

<https://en.bbn.gov.pl/en/news/251,President-NATO-summit-confirms-our-goals.html>

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## President: NATO summit confirms our goals

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**The NATO summit has confirmed the basic meaning of the joint defence principle and the termination date of the ISAF Afghanistan mission, which was important for Poland, President Bronisław Komorowski said following the Chicago summit on Monday.**

"We have been able to confirm the importance of Article 5 of the Washington treaty, speaking directly of the need to organise, equip and train the Alliance to defend the territory of member states. This is what Poland has consequently argued for," Komorowski told reporters. The summit declarations on defensive capabilities "are fully satisfactory for us", he noted.

"The decision on terminating the NATO mission in Afghanistan by 2014, which I have postulated, has also been fully confirmed," the president added. Referring to the allied involvement in Afghanistan following that date, Bronisław Komorowski said that Poland was open (to solutions - PAP) but for the moment did not declare what shape its involvement would assume. It would be subject to debate whether to support the Afghan army or focus on development projects.

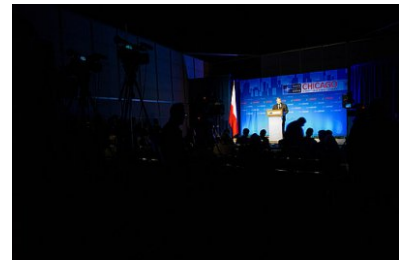
Before the summit Bronisław Komorowski said that there was a "general belief" that NATO's ISAF mission in Afghanistan should wind up by the end of 2014.

"Poland was not alone in supporting the view that the defence of the member states is a basic Alliance function. Neither was it alone when it stressed that this should find reflection in concrete steps and decisions, starting from training, through eventuality plans, to an anti-missile shield system and developing the capacity for participation in larger operations demanding involvement by more than one corps", Bronisław Komorowski told reporters summing up the summit's first sitting.

Referring to the Afghanistan mission, Bronisław Komorowski remarked that its conclusion should comply with decisions made at NATO's Lisbon summit.

"There is a rather general belief - one which I personally very much have and do support - that the decisions which fell at Lisbon should be understood unambiguously, not as a designation to change the end of 2014 as the mission's conclusion date", the Polish president declared.

Bronisław Komorowski added that post-2014 aid to Afghanistan will be regulated by "completely new decisions, a new mandate and a new concept which all (NATO members - PAP), including Poland, will relate to in decisions regarding their involvement level".



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Asked about the NATO members' financial contributions to the ISAF operation, Bronislaw Komorowski said there were currently no decisions on the matter and none expected in the near future.

"There are no decisions on this matter and I don't believe any will fall in the nearest time. This will be undertaken in debates concerning the Alliance's position as a whole", he said.

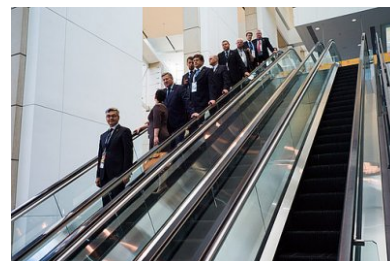
Bronislaw Komorowski also voiced optimism about the announced initial readiness of NATO's missile defence system. "Today we are engaged in the construction of a NATO missile defence programme", Komorowski declared and said he was sure Poland will back the project.

Commenting his talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Bronislaw Komorowski said they focused on Ukraine and the European Football Championship organised jointly by Ukraine and Poland. Commenting recent political turbulence around the tournament, Bronislaw Komorowski stressed that Merkel and he "shared the view that sporting events should be shielded from (...) strictly political situations to a maximum degree".

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