

**Declaration proposed by
the Marshal of the Sejm of Republic of Poland**

**EUROPE OF SOLIDARY STATES
Security, borders, renewed institutions**

Inspired by the Christian heritage of Europe, from which have developed the human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, implemented in the contemporary sovereign Member States of the European Union, we would like to discuss today its current and future shape.

The solidarity of free, equal and sovereign states, peace and cooperation with neighbours, democratic governance must be the foundations of coexistence of European states. The time has come for today's Europe to use the good experience acquired as a result of NATO's and European Communities' activity. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which joined the structures of the democratic West after the collapse of the Soviet Bloc had high hopes particularly about the EU. To a large extent, those hopes remain unfulfilled.

The problems faced nowadays by the European nations differ from the ones experienced at the beginning of the integration or at the end of the cold war. Moreover, the European Union has been suffering from the largest crisis since its founding. The Eurozone has turned out to be a structure bringing not only continuing benefits to its originators, but also clear damage. The mass influx of emigrants results in subsequent border closures and cracks in the Schengen System, whereas the increasing number of terrorist attacks in the Member States of the EU seems to convey a civilizational dimension. Therefore, the concerns are growing not only about the economic future of Europe, but mainly about the security of the nations which form Europe.

The European states are facing the challenge of regulating their relations once again. The will of nations, expressed in a democratic manner, and building relations fostering freedom, both individual and economic, should serve as their foundations.

The coexistence and cooperation in Europe should be based on sovereignty of nation states, solidarity, equality of all nations, respect for human rights, democracy and rule of law. All European institutions should function under these principles. It is their duty to follow the principle of subsidiarity with respect to the nations living on our continent, to foster freedom for the sake of development, to strengthen pluralism and diversity historically rooted in Europe as well as to remove any security threats for European citizens. It is indispensable to refer to clear and, above all, unambiguous rules determining the powers of the EU institutions, explicitly outlining the borders of their impact in the legal area of the Member States, and to accurate procedures describing their decision-making

process. It is also indispensable to develop anti-lobbying regulations. Such measures would contribute to strengthening the legitimacy of common institutions and raising the level of mutual trust among the EU Member States.

Bringing a new direction to the European integration by transforming the European Union into a federal state is currently both unrealistic and wrong. The goal of the reform should not be to build a federal state, but to renew the European Union as an international organization, serving the community of sovereign nation-states. The transformation of the European Union into a federation will not solve the most important current problems the continent is facing. It will not unleash the spirit of entrepreneurship, nor economic freedoms in the Member States. It will serve to increase bureaucracy and overregulation. It may also fuel the growth of anti-European sentiments and radical attitudes.

Therefore, recognizing the need for a debate about the future of Europe, in place of the postulate of "larger, deeper integration" we propose to consider the concept of Europe of solidary states developing their relations within the EU according to the principle: "Free men with free men, equal with equal".