

REPORT ON ACTIVITY OF ELEC POLISH SECTION IN 2011

ELEC Polish Section, throughout the year 2011, in order to demonstrate the strength of European integration, succeeded in developing international and national projects – both focused mainly on the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

ELEC Polish Section actions, to a large degree, were oriented on participating in Programme of Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union which Poland held on July 1, 2011.

ELEC Polish Section concentrated its works as well on activities leading to restore sustainable economic development after the times of world financial and economic crisis. As Poland has been still facing enormous challenges in the scope of energy affairs, ELEC Polish Section in 2011, focused on supporting ventures aiming for enhancement of this field of Polish economy.

January 10, 2011: visit of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Republic of Hungary – His Excellency Mr. Róbert Kiss in Gdańsk which aim was to celebrate The Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union among the youth. Meeting with students from the International Baccalaureate Classes, head-master and the teaching staff of the High School number III in Gdansk was arranged and organized. The main point of the visit however, was the meeting with Consular Corp of Tri – City and local authorities.

January 12, 2011: attendance of Mr. Dobrzyniecki to a meeting with local authorities responsible for sustainable energetic development of the Region of Pomerania and its safety in the aspect of the constant supply of diversified energy to the area (Woj. Rada ds. Bezp. Energ.).

January 18, 2011: works on the forum of Pomeranian Entrepreneurship Council which objective is to establish profitable economic and legal conditions for both Polish and international business investments in the region. (PRP)

January 30, 2011: personal meeting with Mr. Roman Iwaszkiewicz – His Excellency Ambassador of Poland to Vietnam in order to constitute conditions for establishing economic bilateral cooperation between Pomerania and Vietnam regions.

February 25, 2011: debate with Mr. Janusz Lewandowski – Commissioner of the European Commission responsible for Financial Programming and Budget on creating attractive image of Poland among members of European Union, on economic development of Baltic Regions, forming the European budget and future of euro-zone.

March 2, 2011: works on the forum of Pomeranian Entrepreneurship Council which aims to establish profitable conditions for both Polish and international business in the region (PRP).

March 8, 2011: “Conventional energy perspectives for Pomerania” – attendance in discussion with local authorities and social representatives (WKDS).

March 14, 2011: Netvision – annual technical conference – conducting, by the President of ELEC Polish Section, the panel focused on practicing business qualifications and competences among academic society.

March 24, 2011: consultations with Mr. Ryszard Świlski – Member of the Board of Pomerania – on main directions for further collaboration with the Pomeranian Parliament.

April 14, 2011: engagement of ELEC Polish Section members in Polish Social Support Committee of Euro 2012 which role is to provide national Organizing Committee for the European Football Championship EURO 2012 with all the necessary information and details concerning the technical and infra-structure aspect of the organization of the Championship in our both – country and city.

April 15, 2011: organization of a conference with Mr. Slawomir Nowak – Secretary of State at the Chancellery of The President of the Republic of Poland Mr. Bronislaw Komorowski devoted to perspectives for economic and social growth of the north of Poland and governmental facilities encouraging international economic cooperation.

May 12, 2011: luncheon with Mr. Hans Brask Director of Baltic Development Forum (BDF) which as an organization will bring its 13th Baltic Development Summit to Gdańsk. The BDF Summit will be held together with the 2nd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, thereby providing exceptional meeting opportunities for all high-level stakeholders in the Region. The event will be co-hosted with the Polish Presidency of the European Union, Pomerania Region and the City of Gdańsk, and will be attended by decision-makers from business, politics, international organizations and the academic world. Worth mentioning is the fact that Baltic Development Forum is the leading network for high level decision-makers from business, politics, academia and media in the Baltic Sea Region. Baltic Development Forum is a non-profit, independent and member based organisation. Its mission is to set the regional agenda by initiating and facilitating processes to build a strong, prosperous and coherent Baltic Sea Region.

May 19, 2011: under the honorary patronage of Mrs. Anna Komorowska – Polish President’s Wife – in order to celebrate the upcoming Presidency in the Council of the European Union and to strengthen relations between the Kingdom of Spain and Poland, Comunidad de Madrid (Autonomous Region of Madrid) has led an impressive collection of images of artistic Madrazo family, which members not only rank to the most important Spanish artists but also its art is inscribed in the history of European painting to visit the National Museum of Gdansk. An informal meeting of members was held surrounding of the mentioned paintings.

June 7, 2011: meeting with Basil Kerski – appointed the Director of the European Solidarity – the project that is to be completed by 2013, that will incorporate conference rooms, a hotel and restaurant, a museum of modern that Polish history (1944–1989), a library, archive material and a large number of educational activities.

Discussion with Mr. Kerski was focused on the idea of the project which is simply to promote democracy and independence, as well as maintain contacts with human rights organizations.

June 13, 2011: organization of a conference conducted by Mr. Leszek Balcerowicz – Professor of Economics at the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), a former Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance as well as a former Chairman of the National Bank of Poland (NBP) – the leading role player in Poland’s economic transformation in the aftermath of the Fall of Communism – current Chairman of the FOR (Foundation Council that talks about recent Polish economics issues). Professor shared his observations and ideas with ELEC Members as well as representatives of Pomeranian business and economic institutions elaborating on perspectives for Polish economy.

June 13, 2011: process of inviting new members to ELEC Polish Section – Higher School of Tourism and Hotel Industry in Gdansk and Gdansk School of Banking in order to find out partners eager to maintain ELEC Polish Section activity.

June 15, 2011: participation of ELEC Polish Section members in "Renewable Energy – prospects for the Polish – German cooperation" – forum organized in Sopot in the context of the Global Wind Day. International discussions concentrated on collaboration on three levels: political, business, science and technology. The meeting was organized by the Embassy of Germany in Poland, the Polish – German Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Baltic Ekoenergetyczny Cluster.

June 17 – 18, 2011: participation of President of ELEC Polish Section Mr. Maciej Dobrzyniecki in ELEC Central Council and the conference on "Renewable energy and transport infrastructure: a new challenge for EU – Black Sea cooperation" both held in Bucharest.

June 29, 2011: XIV General Assembly of ELEC Polish Section Members in Gdansk.

September 21, 2011: ELEC Polish Section Members took part and gave lectures during the First Elbląg Economic Forum organized by the City Hall of Elbląg. In the presence of Polish government representatives they attended the ceremonial opening of the Elbląg Technology Park constituting the best place for searching new solutions in technology and fostering innovative companies.

September 29, 2011: encounter of ELEC Polish Section Members with Mr. Lech Wałęsa (the former president of Poland) during the ceremony of granting The Lech Walesa Award to the President Lula da Silva (the former president of Brazil) in recognition of his efforts to reduce social inequality and to strengthen the developing countries in the world affairs. The Lech Walesa Award is granted to institutions, organizations or individuals who work in solidarity for greater understanding between nations, freedom and promotion of values that laid at the foundation of Solidarity movement.

October 6 – 7, 2011: on the days before the Poland parliamentary elections, on the auditoriums of the University of Gdansk, ELEC Polish Section together with the Economic Policy Research Institute operating on the Economic Faculty of University of Gdańsk and Gdansk Chapter of the Business Centre Club organized for all students, university research workers, local business representatives and media, the opened preelectoral debates with the major, counting candidates holding number ‘ones’ on the electoral regional registers.

October 14 – 16, 2011: diplomatic delegation of President of ELEC Polish Section to Bulgaria, Sofia. Meeting held with His Excellency Ambassador of Spain in Bulgaria, Sofia, Mr. Rafael Mendivil Peydro pertained energetic issues and laid stress on requirement of European cooperation indispensable for support of energetic growth and development of prospective sectors such as photovoltaic solar energy and wind energy.

October 18, 2011: continuation of arrangements made in January 2011 with His Excellency Ambassador of Poland in Vietnam, Hanoi, Mr. Roman Iwaszkiewicz related to the project of organizing economic mission of the Pomeranian Voivodeship government's representatives and local authorities to Vietnam in order to establish economic bilateral cooperation between Pomerania and Vietnam regions.

October 24 – 26, 2011: preparation of The Baltic Development Forum Summit 2011 and The Second Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The Second Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as a regular event organized within the process of managing EU strategy for the region pursuant to the European Commission Communication of 10 June 2009 on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region brought together entities involved in implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. It was attended by high-ranking politicians from countries in the region, representatives of European institutions, regional cooperation structures and representatives of the local and central governments of states in the Baltic Sea region. Fulfilling its task, the Forum reviewed and analyzed progress in implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, exchanged views and presented recommendations. The annual EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region forum was preceded by the 13th Baltic Development Forum (BDF) Summit.

Baltic Development Forum Summit 2011 – the regional gathering took place close to the famous shipyard where the political re-birth of the Baltic Sea Region began, spearheaded by the Solidarnosc movement. Since the Baltic Sea Region re-established itself 20 years ago, regional cooperation has been driven by high political and economic ambitions. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was introduced in 2009 to address key challenges and untapped potential of this large region, covering about one third of the total area of the EU. To ensure that the Strategy succeeds in taking cooperation in the Region to higher levels, new ambitions and targets it is continually discussed during Baltic Development Forum Summits.

Both – Baltic Development Forum Summit 2011 and The Second Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Regions – are now set as one of the most significant events in the calendar of Polish Presidency for the Pomerania Region and were part of the initiatives of the Polish Presidency, aiming to conduct the first review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Aside from the ELEC Polish Section (holding the status of the partner of the event), European Commission, the authorities of the City of Gdańsk, the Polish Presidency and the BDF were the main organizers of both events that were attended by approx. 500 – 700 participants (among them Director General of European Commission Regional Policy Directorate-General for Regional Policy Mr. Dirk Ahnera, European Commissioner for Regional Policy Mr. Johannes Hahn and Polish Minister for Regional Development Mrs. Elzbieta Biensowska).

It was the first time ELEC – Polish Section was involved in the event and Mr. Dobrzyniecki gave a lecture during the plenary session focused on “Business Perspective on Regional Development in the Baltic Sea Region”. As the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was mainly developed in response to a political demand and one of the objectives of the Strategy was and is to make the full use of the region’s economic potential and initiatives that increase competitiveness and business opportunities, the speech delivered by President of ELEC Polish Section, responded that the Strategy doesn’t mirror the demands of the business sector and doesn’t correspond to its priorities in the field of energetic business sector. Mr. Dobrzyniecki presented various perspectives for the region in the contexts of energy market.

November 6 – 9, 2011: official delegation of President of ELEC Polish Section to the United States of America, Texas, San Antonio in order to facilitate Polish energetic business sector, on the basis of the American wide experience, the effective activities in the field of potential shale gas resources’ extraction. As shale gas has become an increasingly important source of natural gas in the United States over the past decade, the interest to potential gas shales has spread in the rest of the world. North America has been the leader in developing and producing shale gas and Texas is the best example of the great economic success due to the shale gas extraction. According to the scientific data, Poland seems to be one of the shale gas richest areas.

November 17, 2011: letter of introduction was send to His Excellency Ambassador of Poland in Spain, Madrid, Mr. Ryszard Schnepf presenting ELEC Polish Section, its history, members, frames of activity and main achievements.

Maciej Dobrzyniecki
President of ELEC Polish Section