



# European Economic Congress

30 sessions  
300 lecturers  
3000 participants



The Congress was widely covered in media. For a few days Silesia occupied the first pages of opinion-making press.



The EEC course was reported by the representatives of more than 100 press titles and electronic media.





# Three European days

The first European Economic Congress was held on 15-17 April 2009. It created a broad new forum of dialogue about the challenges to be faced by both European Union and Polish economy. It turned out that the hardest time the greater need to exchange and verify opinions as well as broaden perspectives. It is easier to face problems together.

The first European Economic Congress gathered 3000 guests from Poland, Europe and the whole world. For three days Katowice was the capital of the world economy. Our very special guests were: three European Union's Commissioners – Janez Potočnik for research and new technologies, Danuta Hübner for regional policy, Andris Piebalgs for energy and Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland. There were also involved in the event – Viviane Reding – Commissioner for information society and media as well as Jose Manuel Baroso – President of the

European Commission. The Chairman of the patronage committee was Jerzy Buzek – President of the European Parliament for the new term.

When the Congress was being planned, the economy was still in good condition and the most serious worry of Polish and European businessmen and managers was how to implement the climate-energy package. When the event was being prepared the macroeconomic situation altered dramatically. The economic crises has revalued our thinking about the European and global economy, as well as increased the need of reflection on the future of the European Union.

Therefore, the topics covered at the Congress were based on two pillars – challenges related to implementation of the energy-climate package and the ways to overcome the crises seen in the context of inevitable political changes to come in the European Union.

The Congress did not solve the key problems listed in the agenda. Yet, this was not the aim of the meeting. However, there were confronted the opinions on a number of issues to dominate the social and economic fate of Europe in the nearest future.

The Polish and European politics of the highest rank made declarations that guide the political thinking on the essential economic matters. No wonder that the words of politicians were carefully listened to by businessmen and managers of the greatest concerns and companies, both European ones and those operating in Poland. The fate of labour markets, local communities and whole regions depend on the wind of politics and activities of big companies. Self-governments and businesses feel a stronger need to act together under the pressure of crises and problems regarding a new look at the power industry and effectiveness. Thus, a good will of open

dialogue could be observed at the Congress.

Both Poland and Śląskie Voivodeship with its capital proved to be good hosts. The country and region showed to Europe its new modern image – that is not ideal but not false at the same time. We were able to talk openly about problems or failures while emphasizing the great potential as well as the will and competence to overcome difficulties. This must command respect.

We hope (and opinions of many guests allow us to do so) that the participants of the European Economic Congress left Katowice being richer with new experience and issues to think over – which means a necessary capital to multiply in order to make our common Europe to be a better place to live and manage.

For three days the Congress guests included among others:



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1. **Donald Tusk** – Prime Minister of Poland; 2. **Leszek Balcerowicz** – Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister between 1989 and 1991 and between 1997 and 2000, former Chairman of National Bank of Poland between 2001 and 2007; 3. **Jerzy Buzek** – Chairman of European Parliament, Prime Minister of Poland between 1997 and 2001 in Poland; 4. **Danuta Hübner** – Chairman of Regional Development Commission in European Parliament, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy between 2004-2009; 5. **Andrzej Piechalga** – EU Commissioner for Energy; 6. **Jacek Potočnik** – EU Commissioner for Research and Development; 7. **Michał Boni** – Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers, Head of the Team of Strategic Advisers to the Prime Minister; 8. **Elżbieta Bieńkowska** – Minister in Ministry of Region Development; 9. **Adam Szejnfeld** – Secretary of State in Ministry of Economy in Poland



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1. **Bernard Błaszczyk** – Undersecretary of State, Environment Ministry; 2. **Witold Drożdż** – Undersecretary of State, Minister of Internal affairs and Administration of Poland, Vice-President, the Information and communication Committee of the Council of Ministers (KIGEIT); 3. **Grażyna Hendlewska** – Undersecretary, Ministry of Economy (Poland); 4. **Henryk Jezierski** – Undersecretary of State, Principal national Geologist, Ministry of Environment of Poland; 5. **Andrzej Kremer** – Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 6. **Joanna Schmid** – Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Treasury (Poland); 7. **Joanna Strzelec-Łobodzińska** – Undersecretary of State in Ministry of Economy In Poland; 8. **Maciej Szpunar** – Undersecretary of State in Urząd Komitetu Integracji Europejskiej (Office of the Committee for European Integration); 9. **Krzysztof Żuk** – Undersecretary of State, Treasury Ministry; 10. **Juraj Blanar** – President of the Žilina Self-Governing Region in Slovakia; 11. **Regina Cablitz** – Finanzministerium Nordrhein-Westfalen, PPP-Task Force (Germany)



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1. **Harald Bolt** – Member of the Board of Directors, Jülich Research Centre (Germany); 2. **Luc Callebat** – President and CEO, Lafarge Cement SA; 3. **Jiri Cienciala** – President, General Director, Trinecke Zelezarny; 4. **Wim Van Garven** – COO, ArcelorMittal Poland; 5. **Michael Green** – Chairman, UCG Partnership; 6. **Paul Grohmann** – Vice President, New Technology and Energy, Messer Group GmbH; 7. **Herbert Lechner** – Scientific Director, Österreichische Energieagentur (Austrian Energy Agency); 8. **Petra Lundström** – Vice President Corporate R&D, Fortum Oyj; 9. **Orazio Ragni** – President & CEO, AVIO Group; 10. **Ludwik Sobolewski** – President, the Warsaw Stock Exchange; 11. **Filip Thon** – President, RWE Polska SA; 12. **Lubomír Vavroš** – Chairman of the Board of the Directors, General Director, Letiště Ostrava, a.s.; 13. **Torbjörn Wahlborg** – President, Vattenfall Poland Sp. z o.o.; 14. **Stefan Widomski** – Polish Honorary Consul in Finland, Member of the Board, former Vice-president, Nokia Corporation



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