

**Joint statement by the Foreign Ministers  
of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland**

**Warsaw, 2 November 2018**

The Governments of Germany and Poland met today in Warsaw to further develop their strategic partnership as neighbours and partners in the European Union (EU) and NATO, including an in-depth exchange between their Foreign Ministers. Our countries, which are united by many political and economic links, share the vision of a strong and united Europe based on a network of strong ties between all its members.

We are committed to strengthening the multilateral, rules-based international order as a foundation of prosperity and peace for all nations. In this framework we are committed to cooperating closely during our shared membership of the UN Security Council in 2019 and in the UN in general, with a view to achieving common objectives, such as strengthening international law, ensuring effective conflict prevention, advancing the women, peace and security agenda, addressing the security implications of climate change and human rights violations, and protecting civilians, in particular children, who are affected by armed conflicts.

We reiterate the importance of the trilateral Weimar Triangle cooperation between France, Germany and Poland and our wish to strengthen its effectiveness. We support the idea of holding the next meeting of Weimar Triangle Foreign Ministers soon. We will continue to cooperate as partners in other regional initiatives such as Visegrád Plus, the Berlin Process and the Three Seas Initiative.

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In our bilateral relations, we will continue to jointly develop and implement a positive agenda that strengthens both the dense network of political, economic and societal cooperation between our two countries and regional initiatives contributing to unity, solidarity and cooperation within the EU and NATO.

We welcome our very good economic relations, including the fact that our countries are one of each other's most important trade partners. We want to further strengthen the mutually beneficial trends in our economic relations. We believe that economic cooperation should be based on full respect for the four freedoms and competition rules, as well as the rule of law and other standards and the values enshrined in European law. In the context of today's global challenges, the EU needs to fully utilise the potential of the Common Market. Germany and Poland support the deepening of the digital single market and encourage collaboration in developing digital technologies and innovations in the economy. We will promote stronger cooperation on innovative technologies and solutions, including electromobility. A German-Polish Economic Conference will be held within a year.

We express our satisfaction regarding the wide network of people-to-people contacts between Germany and Poland. We underline the importance of cross-border cooperation, and in particular of youth exchanges, for fostering understanding between our two nations. The German-

Polish Youth Office is an especially successful example of our cooperation in this area. It offers young people from our countries the opportunity to meet their neighbours and to develop long-lasting friendships. We support this and other initiatives promoting knowledge about Poland in Germany and about Germany in Poland.

The International Youth Meeting Centre in Oświęcim/Auschwitz keeps memories of the darkest period of German history alive. It introduces young people from our countries to the lessons we must learn from our past in order to learn to live together in the future. We will continue to support the work and future development of this well-established institution. The same applies to the International Youth Meeting Centre in Krzyżowa/Kreisau. It provides opportunities for young people from Germany, Poland and other European countries to get in contact with people from different backgrounds and cultures. We recognise the positive role of the International Youth Meeting Centre in our cooperation and pledge to provide the necessary funds to secure and strengthen the future of this institution.

In light of the tragic legacy of World War II, which was initiated by Germany's invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939, the German-Polish reconciliation process is of crucial importance as regards further deepening our bilateral relations. Preparing for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of World War II on 1 September 2019 and with a view to fostering mutual ties and understanding in a spirit of reconciliation, we recognise the continuous need to raise awareness of the history of German-Polish relations, taking the tragic experience of World War II particularly into account. We welcome pertinent initiatives to honour Polish victims of the German occupation of Poland between 1939 and 1945.

Both Governments recognise the contribution made to mutual relations by our communities located in Germany and Poland. We will continue to respect and implement the provisions of the 1991 Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation, including provisions contained in articles 20 - 22. We acknowledge the importance of continued talks at the "Round Table" format established in 2011 and express our willingness to continue these talks.

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The EU, founded on European values, constitutes the key framework for securing our freedom and prosperity. Believing that the EU is our common good, Germany and Poland are aware of the challenges we are facing, such as accelerated globalisation and digitalisation processes, as well as risks coming from outside the EU. We therefore believe that we should continue working for EU reform in order to strengthen the Union both externally and internally. We believe that all Member States will shape the vision of the EU's future and expect them to contribute actively to the process by delivering concrete proposals and initiatives. We will continue the Europe-wide reflection on the future of the EU, including relations with national governments and parliaments, and believe that citizens can make an important contribution to this process. When reflecting on the EU's future, we will consider the concerns of European citizens. In line with the ongoing process of holding Europe-wide Citizens' Consultations, we have agreed to hold bilateral German-Polish Citizens Dialogues in the run-up to the elections to the European Parliament in May 2019.

Germany and Poland underline the importance of a comprehensive approach by the EU to migration, combining more effective control of the EU's external borders, increased external action and internal aspects, in line with our principles and values.

Germany and Poland regret the United Kingdom's decision to leave the EU. We emphasise that it is in our countries' interests to maintain strong political and economic ties with the United Kingdom after it has left the EU.

Both Governments agree that the negotiations on the future financial framework should be concluded as soon as possible. Expenditure from the future EU budget should be balanced between treaty policies and future-oriented areas with strong European added value taking into account the common challenges and political priorities described in the 2017 Rome Declaration while pursuing long-term treaty objectives.

Germany and Poland reaffirm the importance of close cooperation with the United States, both bilaterally and within NATO, and of continued efforts to protect and strengthen Euro-Atlantic ties in order to ensure European security. Both our Governments advocate NATO policy that allows for close cooperation with partners and the admission of new members if conditions are met.

Both our Governments highlight the importance of taking forward security and defence cooperation with a view to building European civilian and military security and defence capabilities. The two countries consider Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) as a tool for stepping up security and defence cooperation and boosting investments in military infrastructure. Both Germany and Poland look forward to the Civilian CSDP Compact as a new framework for equally ambitious qualitative and quantitative achievements regarding European civilian crisis management capabilities. We are confident that the new initiatives will enhance European capabilities and improve cooperation with international partners, in particular NATO and its members on both sides of the Atlantic.

Germany and Poland endorse the EU Energy Union and the progress being made on our joint European energy and climate policy. We both acknowledge the importance of European solidarity in the context of energy supply security and endorse the EU energy diversification policy. Germany and Poland presented divergent opinions on the Nord Stream 2 project.

Germany and Poland welcome the progress achieved so far in the framework of the Eastern Partnership policy, which has made it possible to expand the area of stability and political and economic security towards the EU's eastern neighbours. We reaffirm our commitment to further develop this policy, and recognize the need to give it a new political impetus.

Germany and Poland attach great importance to the EU enlargement process. We remain committed to the EU perspective of the Western Balkan countries on the basis of the criteria defined by the EU. We highlight the Berlin Process, where Poland will be the host of the next summit in 2019, as an important instrument for supporting the Western Balkan countries' EU integration process.

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We call on Russia to respect the universal norms of international law, including the principle of territorial integrity in general and of neighbouring states, the rights of ethnic and religious groups, democratic processes and the rule of law. We express our concern about the Russian Federation's continuing failure to meet its side of the obligations concerning stabilisation of the situation in the Donbass that were set out in the 2014 and 2015 Minsk Agreements. We are particularly concerned about the *fait accompli* policy pursued by Russia with regard to the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula. The duration of the Donbass-related economic sanctions that have been imposed by the EU is clearly linked to Russia irreversibly implementing the Minsk Agreements.

We underline the importance of PACE Resolution 2246 (2018) on the crash of Polish Air Force Tu-154M transporting the Polish State delegation on 10 April 2010 on the Russian Federation's territory.

Ukraine is an important partner for both our countries. Its solid and sustainable democratic development is also important for the wider region. We continue to support the Ukrainian Government's reform agenda, urge it to pursue its efforts in this respect and pledge our ongoing support towards achieving such reforms.

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Germany and Poland are committed to continuing our close cooperation on all aspects, i.e. regarding our bilateral and economic relations, the further development of the EU, security cooperation, and cooperation on external relations issues in general, with a view to further deepening our relations in the heart of Europe.