, which shall result in high unemployment, low salaries and the outflow of the best people from our region”.

Forum 2002 – building the prestige

One of the most interesting edition of the Forum was the one from 2000 year. Its theme was “ The European future of Lower Silesia”. In sessions, 600 people participated. Discussions were mainly devoted to development of energy and communications infrastructure.

“It is concluded to take up an intense operation speeding up the process of modernization and development of road and railway infrastructure of Lower Silesia, particularly Lower Silesia connection with the centre of country and acceleration of building the A-4 AND A-3 Szczecin-Praha highway. Especially junction section connecting A-4 Czech highway system through Brama Lubawska. This has a strategic meaning for development of Lower Silesia”,

we read in final message.

Forum 2003

Forum 2003 was a continuation of previous session, this time working under the theme: How to reduce the distance between the Lower Silesia and the European Union, which was discussed by 700 participants. Most of the attention was focused on enabling free economical activity. Interesting speech was delivered by Vice- Prime Minister Jerzy Hausner. Self-employment, tourism promotion and Odra 2006 programme were important issues of the Forum 2003.

Forum 2004

Motto of the Forum 2004 was: “The social capital of Lower Silesia” has continued the good streak of the event. What differs this Forum from others is a focused on need for international cooperation. Honorary guest of the Krzyżowa Forum were i.e. Ambassador of the Czech Republic Czech Bedřich and head of Kralovehradecki region, Pavel Bradik. The role of historical memory in citizen conscience creation was underlined by President of the Institute of the National



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Remembrance, professor Leon Kieres. A lot of attention was paid to railway track connections from Wrocław to other parts of Lower Silesia and Warsaw. There were also some experiments proceeded.

„For the first time, group session SD „Youth for Lower Silesia future’ was completely focused on young people. The long term aim is to integrate students’ environment, political groups, business representatives and local authorities for development of youth potential in Lower Silesia. It is worth mentioning, that if Lower Silesia is not become an attractive region for young people, the other regions will benefit from brain drain from our region. Without solving this problem, there are no chances for balanced regional development”.

In 2004, during the opening session of Lower Silesia Political and Economic Awards, Initiators of the forum received “Success Key” prize from Sławomir Najniger.



Forum 2005

Krzyżowa 2005 sessions were taking place under the name – Lower Silesia –the freedom area. The most fruitful was discussion concerning relations between Inland Revenues and traders. Participants have decided to take up actions aiming at improvement of those relations. Low quality of services and complicated legislation seem to be the most problematic and causing most of the problems on state-tax payers dimension. Interesting was also the session discussing issues concerning



public-private partnership and influence of business environment on economic freedoms and freedom of economic movement. It was settled that Economic Courts are working more efficiently in our region than others because of their participation in pilot projects from Justice Department.

Forum 2006

Forum 2006 was different than previous sessions, mainly concentrating on the theme "Lower Silesia 2020 – Good place to live". This time discussions were focused on specific project involving self-government, science and economy. Polish striving to be a domicile of European Innovation and Technology Institute and EXPO exhibition did not take over the sessions. Signing an agreement regarding balanced regional development was an interesting step. Professor Antoni Kukliński has highlighted the importance of role of strategic planning in creative development of the country and the region. A4 problem group – "Lower Silesia province – villages and small cities" has directed the attention to the problem that Lower Silesian development cannot be achieved only by metropolitan area of Wrocław and other growth centers. As during previous Forums, subjects concerning energy, education and tourism were also discussed.

Forum 2007

During Krzyżowa 2007 more than 700 participants, with Prime Minister of Poland, Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, discussed the issue of creativeness in global environment. One of the most important is Think Tank Lower Silesia 2050 initiative, in which main creators of Lower Silesia future will participate. Other important initiative was organization of Lower Silesian Regional Study Centre, research institution, specialized in development processed and options for future improvement analyses. For the first time Lower Silesia Economic Awards have been handed. Subject such as: ecology and demographical changes within the Lower Silesia were also discussed. Main theme of Forum 2007 - Lower Silesia in a perspective of generational changes, was apparently a continuation of other threads coming from previous Forums. Separate debate was focused on the state and role of media, especially regional media.

Forum 2008

Forum 2008 was dedicated to the changes, whitening the wide scope. Anniversary Forum was focused on the future – "Lower Silesia in a perspective of generational changes" was a strict guidance for the discussions. During this Forum, the future of Poland and the region was analyzed. One of the most crucial events was Quo Vadis Polonia debate, hosted by polish futurologist and regionalist, professor Antoni Kukliński. The idea of professor Kukliński is to start a debate concerning Poland's future through the period of 50 years. Participants of the Forum were able to get involved in discussions of young, 30-year old politicians and make their mind about the state of young self-government representatives. A lot of attention was focused on scanty relations between higher education, science and business world.



Forum 2009 and 20th Anniversary of Reconciliation Mass

Discussions at the Forum was preceded by the Jubilee of 20 Anniversary of the Mass of Reconciliation. The question "Quo Vadis Europe?" is a question of objective reality that Europe in XXI century is facing. Forum's contribution to regional development is responsible treatment of future and discussion on the shape of the future-oriented European and Polish raison of State. The result of deliberations of the Forum adopted a declaration Quo Vadis Europe calling for deep reflection on the future of Europe and the formation of a Group of Energetic XXI century.

In many ways XI Forum was exceptional. The first day based on the culture, the second day devoted to the economy and the third day associated with self-government. Lines drawn during the discussion (Declaration Europa Quo Vadis, Energy XXI) have become major fields of activity of participants in the Forum and affect the subject of the next meeting in Krzyżowa.

During Forum was enhanced cooperation with partners of Lower Silesia region - mainly from Saxony and Lower Saxony. Special Guests of Forum Stanislaw Tillich - Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony and Christian Wulff - Minister-President of Lower Saxony were also members of Honorable Committee of Jubilee of 20 Anniversary of the Mass of Reconciliation.

Special Guests of the Forum

Until now, Ambassadors, Consuls, business representatives of Republic of Ireland, Federal Republic of Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom of Netherlands, Ukraine and Bulgaria were representing their countries during the Forums.

Special guests of the Forum were:

- Thelma M. Doran - The Ambassador of Ireland to Poland,
- Reinhard Schweppe - The Ambassador of Germany to Poland,
- Bedřich Kopecky - The Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Poland,
- Edward Craanen - The Ambassador of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands to Poland,
- Mykhailo Brodowych - The Consul-General of Ukraine in Cracow,
- Ivan Naydenov - The Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Poland,
- Michael Gerdts – The Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Poland.

All heretofore Forums have their patrons from Voivodes of Lower Silesia and Marshals of Lower Silesia Voivodeship and were proceeding with help of aforementioned offices.



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Honorary patronage of Forum 2002 was Danuta Hübner, Minister of European Integration Department. In 2003 honorary patronage belonged to Vice-Prime Minister professor Jerzy Hausner, who gave opening lecture "How to reduce the distance between Poland and European Union?"

In 2004 Honorary patronage was held by professor Leszek Balcerowicz, Chairman of the National bank of Poland, and professor Leon Kieres, chairman of the Institute of the National Remembrance. Forum 2005 was preceded by the honorary patronage of professor Władysław Bartoszewski and PhD Robert Gwiazdowski – President of Adam Smith's centre. PhD Gwiazdowski gave a lecture about freedom in economy. Father Maciej Zięba – Provincial superior of Dominicans Order gave a lecture "John Paul II and civil society". Forum 2006 patronage was held by Prime-minister Jarosław Kaczyński and professor Tadeusz Luty – Rector of Wrocław University of Technology, President of The Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland. The guests of 8th Forum were i.e: professor Antoni Kukliński – member of the Club of Rome; and Ministers - Zbigniew Dynak, Tomasz Nowakowski and Mariusz-Orion Jędrysek. The opening lecture was given by professor Stefan Meller. Forum 2007 honorary patronage was held by Commissioner for Regional Policy. Among the guests of 9th Forum were Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, Henryka Bochniarz, Ryszard Petru, Wojciech Szczurek and Jan Olbrycht. Honorary Patronage of the 10th Forum will be held by Grzegorz Schetyna – Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration. Opening lecture "Culture and national heritage – source of discovering the future" was given by Bogdan Zdrojewski - Minister of Culture and National Heritage in Republic of Poland. The lecture about Poland seen as a regional country was delivered by Managing Partner of Ernst & Young Poland - Duleep Aluwihare.

In 2009 Lower Silesian Forum and Jubilee of 20 Anniversary of the Mass of Reconciliation took place under honourable patronage of the President of Bundestag Mr. Norbert Lammert and the Marshal of the Sejm Mr. Bronisław Komorowski. Special guests of Forum were Tadeusz Mazowiecki – first non-communist Prime Minister of Poland, Stanislaw Tillich - Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony, Christian Wulff - Minister-President of Lower Saxony, Bogdan Zdrojewski – the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Michael Gerdts - The Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Poland, Marek Prawda – The Ambassador of Republic of Poland to Germany, Joanna Strzelec-Łobodzińska – Vice-Minister of Economy

Among all important guests of the Forum we can also mention: Pavel Bradik – President of the Královéhradeckého Region, Krzysztof Krystowski – Vice – Minister of Economy and Labour Department, Piotr Legut – Coordinator of Polish Year in Germany from Foreign Affairs Department, Lidia Geringer-d'Oedenberg – member of European Parliament, Konrad Szymański – member of European Parliament; Władysław Kaniewski – General Consul of Ukraine in Cracov, PhD Richard Mbewe – Main economist of Brokerage House WGI S.A., Aleksandra Natalli-Świat – President of Budget and Finance Sejm Commission.

Lower Silesian Members of parliament and MPs from European parliament also participated in the Forum session. Lower Silesia has a great communication with our Czech and Saxon neighbours, who were also invited to the Krzyżowa sessions.



Patrons of the Forum

Forum as an initiative which mobilizes social activity is gaining a significant prestige. media patronage is held by national media and international companies. High formal and technological level is guaranteed by programme partner – global corporations – Cap Gemini from 2001 and Ernst & Young from 1999; Krzyżowa Charity for European Agreement from 1999, Rector Collage of Universities of Wrocław and Opole; Association for Lower Silesia promotion.

Social aim realized by every year Forum is supported by:

- Adam Smith Centre,
- The International Political Review,
- The College of Eastern Europe,
- The City of Wrocław,
- Association for Lower Silesia Promotion,
- Agency of Military Property,
- The Lower Silesian Chamber of Commerce,
- Western Chamber of Commerce.

Cooperation with media

Approximately fifty journalists are accredited to the Forum. Among the others, the Forum's media sponsors are:

Biznes Wrocławski, Businessman Magazine, Dzisiaj.pl, dlaStudenta.pl, Gazeta BCC, Gazeta Wrocławska, Gazeta Wyborcza, Gazeta.pl, IPO.pl, Money.pl, MPP, Nowa Europa Wschodnia, Newsweek, Nowy Przemysł, Pamięć i Przyszłość, Panorama Dolnośląska, Poland Monthly, Polish Market, Polskie Radio Wrocław, Puls Biznesu, Rzeczpospolita, Słowo Polskie Gazeta Wrocławska, STROER, TVP3, Warsaw Voice, Wrocławianin.

We cooperate with Web portal www.gazeta.pl. Detail information can be obtained from www.forum.pl