



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND



STEFAN **BATORY**
FOUNDATION

FUTURE OF VISEGRAD CO-OPERATION AFTER EU ENLARGEMENT

A NEW BEGINNING?

Seminar organised by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
in co-operation with the Stefan Batory Foundation

Warsaw, 18 – 19 May, 2003
Belvedere Palace

Agenda

Sunday, 18 May, 2003

19:00 Buffet Dinner

Monday, 19 May, 2003

- 9:00 – 9:15 **Introductory statements**
Jan Trzuszczński, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
Aleksander Smolar, President of the Stefan Batory Foundation
- 9:15 – 11:15 **First Session**
Looking back at Visegrad co-operation 1991-2002
Moderator: Aleksander Smolar, President of the Stefan Batory Foundation
- What were comparative advantages of the Visegrad Group?
 - What were integrating and disintegrating factors in Visegrad co-operation?
 - Were original objectives of the first Visegrad Declaration achieved?
 - What would be the balance sheet of achievements and failures?
 - What lessons could be learned from the experience of EU accession negotiations? Did we find a balance between common and individual approach pursuing specific national interests? What were perceptions in particular countries of the Visegrad co-operation in the process of negotiations? What was the impact on mutual trust and future co-operation?
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Coffee break**
- 11.45 – 13.30 **Second Session**
Visegrad Group and the Central European region after EU enlargement
Moderator: Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Senior Fellow at Centre for International Affairs, former Minister of Defence of Poland
- In which areas there is a strong potential for co-operation? What specific initiatives could be the driving force for Visegrad partnership? (culture, education, youth exchange, Justice and Home Affairs, fight against organised crime and illegal migration, defence policy, infrastructure, labour and social affairs).
 - Is there a room for joint initiatives towards candidate and non-candidate countries in the region? (Balkan countries, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus)
 - How Visegrad Group could relate to other regional structures and initiatives? (e.g. Central European Initiative, Council of Baltic Sea States, "Riga Initiative")
 - What lessons could be learned from the Benelux and Nordic Council experiences?
- 13:30 – 15:00 **Buffet Lunch**

15:00 – 17:00 **Third Session**

Is there a future for Visegrad in an enlarged EU?

Moderator: **Jan Trzuszczński**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

- What are the scenarios and maps of coalitions of specific countries and sub-regional groupings, lines of agreements and divisions? How the Visegrad countries will fit into new map of Europe?
- How could the Visegrad group maximise net transfers available under various EU policies? Will such issues as budget, structural and cohesion funds, community programmes remain the only “real” common interests of Visegrad countries?
- What impact will the current state of relations between the US and EU have on Visegrad countries position inside European Union? What are the possible strategies that Visegrad countries could pursue in that respect?
- What will be the similarities and differences in Visegrad countries position on key issues relevant to EU future?
 - 2004 IGC on institutional reform
 - Reform of Common Agricultural Policy
 - Implementation of Lisbon strategy (the future of European social model)
 - Policy toward Eastern Europe or so-called Eastern Dimension (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova)
- What operational arrangements could make Visegrad co-operation in the enlarged EU effective?

17:00 – 18:00 **Reception**