



THE SOPOT DECLARATION 2012

Europe – it is time for unity!

The world is moving forward. Europe, from a position of leader, is becoming a follower. Decisions in response to the on-going economic crisis are being introduced too slowly, and the tools being developed do not properly respond to the prevailing challenges. The most important expectations contained in our declaration from last year were not implemented. Lack of any effects and uncertainty among citizens are leading to a loss of trust in EU institutions, politics, business and people towards one another as well as causing a loss of solidarity throughout Europe. Doubts are rising about the sense and success of the European Union and the monetary union, although it is clear that no single European country will be able to compete alone in the global world. Therefore, we, the Participants of the 2012 European Forum for New Ideas, wishing for Europe to not lose its opportunities, call for:

- Swift creation of a road map for political and monetary integration of Europe. We need a constitution that will give the EU more competencies and give more influence to the citizens. Greater sovereignty of the European Union will strengthen our position on the international arena.
- Consistent integration – four pillars of the EU: free movement of people, capital, goods and services are inherent and inalienable, and bold and well prepared integration in terms of fiscal, banking and monetary policies, being flexible enough to allow all members to become involved and to avoid protectionism of the euro zone.
- Introduction of a common and unified foreign policy as well as the creation of a truly coordinated military potential. This is a condition for the Union to remain as one of the leaders of today's world.
- Together with transferring parts of the competencies from member states to the EU, there is a need to establish the European budget on new terms.
- Today, the EU is seen as a project by politicians and bureaucrats. There is a need to conduct and stimulate political and social debate from a European perspective, and not just from a national one, in order to include women and men, the citizens, in the European project.
- Solutions to allow bigger and deeper empowerment of women in social and political life and in economic decision making
- Reconstruct Trans-Atlantic relations as well as raise Europe's significance and its influence by expanding areas of political, economic and social cooperation, based on respect for independence in developing countries.

We, gathered in Sopot, in September 2012, declare full support and engagement in these decisions and in such actions. We call for governments of member states and EU institutions to undertake bold, far-reaching and swift actions. Future generations will not forgive us if we will not be able to respond to the great challenges of today and if we ruin the great project that we inherited from past generations.

Sopot, 28 September 2012