

Preface

Introduction to the “Polish-Ukrainian Bulletin” Project

The idea of this publication was born during a meeting of Secretaries of the Security Councils of both Poland and Ukraine, in Kiev in May 2011. On a fine spring day, although several sessions of bilateral consultations produced pleasing results, a feeling that something was missing became apparent. There was no time for the discussion of many issues that markedly required in-depth and wide-ranging discussion. The “Bulletin” can therefore be regarded as an extension of those conversations.

The views of the Polish and Ukrainian analysts concerning important security issues are presented in the report. The paper provides an opportunity to compare how the same issues are treated on both sides of the border. It is not surprising to find many converging elements. Cooperation within the security sphere is one of the foundations on which the Polish and Ukrainian relationships are built. However, a difference in emphasis put on issues, also has value. Allowing a better mutual understanding. It is important that between the two countries there are no “white spots” – no topics are excluded from discussion.

The dominant feature of the modern-day international security environment is uncertainty. Very often it is accompanied by a lack of trust. The mechanisms that should ensure predictability and verify the good will of partners, often fail. This lack of confidence could turn out to be extremely destructive, particularly during critical moments (which at present are not difficult to come across).

A reason for satisfaction is that these negative tendencies do not concern the Polish-Ukrainian relationship. The work of each partner contributes to this. However, it should be remembered that this cannot be taken for granted.

In 2012, the Euro 2012 Finals Tournament develops as a symbol of the organisational partnership between the two States. This is understandably pleasing. However, although symbols are important, they should not be limiting. As natural leaders of Central and Eastern Europe, Poland and Ukraine are committed to ensuring that the “strategic partnership”, repeatedly declared on a political level, forms a defined structure. Not only would this

constitute a tangible contribution to the security of the region, it also provides a good example to other European countries. It is sincerely hoped, regardless of other initiatives, this “Bulletin” will be an incentive that will help the identification and development of realistic projects for Polish-Ukrainian projects in the security sphere.

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