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PRESENTS IMPORTANT CURRENT TOPICS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SCHUMAN'S
THOUGHT

SCHUMAN

OPTICS MAGAZINE

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LETTER FROM EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madame,

Both Poland and the European Union are at the turning point of their history. A European superstate is being built before our eyes, with all its consequences. The catalyst accelerating this process for Berlin and Brussels was Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Besides, the Eurocrats have accustomed us to the fact that they use every crisis to increase their power over the member states. It is astonishing that every time the member states allow them to do so, and their authorities justify such actions to their societies. In the name of a wrongly understood security, they not only deprive themselves of freedom, but above all - in a completely irrational way - they try to obtain its guarantee where it does not exist. The creation of the European Defense Union should be interpreted in such categories.

The official rhetoric is that it is to be a response to the threat from Russia, but in reality it will not be able to do so. Besides, that is not its goal either. The main goal is to break up NATO and remove the United States from Europe, so that nothing will interfere with German-Russian domination. Let us remember that the project of the area from Vladivostok to Lisbon is still relevant - despite Russia's aggression against Ukraine - and Vladimir Putin himself has nothing against Ukraine joining the European



LETTER FROM EDITOR

Union and has serious reasons for doing so. The problem for the Kremlin would be the expansion of NATO, not the EU - infiltrated by Russian agents and unable to wait for the return to trade relations with Russia, because it does not pose any threat to the latter.

The USA has a serious problem with Europe. On the one hand, dominated by leftist ideology and above all by Germany, increasingly totalitarian and less and less democratic, it is trying to seize American influence. On the other hand, extremely susceptible to Russian and Chinese influence, it seems defenseless against existing threats, which it is not even able to define correctly. The war in Ukraine has shown this in its entirety. A war that Germany is using to strengthen its influence in the EU. And so, according to German plans, Poland is to take out a loan from a German bank for German weapons, which will go to Ukraine. What is more, there are circles that want Poland to actively engage in this war. I talk about this in the March issue of Schuman Optics Magazine with Prof. Romuald Szeremietiew.

Another topic we are considering is the issue of EU censorship, which increasingly affects citizens of all EU member states. It may – both editor Paweł Pietkun and I have no doubt about it – affect the outcome of the presidential elections in Poland. It may therefore turn out that they will not be a celebration of democracy, but another stage in the installation of Altiero Spinelli's communism in Poland. The threat is all the greater because there is pressure from Germany and Brussels to make this happen. After the experience with the presidential elections in Romania, there is basically no doubt that a similar scenario will be realized in Poland if the Polish nation chooses a candidate who the European mainstream would not see in this position. The question is, is society prepared to stand up for democracy and the sovereignty of the Polish state?

LETTER FROM EDITOR

In the March issue of Schuman Optics Magazine, we also deal with a serious problem faced by the residents of Gietrzwałd. The local sanctuary – the only one in Poland where Marian apparitions recognized by the Catholic Church took place – is under threat from the German retail chain Lidl, which has decided to build a waste incinerator there. The matter is not only outrageous, but also suspicious due to the way in which the building permits were obtained. One can only hope that the appropriate services will deal with it.

By handing over the March issue of Schuman Optics Magazine to you, I hope that with spring and the change in the American administration, a fresh breath of normality will reach the ideologized, rotten Europe. The Three Seas Initiative is a great chance for this, as long as Poland does not allow itself to be swallowed up by communist attackers who want to take away its democracy, independence and the right to self-determination.

Anna Wiejak

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WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO PURSUE EDUCATION AND FORMATION AT THE UNIVERSAL UNIVERSITY OF CHRISTIAN-SOCIAL TEACHING (PUNCS) UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II AND THE SERVANT OF GOD ROBERT SCHUMAN.

PUNCS operates within the framework of the Schuman Thought Institute as a non-formal educational initiative not based on the Higher Education Act. We have been active since February 2021, and we have now launched another edition, conducted online over two semesters from January to December 2024, typically every other Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:15 PM. The schedule of classes is available on

<https://puncs.pl/harmonogram-zajec/>.


At our institution, one can learn how Christian thought helps improve the state of the economy and society, including human labor. Participants discuss these topics with experts who present specific issues and write a thesis that includes their own ideas on changing their social environment. The courses are conducted free of charge.

The mission of PUNCS is to implement the principles of Christian social thought into economic and social life, and to form and build a network of animators who will promote such changes both in Poland and abroad. We hope that these Christian-Social Thought Animators will help diagnose and reduce the discrepancies between Christian thought and the current structure of various organizations and institutions. The lack of basic human decency, humility, understanding, and the betrayal of the truth are the causes of the most serious socio-economic problems, and it is important that we unite in an environment of people who courageously oppose a life without morality and without God. We not only strive to gain knowledge but also form ourselves together as animators, people of conscience, because such individuals are needed in our societies. PUNCS is a platform for further activities, such as the Animator Project for the Image of Poland in Europe and the Forum of Young Three Seas. For more information about PUNCS, please visit our website at <https://puncs.pl>, where you can fill out an online form to enroll in the courses. Contact: sekretariat@puncs.pl, tel. 575 990 686.

A large crowd of people is gathered at a night event, possibly a conference or concert, under a complex steel truss ceiling. Stage lights and equipment are visible in the background. The scene is dimly lit, with blue and white light sources. A thick yellow vertical bar is positioned on the left side of the image.

**ALLIANCE FOR
RESPONSIBLE
CITIZENSHIP:**

**AGE OF
RECONSTRU-
CTION**



ALMOST 4.5 THOUSAND PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN GREAT BRITAIN ON FEBRUARY 17-19, 2025. THE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE'S DELEGATION FROM POLAND, WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF SCHUMAN'S THOUGHT (IMS), HEADED BY PROF. ZBIGNIEW KRYSIAK, ECONOMIST, CHAIRMAN OF THE IMS PROGRAM COUNCIL.

„What is defining characteristic of this civilisational moment? I would say that what lies in front of us, perhaps the first time, is the opportunity to make foundational principles of our civilisation, conscious, explicit and oppositional. And in so doing to pave the way for a genuine and mutual appreciate of union of traditional conservatism and classic liberalism” - Jordan Peterson, co-funder of Alliance for Responsible Citizenship said.

“Why is hedonism wrong? Why is power wrong, technically? I think it’s because both of those motivating forces degenerate when they’re iterated. You can’t go through life like an immature 2 year old because you can’t sustain your own existence by satisfying your immediate gratification in the moment” - he emphasized. In his opening address at ARC 2025, Jordan Peterson shared with the audience his conviction in our need for a higher vision, one that unites and propels people to make sacrifices for one another and the community - moving from hedonistic immaturity to responsible citizenship.

„AGE OF RECONSTRUCTION”

In this stunning speech at ARC 2025, Douglas Murray called for an ‘Age of Reconstruction’ in Western Nations, fuelled by a conviction that our civilisations are the greatest the world has seen.

„Postmodernism included offspring of deconstructionism. Nothing came from that” - he said. „But I would like to suggest a name for the age we should be in and the age, that this conference can bring in, the ‘Age of Reconstruction’. We should be reconstructionists” - Murray emphasized.

He explained that deconstructionists are like children - they destroy and cannot repair this damage, while the task of the people gathered at the ARC conference is to develop a method to put the civilisation back together. In his opinion, first of all, we should ensure proper education of young people. „Money is not the problem. You can throw money and still have illiterates” - he noticed. Murray also drew attention to the need to take risks in connection with innovations, because - as he emphasized - without risk there is no chance of success.

PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

Prof. Zbigniew Krysiak did not hide his satisfaction with the results of the conference. "The Alliance for Responsible Citizenship community is a community of people of good will, representing Christian values as universal values, because not all participants were Christians. The activities of this community do not end with this one conference, because such groups operate in various places throughout the year" - he said in an interview for Schuman Optics Magazine. He recalled that the conference topics were extensive. "It covered the issue of the quality of the social community and family. The participants clearly supported a family consisting of a man and a woman. This community does not accept ideological action in favor of the so-called other forms of family" - he reported.

During the conference, the need to acquire values in the family that are later needed for social or economic activity was emphasized. The focus was on defending European civilization, built on Gospel values. A number of threats that this civilization must face are presented, including: migration and gender ideology.

THERE WERE ALSO ECONOMIC TOPICS

"A lot of topics were devoted to the economy and energy, and what was important in this issue of energy development or the need to increase energy production was focused on pulling people out of poverty. About 2 billion people in the world have no access to electricity. Why was the role of energy development shown? Providing energy alone will not eliminate poverty, but poverty cannot be eliminated without increasing the energy supply" - the economist explained.

“The ideological model of the Green Deal was very strongly attacked, showing that it focuses on first removing the current stable, available energy sources, without, of course, having any proposals to replace them. Today, the whole world, apart from the European Union, exploits these traditional energy sources to meet the demand in the economy, also from those who live in poverty. Paradoxical actions of Green Deal ideologists around the world were presented, who are trying to promote photovoltaics in Angola or Bangladesh as a solution to the problem, and energy poverty in these countries is so great that the only way to quickly provide cheap and stable energy are these traditional sources. Economic rationality, common sense and economic laws spoke, opposing the unscientific approach in the form of the Green Deal ideology” - the chairman of the IMS Program Council said.

WORK IN GROUPS

As part of the conference, participants took part in thematic workshops and then in intercontinental groups to integrate this community. About 500 people took part in a common prayer for peace and God's blessing on the matters discussed, "so that His will and the natural laws that He established would be respected".

“There were also very strong and good economic lectures by high-class professors and economists working in the energy industry, which showed that a country such as Germany and others that dominate photovoltaics and wind farms have the highest energy prices, and that the crisis that is taking place in Germany is spreading to all of Europe. 30 percent German companies intend to go outside the European Union. The implementation of the Green Deal ideology is to blame for this state of affairs. It has been shown that this ideology in the EU leads to lower GDP compared to the United States. This ultimately leads to investors fleeing the European Union. It is already slowly visible that even some countries in Africa

are starting to develop better than the EU countries thanks to the right model in energy, economy and education" - Prof. Krysiak noted.

When asked whether the Institute of Schuman's Thought had the opportunity to present its position on how to save the falling Latin civilization, Prof. Zbigniew Krysiak replied: "Yes. I had at least a hundred such conversations in backroom conversations. Also the second representative of the Institute of Schuman Thought, Ernest Michałowski. The second platform that provided the opportunity to present our approach in the spirit of Robert Schuman to these various topics were meetings in thematic groups and regional groups".

When asked what specific proposals the Institute of Schuman's Thought presented regarding saving civilization in Europe, the chairman of the IMS Program Council said: "First of all, education and promotion of knowledge about Robert Schuman and his model of the community of European nations as a contrast to the concept of Altiero Spinelli currently in force in the European Union. We offered various publications and an audiobook that we published. All this was very positively received". "We want conservative circles to be aware that the Ventotene Manifesto is included in the treaty changes. There is great chaos as to where and what the European Union is heading towards. There is a lack of understanding of the entire ideological foundations of this superstate model" - he explained, emphasizing that there is a very large opposition to the above-mentioned ideologies. "The second element is the Solidarity Resistance Movement Against the Superstate. It seems that people who are better informed understand the need for this next step, which will take international forms - not only demonstrations and strikes, but also building an expert base and substantive resistance groups that will operate in various environments" - he added.

ANNA WIEJAK



A great friend

OF THE INSTITUTE OF SCHUMAN'S
THOUGHT HAS

passed away

The Institute of Schuman Thought regrets to inform that on February 27, 2025, the Vice-Chairman of the PUNCS Program Council, Prof. Stanisław Gebhardt, died in Wrocław. Prof. Gebhardt personally knew Robert Schuman from the time when he was active in the Christian Democratic Youth Movement in the West and for our community he was a person who connected us both with Schuman himself and, above all, with the post-war activities of integrating the feuding nations of Europe and building healthy foundations for economic and social development based on the indications contained in Christian social thought. As an economist, Prof. Gebhardt was also personally involved in the development of countries, especially in Latin America and Indochina. Some of those he educated later became presidents in their countries.

Previously, Prof. Gebhardt was a soldier of the Polish Home Army, and after being arrested by the Germans, a prisoner in the concentration camps in Gross-Rosen and Mauthausen. During his stay and work in the West, however, he was able to cooperate fruitfully with the Germans, including personally knowing Konrad Adenauer and contributing to the establishment of the foundation bearing his name. In turn, after 1989, after returning to Poland, he was involved in efforts to revive the Christian-democratic movement in Poland. He received many awards, including on May 9, 2023, he was awarded the Order of the White Eagle by President Andrzej Duda.

Prof. Gebhardt's funeral took place at the Osobowice Cemetery in Wrocław on March 15, 2025 at 2:30 p.m., with the mass at 1:00 p.m. in the Garrison Church in the Market Square.

Ph.D. Marek Oktaba



***Paweł Pietkun:
EU censorship will
have a huge impact on
elections in Poland***

WE ARE DEALING WITH INCREASINGLY STRONGER CENSORSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. AMONG OTHERS, INSTITUTE OF SCHUMAN'S THOUGHT WAS AFFECTED BY IT. HOW BIG IS THE RISK THAT THIS CENSORSHIP WILL AFFECT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN POLAND SCHEDULED FOR MAY?

Paweł Pietkun: Censorship will have a very big impact. Generally, what is happening in the European Union is dangerous not only for Poland, not only for elections in Poland. It is dangerous for all countries that would like to retain at least some semblance of independence. The European Union is building a superstate. The pressure to ensure the smooth conduct of this process is very strong and very expensive, but the costs for the EU administration do not play a special role, as can be seen in subsequent budgets. This also shows how much the European Union cares about influencing individual countries, building this structure independently of the state and implanting certain ideological plans into it. This is also visible in the legal acts prepared by the European Union. These are different legal acts. This is, for example, the issue of this directive, which is supposed to warn and somehow control the development of artificial intelligence. It is dangerous because this entire document lacks an answer to the question of who would decide what is true in what artificial intelligence creates. Who would decide about this? Of course, the decision will be made by the EU administration, whose views we know and which has set itself in concrete

and will not want to budge even an inch. In my opinion, this is what every election will look like in which a politician with views other than those pro-superstate will want to be elected. The one that favors the European Union will be promoted. The one who is against will be harassed and disturbed, just like in Poland. Just like it happened during previous governments, when the European Union, even without white gloves, interfered in Polish internal politics and Polish affairs. It financed those organizations that it believed were favorable to it, and hindered the Polish government, which did not favor it - in the opinion of the European Union, because it had a different worldview and saw the future differently - through the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union, through the actions of the European Commission, and also through the decisions of the European Parliament.

RECENTLY, A REPORT BY THE MCC BRUSSELS ANALYTICAL CENTER CAME TO LIGHT, ITS AUTHORS REVEALING THE HUGE SCALE OF FUNDS SPENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON CENTRALIST PROPAGANDA THROUGHOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION. IT TURNS OUT THAT THE EC SPENDS MORE ON PROPAGANDA THAN ON SECURITY. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This is another reason for concern regarding the future of the European Union, but also the future of Poland and not only Poland in the European Union. I would like to draw attention to the fact that even before this

disturbing report by the analytical center, the British administration, which was heading towards Brexit, expressed a similar tone. This is not mentioned today. The issue of Brexit was overshadowed primarily by economic issues, and somewhat rightly, by immigrant issues. We, Poles, were hit by Brexit because a very large group of Poles went to work in Great Britain. However, in fact, the key argument for Great Britain leaving the European Union was regaining independence and legal independence, and they said it directly. Only here there was the intervention of the European Commission and all those "progressive" forces that strive to tighten integration within the Union, to create one large organism similar to the United States. Even in such simple areas, the European Commission spends money to keep us all thinking that Brexit was about getting rid of migrants. NO. These were multi-faceted efforts by the British. They wanted the Supreme Court of Great Britain to be independent of European tribunals and for the judgments made in Great Britain to be independent of what the European Union has to say about it. These were very valid efforts. The European Union is a creation that was supposed to be an alliance, a community of independent states, but it is no longer such a community of independent states. In fact, it is becoming a superstate and will spend every amount of money to conduct propaganda in this direction.

THIS GENEROUS PAYMENT OF CENTRALIST PROPAGANDISTS IS DE FACTO REMINISCENT OF THE YEARS OF COMMUNISM AND IS AN INDICATOR OF TOTALITARIAN STRUCTURES. THIS IS HOW STRICTLY TOTALITARIAN STATES BEHAVE...

Indeed. Fortunately or unfortunately, we Poles have a period of such subordination to Moscow in our history. We were still very lucky, because

we were a country that was in the Eastern bloc - we, Czechs, Hungarians - but many countries that are in the European Union today were not so lucky. Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians are perfectly aware of this - these were countries that were republics of the Soviet Union. Today Brussels wants to create the same republics. If this operation is successfully carried out, we will not be a state, but we will be a quasi-national entity, dependent on the decisions of Brussels, just as we were dependent on the decisions in Moscow. This is a very big danger. We, Poles, see this clearly because we have already practiced it once, and history is the best teacher.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE AWARENESS OF THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS BOTH AMONG JOURNALISTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

As for society in general, looking at how discussions take place on the Internet, but not only on the Internet, also in various social groups, in various associations, this awareness is increasing. However, when it comes to journalists, we must remember that this EU propaganda, for which the EU administration allocates huge funds, is also used to bribe journalists. Sometimes it happens in such a way, as in Poland, that those journalists who want to take part in this propaganda get better jobs, in better media, and can be promoted faster. European media, not only in Poland but throughout Europe, are divided into pro-EU media, which are simply a propaganda mouthpiece for the European Commission, and media that still have a hint of freedom and speak directly about what hurts them. Please note that much nicer cars are parked in front of the editorial offices of those media that are pro-EU than in front of the editorial offices of those media that call for reflection and consideration. Throughout the European Union. Not only

in Poland. It looks like this everywhere. The message is clear: if you take part in our propaganda, you will be better off, you will earn more money, you will be richer, you will enjoy greater prestige, because it is also a machine that drives itself. Journalists themselves invite themselves to various media. This is a pattern that is very clearly visible and this is the greatest danger we have to face in order to find the truth in this gigantic flood of propaganda.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF A JOURNALIST IN THE MODERN EUROPEAN UNION? WHAT MAIN TASKS OR CHALLENGES SHOULD IT MEET?

The role of a journalist, whether in the European Union or the United States, in Asia or in Africa, is always the same. A journalist is an intermediary - hence the name "media" - between information and the recipient: reader, viewer, listener. A journalist has one duty and one role - to show the truth. This is the role of journalists. If we, journalists, show the truth, if we give our recipients the opportunity to choose, we say: you know this point of view, now get to know this point of view, it will be enough for the European Union to shake its foundations - those positions that talk about creating a superstate. What is the role of a journalist? It depends on which journalist, because the role of a journalist paid by Brussels will be simple: conduct propaganda, encourage people to do what, according to European commissioners, is inevitable anyway. However, the role of a journalist who is a journalist by vocation is to tell the truth about everything that is happening in the European Union. Also about the threats posed by EU decisions, about the money spent on propaganda, on promoting values that are contrary to the European values by which we lived, which other countries also draw our attention to. For example, the current American

administration and Canadians say that European values are not exactly what they are trying to instil in us now. We have our values and we must be faithful to them. Otherwise we will be left with nothing.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR HONEST JOURNALISM AT ALL IN THE EU SYSTEM?

This is a very important question, but I think there will be a place for it. Just like in the Polish People's Republic (PRL), i.e. at a time when we were largely subordinated to Moscow, the second circulation media appeared, the so-called tissue paper. This is how, for example, "Tygodnik Solidarność" started. Many newspapers started this way. A journalist will remain a journalist. We will recognize real journalists by the fact that they will tell us the truth and will be open to discussion about what they have written, what they have said, about what they are convinced of. And propagandists will remain propagandists. The European Union does not realize that in this second journalistic circuit it is very easy to stumble, fall, and put an end of the most gigantic project of seizing power.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT WE WILL HAVE TO CREATE AN UNDERGROUND PRESS?

I think so. Of course, this won't happen this year, but I think that some editorial offices will operate, perhaps not so much underground, but on the verge of it. They will be clearly poorer because they will not receive subsidies from the European Union. They will not be able to count on financial support from one source or another, because from the perspective of European commissioners they will be illegitimate. These editorial offices



will actually be the underground of this journalism, but they will be very popular. Please look at Radio Free Europe, which started as a counterweight to communist propaganda, and which is still doing great today and producing very good materials. People will look for the truth and they will be very good at it. Even if we have to tighten our belts - I'm speaking a bit on behalf of journalists now - and live at a slightly lower standard than our colleagues from the propaganda media, we will simply do it. Not for the first time, not for the last time.

THERE IS STILL THE ISSUE OF AI AND REPLACING JOURNALISTS IN THE SO-CALLED NEWSROOMS. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. WHAT DANGERS DOES THIS

POSE, ESPECIALLY IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT AI IS TRAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEFT-WING AXIOLOGY, AND ACCORDING TO EU LAW, EVERY RIGHT-WING AND CHRISTIAN MESSAGE IS TREATED AS DISINFORMATION AND EXTREMISM?

The big danger here is that we don't actually have any organs or any idea - I'm speaking here as humanity, this applies not only to Europe, but to Europe above all - we don't have any control systems to check whether artificial intelligence is not lying to us or not skewed in one direction. What artificial intelligence scientists call bias, distortion, lack of objectivity, it works. Artificial intelligence hallucinates, i.e. sometimes writes untruths and provides false information. Sometimes it is crooked and supports one of two views because it has been trained to support it. This carries a great danger, because young people who are now entering adulthood - aged 15-16 - begin to distance themselves a little from the authorities who accompanied them in their earlier age - I mean primarily their parents and grandparents - they start to read and assume that what they have found is true, and this does not always have to be true. Such control will need to come over what artificial intelligence feeds us. Especially since, for now, artificial intelligence is a tool of only one side, a tool of the side that has power and money. I think that the artificial intelligence underground is still the melody of the future, if it appears at all. To tell you the truth, I think that artificial intelligence, which will sooner or later reach so far into our lives, will become a project shelved as a very dangerous project, threatening humanity.

PAWEŁ PIETKUN, JOURNALIST, DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS



10th European Congress of Local Governments

UNDER THE BANNER
OF NATIONAL
SECURITY



Over 2.8 thousand participants and dozens of thematic panels – this is a brief summary of one of the largest local government events of this half-year: the 10th European Congress of Local Governments, which took place in Mikołajki on 3-4 March. The event was held under the patronage of the Institute of Schuman's Thought and the monthly Schuman Optics Magazine.



Over 2,600 local government officials took part in 250 events, including thematic panels on topics including security, digital transformation, agriculture, health policy, environmental protection, innovation, construction and the future of Europe. The long list of participants, in addition to local government representatives, included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, Deputy Minister of Culture Maciej Wróbel, former Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Ukrainian Ambassador Vasyl Bodnar.

"The 10th European Congress of Local Governments in Mikołajki were two days of intensive exchange of ideas, inspiring meetings and fruitful discussions. The topics of the congress were focused on key challenges facing European local governments" - Senator Jerzy Wcisła said, pointing out that "in numerous discussion panels, important issues were raised, concerning many areas of life, often going beyond the sphere of local government activities". "It was an opportunity to listen to valuable discussions of experts from different countries, as well as exchange experiences with other participants" - he reported. "The European Congress of Local Governments is not only a place for debates. Above all, it is dozens of meetings with interesting people - representatives of organizations, companies, local governments, government institutions, youth and many others with whom we share common interests, cooperation or the prospect of establishing it" - he added.



"I trust President Trump to keep us safe"

Among the many exciting panels, the meeting with independent candidate for the President of the Republic of Poland Karol Nawrocki, who answered many difficult questions, not only those concerning local governments, was very popular. Asked whether the Pentagon's decision to suspend military aid to Ukraine puts Donald Trump where Putin is, Nawrocki replied: "This is terrible news for Ukraine and for our region of Central Europe. However, US soldiers and US equipment, soldiers in Poland, and let me remind you that we have about 10 thousand of them, but also US military support for Ukraine, is a guarantee that Ukraine can maintain its independence and sovereignty. But I have been looking at this situation in the same way for a long time. I recognize that President Zelensky's lack of gratitude, the lack of referring to geopolitics in an appropriate way, the lack of gratitude for such great allies as the United States, but also for those closer, our neighbors - I am talking about our country - has led to the situation in which we find ourselves. This situation is bad. The information is bad, but it is also a moment for the President of Ukraine to think about his actions towards his neighbors, Poland, and towards such a superpower as the United States. I do not believe, Mr. Editor, that President Trump is where Vladimir Putin is. However, this is a kind of tough negotiation". "I expect reflection from President Zelensky above all else" - he added. He recalled that President Zelensky's words that Ukraine was left alone were not true, because - as he emphasized - Poles opened their hearts and homes to Ukrainians.



"President Andrzej Duda supported the Ukrainian state. Poland rearmed its armed forces by sending military equipment to Ukraine and this kind of ingratitude from President Zelensky unfortunately brings such bad days and information as today's" - he noted. "I believe that President Trump will take care of the security of Central Europe, including the security of the Polish state" - the candidate for President of the Republic of Poland concluded.

Be ready for Russian aggression

"During this year's edition of the European Congress of Local Governments, for the first time in the history of the Congress, a decision-making game was presented, developed by employees of the Territorial Defense Forces Department of the Land Forces Academy, in which I had the opportunity to participate. This is of great value in the face of today's threats and the implementation of the Act on Population Protection and

Civil Defense, which directs many tasks to local governments" - Arkadiusz Werelich said, the starost of Wołomin. The issue that resonated particularly strongly was modern warfare and the way in which states should prepare for it.

In this context, the meeting with Lieutenant General Waldemar Skrzypczak, former commander of the Land Forces, deserves special attention. Asked how it was possible that experts predicted that the war of the future would be a war based on precision attacks without the participation of tanks and armored units, while in Israel and Ukraine we have a total war, General Skrzypczak said: "First of all, this results from the fact that NATO as such has not participated in a war on such a scale as the one in Ukraine. Secondly, the experience that NATO used resulted primarily from the operational activities conducted by the Americans in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of our globe. This experience is diametrically different from that which Ukrainians share in Ukraine in confrontation with an opponent such as Russia". "In the war in Ukraine, the air forces of both sides practically stopped operating after the initial, very intensive operations. Why? Because both sides had excellent air defense capabilities" - he explained. "It generally paralyzed the operations of both attack and fighter aircraft, as well as land forces aviation, i.e. combat helicopters" - he added.

Referring to the ongoing information and propaganda war, using social media and unlimited access to films reporting current events, General Waldemar Skrzypczak stated: "Generally speaking, we, as Poland, have been the target of information and psychological warfare for a long time. The Russians have been assaulting us for a dozen or so years, instilling information into our minds, which they want to smuggle to us in various ways. Among other things, through various types of media". "They claim that thanks to information and psychological warfare, they are able to achieve many of their successes, especially when it comes to our approach and understanding. And the Russians do it. Many people do not realize that we are in a state of war. I have been emphasizing for a long time that Poland is in a state of war, albeit a hybrid war, but the elements of this hybrid war include information warfare, psychological

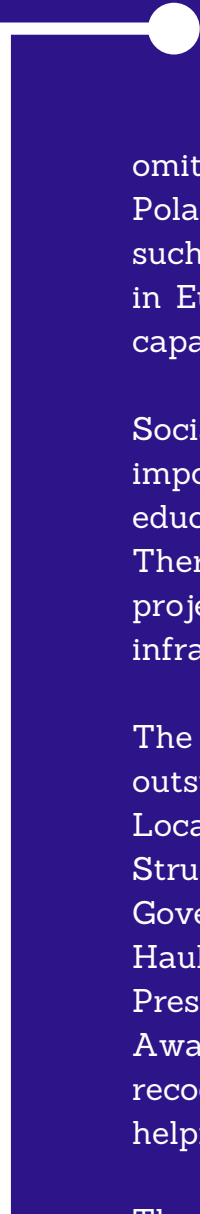
warfare, which manipulates our views on many things. Often many Poles, including politicians, succumb to these suggestions of very subtle Russian propaganda" - he argued, emphasizing that Russians very often touch upon such issues as Polish history or Polish interests. "In principle, there is no area of our country's functioning, our knowledge, structures, where Russians would not try to interfere and manipulate us" - he summed up. He pointed out that such a tool is very dangerous and sometimes much more effective than sending 100 tanks and 100 planes to the enemy.

Gen. Skrzypczak pointed out that Poland is not building resistance to such attacks, because "while Gerasimov has a psychological warfare strategy, we - and I have been saying this for a long time - have no counterstrategy for it, and I regret that".

Joint weapons purchases?

Asked by the Schuman Optics Magazine about the issue of collective defense and joint arms purchases, General Skrzypczak noted: "It would be good if there was a uniform plan at the European level that would formulate which country is able to do what for individual armies. I believe that many programs can be combined. If countries have specific capabilities - for example, Germany and Sweden to produce tanks - this potential must be used, and not built from scratch, for example, the ability to build tanks in other countries because we do not have time for it. The threat beyond our eastern border is growing and now the building of programs by some ambitious nation states that are already available in Europe is, in my opinion, a misunderstanding, a waste of time and money.

It is necessary to define at NATO level in Europe who can do what and these tasks must be distributed. Of course, no one can be left out and it cannot be that the money resulting from this European Union plan will be dedicated only to the main French, German or Italian concerns,



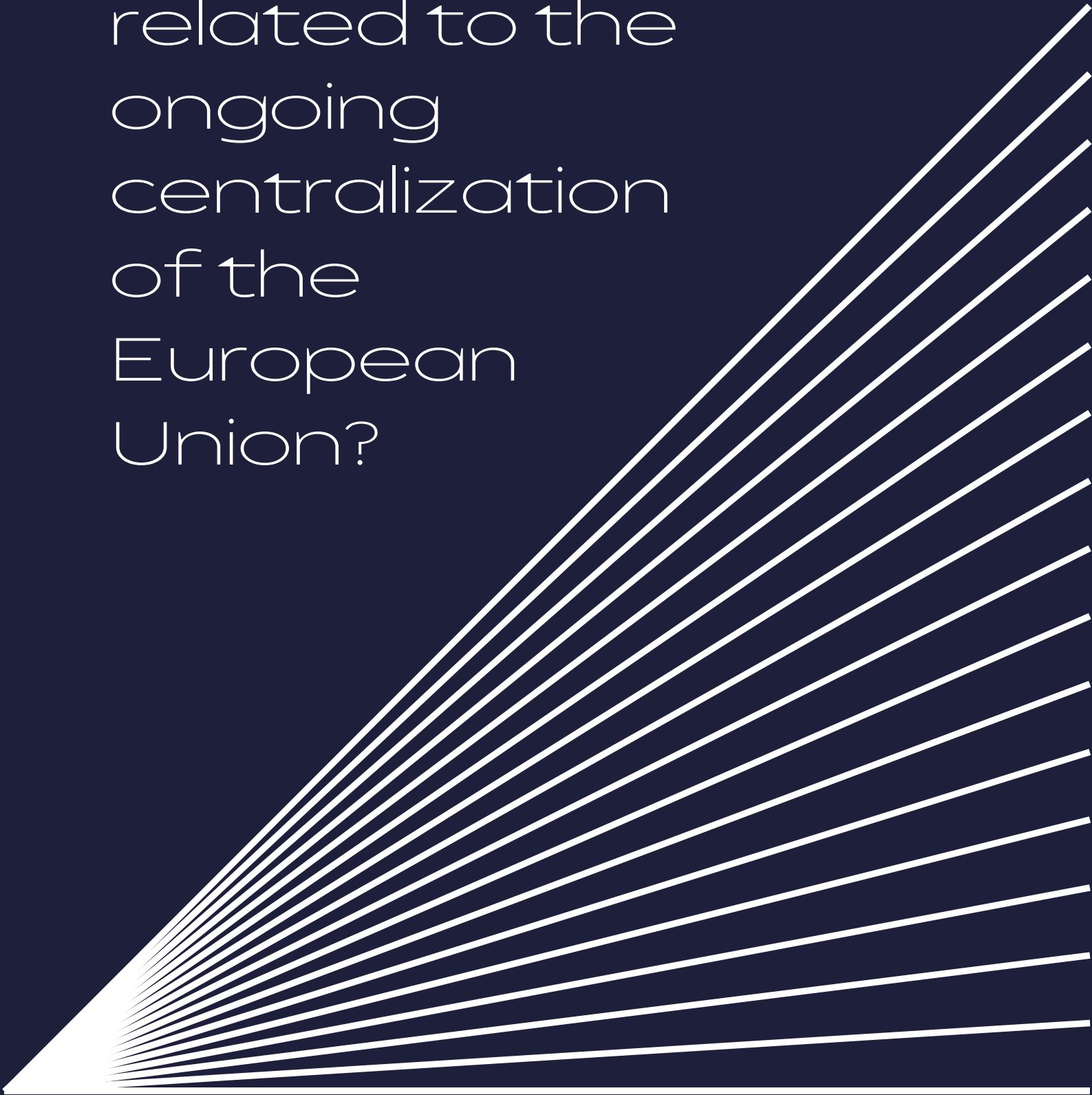
omitting smaller countries that have less potential, such as Poland. Poland is also capable of producing the latest generation of equipment, such as the "Piorun" anti-aircraft missiles, of which there are no others in Europe. In my opinion, if these efforts, technologies and production capacities were combined, a lot could be achieved".

Social issues, such as education, health and senior policy, were also an important topic. Discussions focused on improving the quality of education, access to medical services and support for senior citizens. There was also no shortage of topics related to financing regional projects and obtaining EU funds for the development of local infrastructure, as well as running a business or energy transformation.

The highlight of the Congress was the presentation of awards to outstanding personalities from the world of local government. The Local Government Official of the Year 2024 Award was given to Adam Struzik, Marshal of the Mazovian Voivodeship, the European Local Government Official of the Year Award was received by Linda Helén Haukland, Deputy Mayor of the Nordland District in Norway and Vice-President of the Assembly of European Regions, and the Special EKS Award was given to Zbigniew Tur, Mayor of the Kłodzko Commune, in recognition of his great commitment and enormous effort put into helping the victims of the flood that hit Lower Silesia last year.

The Main Partner of the 10th European Congress of Local Governments is the Warmia-Masuria Voivodeship, which has been actively supporting the development of local governments and promoting international cooperation for years. The Host City of this year's edition is Mikołajki, a charming town located in the heart of Masuria, which perfectly fits the idea of the congress as a place for meetings and dialogue.

What threats do you, as local government officials, see related to the ongoing centralization of the European Union?



Marcin Świącicki, Former Mayor of Warsaw:

There is definitely overregulation in the European Union. Fortunately, the Draghi report addresses this issue. The fact that Europe has been developing more slowly than the United States or the Far East in recent years means that some conclusions must be drawn.

Among economists, there is an interesting debate on how far taxes should be synchronized and unified within the EU. Some advocate for greater tax harmonization. Should income taxes be standardized or not? I believe there is room for fair competition in taxation. Some countries want toll roads, while others prefer free roads. Some

want free higher education, while others opt for a loan-based system. Some favor private healthcare, while others prefer public healthcare.

As a result, the necessity to impose higher or lower taxes varies from country to country, and tax competition should be allowed to prevent excessive taxation. If a country imposes too many taxes, people—whether entrepreneurs or residents—will start to leave. In this regard, decentralization and competition prove effective.



Another aspect is that the EU has mechanisms such as the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments that can block certain directives, serving as safeguards against excessive centralization. However, they may not always be effective.

Take environmental protection as an example—some regulations have no impact on global climate but affect people locally. These matters should absolutely be left to local governments and municipalities. Whether they want to regulate shoreline access in a particular way or not—what does that have to do with global climate? Such decisions should be fully decentralized.

There are excesses that need to be closely monitored to prevent the EU from overstepping. But on the other hand, there are areas that should be more strongly delegated to the EU level for greater efficiency—foreign and defense policy, for example, absolutely should be handled at the EU level.

Olgierd Geblewicz, Marshal of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship:

Today, there are many challenges, and we must be honest—not just as local government officials. As local officials, subsidiarity and self-governance are in our DNA, so our stance is clear. But let's look at our residents. The truth is that in times of crises like war or a pandemic, people expect a response from the highest level as quickly as possible. That is a fact.

Even at the regional level, we were not capable of handling things alone.

And Polish regions are quite large—my voivodeship is geographically bigger than Slovenia, for example. So, we have capacities similar to some countries. But if we had to procure vaccines on our own, could we have managed? I wouldn't have taken on that responsibility at this stage.

In my view, because we live in turbulent times, centralist thinking is on the offensive, while we are somewhat on the defensive. However, I still see many defenders of subsidiarity at the European level—in the European Parliament and even in the Commission. Of course, the European Committee of the Regions, where I serve in the presidency, naturally upholds this principle. So, I believe that subsidiarity will largely remain intact.

A crucial issue I have raised is the relationship between subsidiarity in practice and financial decentralization. Let's be honest: these are interconnected. Look at what Viktor Orbán did in Hungary when he wanted to weaken local governments. In Hungary, schools were the biggest responsibility of local governments, so he tightened financial restrictions so much that municipalities could no longer sustain schools.

Today, when I talk to local government colleagues, they face a similar struggle. For instance, the Teacher's Charter is regulated at the national



level in Warsaw, but funding comes from local governments. Then someone says, "Sorry, gentlemen, you can't handle it, so we need to centralize it."

A similar dynamic is playing out at the European level. On one hand, we defend local governance, but on the other, in terms of financial tools, a key pillar—cohesion policy—is being deprioritized. Cohesion policy, which helped equalize opportunities among regions, supported the weaker areas, enabling them to stand on their own and fulfill their responsibilities to citizens.

Now, however, we see this financial priority shifting. When discussing the future of cohesion policy after 2027, we see that 20% of future funds will have to be allocated to repaying debt from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Secondly, no one doubts that additional funds must be set aside for defense—and that's hard to argue against.

Moreover, farmers will never allow themselves to be deprived, so the Common Agricultural Policy will remain strong. This means that cohesion policy is falling to the fourth or even fifth priority.

Additionally, the policy is being undermined in another way—stability is crucial for local governments. We need certainty when planning. We design projects, prepare documentation, and develop long-term strategies with the assumption that funds will be available for implementation.

But across the EU, the prevailing thinking is: "No, we need flexibility; these are turbulent times, and we must shift funds quickly from one priority to another." This undermines planning and leads to stagnation. And stagnation in local governance means regression—if we are not developing, we are falling behind.

This poses an objective risk: that the fundamental principles of the EU—subsidiarity, cohesion policy, and regional policy—are now being pushed into the background for various understandable but concerning reasons.

MUNICH VECTORS

FEBRUARY 14 SHOCKED EUROPEAN ELITES ACCUSTOMED TO PATS ON THE BACK AND GENEROUS USE OF EMPTY WORDS SUCH AS "DEMOCRACY", "SECURITY" AND "FREEDOM OF SPEECH". THE LECTURE OF VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES JD VANCE DURING THE SECURITY CONFERENCE IN MUNICH NOT ONLY SET THE VECTORS IN THE POLICY OF THE CURRENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, BUT EXPOSED THE SICK REALITY OF THE INCREASINGLY COMMUNIST EUROPEAN UNION.



„While the Trump administration is very concerned with European security, and believes that we can come to a reasonable settlement between Russia and Ukraine, and we also believe that it's important in the coming years for Europe to step up in a big way to provide for its own defense, the threat that I worry the most about vis-a-vis Europe is not Russia, it's not China, it's not any other external actor. What I worry about is the threat from within, the retreat of Europe from some of its most fundamental values, values shared with the United States of America" - JD Vance said.

„I look to Brussels, where EU Commission commissars warn citizens that they intend to shut down social media during times of civil unrest the moment they spot what they've judged to be 'hateful content.' Or to this very country, where police have carried out raids against citizens suspected of posting anti-feminist comments online as part of 'combating misogyny on the internet" - he enumerated.

„And perhaps most concerningly, I look to our very dear friends, the United

Kingdom, where the backslide away from conscience rights has placed the basic liberties of religious Britons, in particular, in the crosshairs. A little over two years ago, the British government charged Adam Smith Connor, a 51-year-old physiotherapist and an Army veteran, with the heinous crime of standing 50 meters from an abortion clinic and silently praying for three minutes. Not obstructing anyone, not interacting with anyone, just silently praying on his own" - the US vice president did not hide his indignation. "After British law enforcement spotted him and demanded to know what he was praying for, Adam replied simply, it was on behalf of the unborn son he and his former girlfriend had aborted years before. The officers were not moved. Adam was found guilty of breaking the government's new buffer zones law, which criminalizes silent prayer and other actions that could influence a person's decision within 200 meters of an abortion facility. He was sentenced to pay thousands of pounds in legal costs to the prosecution – he reported.

„I wish I could say that this was a fluke, a one-off, crazy example of a badly written law being enacted against a single person, but no. This last October, just a few months ago, the Scottish government began distributing letters to citizens whose houses lay within so-called safe access zones, warning them that even private prayer within their own homes may amount to breaking the law. Naturally, the government urged readers to report any fellow citizen suspected guilty of thought crime in Britain and across Europe" - Vance continued.

„Free speech, I fear, is in retreat and in the interest of comedy, my friends, but also in the interest of truth, I will admit that sometimes the loudest voices for censorship have come not from within Europe, but from within my own country, where the prior administration threatened and bullied social media companies to censor so-called misinformation. Misinformation, like, for example, the idea that coronavirus had likely leaked from a laboratory in China. Our own government encouraged private companies to silence people who dared to utter what turned out to be an obvious truth" - he pointed.

„So, I come here today not just with an observation, but with an offer. Just as the Biden administration seemed desperate to silence people for speaking their minds, so the Trump administration will do precisely the opposite, and I

hope that we can work together on that. In Washington, there is a new sheriff in town, and under Donald Trump's leadership, we may disagree with your views, but we will fight to defend your right to offer it in the public square" - he turned to the gathered politicians.

JD Vance alarmed, that „we're at the point, of course, that the situation has gotten so bad that this December, Romania straight up canceled the results of a presidential election based on the flimsy suspicions of an intelligence agency and enormous pressure from its continental neighbors". „Now, as I understand it, the argument was that Russian disinformation had infected the Romanian elections. But I'd ask my European friends to have some perspective. You can believe it's wrong for Russia to buy social media advertisements to influence your elections. We certainly do. You can condemn it on the world stage, even. But if your democracy can be destroyed with a few hundred thousand dollars of digital advertising from a foreign country, then it wasn't very strong to begin with" - he noticed.

„Now, to many of us on the other side of the Atlantic, it looks more and more like old, entrenched interests hiding behind ugly Soviet era words like misinformation and disinformation, who simply don't like the idea that somebody with an alternative viewpoint might express a different opinion, or, God forbid, vote a different way, or, even worse, win an election" - he stated.

„Now, this is a security conference, and I'm sure you all came here prepared to talk about how exactly you intend to increase defense spending over the next few years in line with some new target. And that's great because, as President Trump has made abundantly clear, he believes that our European friends must play a bigger role in the future of this continent. We don't think you heard this term 'burden sharing', but we think it's an important part of being in a shared alliance together that the Europeans step up, while America focuses on areas of the world that are in great danger" - Vance expressed the expectations of the American administration towards European allies.

„I believe deeply that there is no security if you are afraid of the voices, the

opinions, and the conscience that guide your very own people. Europe faces many challenges, but the crisis this continent faces right now, the crisis I believe we all face together, is one of our own making. If you're running in fear of your own voters, there is nothing America can do for you, nor, for that matter, is there anything that you can do for the American people who elected me and elected President Trump. You need democratic mandates to accomplish anything of value in the coming years" - he emphasized.

„And of course, we know that very well in America. You cannot win a democratic mandate by censoring your opponents or putting them in jail, whether that's the leader of the opposition, a humble Christian praying in her own home, or a journalist trying to report the news. Nor can you win one by disregarding your basic electorate on questions like who gets to be a part of our shared society" - he lectured the Eurocrats who were shocked by his openness and sincerity.

„I think this is one of the most important things I've learned in my brief time in politics. Contrary to what you might hear, a couple mountains over in Davos, the citizens of all of our nations don't generally think of themselves as educated animals or as interchangeable cogs of a global economy. And it's hardly surprising that they don't want to be shuffled about or relentlessly ignored by their leaders. It is the business of democracy to adjudicate these big questions at the ballot box. I believe dismissing people, dismissing their concerns, or worse yet, shutting down media, shutting down elections or shutting people out of the political process, protects nothing. In fact, it is the most surefire way to destroy democracy" - he informed the conference participants.

JD Vance concluded his speech with a reference to the words of the Polish Pope: "As Pope John Paul II, in my view, one of the most extraordinary champions of democracy on this continent or any other, once said: "Do not be afraid." We shouldn't be afraid of our people, even when they express views that disagree with their leadership. Thank you all. Good luck to all of you. God bless you".

GERMANY'S FURY

„If I understood him (Vance - ed.) correctly, he compared the situation in Europe to the situation in some authoritarian regimes. Ladies and gentlemen, these are unacceptable words" - German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said. Those gathered in the hall reacted with thunderous applause. "Democracy does not mean that a loud minority will automatically be right and can decide what is true. Democracy must be able to defend itself against extremists who are trying to destroy it" - he thundered. It is no secret that for the left-wing European mainstream, every manifestation of patriotism and conservatism constitutes extremism that should be fought with all possible means, including breaking the law.

Christoph Heusgen, who as a diplomat should have much better self-control, went much further in his emotions. "Thanks to Ewald von Kleist, the Munich conference has become a transatlantic conference, but after Vice President Vance's speech, we are afraid that our common values are no longer so common" - Heusgen summed up the conference, his voice visibly breaking and shedding a few tears. Apparently he was unable to do anything more, but this is hardly surprising - the actions of the European mainstream are indefensible and have nothing to do with democracy. Increasingly stronger censorship, acting against its own citizens and against their interests, and forcefully imposing neo-Marxist ideology are just part of a long list of anti-democratic sins of EU institutions.

What the Eurocrats apparently do not understand is that their policies contribute to the economic, military and social weakening of European countries, instead of strengthening them. And it is only a matter of time before this will have disastrous consequences.



WILL THE US WITHDRAW FROM EUROPE?

The question remains open about the scope of the United States' future involvement in Europe. From JD Vance's statement it can be concluded that the US will strive for Europe to solve its problems on its own, while Washington will focus on the situation in Asia. The reality of such a scenario can be seen in the later words of Donald Trump, who stated after a conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron that "European troops may enter Ukraine" (he did not rule out the help of American troops). This would be completely natural due to the growing threat from China, the

expansion of which the US has a serious problem with, also on its territory. On the other hand, however, Washington cannot "let go" of Europe precisely because of the Chinese threat, especially since the European policy pushed by Germany has led to significant economic dependence on China and results in the strengthening of this country while destroying its own potential, not only economic.

Karolina Maria Koter

PROF. RADOSŁAW ŻURAWSKI VEL GRAJEWSKI, HISTORIAN:

I come to the conclusion that we should hold off for a while with final comments regarding the behavior of Trump and the US under his leadership. The game he is playing seems to have many boards. He does not negotiate mainly with Putin, but mainly with Zelensky. It seems that the goal is not to make a deal with Russia, but to block it, while gaining profits for the US and pushing Germany out of Eastern Europe. The result may be the end of Berlin's dreams of Mitteleuropa. Knowing Trump's strongly negative attitude towards Germany, I think he has come to the conclusion that he will not defend Ukraine so that the Germans can install themselves there, and this is now blocking their influence. German stories about values and support in a situation when it is clear that Moscow's armaments have been financed by Berlin for years and would still like to quickly return to Russian sources of cheap energy, encourage Trump to treat the German-dominated EU ruthlessly, which is a military nothingness, but prone to harsh rhetoric towards the US and Trump in particular. Now it's blow for blow.

Sikorski seems to be starting to understand this and is apparently warming up his comments towards Trump. It will soon turn out that he has always been a conservative in spirit. I think that he is constantly trying to be in the winners' camp, he is a man to be bought and the Americans know it, and yet it is easy to predict that the current protector of the current Polish government - Germany, will soon find itself in an even deeper confusion than before, and they still have few cards to throw against Trump. In a word, I will venture the thesis that Trump is not seeking an agreement with Moscow that would result in the abandonment of Ukraine, but on the contrary (probably with the cession of some territories) he is seeking to permanently engage important American interests in Ukraine, block further Russian expansion and expel German influence from there.

SCANDAL IN THE EU!

IN THE BACKGROUND, BILLIONS
OF EUROS SPENT ON
PROPAGANDA



The MCC Brussels think tank has published a shocking report revealing the European Commission's misuse of taxpayer funds, funneling billions to a secret network of non-governmental organizations and advisory centers to promote its own political agenda and silence dissenting voices. As representatives of the think tank emphasize, this huge propaganda complex of the EU and non-governmental organizations undermines democracy and constitutes a mass betrayal of European citizens.

These findings come after the scandal surrounding the US government's funding of global propaganda NGOs through USAID, as well as the recent scandal surrounding the European Commission's funding of green NGOs to lobby for the controversial Green Deal.

Following these reports, MCC Brussels is calling for the creation of an "EU Department of Government Effectiveness (EU DOGE)" modeled on a similar initiative implemented by the Trump administration to root out extraordinary misuse of funds and blatant financing of propaganda.

"The EU has amassed an extraordinary propaganda network of NGOs and compliant media, paid for by EU taxpayers, often working directly against the

wishes of European citizens. Given the scale of this EU-NGO propaganda complex, we need a body with the power and drive to expose the full scale of this ideological corruption, which is why we are calling for an EU DOGE. We also know that this is merely the tip of the iceberg, as the report only assesses funding through the CERV programme and does not consider the multiple other ways in which the EU funnels money to its pet causes. Only a radical new department with extensive powers would be able to expose the scale of the issue” - Frank Furedi, executive director of MCC Brussels, said.

The Institute of Schuman's Thought is of the opinion that although it would be necessary to establish a body that would put an end to this practice, it should rather be done at the level of the Member States. "Recognizing that there is any government in Brussels is contrary to the Polish *raison d'état* and the currently applicable treaties, and the creation of such an institution would be associated with this" - Anna Wiejak, an analyst at the Institute of Schuman's Thought, notes. In her opinion, it would be best to conduct an audit of all operating non-governmental organizations to eliminate similar pathologies.

THE AMOUNTS SPENT ON PROPAGANDA ARE STAGGERING

As part of its own promotion, the European Commission has allocated over EUR 45 billion to “Resilience and Values” for the period 2021-2027, of which a staggering EUR 1.8 billion has been earmarked specifically for “Rights and Values”. Most of this amount, EUR 1.5 billion, goes to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program fighting the so-called hate speech and homophobia and the so-called minority rights. For 2025, EUR 236 million has been allocated to the CERV program. The propaganda pawns were massively those non-governmental organizations and advisory teams that clearly agree with the vision of European centralization represented by the EC. These organizations, financially dependent on the EU, have acted and continue to act as channels to promote the



Commission's agenda. "The Commission funnels substantial funding to NGOs and think tanks that are explicitly aligned with its vision of deeper European integration. These organizations, financially dependent on the EU, act as conduits for promoting the Commission's agenda. The European Commission channels substantial funding to NGOs and think tanks to advocate for its policies, blurring the lines between independent civil society and institutional propaganda" - the report's authors say.

MCC Brussels experts also accuse the European Commission and some non-governmental organizations of interference in the internal policies of EU member states. In their opinion, "the Commission's support for local NGOs in member states is used to undermine or attempt to delegitimize democratically elected administrations under the pretext of defending 'EU values'". "This constitutes foreign interference in the internal affairs of sovereign nations" - they warn. The report argues that the EU has weaponized civil society organizations, turning them into instruments of institutional propaganda. The EU-NGO complex creates a self-perpetuating cycle in which the Commission funds NGOs, which then lobby

for more EU policies and funding, often at the expense of broader democratic accountability. EU funding practices distort public debates and silence alternative perspectives, favoring supranational integration over national sovereignty and democratic pluralism.

According to the report, there are significant gaps in transparency in the allocation and supervision of EU funds, raising concerns about the misuse of public money for political purposes rather than real civic needs. They emphasize that it is often difficult to track the detailed allocation of funds, especially those reallocated through sub-grants or subcontracts.

"The massive EU-NGO propaganda complex exposed in this report — a central pillar of what can rightly be termed the European deep state — serves as a stark reminder that the greatest threat to democracy in Europe today comes not from external forces, but from within. Rather than upholding democratic values, the EU has systematically leveraged its institutional power to manipulate public discourse, suppress dissent and entrench its supranational agenda at the expense of national sovereignty and democratic accountability. The time has come for Europeans to stand up to the European Commission's growing authoritarian drift" - Thomas Fazi, the report author said.

"I am even more of the opinion that control activities should be carried out at the level of the Member States so as not to in any way legitimize the existence of any entity called a European state" - Anna Wijek comments on Fazi's words. "Member states cannot afford to be taken away any more competences, because they are already losing their independence" - she notes.

DETAILED CALCULATIONS

The largest beneficiaries of EU funds were: EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (€6 million), European Network Against Racism (€4.9 million), European Women's Lobby (€4.8 million). Thousands of euros also went to pay for the fight against the anti-centralist narrative in Europe, the fight against "nationalisms" and for the media serving the European mainstream. For example, according to the report, the

pan-European station Euronews has received a quarter of a billion euro in total over the last ten years. NGOs and think tanks were paid for the fight against so-called disinformation.

„The EU’s funding practices have skewed public debates and silenced alternative perspectives, fostering a one-sided narrative that prioritises supranational integration over national sovereignty and democratic pluralism” - the report authors evaluated. „Under the pretence of combating disinformation, the Commission has increasingly supported initiatives that promote censorship of dissenting opinions, limiting the diversity of public discourse and consolidating control over the flow of information in the EU”. They emphasized, that „in member states governed by conservative and eurosceptic governments, the Commission’s support for local NGOs has extended into interference in domestic politics, undermining or attempting to delegitimise democratically elected administrations under the pretext of defending ‘EU values’”.

The EU's multiannual budget for 2021-2027 represents a significant change in the way the EU uses its budget to promote its 'values', with over €45 billion allocated to 'Resilience and Values', representing around five percent of the total EU budget. Including over EUR 7 billion in 2025 alone. For comparison, just over EUR 3.5 billion was allocated for migration under seven-year plans in the 2025 budget, while only EUR 2 billion was allocated for defense and security. In 2026, over EUR 8 billion will be allocated to EU propaganda, while EUR 2 billion will be allocated to defense (data from the official Journal of the European Union).

"EU propaganda is paid for from citizens' money, and no one has asked them for their opinion whether they really want to spend it this way" - Anna Wiejak noted. In her opinion, this is further evidence of the increasingly totalitarian system of the entity called the European Union. Wiejak also pointed out that such low funds allocated to security prove that the EU does not intend to build real defense capabilities. “Such sums will only suffice to suppress citizens' protests when they will be deprived of their property in the name of implementing the Ventotene Manifesto. Each member state should look at the matter realistically and build its own defense capabilities and prevent the creation of an EU army, because this will tie their hands in the event of actual aggression against their country" - she said.

Karolina Maria Koter



A STABILIZATION MISSION IN UKRAINE WOULD BE A TRAP FOR POLAND?

Prof. Romuald Szeremietiew: We must not allow such a risky situation to arise for us...

DONALD TRUMP HAS SUSPENDED AID TO UKRAINE AFTER VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY'S SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOR. HOW DO YOU ASSESS THIS WHOLE SITUATION, PROFESSOR? WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Prof. Romuald Szeremietiew: The consequence of this should be that President Zelensky sobers up. I don't know if President Zelensky didn't realize that without the reliance and support of the United States, he would lose everything, and Ukraine as a sovereign state could disappear.

INDEED, IT WAS A VERY SURPRISING MOVE ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT ZELENSKY, WHO WAS ACCUSTOMED TO SIMILAR ACTIONS IN EUROPE, WHICH BROUGHT A DIFFERENT RESULT IN EUROPE THAN IN THE CLASH WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Yes. We need to realize the whole situation in which Zelensky's behavior played out and was revealed. President Trump had prepared a certain plan to end the hostilities in Ukraine and the United States' entry into Ukraine would guarantee Ukraine's security, but Trump also wanted to have a justification before the Americans for why he was entering there. Hence the issue of using rare earth minerals, which from the point of view of modern technology, especially the production of electronic devices, is of great importance. That is why Trump made such a proposal to the Ukrainian side. The agreement on guaranteeing the United States access to these rare earth elements was negotiated in Kiev and was prepared by both sides. Zelensky was going to Washington to sign this agreement. He appeared in the White House and began to behave strangely. First, he did not intend to sign any agreement. He began to demand some additional guarantees, which were not discussed, nothing of the sort was agreed.

President Trump was clearly surprised, and then everything developed as it did.

The question arises, why did this happen and what caused Zelensky, who was on his way to sign the agreement, to change his mind and behave differently than Trump expected?

MAYBE IT IS A MATTER OF THE FACT THAT ZELENSKY'S DEMANDING NATURE USUALLY BROUGHT GOOD RESULTS, FOR EXAMPLE IN RELATIONS WITH POLAND OR GERMANY?

Not only that. I think there is a deeper reason. Based on various sources, we can assume that the Ukrainian side has already promised these rare earth metals to someone else. It seems that the main parties involved here are the Germans, the French and the English. Therefore, if Zelensky had signed the agreement, as agreed with the Americans, then the commitments that Zelensky made to the Europeans would have had to go to waste. Let us note that before Zelensky left for Washington, there was a meeting in Kiev, attended by Mrs. von der Leyen. Tusk was not there, but other European leaders were there, and there were discussions. You can see a characteristic photo of Zelensky sitting at a table, and around him, in a wreath, almost on his knees, European politicians, and you could see that they were discussing something in a lively way. I do not rule out the possibility that Zelensky was "tricked" by the Europeans not to sign this agreement with Trump, that in return he would receive European support. And Trump - if the refusal is with an open curtain - in such a situation will give in, that is, he will act as other political leaders often did, with whom Zelensky negotiated in this way, obtaining for Ukraine everything he wanted.

THE QUESTION IS, HOW ON EARTH WERE EUROPEAN LEADERS ABLE TO PERSUADE ZELENSKY TO DO THIS, GIVING IN RETURN GUARANTEES FROM EUROPE? IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF EITHER FRANCE OR GERMANY, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASK WHETHER THE

EUROPEAN UNION HAS ENOUGH TROOPS AT ALL TO SECURE ABOUT 1,200 KM OF ACTIVE FRONT AND ANOTHER THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS OF THE UKRAINIAN BORDER?

I think that the EU leaders were not aware that Trump could play hardball, withhold support for Ukraine. It seemed impossible to them. A fighting, bleeding Ukraine, and here comes Zelensky dressed in a jersey and shows photos of a massacred Ukraine, killed Ukrainians and what? And Trump says: oh well, we have to help you, let's meet again to negotiate, etc. We are reopening negotiations on a matter that had already been agreed, negotiated. European leaders seem to have underestimated President Trump.

THE RESULT OF ALL THIS CONFUSION IS THAT EUROPEAN LEADERS ARE ACCUSING PRESIDENT TRUMP OF BEING PRO-RUSSIAN...

And this is just a consequence of their unwise policy, which they have been pursuing for some time. There is another important issue. In connection with the fact that there were elections in Germany, the government is changing, this German factor has disappeared from our horizon, and in my opinion it plays a very important role. Namely: after Vice President Vance's speech in Munich, and after what President Trump has already declared - not only in what he says, but in what he does - it is clear that the new administration of the United States wants to rebuild the current international order, in which the United States plays the main role, in such a way that the United States will no longer be alone, but will guarantee this order together with other entities.

A kind of union of states that maintain this current order is to be created, in order to prevent the outbreak of war and to stop especially those imperialisms that appear - such as the Russian one. In what way? Well, in such a way that the states that will be connected not only by a military alliance or economic ties, but will also adopt a similar system of values together, will take care of this. This resounded very strongly in Vance's speech. What are these values? These are the values, speaking most

generally after Professor Koneczny, of Latin civilization. This is also very visible in what the US president says and does in his country, in what direction his actions are going when it comes to the protection of unborn life, etc.

After all, it was Vance's words that made the German chairman of the Munich Security Conference cry. European politicians - those who have influence on the EU at the moment - are not supporters of the values of Latin civilization. So there is a very serious rupture and a serious conflict here - perhaps what we now call a clash of civilizations.

Going further, it has been clear for some time that the concept of building a "geopolitical community from Vladivostok to Lisbon" on the Berlin-St. Petersburg line was born...

IT WAS NOT ABANDONED EVEN DURING THE WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE...

Absolutely! Quite the opposite. It is still, so to speak, in the mind. The direction set by the new leadership of the United States, President Trump, is at odds with this idea of a German-Russian geopolitical community. Zelensky has recently changed the direction of Kiev's policy significantly, establishing very close ties with Germany. From that moment on, there was a rupture in the Polish section, because both President Andrzej Duda and the United Right government were in this alliance that President Trump wants to build in terms of international order. Here, it seems to me, everything is clear.

YES, BUT WE NO LONGER HAVE A UNITED RIGHT GOVERNMENT, BUT A DONALD TUSK GOVERNMENT, A GOVERNMENT CLOSELY LINKED TO BERLIN. WE ALSO HAVE A SITUATION IN WHICH THE POLISH AUTHORITIES ARE BEING EGGED ON BY EUROPEAN LEADERS TO SEND TROOPS TO UKRAINE.

Yes.

SHOULD POLAND SEND A MILITARY MISSION TO UKRAINE?

Poland shouldn't do that. As a country, we shouldn't play on the opposing team, so to speak. The Polish nation and its elites - the vast majority of them - are, after all, the area of Latin civilization. That's why Poles have welcomed the change of power in the United States with such enthusiasm and support the actions of President Trump and Vice President Vance. All of this has been well-received by the so-called conservatives in Poland. But who has rejected it? Those who do not respect the values of Latin civilization, who latch onto all the rainbow-gender ideas that Western Europe and some part of the American elites are pushing. That's the whole problem.

So here the issue is this - either President Trump will not succeed and all those who have interfered before and who are now deciding in the EU will come to power - also when it comes to international order - and then - in my opinion - we have World War III in the perspective and big problems when it comes to our country. Or Trump will succeed and build the aforementioned alliance of states, and Poland must be included in this alliance. For Poland to be included in it, the power in Warsaw must change to a government that will operate in the sphere of Latin civilization values and then... World War III will not happen.

RETURNING TO THE ISSUE OF A POTENTIAL POLISH MILITARY MISSION IN UKRAINE, IT SEEMS THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAP, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE WASHINGTON TREATY, WHICH SPEAKS OF HELPING AN ALLY THAT IS BEING ATTACKED, AND NOT AN ALLY THAT HAS DECIDED TO BECOME ENTANGLED IN AN ARMED CONFLICT BY ITS OWN DECISION.

First, this provision of Article 5 applies to countries that are NATO

members. Ukraine is not a NATO member.

BUT BY INTERVENING IN UKRAINE, POLAND WOULD ITSELF BECOME EMBROILED IN A WAR AND THEN – AND THIS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO DECLARING WAR ON RUSSIA – IT COULD BE LEFT WITHOUT ALLIED HELP.

We must not allow such a risky situation to arise for us...

UKRAINE WOULD LIKE TO BE A NATO STATE...

It is difficult to talk about accepting Ukraine into NATO while there is a war going on there. The moment Ukraine is accepted, the Alliance would find itself in a state of war with Russia. Immediately. Automatically.

THERE IS ALSO THE ISSUE OF BANDERISM, WHICH IS THE UKRAINIAN VERSION OF NAZISM, AND NATO IS UNABLE TO IGNORE IT AND ACCEPT SUCH A COUNTRY INTO ITS STRUCTURES.

If we look at the Washington Treaty, and especially at its ideological assumptions, there are provisions there that originate from the area of Latin civilization, from this sphere of values. It is therefore difficult to imagine that a country would be in NATO that neither represents nor respects these values. This is another issue that arises here. Let us recall the words of Jarosław Kaczyński: "Ukraine with Bandera will not enter Europe". And finally, one can imagine that NATO could decide to carry out a peace mission in Ukraine and then send some troops. But for this to happen, the hostilities would have to be interrupted, not participation in the war. This is simply out of the question.

THERE IS ALSO A QUESTION ABOUT THE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A

MASSIVE POLISH MILITARY EFFORT – POTENTIAL, OF COURSE – IN THE UKRAINIAN DIRECTION. AFTER ALL, THE MAIN GATEWAY THROUGH WHICH RUSSIAN TROOPS CAN ENTER POLAND IS PRIMARILY BELARUS.

Yes. The fundamental and main direction of the Russian attack on Poland has always been the area from Smolensk to Grodno to Warsaw. It is therefore obvious that we must build up our strength, our army especially for this reason.

THE EU SPENDS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE ON CENTRALIST PROPAGANDA THAN ON SECURITY. CAN POLES FEEL SAFE IN THE EU THEN? THERE IS TALK OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE, THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION AS A COMMUNITY OF STATES WILL ARM ITSELF, BUT FOR NOW THESE ARE JUST HOOTINGS, AND THERE IS NO SIGN OF SPECIFICS.

These are just words. The only achievement that can be noted in recent years in the case of the Union, apart from adopting absurd, ideological solutions in the sphere of customs and in the sphere of climate, was the invention of a cap integrated with a bottle and a common charger for electronic devices. It seems that there were no more achievements on the EU side.

EXACTLY. BILLIONS OF EUROS GO TO PROPAGANDA AND UTOPIAN IDEOLOGICAL GOALS INSTEAD OF STRENGTHENING SECURITY.

Money is being wasted and stolen in the EU. It would be worth holding Ursula von der Leyen accountable, even if only for how she bought those unfortunate Covid vaccines, where that money went and why in that way. What happened to those vaccines, which – it turns out – were bought unnecessarily. The European Commission is a huge waster of money, and now, since Donald Trump began to govern in the United States, it turns out that the States, too – under the Biden administration – were wasting huge resources. These actions that Elon Musk is carrying out, revealing various

types of waste, are simply mind-boggling. When we learn that the insurance system in the United States works in such a way that it turned out that 3 million people receive pensions despite being “150 years old”, and there are cases where a “300-year-old” pensioner exists somewhere. This is the best proof of how these liberal-leftist bureaucracies waste money siphoning it off on all these sick ideological ideas.

In our case, we have Warsaw and President Trzaskowski, who wants to be the president of Poland, and we see his restroom built for 650 thousand PLN, or a museum of modern art for 700 million, and there are tons of money spent on some queer museum, LGBT organizations, etc. After all, this is an obvious waste of money in a situation when it should be directed to really necessary purposes.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTERS, WHICH WARSAW DOES NOT HAVE...

At least. Yes.

THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES HAVE HAD TIME SINCE 2014, THE FIRST AGGRESSION BY PUTIN AGAINST UKRAINE, TO ARM THEMSELVES AND THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO. AT THE MOMENT WE BASICALLY HAVE ONLY A FEW YEARS, BECAUSE IF THIS WORLD WAR III BREAKS OUT, AND I THINK IT WILL BE A MATTER OF 6-7 YEARS AT THE LATEST, AND NOW MY QUESTION: WHAT IN THIS SITUATION?

In this situation, let's hope that the intention that Donald Trump has undertaken will succeed. If he missed by millimeters the bullet that was supposed to shatter his head, let's hope that he will succeed in this great intention that the United States has undertaken to restore the world order in which the values of Latin civilization will apply.

YES, BUT IT SEEMS THAT WITH THE END OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE, REGARDLESS OF THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE, RUSSIA WILL NOT STOP ARMING ITSELF. SHOULDN'T WE EXPECT THE KREMLIN TO USE THE TIME OF PEACE OR CEASEFIRE TO STRENGTHEN ITS MILITARY POTENTIAL, TO STRIKE WITH MUCH GREATER FORCE THAN IT DID IN 2022?

The Kremlin will certainly not give up, but it is not in an easy situation. Let us remember that this is a society that is not coping with development, with building strength. What is more, what Russia manages to gather as a certain potential, it is squandering in actions such as this ill-considered expedition to Ukraine.

However, if Trump implements his plans and the United States enters the territory of Ukraine strongly economically, then Poland's role will be crucial from the point of view of American interests. It is difficult to imagine American economic activity in Ukraine without relying on Poland. Poland is needed for this. We also need a Central Communication Port, a significant number of various road and rail connections, ports, etc. And we need a strong Polish army. We started building such a strong army under the rule of the United Right - although there were various inconsistencies, but generally the direction was right. Therefore, if we build such an army and the United States regains its strength, then Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again", i.e. focusing on the economic growth of the United States' power and military advantage, we can assume that Trump's statement that "the golden era for America is beginning" may cover not only America, but also the Euro-Atlantic zone, including Poland.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE UNITED STATES WILL BE INVOLVED IN EUROPE UNDER DONALD TRUMP? WILL HE REALLY, AS SOME COMMENTATORS CLAIM, SEEK A RESET WITH RUSSIA AT ALL COSTS? OR WILL HE PLAY RUSSIA OFF AGAINST CHINA?

Trump doesn't need a reset with Russia. Russia is only needed as a certain element in the game. That is, it can't be too strong, but it can't be too weak, so that it doesn't become a Chinese colony. And that's basically all.

However, when it comes to Europe, assuming that the direction that the US authorities want to reactivate not only on their own territory but also in Europe wins in Europe, then we can imagine very good Euro-Atlantic cooperation, in every respect.

Interview by Anna Wiejak

Prof. Romuald Szeremietiew is former Minister of National Defense

Will LIDL destroy Gierzwałd?






The global trading giant from Germany - LIDL - has chosen a tiny village in Warmia - Gietrzwałd - as one of the key logistics centers in Poland. This place is the only place in Poland where the apparitions of Our Lady are recognized by the Catholic Church.

What must be emphasized right away: this is not about a store or even a large store. A gigantic logistics center for trading in goods and waste from LIDL stores is to be built 800 meters from the sanctuary. The entire property with a total area of over 41 ha consists of: a center hall 440 m long, 153 m wide, 24 m high, several smaller auxiliary buildings, concrete parking lots for hundreds of heavy freight cars and storage yards (including for waste).

The center will operate 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, as is typical for facilities of this type. According to the documentation presented by LIDL, the center in Gietrzwałd is to be a goods and waste center. LIDL does not specify what volume of goods will be distributed through Gietrzwałd, but we can assume that it will be many times more than the amount of 150 tons of waste that is supposed to be sent here per year. What additionally raises objections – 3,000 tons of waste recognized as dangerous. To illustrate the scale of 150,000 tons of waste are generated annually in Poland by approximately 420,000 people.



For those who have not seen or know Gietrzwałd, it is worth presenting its history and current condition. Let's start with the landscape. The village is located in the Pasłęka Valley Protected Landscape Area. This in itself should exclude the location of such large facilities that would degrade the landscape. Gietrzwałd and its surroundings are located on gentle hills covered with beautiful forests and agricultural land maintained in high culture. The natural beauty of this place attracts people to it not only for religious reasons. Gietrzwałd is also visited by people far from faith and the Church. Just simple human sensitivity to the natural beauty, peace and harmony prevailing in this place is enough. What is worth emphasizing is that the village currently has about 600 inhabitants and has fortunately retained its intimate, friendly character.

About a million pilgrims come to Gietrzwałd every year, not only from Poland, but also from many other countries. They go on pilgrimages because it is one of the 12 places of Our Lady's apparitions in the world officially recognized by the Church. In terms of religious importance, this puts Gietrzwałd on a par with Lourdes, Fatima or Guadalupe. Can you imagine that a few hundred meters from these sanctuaries, someone would come up with the idea of building a gigantic goods and waste distribution center, to which hundreds of huge trucks enter and leave 24 hours a day, on weekdays and holidays?

For Poles, Mary's message in Gietrzwałd has more than just a religious dimension. The apparitions took place from June 27 to September 16, 1877. Poland was not on the map of Europe at that time. Poles were in deep depression after another unsuccessful uprising, bloodily and brutally suppressed by the invaders. In the areas of the Russian partition, post-uprising repressions were felt severely. Tens of thousands of those sent to Siberia did not return, property was confiscated, the activities of Catholic orders were canceled, and the use of the Polish language in administration and education was banned. In Prussia, in the years 1871-78, the Kulturkampf policy was introduced, the aim of which was to eliminate Polishness and the Catholic Church.



However, Poles never gave up their will to rebuild their own country. They looked for support from the Vatican. On June 6, 1877, Pope Pius IX received a delegation of Poles from three partitions. They asked the Holy Father not to leave our nation. With great kindness, Pius IX pointed out that Poland could be reborn through the rejection of violence, sin and prayer. He also blessed the entire Poland divided by the invaders, which clearly indicated the Holy Father's will to return Poland to the map of Europe.

Three weeks later, the apparitions in Gietrzwałd begin, and Mary speaks Polish to the two girls she has chosen. This fact was of fundamental importance for the reception of the apparitions, because the Prussians in Warmia banned the use of the Polish language at schools and in offices, and their goal was to Germanize Poles living in the Prussian state. Mary asks for prayer, conversion, rejection of sin and drunkenness. It indicates that by rejecting sin there will be liberation from oppression, also towards the Church. At the end of the last apparition, Mary repeats once again: "Pray the rosary fervently".

The apparitions caused a huge religious stir in all Polish lands under the three partitions. This resulted in a large pilgrimage movement for those times. About half a million Poles arrived in Gietrzwałd within a few months. Let us

remember that it was 150 years ago, when there were no cars and the railway was just developing. According to historians, the religious revival and the awakening of hope resulting from it contributed to Poland regaining independence in 1918 and, as a consequence, defended Europe against the invasion of the Red Army in 1920.

To emphasize the importance of the cult of Our Lady of Gietrzwałd, Pope Paul VI, at the request of the Bishop of Warmia in 1963, agreed to the coronation of the image located in the Sanctuary. In 1977, on the 100th anniversary of the apparitions, the Bishop of Warmia approved the cult of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Gietrzwałd. The special ceremony was presided over by the Metropolitan of Kraków, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. On the 125th anniversary of the apparitions (2002), as Pope John Paul II, he sent a letter in which he emphasized the importance of the Gietrzwałd apparitions and assured him of his spiritual presence.

Just a few years ago, there was no indication that the functioning of the Gietrzwałd sanctuary might be at risk. However, advanced preparations are currently underway to build a giant goods and waste logistics center in the immediate vicinity of the Sanctuary - for the needs of LIDL stores. In fact, it is difficult to understand the reason for LIDL's insistence on placing this center in Gietrzwałd. The location is far from larger centers, and for the needs of logistics on such a scale, this place has very poor transport connections. National road 16 leads to the nearest expressway (the junction in Ostróda), but it is a single carriageway, passes through three villages, has no shoulders, is very winding and overtaking is prohibited for 80% of its length (double solid line). The road towards Olsztyn is slightly better, but it is also a single carriageway, not adapted to carry the expected traffic. The nearest railway station in Biesal does not have the appropriate infrastructure to significantly handle the freight traffic generated by the Center.

In addition, LIDL intends to connect the Center with DK16 via the district road, which is a historic avenue and should remain intact. Moreover, it requires the construction of a very important and expensive road junction that could safely handle the planned vehicle traffic.



Gietrzwałd is not prepared to service the Center also in terms of energy, water and sewage.

Of course, it can be said that LIDL could spend millions on improving the infrastructure of Gietrzwałd and its surroundings. Except it doesn't promise anything of the sort. What's more, it was exempted by the commune authorities from real estate tax (PLN 2-2.5 million per year) for three years and received a promise that the exemption would be extended.

LIDL'S PERSISTENCE REQUIRES ASKING MANY QUESTIONS:

- Why did LIDL decide to build in the Pasłęka River Protected Landscape Area, which is clearly illegal, and is it not possible to obtain a building permit without a critical error in this situation?
- Why does LIDL submit a project for the Center requiring the performance of gigantic, leveling earthworks in a place where such works are not allowed due to the Protected Area?

- Why does LIDL agree to undertake the investment process without an environmental impact report? After all, with such a scale of investment, this document is absolutely necessary. Does it consciously want to bypass this requirement because it knows that the report's result must be negative and it hopes that he will be able to do so at the risk of a painful and costly failure of the project?
- Why does LIDL agree to the illegal processing of changes to the local development plan in Gietrzwałd, which was the basis for processing the building permit?
- Why did LIDL accept the way in which the procedure for de-agriculturalization of the land planned for the Center was carried out? The application was clearly rejected by the Ministry of Agriculture, and then - based on false data presented by the Mayor of the Gietrzwałd Commune - accepted.
- Why does LIDL not react to the actions of the Mayor who represses opponents of the construction of the Center. And it has full trust in him, since he has repeatedly misled LIDL. For example, when he claimed that Fr. The Archbishop of Warmia gave his consent to the construction of the Center (the mayor withdrew this claim when it was denied by the Curia).
- Why does LIDL raise the argument of creating new jobs when unemployment is not a problem in Gietrzwałd. And the many smaller logistics centers located in neighboring communes are constantly looking for employees?
- Why does LIDL not enter into any talks with opponents of the construction of the Center and does not respond in any way to the arguments raised against this location?
- Why does LIDL respond to all statements addressed to it regarding Gietrzwałd in a way that indicates that the author of the texts is artificial intelligence and not the latest type?

The list of questions can be extended, but these are enough to show that the LIDL distribution center in Gietrzwałd is an absurd idea.

Lidl is a large German trading concern that draws up its strategies and plans guided solely by its narrowly understood monetary interest. If it has planned a goods and waste logistics center in Gierzwałd, it has no intention of even talking to those who are against it. All you need to do is convince a few decision-makers to become "ambassadors" of the project and come up with arguments for its construction. The arguments are always the same: there will be development, jobs, general progress, we do not expect any problems. If someone reports them, he do not understand the situation at all and there is no point in talking to him.

This is what a world ruled by corporations operating within a global superstate is supposed to look like. This state is to be primarily concerned with protecting the interests of large corporations for which the world is only markets: local, regional and global. A company divided into divisions is simply supposed to create profit. If something prevents this, we need to find a way to eliminate these obstacles. Most often, obstacles are created by people, so you need to find people who will help you overcome these obstacles. Those who will not be convinced must be presented as people detached from reality and not understanding the benefits that large, and preferably transnational, corporations provide to their surroundings. There is always an assurance at the end that we will solve all the problems, just don't bother us.

This is also the case in Gietrzwałd. The roles of ambassadors were taken on by the Mayor of the Gietrzwałd Commune, Jan Kasprowicz, and the Starosta of Olsztyn, Andrzej Abako, who issued the building permit, supported by some local members of parliament (because you also need an umbrella in Warsaw).

Fortunately, this time our consciences were touched. The Gietrzwałd Defense Committee was established, headed by Jacek Wiącek. Other organizations also joined in. In addition to the demonstration in Gietrzwałd itself, two nationwide protests were held - the first in December last year, the second in February this year.

It is worth noting that the second protest was much larger and took place in nearly a hundred cities in front of 180 LIDL stores. Everywhere, protesters behaved with full respect for the work of shops and customers. There were no unpleasant incidents. The nationwide media reported on the protests.

Also in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, a group of MPs created the Parliamentary Team for the Defense of Gietrzwałd. It is composed of members of parliament from various parties. The team submitted a request to the Supreme Audit Office to check the correctness of administrative procedures in this matter by government and local government bodies. I hope that the report will be prepared without undue delay, and I am deeply convinced that it will reveal many shortcomings or even actions of government and local government officials contrary to the law and the public interest.

In January 2025, the Provincial Administrative Court in Olsztyn also overturned the decision on the construction of the LIDL distribution center in Gietrzwałd and referred it for reconsideration. However, despite this, all preparations for the construction of the center are continuing.

The Gietrzwałd issue is starting to spread beyond Poland. We wrote about intervention to footballer Robert Lewandowski, ambassador of the LIDL brand in Poland. LIDL also received a protest from the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights reminding about the need for large investors to respect tradition and religious feelings. Questions are asked by journalists from outside Poland. Everyone is at least surprised by LIDL's plans for investments in Gietrzwałd.

Gietrzwałd is a place where Heaven touched earth. Let us surround it with care and protection for future generations, let us make pilgrimages there and thank for this Gift of God with our undisturbed presence and prayers.

JERZY SZMIT

President of the board of the Piotr Poleski Foundation

The effectiveness of Schuman's model resulted from Christian values



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There are numerous studies to suggest that cultural homogeneity is one of the main determinants of the success of integration efforts of separate sovereign states, such as those which have come together over the years as the European Union. As noted by Pauline Grosjean in her study of the effects of culture on integration: homogenous culture engenders “social trust” which makes its integration efforts easier (Grosjean, 2011). Indeed, culture makes cooperation among separate states – and thereafter their integration – much easier than it otherwise would be. This includes common experiences, common language, and especially common religion.

With regard to Europe, we need look no further than its culture of Catholicism, with its emphasis on “community” and “universalism.” Additionally, late 19th century Catholic Social Teaching stressed “social solidarity” and social democracy in politics. These ideas had a marked effect on the founders of the first European Community, who were devout men of Catholic faith. Indeed, there was a direct path from their Catholic Christian ideas and the type of cooperative, integrative efforts that have led to the European Union (EU). One author in particular, B. F. Nelsen, has written extensively on this, He emphasized that integration requires a certain type of ‘demos’ – or democratic people. He cites the noted political scientist Karl Deutsch for understanding how that demos is best realized:

He (Deutsch, et al., 1957) argued that common values, a shared way of life, a spirit of community, and a "we-feeling" were essential to the creation of an amalgamated

community. He did not identify from where such a felt community might emerge; ... the answer lies in culture defined as "the overall way of life of a people." Religion is a very important element of culture, maybe its most important component, and its central role in the shaping of new social communities is attested to by Tocqueville, Weber and Walzer. If religion is important to the shaping of new communities, it should be important to the shaping of the EU. ... the "religious culture" of Europe has shaped integration. By religious culture (which can be subdivided into confessional cultures such as Roman Catholicism, Orthodoxy, etc.) I mean the ideas, ecclesiastical organizations and political institutions that characterize a religious tradition. Religious (confessional) culture provides the sense of community necessary to create a true demos. It also provides the ideas and institutional structures needed to encourage or discourage integration (Nelsen, 2007, p, 2).

Accordingly, in his book, *Religion and the Struggle for European Union*, Nelsen and his co-author, go to lengths to argue that the confessional culture of Catholicism – in contrast to Protestantism – played a powerful role in shaping the ideas of an integrated Europe. They highlight that Catholicism has for centuries promoted universalism, while Protestantism has advanced particularism:

These confessional cultures (Catholic and Protestant) have produced two very different visions of Europe that have deeply influenced the process of post-war integration. Catholics have seen Europe as a single cultural entity that is best governed as a single polity. Protestants have never felt part of a continental culture and have valued national borders as protectors of liberties ... (Nelsen and Guth, 2015, p. preface).

Further, Gilbert emphasizes the role of Catholic Christian Democrats in the creation of “Europe,” who stressed the conviction after the war that international cooperation must succeed. It was

...especially pronounced among Christian Democrats, who emerged after 1945 in France, Italy, West Germany, and several other states as the principal political party (Gilbert, 2011, p.10).

So, the type of cooperation and unity the EU represents today grew precisely out of such a shared Catholic cultural setting – a reflection of the role of the Christian in “social politics” – with Christian Democratic governments and politicians being at the forefront of the European integration process.

Tellingly, Protestant countries – such as the United Kingdom and Denmark – initially stayed out of the European Community – eschewing cooperation – and when invited to join the Community, starting in 1973, they promptly gained reputations as reluctant, euroskeptic partners (Guth and Nelsen, 2005). In fact, largely protestant Norway has chosen to stay out of European integration almost completely. We might also note that societies further outside the central European Catholic cultural setting, like Turkey, which reflect an Islamic religious culture, may well have been kept out of European integration because of it – though officially the EU claims it is due to Turkey’s poor human rights record and other political matters.

Thus, the leading integrationists of Europe were predominantly Roman Catholics, who looked to Catholic social teaching for inspiration in their community-building project. These included Konrad Adenauer, Alcide Di Gasperi, Jean Monnet, and Robert Schuman. Adenauer was a devoutly Catholic Rheinland, who was active in the German Catholic Center Party prior to its 1933 dissolution at the hands of the Nazi regime. After the war, he devoted himself to building a new German political party, the Christian Democratic Party (CDU), in which he

desired to welcome both Catholics and Protestants. As for Di Gasperi, he literally founded Christian democracy in Europe. He was said to be a politician who constantly sought compromise, mediation, and peace. Even Jean Monnet, ostensibly the least devoutly Catholic of Europe's founders, was raised in a household with a strong Catholic tradition (Fransen, p. 10). His mother was deeply religious, while his sister Marie-Louise was a founder of the French branch of Action Catholique, to which Monnet contributed financially. He was eventually married in the Catholic Cathedral church at the pilgrimage site of Lourdes, France.

Overall, without the initiative and support such strong Catholic statesmen who embraced Christian religious principles, it is doubtful "Europe" would have been launched in the way it was, or perhaps at all. As Gilbert remarked,

For leaders like Adenauer, or the Italian Alcide De Gasperi, or the Frenchman Robert Schuman, there was no choice but to supersede national rivalries if Europe was ever to return to civilized life again (Gilbert, 2011, p.10).

Yet, among the towering figures mentioned above, the politician/statesman who best reflected Catholicism and its principles within the context of European integration was Robert Schuman (1886–1963). For it was Schuman, a committed, pious Catholic and a tireless post-war advocate of integration, whose faith drove his commitment to a united Europe. Without Schuman – who had been French Prime Minister and later foreign minister – initial European integration efforts almost certainly would not have succeeded, at least when they did. This is because, besides his clear, unwavering Christian beliefs, he had already attained a certain moral credibility, having been an active opponent of the Nazi regime, who was constantly monitored by Gestapo agents during the war and close to arrest. Schuman emerged from the war with a high level of respect,

and later as French foreign minister, this gave him the “political capital” to effect real change.

Thus, it was on 9th May 1950 that Schuman made his historic declaration that would form the basis of the European Community and later the European Union. Many believe that Schuman, rather than the more celebrated Monnet, was the critical link in creating this new “Europe” due to his direct political role in realizing Monnet’s plan (see for example, the writings of Price, 1995). As for Schuman’s immediate political intention, his model was to provide Europe with a democratic community system that would prevent the recurrence of totalitarian evil (“Beyond Robert Schuman’s Europe,” 2022). The core Christian principle of “reconciliation” was the goal, and it was Schuman’s particular gift to see that Europe would be built, not only by this vision, but by “concrete achievements which create a de facto solidarity” (Black, 2003, par. 8).

Yet beyond his noble political goals, Schuman’s model was concerned with the spiritual character of Europe. His Catholic faith had much to do with this. He hoped this integration effort would also restore Europe’s historic Christian identity:

What is seldom appreciated is the remarkable degree to which Schuman’s actions were the conscious implementation of the Neo-Thomistic project of Pope Leo XIII (1878–1903). Leo sought to employ the intellectual resources of St Thomas Aquinas to achieve “the restoration, both in rulers and peoples, of the principles of the Christian life in civil and domestic society.” In the half-century that followed, a series of philosophers sought to envisage the concrete conditions under which Leo’s vision could be realised. Foremost among them was Jacques Maritain (1882–1973). As French Foreign Minister (Schuman) sought to act upon Maritain’s belief that a European federation conceived under the banner of liberty would ultimately lead to the establishment of a new Christendom (Fimister, 2008, Summary).

As for Schuman's personal character, which had much to do with his effectiveness, Konrad Adenauer, dubbed him "a saint in a business suit," and indeed, this has been more than merely rhetorical, for Schuman – already declared "Venerable" by the Catholic Church in 2021 – has been considered for beatification for "living out his religious vocation through politics" (Evans-Pritchard, 2004, par. 6). The argument of the Church is that he was a visionary, an integrationist statesman precisely because he was a Christian (Zenit, 2003). According to Jacques Pararagon, the postulator of the cause of Schuman's beatification, he (Schuman) had "the wonderful, some would say revolutionary idea that peace should not be result of a treaty – with a victor and a vanquished – but of the realization of a shared interest – a universal Catholic concept; and he wanted Europe to be the model for the world" (Zenit, 2003, par. 11). Demonstrably, Christian Democracy became the first political movement to have a united parliamentary group within the ECSC's Assembly, thereby showing the importance and support it gave to supranational institutions (Foundation Robert Schuman, n.d.), and the Conservative/Christian Democratic group (the European Peoples Party, EPP) is still the dominant grouping within the European Parliament today.

In sum, as one French Church official put it, "Schuman dedicated his life to serving the common good, seeking peace and reconciliation with Germany to create a community of European states"; Schuman's efforts were "the work of a Christian, which serves as an example" (Fr. Bernard Ardura, as cited in Mares, 2021, par. 2-3). The initial effectiveness of his model was a direct result of that fact. It remains for each new generation of Europeans to relive Schuman's model and work to more fully realize it.

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WORLD



Some say beautiful, others say crooked
what does the real one has a look?

Green world, living world
where people go
where clean rivers
Has this world already existed or is it far away?
Say.

How the sun works on the sky
is it still round and hot by?
Why is it moody?
shines only in the same direction today.
However, it is ashamed and attracts clouds to itself.
whoever reads - it says nonsense!

Why doesn't it light up?
it's a sign, the children need to sleep or nap!!!

There are different signs, different markings
this is for the record
or habits.

There must be order, the first is school one
next legal, fiscal and agricultural.

The man was given an urgent duty not paid
every commandment must be obeyed.
The world would be better, simple and healthy base
At the very top difficult conversations are taking place.

Elzbieta Pawlak

SCHUMAN OPTICS MAGAZINE

“Service to humanity is an obligation equal to that dictated by loyalty to our nation.”

“Służba ludzkości jest powinnością równą tej, jaką dyktuje nam wierność naszemu narodowi.”

ROBERT SCHUMAN



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