

**Wystąpienie Pana Ministra M. Szpunara na spotkaniu z prezydencją
szwedzką Rady Arktycznej**
(Sztokholm, 6 listopada 2012 r.)

Dear Ambassador Lind,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- First of all I would like to extend my thanks to our Swedish hosts for inviting us to Stockholm for this important meeting.
- It is - in our view – an unique occasion for a candid and direct exchange of views – conducted on a political level – between the observers, *ad hoc* observers and the Swedish chairmanship of the Arctic Council.
- We strongly welcome the Swedish initiative in that respect.
- As a non-Arctic state Poland is interested in keeping its position as a permanent observer in the Arctic Council – the most important policy shaping international organization dealing with the Arctic region.
- We expect that the establishing of the Arctic Council permanent Secretariat will provide us with a new and effective venue of communication with the Arctic Council.
- Mr. Ambassador,

Let me stress that Poland is determined to contribute to the Arctic Council activities.

- Poland participates in the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) and since January we have become a member the SAON's Board.
- We are convinced that keeping in the future the dialogue and cooperation between the observer states, Arctic States and the Arctic Council will be of great added value for all the parties involved.
- Therefore we are positive that meeting such as this one should be organized also during the upcoming Canadian chairmanship.

- In this context we appreciate the positive reaction of the Swedish chairmanship to the Polish proposal to organize a working level meeting of the representatives of the observer states with the Chair of the Arctic Council.
- This would not be a precedent. I would like to remind you that in 2010 in Warsaw the representatives of the observer states had a working meeting with a Danish chairmanship, which we called: “ the Warsaw format meeting”.
- We are ready to be a host of a similar one during the Swedish chairmanship – sometime before Kiruna Ministerial.
- Nowadays the Arctic is for many reasons a region of global significance.
- It is obvious for all of us and I am not going to dwell on that.
- Let me stress however that there are many international actors who while being fully aware of importance of the Arctic are also deeply interested in actions taking place in the region.
- One of them is the European Union which is presently focused on developing its Arctic policy.
- The joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council published in June prepared by the European Commission and the External Action Service is in our opinion a timely and necessary document.
- The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already prepared a special report on that issue to our government and the government is going to take a formal position on the Communication in coming days.
- It clearly reflects the importance that Poland attaches to the emerging European Union Arctic policy which. Certainly the creation of such a policy is not an easy task.
- And finally few words about the Polish policy and priorities vis a vis the Arctic region.
- Our priority in the region is a scientific research.

- We have the necessary experience, infrastructure and human resources to be active in many innovative and collaborative research activities in the Arctic.
- I would like also to inform you that next year Poland is going to be the organizer of the *Arctic Science Summit Week*, which will take place from 13 to 19 April in Cracow. We expect about 500 participants from all over the world.
- Let me use this opportunity to warmly invite you and your scientific experts to join us in this event.
- My last remark refers to the *Guidelines of the Polish Polar Policy* which are presently being prepared in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Polish policy to the Arctic region is based on “four pillars”:
 - the observance of existing international law;
 - the European Union policy towards the Arctic;
 - cooperation with the Arctic Council and
 - support for the public diplomacy related to the Arctic issues.
- We hope that this document will be a useful tool for Polish stakeholders involved in the Arctic region.

I thank you for your attention.