Rebuilding the Transatlantic Bridge: U.S.-Polish Cooperation on Science, Technology, and Innovation

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Ambassador Alan Wm. Wolff
Board on Science, Technology & Economic Policy
The New Locational Competition

- We meet today in the context of an intense and growing interest among nations and regions for economic activity that creates jobs and improves living standards

- This will be the central issue of domestic policy in the United States next year

- We need good jobs for today and for the future
White House Jobs Summit Today

• President Obama is hosting academics, business and labor leaders to hear their suggestions.
• Six discussion groups - on "green" jobs, boosting small business employment, government infrastructure spending, fostering growth of U.S. exports, business competitiveness and workforce development/training.
The Challenge Is Not Just to Create Jobs for Today

• We live in a world of unprecedented perils, but also unparalleled potential.
  – Our medical system holds the promise of unlocking new cures –
  – The sources of energy that power our economy are also endangering our planet.
  – We confront threats to our security that seek to exploit the very openness that is essential to our prosperity.
  – And we face challenges in a global marketplace

Barack Obama, November 23, 2009
The Response At Hand

• The key to meeting these challenges -- to improving our health and well-being, to harnessing clean energy, to protecting our security, and succeeding in the global economy -- will be reaffirming and strengthening America's role as the world's engine of scientific discovery and technological innovation.

Barack Obama, November 23, 2009
Innovation is Increasingly Mobile

• In today’s globalized markets, businesses have a much wider range of options

• Modern communications technology and transport systems mean that:
  – Businesses can switch suppliers and locations much more rapidly

• Financial incentives abound

• Quality of workforce and infrastructure increasingly matter more than wages for better paying jobs
Public Policies increasingly determine the location of economic activity

- Sound macroeconomic policies
- Reliable institutional and legal frameworks
  - Ease of business formation and transition
- Protection of intellectual property
- Availability of a skilled workforce, backed by investments in universities and research facilities
- A technological, economic and legal environment that fosters the commercialization of new ideas in the market
  - Incentives that help drive innovation
Leading Nations Seek to Provide an Environment for Innovation

- Sustained support for R&D
- Investment in education and training
- Protection of intellectual property
- New innovation partnerships to build high-tech clusters that can bring new products and services to market
- Leveraging public and private Funds
- Supporting innovative SMEs
The Challenge for Poland and the U.S. is Twofold

• To cooperate more, and more effectively on areas of common strengths and interests
• To convert national investments in R&D into products for the market
Rebuilding the Transatlantic Bridge: What brings us together?

• Poland and the United States have common interests and common challenges
  – Fostering economic growth at home and abroad
  – Developing clean sources of energy
  – Delivering quality and efficient health care
  – Assuring global food and product safety and supply
  – Improving security

• International learning and cooperation can make a major contribution to foster success
Rebuilding the Transatlantic Bridge

- Today’s conference brings together policymakers and practitioners to address the goal of increasing US and Polish cooperation on innovation, science and technology

- We look forward to
  - Exploring our common challenges
  - Sharing best practice principles
  - Discovering opportunities for closer cooperation between Poland and the United States
Witajcie / Welcome

• Special welcome to
  – President Michael Kleiber of the Polish Academy of Sciences
  – Prof. Elzbieta Orłowska, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education
  – Hanna Trojanowska, Deputy Minister of Economics
  – Members of the distinguished delegation from Poland
Thank You

Alan Wm. Wolff
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