



Porozumienia Okrągłego Stołu - Tekst angielski

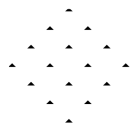
Introduction

1 A historical turn is taking place in Poland. In the face of breakdowns and conflicts that are still threatening our motherland, patriotism and reason demand to seek for that which unites the Poles. Before our eyes, Europe and the world are developing at a rapid pace. The Poles should not stand still but keep up with others.

2 For two months, between 6 February and 5 April, the round-table negotiations have been organized. A few hundred representatives of different political and civil forces of our country have participated in them. Displaying a sense of distinctness of ideological stances, aspirations and interests, which sometimes provoked conflicts, but at the same time respecting the identity of one another, the most effective means to restore the Polish Republic have been searched. In the spirit of the social agreements of 1980, a dialogue has been established based on the principle that unites all Poles – a sense of responsibility for the future of their motherland, for its economy and culture, for the society and the state, for the fate of Polish families and the fate of Poland.

3 We are aware that since there are so many urgent needs, slow development of these works and drawn-out discussions might have caused anxiety and resentment. We can only explain ourselves by saying that if we are to shed the burden of the past together and enter the path of the far-reaching transformations, we need to do it wisely. With false or apparent decisions, we could shut the door on the historic opportunity that we are given thanks to the thoughts, sacrifices and will of millions of Poles and thanks to the development of the international situation that is beneficial to Poland.

4 Considering the threats and opportunities that appear on the Polish horizon, the participants of the round-table negotiations have set a framework within which the Poles can reach an agreement now and in the future. The concluded agreements concerning the directions of political and economic reforms, social policy, union pluralism as well as essential changes in various areas of Polish life include not only promises and announcements of actions undertaken by the government and social forces but also discrepancies and conflictual postulates and interests. These agreements are an expression of an honest search for anti-crisis and reformative programs. Their realization depends not only on the signatories of the agreement but also on the civic imagination, wisdom and action of all Poles.



Stance on Political Reforms

5 After many years of economic crisis and political conflicts, Poland faces a significant threat but also a great opportunity. There is a real threat that the crisis deepens; however, there is also a chance to overcome it with a radical reform of the state and a simultaneous reorganization of the economic system. Poles can and should reach an agreement to defend themselves against the crisis in the reform activities.

6 A political compromise between different forces which include groups that are guided by the ideas of democratically understood socialism as well as those that are inspired by Christianity, the ideology of the Solidarity movement, peasant movement and other sources and ideological traditions will work towards a common goal – an independent, sovereign, safe due to equal alliances, democratic and economically strong Poland.

7 The agreement is based on the principles of the future political system that result from the inalienable rights of citizens to live in a country that fully embodies the sovereignty of the nation. This includes:

political pluralism that is primarily expressed by the right to freedom of association in political, social and labor organizations within a democratic constitutional order;

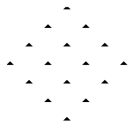
freedom of speech, including real access to all types of media that is granted to various political forces;

democratic procedures to appoint all representative governing bodies in such a way that the voters will decide who is in power;

independence of the judiciary and its rights to control other bodies appointed to maintain law and public order;

freely chosen local authorities that hold full rights.

8 The parties to this agreement have recognized that such principles should govern the further political evolution and have declared that they would support them.



9 In order to reach such a state of affairs, decisive actions are required; some of them have already been taken, whereas others should be performed in the following years, within two or three years and in the distant future. There is much mistrust in our country that can only be overcome with actions taken in the growing sphere of public life. We hope that with these actions, yesterday's enemies will transform into participants of democratic rivalry and cooperation following the new rules of public life. These rules are not only the result of agreements concluded in the whole country, but they should also be formulated from scratch in the course of democratic activities undertaken by the old and new social and political structures. (...)

Final Provisions

321 The participants of the round-table negotiations express their will to cooperate for the implementation of the provisions of this agreement and address it to the competent organs of the state.

322 The parties also undertake to comply with the decisions made in the course of the meetings of groups and subgroups that are included in the accepted documents.

323 The parties expect the government to prepare in the shortest possible time a plan for the implementation of what has been decided in this agreement within its competence.

324 The issues that have not been agreed on will be considered by the participants of the round-table negotiations in the activities of present and newly established government bodies.

325 The participants of the round-table negotiations have decided to appoint a liaison commission that will be composed of the representatives of the forces that participated in the negotiations as well as other interested groups.