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**REPORT ON THE I NATIONWIDE CONGRESS FOR
EUROPEAN STUDIES, *POLAND IN THE PROCESS OF
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION – A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE*,
WARSAW, POLAND 18TH-20TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

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European Studies have been developed in Polish academic research and teaching for at least two decades. The intention of the Polish scientific community that the initiative of Prof. Assoc. Konstanty Adam Wojtaszczyk, President of the Polish Association for European Studies and Director of the Institute of European Studies of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Science at the University of Warsaw, decided to organise a congress of European Studies once every three years. The point of reference for this academic research and teaching area were the dynamic processes of European integration and Poland's membership in the European Union, as well as civilisation transformations in Europe. The given perspective influenced the Polish academic environment to organise the First Nationwide Congress for European Studies, which took place between 18th and 20th September 2014 at Warsaw University. The Congress was under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland. The main aims of the Congress were in particular:

- integration of the environment of Polish scholars: political science experts, lawyers, economists, representatives of international relations, sociologists, culture experts, and experienced professionals who deal with widely understood European issues;
- the debate on the Polish decade of experience in relation to Poland's membership in the EU;
- emphasising recent problems in European integration and discussion over perspectives in progress;
- methodological and theoretical frameworks of European Studies: as European integration is studied by various academic disciplines, in order to recognise European issues there is the need to use interdisciplinary and to search for new methodological approaches.

The Congress gathered the attention of over 400 researchers and scientific scholars of various scientific disciplines and experienced professionals who deal with widely understood European issues. Among the invited guests of the First National Congress of European Studies were:

- PhD Rafał Trzaskowski – Minister of Administration and Digitization of the Republic of Poland
- Prof. Stanisław Koziej – Minister of the State, Head of National Security Bureau
- PhD Ewa Synowiec – The Director of The European Commission Representation in Poland

- PhD Henryka Mościcka-Dendys – Undersecretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs, European Policy and Human Rights of the Republic of Poland
- Agnieszka Pomaska – Deputy in the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
- Anna Radwan – President of the Robert Schuman Foundation of Poland
- Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak – Vice-Rector for Research and Liaison of the University of Warsaw
- Prof. Janusz Adamowski – Dean of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Science of the University of Warsaw

The First Nationwide Congress For European Studies was inaugurated by Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak (Vice-Rector of the University of Warsaw for Research and Liaison of the University of Warsaw) and Prof. Janusz Adamowski (Dean of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Science of the University of Warsaw). During the three-day congress, three plenary sessions and 91 public panels took place. During the panels a wide range of topics was discussed, from human rights, economic and monetary integration, education and social affairs, European identity, energy, regional policy to external relations, and the EU's position in the world. Many of the topics were connected with the Polish experience of membership in the EU.

Three scientific lectures by Prof. Piotr Mazurkiewicz, former Secretary General of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community Commission, Prof. Henryk Samsonowicz (University of Warsaw), and Prof. Jan Zielonka (University of Oxford) were also presented. Rafał Trzaskowski (Minister of Administration and Digitization of the Republic of Poland) presented a speech on the impact of EU membership on changes in the Polish government.

The participants of the Congress could also take part in two round tables. The first round table was devoted to evaluation of Polish membership in the EU. The round table moderated by Anna Sroka (professor at the University of Warsaw) was attended by members of Parliament of the Republic of Poland and members of the European Parliament. During the second round table, moderated by Ewa Stasiak-Jazukiewicz (professor at the University of Warsaw), a debate with the participation of famous Polish journalists took place. Both debates concerned Polish experience of the membership of the EU, seen from different perspectives.

The Open Meeting of Polish Association for European Studies also took place at the Congress. The Polish Association of European Studies was founded in 2012 on the initiative of scientists conducting research in the field of the EU and European integration. It focuses on, among others, political scientists, lawyers, sociologists, economists, cultural studies, media experts, and historians. The aim of the Association is to promote the development of research in European studies, integrating scientific community conducting research in the EU, the dissemination of knowledge about Europe in particular, the EU and European integration, as well as attention to the quality of education for European Studies conducted by research centres in Poland.

The First Nationwide Congress for European Studies was particularly important because it was the first such scientific event organised in Poland devoted to European studies. Its importance also stems from the fact that it took on the nature of the first

memorandum event. The Congress became a scientific event gathering scientists, experts, and politicians from Poland and abroad. It also became an opportunity to summarise a given stage of development of European studies, as well as the integration of the scientific community dealing with European issues. The idea of the Congress or European Studies is to be a transitive event, organised each time by one of the universities in Poland.