

Joint announcement of the Weimar Triangle ministers for European affairs

01.10.2012

We, the Ministers for European Affairs of Poland, Germany and France, present at a meeting on 1st October 2012 in Warsaw, note with utmost satisfaction the regular nature of our consultations, performed following the Weimar Triangle formula. We have discussed key issues concerning the future of the European Union, the current crisis in the Euro zone, the Multiannual Financial Framework as well as our involvement in the further development of the Common Security and Defence Policy and the Eastern Partnership.

We consider an effective EMU reform as indispensable in safeguarding the prosperous future of the European Union. We are fully committed to implementing the work plan decided by the Heads of State and Government at the June Summit.

All issues of EMU reform have to be conceived in a coherent manner.

We believe that the process of searching for the best solutions led by the President of the European Council and in consultation with the member states will enable to strengthen the foundations of the EMU and help the EU to return to a sustainable growth path and to enhanced competitiveness. To overcome the sovereign debt crisis in the Euro area, we will need both short- and longer term reform measures in economic coordination and solidarity. In this context, institutional reforms should not be excluded.

In the short term, the issue of banking supervision is a very important project for improvement of the financial security of the EU. The proposal needs to be carefully examined regarding the balance of rights and obligations for all the member States willing to participate. Therefore, Poland, France and Germany are determined to work swiftly to establish an effective single supervisory mechanism, involving the ECB, within the framework agreed at the June Summit.

Moreover, in order to achieve progress to these ends, the October European Council should clearly identify relevant issues, including further work to be done in implementing the EU compact for growth and jobs. At the December European Council we should, consequently, agree on a clear roadmap to implement such reform measures.

As to the Multiannual Financial Framework, we are determined to find an agreement at the extraordinary November European Council. We feel an urgent need for the future financial framework to focus even more on policies that contribute to growth, employment and competitiveness. We agree that EU funds need to be spent better in order to achieve this goal.

We had a fruitful discussion on the current state of CSDP and exchanged our views on the possible steps forward. In our opinion there is a need for our three countries to reinvigorate work in the EU on the development of CSDP, building on the council conclusions from 1.12.11 and 23.07.12. We agreed that further development of EU military and civilian capabilities, including in the area of advance planning is essential to strengthen the effectiveness of CSDP. We also recognized the importance of pooling and sharing of capabilities in order to enhance the European Union's ability to act more effectively in crisis management, where European security interests are concerned and, in particular, building on all the council conclusions of 23.07.12.

We reiterated our commitment to strengthen the EU Eastern Partnership policy stressing the EU's readiness to offer significant incentives, according to the "more for more" principle, to partners carrying out reforms in compliance with democratic values and rule of law. In the context of the elections in Georgia and Ukraine this month, we stressed the importance of free and fair elections, which are key for further fruitful cooperation and gradual alignment with the EU. Furthermore, there is no doubt that mobility of people and strengthening of civil society are crucial factors in the process of democratization of EaP countries. The same principles should apply to the whole European Neighbourhood Policy both in the East and in the South.

Poland, Germany and France are united by their common involvement and feeling of shared responsibility for the future of the European Union. Together we agree on the significance of continued cooperation within the format of the Weimar Triangle as an important discussion forum for key issues on the European agenda. We do take the view that it should generate important impulses for European policy and remain a source of new initiatives.

For all the above reasons, we take satisfaction in assuming that the dialogue following the Weimar formula will remain intensive, being continued in the months to come at all levels, including at the level of ministers of foreign affairs as well as heads of states and governments.

Looking forward to our next meeting in Germany in 2013, we express our conviction that the Weimar Triangle provides an important contribution to the ongoing debate on the future of the European Union.