Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

A Review and Assessment of the Polish Presidency

Leadership in the EU in the Context of the Polish Presidency

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Journal of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań

l • 2013 Przegląd Zachodni, nr I, 2013

Instytut Zachodni

■ "PRZEGLAD ZACHODNI" / "WESTERN REVIEW" is a scientific journal of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań. It has been published without a break since 1945, at present it is a quarterly journal with an interdisciplinary character. It includes mostly academic articles, sources, reports from conducted research, but also polemics and reviews written by Polish and foreign authors.

In the almost seventy-year-long history of the "Western Review" the primary profile of the journal has not changed. However, the layout of focus on particular issues has undergone a clear evolution which was demonstrated by different thematic priorities in different periods, and in consequence since 2001 all the issues have been profiled.

Currently the subject matter of the journal mainly fits into the slogan, Poland-Germany-Europe. However, it is frequently expanded by topics of significant importance for understanding the contemporary world and the new challenges which are facing societies and states.

Making reference to the image of the journal developed over many years as devoted to German studies, the problems of Germany (internal or analyzed in the general European or international context) and Polish-German relations remain one of the main topics.

For several years now there has been a noticeable increase of interest in European issues in articles presented in the journal, among others, in the various stages and aspects of the transformation of the European Union, in overcoming divisions in Europe, and in the development of integration of the entire continent.

Still a lot of attention is devoted to Poland including both its past and present. It is expressed, among others, in the renaissance of interest in Western and Northern Regions, although the current research questions concern mainly other issues, e.g., the regional diversity of Poland, the shaping of local identity, the degree of identifying with the "private homeland", or issues which were so far left unsaid, e.g., German cultural heritage in those regions, expulsions of Germans, wasteful exploitation by Russians, or the resistance movement after 1945.



Journal of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań

Quarterly



Institute for Western Affairs in Poznań

Przegląd Zachodni, nr I, 2013

1 . 2013



Table of Contents

Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

- Janusz Józef Węc A Review and Assessment of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- 35 *Elżbieta Maślak, Mikołaj J. Tomaszyk* Leadership in the EU in the Context of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- 53 Sidonia Jędrzejewska The Polish Presidency and the Budget of the European Union
- 59 Natalia Jackowska Raison d'État and the Polish Presidency
- 69 Anna Umińska-Woroniecka Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency: Strategy and Reality
- 85 *Krzysztof Malinowski* Poland and Germany in the European Union: Cooperation Opportunities and Barriers
- 99 Izabela Janicka
 German Press Commentaries on Poland's Presidency
 of the Council of the European Union
- 115Bogdan KoszelFrench-German Leadership in the European Union under the Ruleof Chancellor Angela Merkel
- 145Piotr KalkaThe European Union in the Face of the Sovereign-Debt Crisis
- 169 Jerzy Rutkowski Poland's National and Foreign Debt
- 185 Adam Kirpsza
 Legislative Challenges for the European Union after the Treaty of Lisbon Entered into Force
- 211 Anna Potyrala EU Immigration Policy in the Light of the Arab Spring
- 227 Jędrzej Skrzypczak Audiovisual Policy of the European Union

Przegląd Zachodni, nr I, 2013

7



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Research financed within: The Programme INDEX PLUS (Project No. IxP 0209 2012) Under the auspices of the Minister of Science and Higher Education in 2012

Editor's address: Instytut Zachodni, 61-854 Poznan, ul. Mostowa 27

All articles are indexed on the Internet at: www.ceeol.com and www.ebscohost.com, abstracts in English available at: www.cejsh.icm.edu.pl

Peer-reviewed journal

Reviewing procedure and information for authors available at: www.iz.poznan.pl The Publisher has implemented procedures to prevent ghostwriting and guest authorship practices. The hardcopy paper version is the primary (reference) version.

> PUBLISHER: INSTYTUT ZACHODNI, INSTYTUT NAUKOWO-BADAWCZY 61-854 POZNAŇ, UL. MOSTOWA 27

tel. (061) 852 28 54; fax (061) 852 49 05; e-mail: wydawnictwo@iz.poznan.pl; www.iz.poznan.pl www.pz.iz.poznan.pl

> PRINTING: UNI-DRUK s.j. 62-030 Luboń, ul. Przemysłowa 13, tel. (0-61) 899 49 49 do 52

INDEKS 371351

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Przegląd Zachodni, nr I, 2013

Founded in 1944, **the Institute for Western Affairs** is an interdisciplinary research centre carrying out research in history, political science, sociology, and economics. The Institute's projects are typically related to German studies and international relations, focusing on Polish-German and European issues and transatlantic relations. The Institute's history and achievements make it one of the most important Polish research institution well-known internationally. Since the 1990s, the watchwords of research have been *Poland– Germany – Europe* and the main themes are:

- political, social, economic and cultural changes in Germany;
- international role of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- past, present, and future of Polish-German relations;
- EU international relations (including transatlantic cooperation);
- borderlands: social, political and economic issues.

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