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09.04.2024, 12:44

28.02.2016

President: Poland and Slovakia have similar needs

Poland and Slovakia have similar needs and outlooks on the future, said Polish President Andrzej Duda after a meeting with his Slovak counterpart Andrej Kiska in Tatranska Lomnica, Slovakia, on Sunday.

President Duda stressed that they shared nearly the same opinions on all issues. "We are in agreement regarding our needs and outlook on the future, regarding the needs of our countries and regarding what we can expect as far as the situation in Europe is concerned," the Polish president said.

According to the Slovak president, neighbours and politicians should meet to discuss the current political situation in the two countries, in Europe and worldwide. "I am convinced that the exchange of views leads to a situation in which we can draw conclusions making our relations better than now," he stressed.

President Kiska added that he and Duda agreed that it was necessary to improve transport connections between Poland and Slovakia, including road and railway routes.

"(...) the point is to consolidate contacts between people (...), there is tourism and business, more ties between our countries are needed," the Polish president said, adding that he was also thinking about common energy security.

The Polish head of state stressed that his meeting with President Kiska was extremely significant with a view to the presidency of the EU, to be taken by Slovakia, and of the Visegrad Group, to be assumed by Poland.

"There is one thing one can be sure of after our talks today: our two countries and nations can count on good cooperation of their presidents in the implementation of tasks connected with these important roles we will start playing in July," President Duda said.

Speaking about the ongoing migrant crisis, President Duda said Poland and Slovakia had the same opinion on the problem. "First of all, Europe should protect its external borders. The continuation of the Schengen zone lies in the interest of our two countries," the Polish head of state said.

Presidential Minister Krzysztof Szczerski said on Saturday that during an informal meeting the two presidents were planned to speak about security, Slovakia's EU presidency as well as transport and energy projects of the Adriatic, Baltic and Black Sea countries.

A forum of the Adriatic, Baltic and Black Sea countries is planned in Croatia in late summer this year, Szczerski said.

Opening the 7th "Trail Without Borders" 13-km ski run to Oravice, Slovakia, in Witow near Zakopane (southern Poland) on Saturday, President Duda expressed hope that "borders in Europe will not separate people ever

again".

The president stressed that the border between Poland and Slovakia and between the regions of Podhale in Poland and Orava in Slovakia existed only on political maps and could be easily crossed.

"This is the achievement of our friendship, of our presence in the EU, and of the Schengen agreement," President Duda said.

The run has been organised every year since 2007.

Source: PAP; president.pl

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