

Great Expectations

Poland and Germany in the European Union

The past 30 years have been one of the best periods in over a thousand years of Polish-German relations. The Solidarity movement spearheaded change across our continent, brought about the demise of communism, and broke the division of Europe and Germany itself. As a result, a sovereign Poland and a reunited Germany were able to develop their relations in a free manner.

Today, Germany is Poland's primary economic partner and its trade with Poland is bigger than with the UK or Russia. We work together in the field of culture and science. There are many partnerships between cities, towns, and regions, and intensive cooperation exists between non-governmental institutions and churches. We have vibrant youth exchanges. Joint anniversaries such as the seventy-fifth of the Warsaw Uprising and the eightieth of the outbreak of the Second World War show that we can overcome what has sometimes been a difficult common history.

Both countries work together at the UN Security Council. In April 2019, I took part in a meeting held by the German presidency on international humanitarian law, while Minister Heiko Maas attended the Polish presidency's briefing on the same subject in August. Within the framework of the Berlin Process we support the pro-European aspirations of the Western Balkan countries.



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We agree that the European Union is founded on such shared values as human dignity, democracy, freedom, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. And we must not forget our European roots – Christian values.

We expect that Germany, aware of its status in Europe, will take account of other countries' positions in their policies, particularly of those from Central and Eastern Europe. For our part, we declare

our willingness to take an active part in the debate on the future of Europe and the challenges it faces, such as the aggressive policy of Russia, the future of the Eastern Partnership, and securing peace in the Middle East.


We stand for a strong European Union, one which has a positive impact on its neighbourhood. We believe that ensuring security on the continent requires a strong alliance with the United States.

We are in favour of an EU of solidarity and support, one which builds on the strength of its nations and addresses the needs of its countries, regions and citizens, enabling them to fully develop their potential.

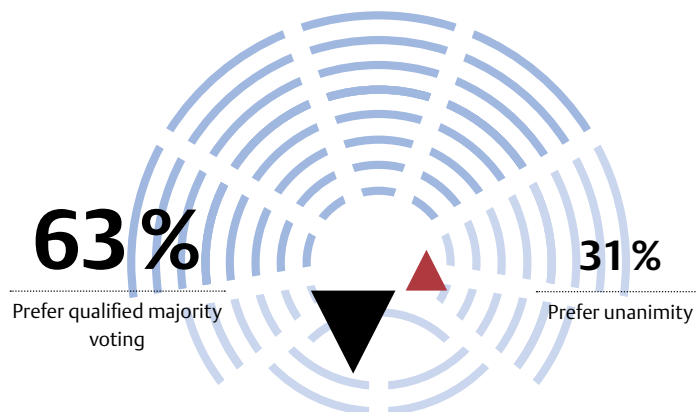
Development gaps between countries and regions are a challenge for European unity. Most of the countries admitted to the EU in 2004 have made significant progress in catching up with the more developed members. Poland's GDP increased from 50% to 70% of the EU average over this period. A robust structural and agricultural policy will allow this trend to continue in the future.

We believe that the EU's global position will be determined by the innovative capacity of its economy, the ability to come up with genuine solutions to problems, and the attractiveness of the European model of democracy. It is essential to boost competitiveness and further remove barriers on the common market, especially in the services sector. The European Union must also have a strong position in the area of artificial intelligence and the data-driven economy. Fighting tax fraud is also crucial, and Poland has made significant achievements in this field, which we are willing to share.

The European Union must enjoy the support of its societies. We believe that national parliaments should be given a greater role in the EU's decision-making process as they reflect the will of the citizens and the governments they choose.

We are convinced that Poland and Germany are natural partners. If we assume that the European Union is our common home then cooperation between Poland and Germany should be part of its solid foundation. 

Should the EU maintain its current mode of foreign policy decisions requiring unanimity, or adopt qualified majority voting?



2019: don't know 5%, no answer 1%