


Chronicle



Around 1600 participants from more than 40 countries took part in the four-day XV Economic Forum. Almost a hundred discussion panels were held. The Presidents of Lithuania and Poland, and also the Prime Ministers of Slovakia and Poland, honoured the Forum with their presence. The debates were also attended by ministers, heads of central institutions, stock exchanges and banks, presidents of companies, artists and journalists.

The Economic Forum has had a well-established reputation as the most important meeting of people in politics, business and the media from Central and Eastern Europe.



The XV Economic Forum was attended by guests from more than 40 countries

When 15 years ago Zygmunt Berdychowski organised the first Economic Forum in Krynica Zdrój, he wished it to become a place of exchange of thoughts, ideas and proposals on co-operation between Poland and its neighbours. He was following the guidelines worked out by the circle of 'Kultura' of Paris, especially its editor Jerzy Giedroyc, that the security and stable development of Poland depended on the ability of Poland to establish partnerships and good-neighbourly relations with its neighbours. Zofia Hertz wrote: Jerzy Giedroyc attached great importance to the Forum, in which he saw an important tool for shaping friendly relations between Poland and its neighbours; and in a broader sense, relations favourable to the whole region between the states of Central and Eastern Europe.



To build a political and economic platform of co-operation and trust, especially among Central and Eastern European countries, by creating the conditions and climate for partnership and the independent exchange of views, opinions and experiences – is the mission of the Economic Forum that has already been organized for 14 years. The XIV Economic Forum was attended by more than 1500 guests from 40 European, Asian and American countries, including: presidents, prime ministers, ministers, and heads of central banks, stock exchanges and government agencies, and a wide representation of entrepreneurs, economic and non-governmental organisations and the media.

The Economic Forum, organised every year, has a well-established reputation as the most important meeting of people in politics, business and the media from Central and Eastern European countries – all those who want to talk about the future, who want, using their experience, to think how to make up for lost time so that the Europe in transition can become a normal Europe soon; so that everything that we have talked about in recent years will have become the reality as soon as possible; so that the enlarged Europe will not merely be a subject of analysis or scientific investigation by theoreticians.

The debates of the Forum create an exceptional climate for a serious debate concerning what still should be done in the Central and Eastern European states undergoing economic transformation, to avoid unnecessary mistakes.

Very wide attendance by economic circles provides a great opportunity for the evaluation and verification of the most important economic decisions made by the governments of the countries in our region, by those directly involved in economic life.

XIV Economic Forum 2004 European challenges: Security, solidarity, effectiveness

- 1 plenary session
- 6 topical sessions
- 84 discussion panels
- 1 workshop
- 1 round table
- 2 working breakfasts
- 7 working lunches
- 1500 guests
- 40 countries
- Presidents, prime ministers, ministers, and heads of central institutions, stock exchanges and banks
- 300 CEOs of companies
- 200 journalists: 32 Polish and 52 foreign media organizations

XIII Economic Forum EU Enlargement: The first or the last stage of integration?

- 5 plenary sessions
- 63 problem-solving seminars
- 35 countries
- 1300 guests
- Presidents, prime ministers, ministers, and heads of central institutions, stock exchanges and banks
- 300 CEOs of companies
- 200 journalists

XII Economic Forum 2002 Europe after integration – overcome the problems, meet the challenges

- 5 plenary sessions
- Fifty-two problem-solving seminars
- 26 countries
- 1300 guests
- Prime ministers, ministers, and heads of central institutions, stock exchanges and banks
- 250 CEOs of companies
- 200 journalists

XI Economic Forum 2001 Don't divide Europe

- 6 plenary sessions
 - 41 problem-solving seminars
 - 1000 guests
 - 20 countries
 - Presidents, prime ministers, and heads of central institutions, stock exchanges and banks
 - 200 CEOs of companies
 - 200 journalists
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The XIV Economic Forum was attended by more than 70 representatives of sixteen Arab states, including Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.



Boris Trajkovski
Former President of the Republic of Macedonia

The path to full integration is full of twists and turns. It requires not only great expenditure by separate countries, but also intensive co-operation, support and solidarity among our countries. (...) Taking into account the social, economic and political conditions, it should be stated that each state has a right to dream that in the near future it will become a part of the strategic project that is the European Union, and that it will participate in shaping a new vision and a better world. Our common future is based on the same values, which are deeply rooted in all democratic societies.



Stjepan Mesić President of Croatia
Ion Iliescu President of Romania

Stjepan Mesić

The United Europe is our destiny, our fate, and that is why we need to pursue acceleration of the process of European integration: So that the more developed ones help the less developed. They will gain new markets and new partners in this way. The countries of the most developed part of Europe, by investing in the less developed ones, invest also in their own development. We need to convince the contemporary European Union so that the moment when the whole Europe becomes united can take place as soon as possible.

Ion Iliescu

In promoting European enlargement, we need to find enough funds to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor countries. This must be a model that can be applied on the global scale. It is exactly the role that Europe should play.



Elmar Brok
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
of the European Parliament

The enlargement can be a certain danger. That is why a duty of the European Union is to find an equilibrium between what is needed to maintain the Union, and on the other hand, to balance it with the principles of assistance and national identity. From the intellectual point of view, this will be one of the most important tasks to perform.



Leszek Balcerowicz
President of the National Bank of Poland



Vytautas Landsbergis
Former President of Lithuania



Tadeusz Mazowiecki
Former Prime Minister of Poland

The European Union is not the whole Europe. It will not be the whole Europe for a long time, if it will be at all. Co-operation with those countries that will be outside of the Union, especially the countries of Eastern Europe, is a very important element. What will we be like when we join the European Union? What will be our economy and civic institutions, and what will be the attitude of the current members of the Union? We join the EU without complexes, and without complexes we want to be present there.



Vladimir Shemashko
Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus

The fact of the globalisation of economic relations is hardly objected to by anyone. Within the last twenty-five years of the previous century, the development of trade was much ahead of the growth of global production. Globalisation is achieved by states that are able to create conditions for economic development, among others, by a free market economy, independent legal institutions, and social protection.



Lajos Bokros
Former Minister of Finance of Hungary,
Director of the World Bank

What is most important is not regulation written in the law. The matter is not only in the document, since what is most important is the difference between what is written and what is done. It is the greatest challenge in transition economies.



Sergiy Kovaliov
Deputy to the State Duma of the Russian Federation

What are NGOs in the light of this myth about the fight against the oligarchs? Non-governmental organisations do not apply intrigues, and do not collude with capital in mutual relations with different social forces, or the authorities. These organisations are left with only one thing – the democratic procedure, built by them in their mutual relations and in relations with the authorities. And in a sense this is the core of the civil society that comes into being, as the messenger of the idea of democracy in its pure form.



Władimir Woronin
President of Moldova

A common political future cannot exist under the conditions of demarcation lines. We perceive the existing Europe as a strong Europe, which is ready to defend its security, and which protects its diplomatic, industrial and commercial interests, obviously within the framework of cultural diversity.



Wiktor Juszczenko
President of Ukraine



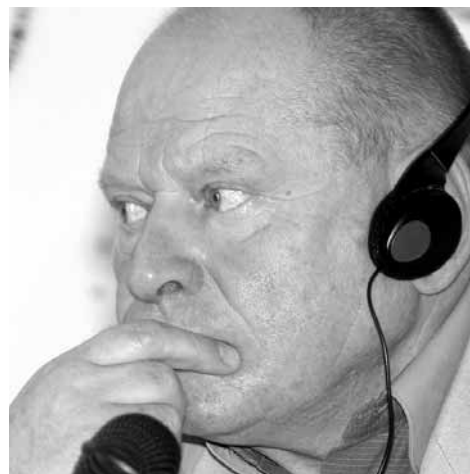
Miao Gengshu
 Senator of the People's Republic of China
 President of China Minmetals Group

Transformation of the Chinese economic system from central planning to the free market has a great impact on the development of companies. Besides setting and realizing a development strategy, a company must also consider the necessity of raising the level of the whole management of the company. It must also consider the necessity of creating a healthy corporate culture and gradual changes in the company, which should be tested first in the micro scale, and only later spread to a greater scale.



Leszek Miller
 Former Prime Minister of Poland

The wider the European Union the better, because the area of democracy, well-being, stability, the observation of basic values, is greater. The answer to the question, who can still find oneself in this area, where Poland was heading very successfully and finalised its dreams in the end, belongs to the separate countries that aspire to membership of the European Union. If they want it and can, they should be able to achieve it. They should become members so that the area of European democracy, effective economy and stability grows bigger. At that time, Europe will be able more effectively to compete with the other economic and political powers of the world.



Mykoła Żułyński
 Deputy to the Supreme Council of Ukraine

At the beginning of the XX century, the forces on the right and left in Europe defined themselves in terms of their ideologies. Now, these ideas are intermingled. It is often quite difficult to mark a clear borderline between the right wing and left wing forces. One can say such a thing about Great Britain, among others, where the Labour Party and the Conservative Party often borrow ideas from each other, and it is understandable. Nowadays, Europe demonstrates the possibility of building this platform, which has really been formed, namely European democracy. It is understandable also that Ukraine is interested in this idea.



Vladimír Špidla,
Former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

If the integrated and enlarged Europe wants clearly to contribute to solving the problems of security, and Europe is the answer to the globalisation process, it must be able to formulate its own foreign and security policy.



Anatolij Kinach,
Former Prime Minister of Ukraine

The Economic Forum in Krynica proves that we are building together our common European home and only a democratic, civil society and effective market economy can foster progress along this path.



Valdas Adamkus
President of Lithuania

The Forum contributes to the further successful development of co-operation among the states of Central and Eastern Europe. A good political and economic situation for all the countries in Central and Eastern Europe is in the interests of all of us. The Forum in Krynica gives us greater determination in the pursuit of co-operation. It also gives us an excellent chance for contributing to the realisation of the idea of a free and united Europe.



Mikuláš Dzurinda
Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovakia

I am truly glad that the organisers of the Economic Forum in Krynica have managed to build a tradition of meetings between representatives of government and economic circles of the states of Central and Eastern Europe, debating its political and economic development. It serves our common interests to exchange opinions and experiences in implementing such drastic changes as those we have made in our countries.



Rudolf Schuster
President of Slovakia

It is a great honour and joy for me to be present in the picturesque Krynica only 12 kilometres from the northern border of Slovakia, behind which Poland, such a close neighbour to the Slovakian heart, is located. In this place is held a discussion forum of such importance that it has, since its very beginning, influenced positively the relations among Central and Eastern European countries.



Victor Orban
Former Prime Minister of Hungary

When we talk about the future, the same question arises: how long will Europe remain divided. But, when we look back on the previous decade, we can conclude that we managed to reduce the gap between us and the Western part of Europe in many respects. Let us remember the division between our common big world and the world desiring freedom. This political division does not exist any more. If economic divisions are voiced and when we look at the economic growth of Central European states, we can even say that there are a few countries in Central Europe, the growth of which is even twice as high in relation to certain Western European states. From the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic Sea, a new growth area is emerging in the area of Europe, which is consolidating with Western Europe.



Andriej Kobiakow
Minister of Economy of Belarus

Our neighbours are integrating into one community, and we, due to historical reasons, are integrating in a different direction. We should do our best in order to prevent the border that will divide us from becoming a wall.