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## COMMUNIQUES AND DOCUMENTS OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF POLAND

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### 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of PROS

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the PROS gathered at the second semi-annual plenary meeting in 2010 with the following agenda:

1. Adoption of Agenda.
2. **Speech by the Minister of Environment Professor Andrzej Kraszewski.**
3. Assessment of the PROS role as the advisory advisory council.
4. ***The National Policy on Water Economy until 2030*** (draft) – presentation of the document and discussion.
5. Report on the EEAC 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary Session & Conference, Bruges, 13-16. Oct. 2010.
6. Activities dealing with the next EEAC Summit – APS & Conference – to be organized by PROS on 14-17 of September, 2011 in Wroclaw.
7. Reporting on the PROS Presidium activities since the last Plenary Meeting.
8. Adoption of Minutes from the 7<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
9. Matters arising.

**Abbreviated extraction from Minutes of the most important items is as follows:**

(2) **Professor Kraszewski** concentrated his short speech on selected most important issues faced by the Ministry. He begun with the appreciation for the Council activity (two *Statements* in 2009 and 2010) supporting him in his attempts to change the law on waste management. He informed that due to the draft of the novel act adopted by the Government (Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>) the property of municipal wastes will be obligatory passed to the self-government who will be responsible for establishing a complex infrastructure for a complete waste recycling and storage based on best available practice and technology. A part of this legal regulation will concern on fighting against illegal activities in collecting and trade of used packing, electric and electronic materials as well as exploited vehicles. A new law should create adequate instruments to equip *Environmental Inspectorates* in appropriate punishment tools.

The next very important reform to be implemented soon, deals with water management. To make this system to be modern and effective it is necessary to divide authority to govern the state property of water installations among different levels of public administration. The same time it would be necessary to base water economy on a strong financial system which could allow covering various needs in this sphere. This set of elements has not been fulfilled, so far, which creates a series of problems in water management. Due to *the EU Water Frame Directive* a very crucial issue creates good quality of water, which has been recently very strongly affected by climate changes resulting in floods and heavy winds. Bad experiences of this year show that Poland should undertake precautionary steps.

This had been the origin of Minister's desire to include a discussion on the *National Policy on Water Economy* as the main issue of the agenda of this plenary session, since the document is going to be soon adopted by the Government and send to the Parliament. The draft design has been elaborated by the *Regional Water Management Authority* in Cracow and should be finally elaborated and implemented as soon as possible.

The Minister also underlined the importance of Polish Presidency to the European Union to begin on July the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, to represent the EU in relation with third countries and international organizations.

(3) The PROS statute obligations and their fulfillment have been discussed at the Minister presence. The PROS Chairman presented some opinions of Presidium and other Council members showing their feelings that they are not adequately exploited due to their competences and capacity. The following discussion voices have been raised:

**Prof. Tadeusz Borys**, speaking on behalf of other Council members asked to define clearly the role of the Council suggesting the PROS should really advice the authorities of the Ministry. He proposed to return to the issue of revitalizing the Council for Sustainable Development at the Prime Minister which should deal with the *National Strategy for Sustainable Development* – the document which does not exist in Poland. He also complained, the time given for elaboration of opinions required by different ministry departments is too short.

**Prof. Bronisław Wołoszyn**, a mutual member of the State Nature Conservation Council (*PROP*) – supported his predecessor in his remark dealing with time for making opinions. His main issue dealt with the necessity to re-define goals of both councils – PROs and PROP and expectations from their work.

**Prof. Bazyli Poskrobko** suggested to express appreciation that the Government has shared Council's opinion on municipal solid waste management and proposed to appeal to Members of the Parliament to support this draft act.

**Dr. Janusz Radziejowski** pointed out importance of considering the Council role during Polish presidency in the EU.

**Prof. Jerzy Solon** stated that a consultancy role could deal with elaboration of some strategic recommendations or reviews of various activities and that assessment of new legal acts should not lay in the Council competence. He turned the attention to the importance of spatial planning as an important element of environmental governance despite that this sphere is not in the jurisdiction of the Minister of Environment.

**Prof. Ryszard Janikowski**, continuing that point drew the attention to such documents as *Concept of Spatial Planning of the Country* (both mid- and long-term) which are narrowing the role of the Minister of Environment, since environment and ecology are in those documents treated fully marginally limiting by this the PROs possibilities to support the Minister.

**Prof. Tomasz Winnicki** mentioned that due to the subject of the next EEAC Conference within the Annual Plenary Session in Wrocław – *Green Economy Rio plus 20* – it is expected that the Council should present its standpoint (*see item 6*).

**Prof. Andrzej Kraszewski** explained a strategic role of the PROs similar to that played in supporting changes of the municipal waste management system. As it has been already mentioned, the next important task of that kind would be linked with the new vision on water management system. The Minister confirmed that a proper environmental protection begins with the spatial planning, therefore the Ministry is tending to widen its jurisdiction to cover also that area of planning. He also added that all suggestions dealing with role of the PROs during Polish EU Presidency shall be considered and seriously treated. He excused for leaving the meeting for important duty reasons.

**Prof. Tomasz Winnicki** informed he sent some letters to other ministries, such as Agriculture and Rural Development or Administration and Internal Affairs requesting to include PROs and PROP on their mailing lists for documents being in a focus of their interest and competences such as agriculture or spatial planning issues.

**Prof. Maciej Sadowski** concluded the Minister's voice, that the PROs role should be concentrating

exclusively on priority problems for the Ministry. He also underlined that the Council is not adequately prepared for Polish EU Presidency.

**Prof. Tadeusz Borys** suggested presenting Council's expectation dealing with its role and tasks to the Ministry.

**Prof. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz** stated that the PROs should determine these strategic areas of competence and usefulness to achieve the position in which Council's point of view would be treated as the most important in decision making process. To achieve these PROs should determine main areas of its competence in which could be useful.

(4) The draft document, mentioned in (2), was presented by **Dr. Jerzy Grela**, Director of the *Regional Water Management Authority* in Cracow. He reminded three main goals of the European water policy – to provide good quality of water, to fulfill human and industrial water needs and to ensure flood and drought prevention. The *Policy* includes strategic aims, such as adaptation to climate changes including growing risk of natural disasters, as well as to exploit reserves hidden in water saving and in spatial changes.

One of the main task of elaborated reform is to separate competences dealing with the management of water resources from water maintenance and governing of State Property linked with water infrastructure. In that respect the document is suggesting three main options: governmental, municipal and mixed. Another goal is a fundamental change of governing tools: legal, administrative and economic. The project is expecting to implement new system by the end of 2013.

The document was also commented by **Prof. Jan Zelazo**, the PROs Secretary General and the WG Water Economy Member. He was made responsible for the final text of the PROs *Statement* concluding presentation voices and discussion (published as a separate document).

The second major comment was made by **Prof. Marek Gromiec**, former Secretary General of the PROs and current chair of the *Water Economy Council* at the Minister of Environment, invited to that meeting. There were 21 voices in the discussion on that issue summed up with voting for one of considered options of administrative division of the country rivers-basin into sub-basins. The majority voted for two river-basins – Vistula and Oder. There was also a common opinion that the property of water infrastructure should remain the State Property.

(5) The PROs Members received Chair's Report to the Minister on the event, prior to the Plenary Meeting as well as other documents. On that background the Chairman concentrated his oral report on a few issues: (1) Approval by the APS of the previous decision of the Steering Committee to grant to the PROs organization of the next APS & Conference and to locate it in Wrocław, since 14<sup>th</sup> till 17<sup>th</sup> of

September, 2011 – during Polish Presidency to the European Union.

(2) Paper *Sustainable Agriculture Land Use in Poland* by Irena Duer (Head PROs WG Agriculture) and Tomasz Winnicki, presented by the second at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Break-Sessions of the Conference.

(3) Election of the new chairperson of the Network and substitution of other terminating members of the EEAC S.C.

(6) The Chairman briefed the Council with some preparatory activities undertaken before the final APS decision granting the organization of the 2011 summit to the PROs, there were: Spring meetings of the S.C. delegation with the Rector of Wrocław University of Technology, the Mayor of Wrocław and the Minister of Environment; initial correspondence inviting Prof. Jerzy Buzek the President of the European Parliament to attend the Conference Day as a key speaker (16.09.2011), followed by the EEAC Chairman's invitation letter to Mr. Buzek and meeting of the PROs Chair with him (Brussels, 6.10.2010). Steps completed after the decision: meeting with the Rector of the Wrocław UT, confirming his invitation to hold all APS & Conference meeting in the University Aula; pre-booking of hotel rooms; providing institution responsible for all organizational activities; solving other logistic problems. The PROs team to co-work with the EEAC WG SD/Gov. group devoted to prepare the next year conference and its *Statement* has been formed of Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz (Deputy Chair & Head WG BD), Tadeusz Borys (Head WG EduSD), Ryszard Janikowski (Head WG SD), Bazyli Poskrobko (Head WG Gov.) and invited to lead this team the former PROs member prof. Bogusław Fiedor, the Rector of Wrocław University of Economics.

(7) Following activities were completed by members of Presidium:

- consulting of draft legal acts and other documents presented by the Ministry;
- contacting chairs of the State Nature Conservation Council (PROP) and the Water Management Council (RGW);
- contacts of PROs WGs Heads with corresponding EEAC WGs (observer status);
- correspondence and other action to get the organization of the APS in 2011;
- scientific events co-organized by the PROs WGs;
- participation of the Chair in the study tour and conference on invitation by the *Green Business Norway*;
- congratulation letters and attendance in anniversary ceremonies of state officials and university professors in environmental and sustainable development majors;
- responding inquiries and questioners on E & SD issues;
- collecting papers and information texts (*Green Pages*) to the next issue of the semiannual

journal *Problems of Sustainable Development* co-edited by the PROs.

(8) Minutes of the last Plenary Meeting were adopted without any remarks.

(9) Prof. Bazyli Poskrobko repeated his motion to remind the PROs *Statement on Solid Waste Management* supporting proposed changes in waste property to Members of the Parliament before the act will be considered at the Lower Chamber. The motion supported by Prof. Andrzej Jasiński.

*Tomasz Winnicki, the PROs Chairman*

## The standpoint of the State Environmental Council on Governing of Water Management in Poland

The Plenary Session of the Council held on October the 21<sup>st</sup> met expectations of the Minister of Environment and got familiar with the document entitled: *Draft National Policy on Water Management until 2030*. The project elaborated by Country Board of Water Management is presenting a concept of a reform to govern the water economy.

The *State Environmental Council* getting acquainted with opinions of invited experts and following the conducted discussion, stated as follows:

- It is reasonable to separate institutional managing of water resources from governing the state property – an infrastructure of water routs and melioration facilities – to properly maintain and exploit of water.
- A governance of water resources should refer to basins of main country rivers Vistula and Oder.
- A structure of organization of water governance in river basins should be adjusted to a hydrographic specificity and economic needs.
- Self-government should be main partner to the Government in managing of the state property.
- A partnership of self-governments should provide better protection and more rational exploitation of water resources.
- An increased activity of self-governments should also reduce a risk of floods.
- Activities of self-governments dealing with a maintenance, use and exploitation of water should be properly supervised by governmental units responsible for water management.

A correct water governance in Poland is not only fulfilling country's obligations against European Union, but also an urgent necessity to adjust this area of the economy to climatic changes which so severely touched our nation during this year.

*PROs, Warsaw, in October, 2010*

## European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils next Summit to be Held on September 14–17, 2011 in Wrocław, Poland

The Steering Committee's decision to grant the organization of its 2011 Annual Plenary Session and Conference to the State Environmental Council of Poland (PROs) was approved by the plenary meeting held in Tournai, Belgium on October the 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It has been also decided that the conference issue will be devoted to elaborate some recommendations for the coming *Summit of the Earth Rio + 20*.

The Minister of Environment of Poland professor Andrzej Kraszewski approved the budget of the event which is going to be an important input to **the Polish Presidency to the European Union**.



Photo of Wrocław University Main Building

The Rector of University of Technology of Wrocław professor Tadeusz Wieckowski, confirmed his invitation to conduct all APS and Conference meetings in appropriate halls of the university main building. This venue hosted in 1948 the historical *First World Congress of Intellectuals* attended by such personalities as Jean Frederic Joliot-Curie, Pablo Picasso and Ilia Erenburg and since then a number of world-wide-range conferences, schools and other meetings were held in this building.

The university is just celebrating a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Royal Higher School of Technology in Breslau connected with 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wrocław University of Technology. On November 15<sup>th</sup> **professor Jerzy Buzek President of European Parliament received highest university reward – Doctor Honoris Causa.**

Answering the invitation by Mr. Hubert David the Chairman of the EEAC Steering Committee to accept the role of a key speaker at the conference President Buzek answered positively asking to return with confirmation of his attendance in the beginning of 2011.

Just re-elected for another 4-years term the Mayor of Wrocław doctor Rafał Dutkiewicz, confirmed his eagerness to meet and host participants of the conference in the historical City Hall – a zero class monument of medieval art. Wrocław the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest city in Poland is the fastest developing district city permanently hosting number of world range companies and institutions. September used to be a month of international events of cultural, scientific and economic character.

APS & Conference participants will be lodged in **John Paul II Hotel** on Ostrow Tumski – a scenic island in the vicinity of the Cathedral. Since the APS will take place in September earlier than last years and due to a big number of events expected in Wrocław in this period, **please be ready to register also earlier than usually.**



Photo of John Paul II Hotel

It should be noticed that the PROs has already an experience as the organizer of Warsaw 2006 APS and the conference. The co-organizer was Finnish Council for Natural Resources since Finland held the EU-Presidency that time. e-Report on that event could be reached at: [www.eeac-net.org](http://www.eeac-net.org) (clicking *Annual Conferences* then *Proceedings*).

**Please feel be invited to the EEAC 2011 Summit. Welcome to Wrocław!**

*Tomasz Winnicki, the PROs Chairman*

## The Kampinos National Park

The Kampinos (Kampinoski) National Park was established in 1959 as a result of the unstinting efforts of Jadwiga and Roman Kobendza. It is situated in Poland's Central Mazovian Lowland, between the left bank of the Vistula River and the Bzura River, just beyond the north-western outskirts of the country's capital, Warsaw. In this it is unique, being the only European Park to border on to a capital city, and one of only three such sites in the world. It covers 38 548 ha (including 72 ha in the form of the European Bison Breeding Centre at Smardzewice in the Łódź voivodeship), and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 37 756 ha.

The Park includes extensive areas of the Kampinos Forest, which are located within the proglacial valley of the Vistula. The Forest or Puszcza ("push-

cha") forms a distinct natural system located at the junction of three ecological corridors of Europe-wide significance (of the Vistula, Bug and Narew Valleys). The land here was shaped by waters from the melting ice sheet in the immediate postglacial period. These flowed into the then sea via the 18 km wide Pre-Vistula Trough. The islands and shelves created at this point set off the process of dune formation, while marshlands became established in the old channels and oxbow lakes. It was in this way that two parallel east-west belts of dunes and a marshland belt between them were put in place. The dune complexes were also characterised by the presence of wetland depressions, while the marshlands conversely gained sandy elevations and small dunes.



Kampinos National Park, photo by Grzegorz Okołów

Such a diversity of habitats ensures the presence here of more than 100 plant communities. These are formed by approx. 1400 species of vascular plants, 120 species of bryophytes and 150 species of lichens. Among these are relicts and species characteristic of different geographical zones, like the relict of the post-glacial era, leatherleaf, as well as the boreal species twinflower and Siberian iris; the Pontic (south-eastern European) elements of ground cherry and purple viper's grass, and the species endemic to (found only in) Central Europe, the black birch. A total of 110 of the plant species present in the Park are legally protected, including mezereon, martagon lily, pasqueflowers, ivy and various orchids.

The Park also boasts 74 species of trees and 86 of shrubs, of which respectively 34 and 46 are of native origin. The main forest-forming tree is Scots pine, which creates stands over some 69% of the forest area. This is followed in order of cover by alder (forming 12% of the forest), pedunculate and sessile oaks (10%) and the silver and downy birches (6%). Overall, forests cover in excess of 73% of the Park, with the remaining area under various kinds of non-forest communities. The dune fields are more or less entirely forest-covered, with fresh pine and mixed-pine forest types prevailing. Small areas of dunes also support warmth-loving communities of plants that are psammophilous (sand-tolerant)

and/or xerothermic (drought-tolerant). In turn, the fertile soils of slopes and the bases of dunes join the islands formed in the middle of marshes in supporting a diverse oak-lime-hornbeam forest in which these main species are also accompanied by the likes of maples. Where forests grow on marshlands these are mainly of alder and birch on hummocks, with water standing between them for at least part of the year. The banks of watercourses also sustain a streamside thicket vegetation of alders and ashes. The natural communities of the open marshlands are composed of various sedges. These have survived intact in the southern part of the Park, though many of the marshland areas once present elsewhere have been afforested, or drained and converted into meadows and pastureland.



Kampinos National Park, photo by Grzegorz Okołów

Kampinos National Park also represents one of the most important refuges for Poland's lowland fauna. Half of the native types of animal are considered to occur here, which is to say more than 16 000 species. Recorded to date are just over 3000, something which attests to the fairly limited degree to which the area's fauna has so far been studied. The invertebrates are as ever the best-represented group, and among them there are more than 31 species of mosquitos! The Kampinos Forest also holds all 13 of the country's lowland amphibian species, as well as 6 species of reptiles. 136 species of birds nest in the Park. These include 10-15 pairs of black storks and 30-60 pairs of cranes (with some of these nesting only a couple of kilometres from the Warsaw city limits). There are also lesser spotted eagles, and, from 2000 onwards, white-tailed eagles. The open areas support good numbers of the corncrake a species considered threatened with extinction on the world scale. The full bird list for the Park (including the non-breeding season) is of 216 species. The nearby Vistula River is an important wintering ground for many kinds of waterbirds.

It was the presence within the Park of such a large number of rare and endangered bird species (particularly the grasshopper warbler and the aforementioned corncrake) that led the European Parliament to recognise the Park as a bird refuge of European rank in 1999.



The moose, photo by Grzegorz Okołów

Among the 52 mammal species, the largest is the moose (or, to Europeans, elk), which serves as the symbol of Kampinos National Park. Almost exterminated from Poland in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was reintroduced into the forest in 1951 and is now represented by a population of over 300. There are also large numbers of roe deer and wild boar, while the red deer is also colonising gradually. Some of the watercourses and former channels of the Vistula support otters, though far more abundant are the beavers, which were reintroduced into the area from 1980 onwards, and have colonised virtually every water body in the Park, as well as the adjacent stretches of the Vistula and Bzura in recent years. The Park also has 14 species of bats, while the carnivores are represented inter alia by martens, foxes and raccoon-dogs. The lynx was also reintroduced to the area recently, after an absence of almost 200 years. The measure was considered justified on account of the complete absence of large predators that might play the role of regulators of the populations of game animals. The experimental return of the lynx thus began in 1992, with the first cats being released into the wild two years later, and breeding has at last taken place.

A further task of the National Park is to protect the historical and cultural heritage also present within its boundaries. The Kampinos Forest has borne witness to many wars, uprisings and battles. The bloodiest of these took place in World War II. It was here in September 1939 that the Poznan and Pomorze Armies hastening to relieve Warsaw engaged with the enemy. Throughout the occupation, this was also a shelter and training ground for soldiers of the Home Army (AK). It was from the so-called "Kampinoska Republic" that the "Kampinos" grouping of the Home Army offered assistance to the Warsaw Uprising over two months of bitter conflict. Bearing eternal witness to those hard times are the cemeteries where soldiers and partisans lie, as well as numerous mass graves scattered across the Forest. The cemetery and mausoleum at Palmiry has the graves of the more than 2000 victims of mass "executions" carried out secretly in the Kampinos Forest and other afforested areas just outside Warsaw. Outstanding politicians and sportsmen lie here, alongside ordinary folk.

On a less grim note, the Park and its surrounding area include many examples of outstanding architecture, including the most famous ones associated with the life and works of Fryderyk Chopin. Among these are the family manor house at Zelazowa Wola, birthplace of the great composer, and the Gothic-Renaissance fortified church in Brochów, where Chopin's parents were married and he himself baptised.

The most valuable fragments of the Park are subject to strict (non-interventionist) protection within 22 areas covering a total of 4638 ha (or 12% of the total area). The largest of these – Sieraków – is a 1205 ha area just a few kilometres from the boundary of Warsaw. The remaining areas are under "partial" protection, which means that they can be subject to various activities in the sphere of active protection, with the aim here being to restore lost natural attributes through the restructuring of tree stands, re-establishment of disturbed water relations and reintroduction of plant species that were present previously (e.g. yew and larch). With a view to the traditional agricultural landscape of the Mazovian (Mazowsze) heartland of Poland being preserved, several areas of landscape protection covering a total of 2900 ha have also been designated. The Park's area includes 156 monumental trees, among these is the "Kobendza Oak" which is approx. 400 years old.

On account of its valuable natural features and significance to Polish society, the Kampinos National Park and surrounding buffer zone have been recognised by UNESCO as the Puszcza Kampinoska (Kampinos Forest) Biosphere Reserve (MaB) from the year 2000 onwards. Since the year 2004, when Poland joined the European Union, the area of the Park is also protected in the form of the Natura 2000 Site Puszcza Kampinoska (PLC 140001). The Park is obviously an important rest and recreational base for the inhabitants of Warsaw, as well as those from further afield. Visitors have 350 km of tourist trails at their disposal, along with the 200-km Kampinos Cycle Path, 7 education trails, recreational clearings and car parks located around the Park's margins. Educational activity is pursued by the Jadwiga and Roman Kobendza Didactic-Museum Centre in Granica, as well as the Education Centre in Izabelin. Both of these have museum exhibits and displays and also offer a diverse range of educational activities aimed mainly at children, as well as young people of senior-school and university age. In the European Bison Breeding Centre visitors have a chance see the majestic European bison, Europe's largest land mammal. The Park is fully engaged in the monitoring of nature and is the host of many scientific research projects.

*Jan Danyłow*



## National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management: Renewable Source of Financing

The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM) was established in 1989, as the regime transformation took place in Poland, and is the pillar of the Polish system of financing environmental protection along with voivodship funds for environmental protection and water management. The Act *Environmental Protection Law* serves as the basis for the National Fund's operation as a State legal person.

### Environment- and beneficiary-friendly fund

According to the National Fund's Strategy for 2009-2012, the mission of the National Fund is to financially support undertakings aimed at environmental protection and respect its value pursuant to the principle of sustainable development, included in the constitution. We participate in implementation of the *Environmental Policy of Poland* as a source of financing and cooperation, along with the Ministry of the Environment, with commissions of environmental protection at the Parliament (Sejm and Senate). The National Fund and voivodship funds provide financial support to projects which contribute to enforcement of Polish obligations stemming from the *Accession Treaty* and other EU directives. The National Fund supports also activities undertaken by the Ministry of the Environment and relating to meeting Polish obligations from the *Climate Convention*, *Biodiversity Convention*, implementing the Financial Instrument LIFE+, NATURA 2000 and environmental education. The National Fund, which is responsible for applying increasing amounts of funds from the EU as well as implementing the motto saying "Beneficiary-friendly fund", organises series of trainings and "open days" for entities applying for financial support from both domestic and foreign financial sources.

### Modern economic instruments

The source of the National Fund's revenues are fees and penalties for economic use of the environment, provided for in the *Law on Environmental Protection*, exploitation and concession fees collected by virtue of *Geological and Mining Law*, charges determined in the *Water Law*, substitution fees and penalties originating in the *Energy Law* as well as fees stipulated in the *Act on recycling of end-of life vehicles*. The National Fund has also revenues on the "climatic account" from selling the surplus of the Polish greenhouse gases emissions within the



## Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej: Odnawialne źródło finansowania

Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej (NFOŚiGW) powstał w 1989 r. w wyniku zmian ustrojowych Polski. Wspólnie z wojewódzkimi funduszami ochrony środowiska i gospodarki wodnej jest filarem polskiego systemu finansowania ochrony środowiska. Podstawą działania Narodowego Funduszu, jako państwowej osoby prawnej, jest ustawa *Prawo ochrony środowiska*.

### Fundusz przyjazny środowisku i beneficjentom

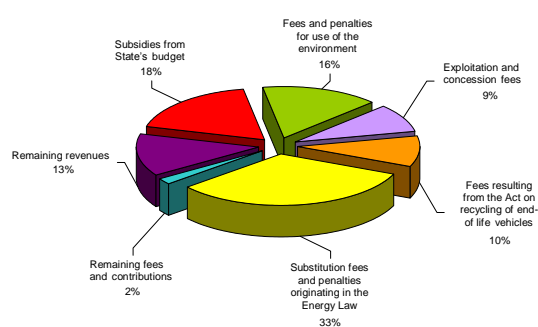
Misją Narodowego Funduszu, w zgodzie ze Strategią NFOŚiGW na lata 2009-2012, jest finansowe wspieranie przedsięwzięć służących ochronie środowiska i poszanowaniu jego wartości, w oparciu o konstytucyjną zasadę zrównoważonego rozwoju. Jako źródło finansowania uczestniczymy w realizacji *Polityki Ekologicznej Państwa* współpracując – u boku Ministerstwa Środowiska – z komisjami ochrony środowiska w Sejmie i Senacie. NFOŚiGW oraz wojewódzkie fundusze zapewniają wsparcie finansowe dla projektów, które realizują zobowiązania Polski wynikające z *Traktatu Akcesyjnego* i innych dyrektyw Unii Europejskiej. Narodowy Fundusz wspiera także działania Ministra Środowiska w zakresie wypełniania polskich zobowiązań wynikających z *Konwencji Klimatycznej*, *Konwencji Biodźnorodności*, wdrażania Instrumentu Finansowego LIFE+, realizacji programu NATURA 2000 oraz edukacji ekologicznej. Narodowy Fundusz, odpowiedzialny za wykorzystanie coraz większych środków z Unii Europejskiej, realizując także hasło „Fundusz przyjazny beneficjentom”, organizuje cykle szkoleń oraz „otwarte dni” dla wnioskodawców ubiegających się o pomoc finansową, zarówno ze środków krajowych, jak i zagranicznych.

### Nowoczesne instrumenty ekonomiczne

Źródłem wpływów Narodowego Funduszu są opłaty i kary za gospodarcze korzystanie ze środowiska wynikające z *Prawa ochrony środowiska*, opłaty eksploatacyjne i koncesyjne pobierane na mocy *Prawa geologicznego i górniczego*, opłaty określone w *Prawie wodnym*, opłaty zastępcze i kary wynikające z ustawy *Prawo energetyczne*, a także opłaty z *Ustawy o recyklingu pojazdów wycofanych z eksploatacji*. Narodowy Fundusz, dysponuje również wpływami na „rachunek klimatyczny” ze sprzedaży nadwyżki polskiej emisji dwutlenku węgla w ramach Systemu Zielonych Inwestycji (GIS).

Green Investment Scheme (GIS). The National Fund has also a function of the National Operator of the Green Investment Scheme, under the international emission trading. The National Fund also gains revenues on the "climate account" from selling the surplus of the Polish greenhouse gases emission within the Green Investment Scheme (GIS). Since loans are the main form of supporting activities, the National Fund is a **"renewable source of financing"** for environmental protection. The "financial leverage" effect obtained through including other financial entities (e.g. banks, voivodeship funds) in cooperation with the National Fund means more available capital on the environmental protection market and larger environmental effects.

Fig. 1. Structure of revenues of the National Fund in 2009



Through financing projects concerning environmental protection and water management, the National Fund offers many economic instruments adjusted to a project and beneficiary's possibilities, inter alia loans, subsidies, payments to interest of bank credits, payments to dismantling end-of-life vehicles, partial repayment of bank credit capital and payments to interest or purchase price of bonds.

### Financing environmental protection

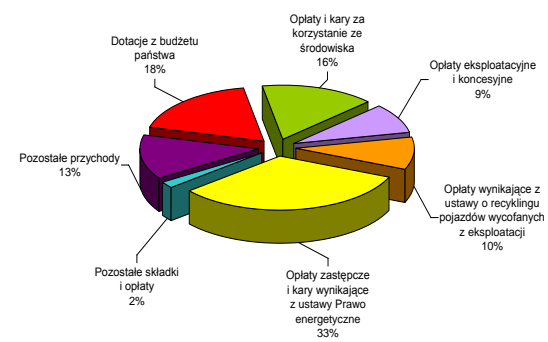
Economic instruments used by the National Fund are oriented mainly towards co-financing large investments with the nationwide and supra-regional significance. Their objective and environmental effect is to eliminate pollution of water, air and soil. Moreover, financing covers activities concerning water management, geology and mining, monitoring of the environment, prevention of environmental risks, protection of the environment and forestry, popularising environmental knowledge, children's health prevention as well as scientific and research-works and expertises. Investments connected with improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources are treated as special priorities.

### Our achievements

The National Fund plays an important role in improving the state of the Polish environment. In 1989-2009 the National Fund concluded more than

NFOŚiGW pełni funkcję Krajowego Operatora GIS w ramach międzynarodowego handlu uprawnieniami do emisji gazów cieplarnianych. Dzięki temu, że główną formą dofinansowania działań są pożyczki, Narodowy Fundusz stanowi **„odnawialne źródło finansowania”** ochrony środowiska. Efekt „dźwigni finansowej” uzyskany przez włączenie do współpracy z Narodowym Funduszem innych podmiotów finansowych (np. banków, wojewódzkich funduszy), oznacza większą dostępność kapitału na rynku ochrony środowiska i osiąganie większych efektów ekologicznych.

Rys. 1. Struktura przychodów Narodowego Funduszu w 2009 r.



Finansując projekty w ochronie środowiska i gospodarce wodnej Narodowy Fundusz oferuje wiele instrumentów ekonomicznych dostosowanych do projektu i możliwości beneficjenta, m.in. pożyczki, dotacje, dopłaty do oprocentowania kredytów bankowych, dopłaty do demontażu pojazdów wycofanych z eksploatacji, częściowe spłaty kapitału kredytów bankowych i dopłaty do oprocentowania lub ceny wykupu obligacji.

### Finansowanie ochrony środowiska

Instrumenty ekonomiczne, stosowane przez Narodowy Fundusz, przeznaczone są na dofinansowanie głównie dużych inwestycji o znaczeniu ogólnopolskim i ponadregionalnym, których celem i efektem ekologicznym jest likwidacja zanieczyszczeń wody, powietrza i ziemi. Finansowane są również zadania z dziedziny gospodarki wodnej, geologii i górnictwa, monitoringu środowiska, przeciwdziałania zagrożeniom środowiska, ochrony przyrody i leśnictwa, popularyzowania wiedzy ekologicznej, profilaktyki zdrowotnej dzieci, a także prace naukowo-badawcze i ekspertyzy. Szczególnym priorytetem objęte są inwestycje związane z poprawą efektywności energetycznej i wykorzystujące odnawialne źródła energii.

### Nasz dorobek

Narodowy Fundusz odgrywa istotną rolę w poprawie stanu środowiska w Polsce. W latach 1989-2009 Narodowy Fundusz zawarł ponad **15 tysięcy umów**

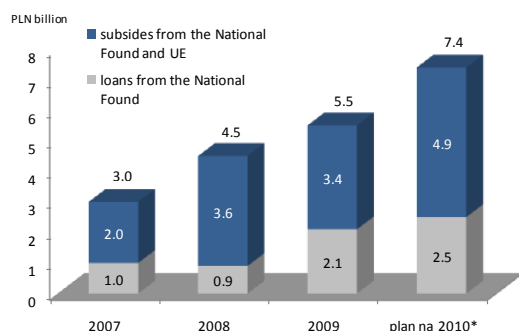


15 thousand contracts allocating more than **PLN 24 billion** for financing environmental undertakings. The cost of activities co-financed from the National Fund exceeds **PLN 86 billion**. Most funds were allocated to water protection and water management as well as to air protection. These activities have contributed to a explicit improvement of living conditions in Poland.

### Record-breaking period of 2008-2010

The year 2009 was record-breaking in terms of the amount of funds spent on environmental protection in Poland. In 2009 undertakings concerning environmental protection and water management were supported with amount of more than **PLN 5.5 billion**, including the transfer of foreign funds operated by the National Fund. In 2010 we plan to increase this amount to **PLN 7.4 billion**. Improvement of the condition of the environment in Poland is a measurable environmental effect of these activities, e.g. limiting emission of air pollutions, lower power consumption, reduced amount of wastewater, better waste management and increased environmental awareness.

Fig. 2. Financing environmental protection by National Fund in 2007-2010



\* including funds from the OP I&E released by the National Fund from BGK

### Priority programmes

Priority programmes which encompass detailed, specific for a particular programme principles of granting co-financing as well as criteria of selecting undertakings to be financed are the basis of accepting and considering applications for co-financing in the National Fund. Every priority programme has relevant blank application forms which are necessary when applying for co-financing.

### National Fund: *centre of excellence*

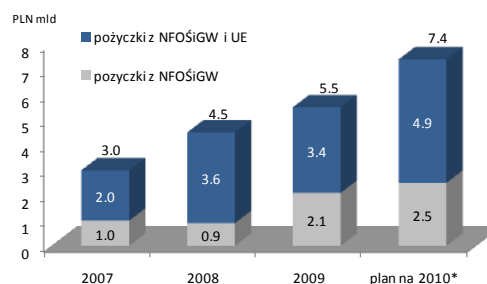
Within the system of managing and financing environmental protection in Poland, the National Fund is a specific *centre of excellence* in implementation of EU directives and investments for the environment, it initiates important social and economic processes

przeznaczając na finansowanie przedsięwzięć ekologicznych ponad **24 mld zł**. Koszt przedsięwzięć dofinansowanych środkami Narodowego Funduszu przekracza **86 mld zł**. Największe środki przeznaczono na ochronę wód i gospodarkę wodną oraz na ochronę powietrza, czego efektem jest wyraźna poprawa warunków życia w Polsce.

### Rekordowe lata 2008-2010

Rekordowy, pod względem skali finansowania ochrony środowiska w Polsce, był rok 2009. Łącznie z transferem środków zagranicznych obsługiwanych przez Narodowy Fundusz, przedsięwzięcia ochrony środowiska i gospodarki wodnej zostały zasilone w 2009 roku kwotą ponad **5,5 mld zł**. W 2010 roku przewidujemy zwiększenie tej kwoty do **7,4 mld zł**. Wymiernym efektem ekologicznym tych działań jest poprawa stanu środowiska w Polsce, np. ograniczenie emisji zanieczyszczeń powietrza, mniejszy pobór energii, zredukowana ilość ścieków, lepsza gospodarka odpadami, a także podniesienie świadomości ekologicznej.

Rys. 2. Finansowanie ochrony środowiska przez Narodowy Fundusz w latach 2007-2010



\* w tym środki OP I&E uruchamiane z BGK przez Narodowy Fundusz

### Programy priorytetowe

Podstawą do przyjmowania i rozpatrywania wniosków o dofinansowanie w Narodowym Funduszu są programy priorytetowe, które obejmują szczegółowe, właściwe dla danego programu, zasady udzielania dofinansowania oraz kryteria wyboru przedsięwzięć do dofinansowania. Każdy program priorytetowy zawiera stosowne formularze wniosków niezbędnych przy ubieganiu się o dofinansowanie.

### Narodowy Fundusz: *center of excellence*

W systemie zarządzania i finansowania ochrony środowiska w Polsce Narodowy Fundusz jest swoistym „*center of excellence*” we wdrażaniu unijnych dyrektyw i inwestycji na rzecz środowiska, inicjuje ważne procesy społeczno-ekonomiczne w dziedzinie oszczędzania energii i wykorzystania jej odnawialnych źródeł. Narodowy Fundusz uczestniczy w edukacji ekologicznej społeczeństwa i w kształtowaniu opinii publicznej w dziedzinie ekologii.

concerning energy saving and using energy renewable sources. The National Fund participates in environmental education of the society and in shaping public opinion in respect of ecology. In 2009-2010, the National Fund's budget for educational projects was doubled. Introducing system and organisational changes, the professional staff uses modern standards of management in the current operation of the National Fund.

### Cooperation in good climate

In recent years, the National Fund has exceeded cooperation with voivodeship funds for environmental protection and water management, the banking sector and industry. It has become possible to provide the voivodeship funds with financial sources from the National Fund, aimed at granting loans or subsidies for the indicated programmes and undertakings. The National Fund launches new initiatives of co-financing activities through e.g. introducing a system of payments to bank credits and investment loans and new priority programmes. Their objective is for example to reduce emission of greenhouse gasses from the economy, limit energy losses in enterprises and public utility buildings as well as to finance energy-saving investments. In 2010, the National Fund initiated the nation-wide programme of payments to credits for installation of solar collectors by individual investors. The National Fund also acts as the National Operator of the Green Investment Scheme under the international emission trading.

### Offer for an individual investor

In 2010, the National Fund initiated the nation-wide programme of payments to credits for purchase and installation of solar collectors by individual investors, natural persons and housing associations. In coming years similar principles will be applied to introduction of new programmes available for smaller investors and covering *inter alia* home wastewater treatment plants and connecting buildings to collective sewage system.

### Absorbing foreign funds

The National Fund is the largest Polish partner for international financial institutions concerning management of foreign funds allocated to environmental protection in Poland. The experience in administering European Union funds resulted in commissioning the National Fund the role of the Implementing Authority for five priorities of the *Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment*. The National Fund is responsible for absorbing in 2007-2013 **EUR 5.035 billion**, which are intended most of all for undertakings within water and sewage

W latach 2009-2010 nastąpiło podwojenie dotychczasowego budżetu NFOŚiGW na projekty edukacyjne. Profesjonalna kadra, wprowadzając zmiany systemowe i organizacyjne, wykorzystuje nowoczesne standardy zarządzania w bieżącej działalności Narodowego Funduszu.

### Współpraca w dobrym klimacie

W ostatnich latach Narodowy Fundusz poszerzył współpracę z wojewódzkimi funduszami ochrony środowiska i gospodarki wodnej, sektorem bankowym i przemysłem. Zapewniona została możliwość przekazywania wojewódzkim funduszom środków z Narodowego Funduszu z przeznaczeniem na udzielanie pożyczek lub dotacji na wskazane programy i przedsięwzięcia. Narodowy Fundusz podejmuje nowe inicjatywy współfinansowania przedsięwzięć, wprowadzając m.in. system dopłat do kredytów bankowych i pożyczek inwestycyjnych oraz nowe programy priorytetowe. Ich celem jest np. zmniejszenie emisji gazów z gospodarki, ograniczenie strat energii w przedsiębiorstwach i budynkach użyteczności publicznej oraz finansowanie inwestycji energooszczędnych.

### Oferta dla indywidualnego inwestora

W 2010 r. Narodowy Fundusz po raz pierwszy uruchomił ogólnopolski program dopłat do kredytów na zakup i montaż kolektorów słonecznych przez indywidualnych inwestorów, osoby fizyczne i wspólnoty mieszkaniowe. Na podobnej zasadzie w kolejnych latach wprowadzane będą nowe programy dostępne dla mniejszych inwestorów obejmujące m.in.: przydomowe oczyszczalnie ścieków i podłączenia budynków do zbiorczego systemu kanalizacyjnego.

### Absorpcja środków zagranicznych

Narodowy Fundusz jest największym w Polsce partnerem międzynarodowych instytucji finansowych w obsłudze środków zagranicznych przeznaczonych na ochronę środowiska w Polsce. Efektem doświadczenia w obsłudze środków Unii Europejskiej jest powierzenie Narodowemu Funduszowi roli Instytucji Wdrażającej dla pięciu priorytetów, czyli dziedzin tematycznych *Programu Operacyjnego Infrastruktura i Środowisko* (PO IiŚ) obejmujących: gospodarkę wodno-ściekową, gospodarkę odpadami i ochronę powierzchni ziemi, zarządzanie zasobami i przeciwdziałanie zagrożeniom środowiska, dostosowanie polskich przedsiębiorstw do wymagań ekologicznych, wysokosprawne wytwarzanie i efektywną dystrybucję energii a także termomodernizację budynków publicznych. Na te zadania, na okres obejmujący lata 2007-2013, ze środków Unii Europejskiej w dyspozycji Narodowego Funduszu, przeznaczonych zostanie **5,035 mld euro**. Narodowy

management, water management, waste management, environmentally friendly power production as well as for providing co-financing for projects connected with environmental protection and environmental education. The experience in administering European Union funds resulted in vesting the role of the Implementing Authority to the National Fund in five priorities, i.e. thematic areas of the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment (OP I&E) which include the following: water and wastewater management, waste management and protection of land, resource management and counteracting environmental risks, adjusting Polish entrepreneurs to environmental requirements, highly effective generation and efficient distribution of energy as well as thermal insulation of public buildings. The amount of EUR 5.035 billion from the European Union funds will be allocated for these activities for the period 2007-2013. The National Fund provides also co-financing for OP I&E projects concerning nature protection and environmental education. A new task for the Fund is to financially support projects submitted for implementation under the Financial Instrument LIFE+. What's more, the National Fund coordinates implementation of projects which were granted co-financing under the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and the EEA Financial Mechanism.

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Fundusz zapewnia również współfinansowanie dla projektów PO IiŚ w ochronie przyrody i edukacji ekologicznej. Nowym zadaniem NFOŚiGW jest wsparcie finansowe dla projektów zgłaszanych do realizacji w ramach Instrumentu Finansowego LIFE+. Narodowy Fundusz koordynuje również realizację projektów, które otrzymały dofinansowanie w ramach Norweskiego Mechanizmu Finansowego i Mechanizmu Finansowego Europejskiego Obszaru Gospodarczego.

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a także do naszej siedziby w Warszawie.

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## Farewell Letter by the EEAC Steering Committee Chairman Hubert David

I became chair of the EEAC (European Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils) on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. I was at that time the chair of the Minaraad, the environmental advisory council of the Flemish government and parliament. My designation as chair of the EEAC was totally unexpected and unprepared, and was in fact the result of an internal discussion amongst the constituent membership of the EEAC on the financial administration (not so much the management but about the administrative handling and details).



Hubert David

Thus, the first thing I did was to bring in more transparency in a complicated and unclear situation of an organisation (EEAC) which has no legal entity of its own but which employs staff both under the Belgian legislation and the Dutch legislation.

Luckily, the Croat environment council and the German advisory council for the environment (SRU) took over the task of giving content to the network, and they organised jointly the annual meeting of the EEAC in Dubrovnik, October 2009, by sharing the content preparation (SRU) and the organisational preparation (Croatia).

This evolution allowed me to use the second year of my term of office to give 'a face' to the EEAC. Our network is now well introduced in EU circles (Commission, Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee) and is now better known in national capitals where our membership operates. Again I have been luckily in that sense that I could rely on old boys network from my period as secretary-general of the European Environmental Bureau. The presence of the Director-General of the European Commission and of 3 Ministers at our last annual event in Brugge/Tournai testifies to the fact of public presence. Earlier this year, I was invited by the Spanish government (then in May the President of the Council of Ministers) to chair a preparatory meeting of the forthcoming 7<sup>th</sup> EU Environ-

ment Action Plan also testifies to this growing presence.

My designation as chair of the EEAC in January 2009 was not the first time. I had been chair in the early nineties. And it allows seeing the differences and indeed progress. First, the European dimension of a genuine and progressive environmental policy is not questioned any more. On the very contrary, all environmental advisory councils now see the European integration as an ally for a better environment. Secondly, the membership of the EEAC – due to the many bi-lateral and multilateral contacts – now knows one another, contacts one another, consults one another, and invites one another. In other words, the network functions in a decentralised way. Thirdly – and very important Indeed – the new Member States are now part and parcel of the EEAC and bring a good contribution to the content and the depth of the discussions.

There is also a worrying evolution. The financial crisis affects the operation of the government apparatus and thus also the financing of the national environmental advisory councils. If the governments want good advice, their environment advisory council must know what is happening and forthcoming at the EU and *idem ditto* at the level of the Member States in the EU. Cutting the budget of the national council is very short sighted.

Last but not least, I want to express here my appreciation for the Polish council over the last decade. The PROs organized an annual conference on forestry management policy in Warsaw in 2006 and is now preparing the EEAC 2011 annual conference on Rio+20 (Wroclaw, 14-17 September). It illustrates the commitment to Europe and to the European environmental policy. I am very grateful for this commitment.

*Hubert David*