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Policy Paper 1/2010

The Recommendations stemming from the Roundtable “Czech-Republic and Poland in Contemporary International Politics – Partners or Rivals”

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Vít Dostál a Katarína Lokšová (eds.)



The recommendations stemming from the debate “Czech-Republic and Poland in Contemporary International Politics – Partner or Rivals”

On the 5th November 2009 the Association for International Affairs (AMO) organized an expert roundtable about the Czech-Polish relations in today’s world. It took place in the premises of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This forum convened top thinkers focusing on the Czech-Polish relations. The event was divided into three parts. First one aimed at the Czech-Polish relations within the European Union. The second was concentrated at the security policy and opportunities for the Czech-Polish cooperation in this field. Last but definitely not least part dealt with the Czech-Polish relations with respect to the Eastern policy.

There were several objectives of this roundtable. Organizers wished to recapitulate the last five to ten years of the link between Prague and Warsaw. Moreover, they expected that the current state of the Czech-Polish relations will be described. Nevertheless, it was presumed that this unique event will bring also specific recommendation which would be, consequently, used by policy and decision makers in Prague and Warsaw and which would help in strengthening the relations between the Czech Republic and Poland.

The recommendations stemming from the debate were selected by Vít Dostál and Katarína Lokšová from AMO. Thus, they bear the sole responsibility for their veracity and authenticity. In order to see the whole context of the problems of the Czech-Polish relations, find the info on the printed publication entitled "Czech Republic and Poland in Contemporary International Politics - Partners or Rivals" at the AMO website. It includes the panelists’ introductory statements from the roundtable proceedings and four analytical papers written by roundtable participants.

Recommendations:

- There should be annual meetings of the entire cabinets of the Republic of Poland and the government of the Czech Republic as Poland already has such framework for cooperation with Spain or France. The first meeting should be convened before the Polish EU Council Presidency and should be focused, inter alia, on the Polish Presidency priorities.



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- There should be an ambassadorial meeting of the Visegrad Group countries in Brussels every week prior to the meeting of the COREPER in order to achieve better synergy of the V4 on the European stage.
- Extensive information sharing should be conducted during the Hungarian and Polish presidency within the framework of the Visegrad Group. Among preferentially debated issues should be the next financial perspective, Eastern Partnership and future of the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Despite the fact that the Polish EU Council Presidency priority areas resemble the Czech one, it should not be taken as granted that Poles will promote the same policy as the Czechs would do. However, there are certain indications saying that the policies will be in many areas divergent. Therefore, the Czech Republic and Poland should conduct a deep-reaching dialog on the presidency priorities and the Czech administration should examine the Polish European policy.
- Better cooperation between the Czech and Polish defense industry should be achieved.
- Czech political parties should (re-)define their position towards the European Security and Defense Policy as its role has changed with the Lisbon Treaty and with the new American administrations. The Polish attitude towards the ESDP might serve as a possible example and/or scenario.
- Higher visibility of the Article V of the Washington Treaty should be the cornerstone for both, the Czech Republic and Poland, during the debate on the new NATO Strategic Concept. Both countries should also share their view on the Strategic Concept debate with their Visegrad counterparts.
- Both countries should be aware that there are also other security risks than just a military attack. Such threats as cyber-terrorism, energy security or terrorism should be reflected in the NATO Strategic Concept as well.
- The Czech Republic and Poland should strive for a long term American presence in Europe and also on their territory as it increases their security. The renewed debate on the Missile Defense which should be now put only under the NATO framework represents an opportunity for achieving it.
- Czech-Polish cooperation on the Eastern Partnership should be further developed as it represents the cornerstone of the Czech and Polish Eastern policy. Mainly the information sharing should be improved. There should be, either formal or informal,



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contacts of the Czech and Polish diplomats in the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

- The Czech Republic and Poland should commence joint flagship projects within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. Among the projects conducted by the Czech Republic and Poland (or Czech and Polish NGOs) should be some aimed at the energy efficiency. Moreover, these might attract for cooperation also countries like Germany and Sweden.
- Communication and information sharing on the energy issues between the Czech Republic and Poland should be significantly improved. Provided that the synergy of attitudes is achieved, the promotion of common interests would be easier. In order to get to this level, mutual mistrust in the energy and Eastern policy must be overcome.
- It should be invested into synergy of the NGOs conduct and into joint Czech-Polish projects in the Eastern Partnership countries.

List of panelists of the roundtable I, Czech-Polish relations in the European Union

- Piotr Maciej Kaczyński, The Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
- Agnieszka Łada, The Institute of Public Affairs, Warsaw
- Vít Dostál, Association for International Affairs, Prague
- Volker Weichsel, Osteuropa Journal, Berlin

List of panelists of the roundtable II, Czech-Polish relations and security agenda

- Janusz Onyszkiewicz, former minister of defense of the Republic of Poland and former vice-president of the European Parliament
- Eugeniusz Smolar, Centre of International Relations, Warsaw
- Břetislav Dančák, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Masaryk University, Brno
- David Král, Institute for the European Policy EUROPEUM, Prague

List of panelists of the roundtable III, Czech-Polish relations and the Eastern policy

- Rafał Sadowski, Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw
- Grzegorz Gromadzki, Stefan Batory Foundation, Warsaw
- Luboš Veselý, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Association for International Affairs

The Association for International Affairs (AMO) is a non-governmental organization which was founded in order to pursue research and offer education in the field of international relations. AMO's main mission is to contribute to a deeper understanding of international course of events. Thanks to its activities and more than ten years of existence, AMO is perceived as one of the leading independent Czech think-tanks specialized in foreign policy.

In order to reach its goals the Association:

- conceives and publishes studies and analyses;
- organizes international conferences, expert workshops, round tables, public discussions;
- organizes educational projects;
- presents critical opinions and commentaries on current issues for domestic and foreign media;
- creates better conditions for the emergence of a new generation of experts;
- supports the interest of general public in international relations;
- cooperates with a wide array of other home and foreign institutions.

Research Center

The Research Center of the Association for International Affairs (AMO) was founded in October 2003 as one of the main pillars of the Association's activities focused on research, analyses and the popularization of research in the field of international relations and foreign, security and defense policy.

The scope of the Center is to contribute to the identification and analysis of problems that are important for Czech foreign policy and the position of the Czech Republic in today's world. The Center provides independent analyses, creates space for both expert and public discussions concerning the problems of international politics and suggests their possible solutions. The activities of the Center can be divided into two basic, but interlocked sections: research and expert analysis on one side and mediation of political and expert dialogue on the other side.