

International Conference on New Generations of Policy Documents and Laws for Higher Education: Their Thrust in the Context of the Bologna Process

4-7 November, Warsaw, Poland

Powitanie uczestników konferencji - prof. Jerzy Woźnicki

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the organizers of our Conference ? the Institute of Knowledge Society and UNESCO-CEPES (European Centre for Higher Education) ? and also on behalf of the Polish Rectors Foundation, I have the honor of welcoming all those attending this opening ceremony of the Conference.

My special words of welcome and thanks go to the President of the Republic of Poland Mr. Aleksander Kwaśniewski who agreed to extend his high patronage over our Conference.

This ceremony marking the opening of our Conference is attended by so many eminent political, academic and scientific persons from all over Europe and also United States, that I cannot possibly welcome them all by name. Accordingly, let me offer my heartfelt welcome to all of you collectively.

Do allow me however, to welcome the speakers at the first session of our Conference. I would like to greet Poland's Minister of Education, Mr. Mirosław Sawicki. My words of welcome go also to the President of the European University Association, professor Eric Froment, and to the President of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland, rector of the Jagiellonian University, professor Franciszek Ziejka.

Let me welcome also Hungarian Minister of Education Mr Magyar Balint attending our conference on Saturday. Welcome all deputy ministers who are here.

I would like to extend my special greetings to the great author of political reforms in Poland, former Polish foreign minister, member of the European Parliament, one of the greatest architects of modern Europe ? professor Bronisław Geremek. Professor Geremek will be delivering the keynote lecture at our first session.

As you could find it in Preliminary Agenda the Dinner Speaker at our Gala Dinner tonight will be the person responsible for the economic transformation of this country ? professor Leszek Balcerowicz.

We cannot fail to add that the political and economic reforms implemented successfully in Poland, thanks in large part to our speakers today, created conditions for the kind of development of higher education in Poland that we are witnessing today.

However, in this context let me express our great hope that in future dialog between minister of finance and minister of education will be a little bit more fruitful.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is now time for me to welcome a person whose contribution to the development of the higher education cannot be overemphasized. I wish to greet the Director of UNESCO-CEPES, and a best friend of ours ? Dr. Jan Sadlak. Dr. Jan Sadlak will be chairing our first session. Janek, the floor is yours.

Thank you very much.

