



**Aide-mémoire (1)**  
**of the Minister of the Environment of Poland on the preparations**  
**for the COP24 Presidency**

- Poland will preside over the climate negotiations already for the fourth time. Our Presidency will coincide with the period of implementation of the Paris Agreement which provides that the Parties should pursue their development in accordance with their capabilities, following a self-determined pathway for achieving their own objectives in a climate-neutral manner.
- Prof. Jan Szyszko, the Minister of the Environment in the Government of the Republic of Poland, will be the President of the Conference which will be held in Katowice.
- Thus, the most important objective of COP24 will be the adoption of a package of decisions ensuring the full implementation of the Agreement. This is the prerequisite for achieving its objectives, i.e. keeping the temperature growth on the planet much below 2°C and the global adaptation objective.
- The Facilitative Dialogue, which will be held in the course of COP24, is expected to assist the Parties in preparing and implementing their nationally determined contributions.
- In the course of COP24, Poland will share its experiences in innovation and financial mechanisms which can ensure that climate-neutral development can be achieved. One of its conditions has been and is the balancing of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with their sequestration by ecosystems so as to halt the growth, stabilise and, subsequently, reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere. This is the primary goal of the Climate Convention as well as the action indicated in Article 4(1) of the Paris Agreement, to be taken by the Parties after the peaking of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Despite technological progress, the contemporary world still faces the problem of satisfying the basic needs. Millions of people live without safe access to water, food, energy and education. Some of the most important challenges include poverty eradication and ensuring that everybody has a chance for sustainable development. The Paris Agreement is an opportunity for peaceful, sustainable development of the world. Its full implementation is the common responsibility of all the states.
- Along with actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the implementation of the Agreement is expected to ensure the low-emission development of climate-resilient economies in all the countries. In accordance with it, the actions for climate should take into account the relationships among all the elements of the climate system – the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere, contributing to ensuring safe, sustainable energy supply to households and sectors of the economy, poverty eradication, access to drinking water, hunger eradication etc.



- In Paris, an important role was set out for non-government observers of the negotiation process and, at the same time, partners in actions to halt climate change, to protect it and to adapt to it. A special role is played by cities and regions, as well as by the private sector, trade unions, scientists, youth and environmental organisations.
- Since 2004 Poland has been a Member State of the European Union (EU). According to the geographical division applied in the UN, we also belong to the regional Group of Eastern European States (EEG). Due to political changes and economic transition, many countries belonging to this Group have achieved significant greenhouse gas emission reductions. Poland would like to ensure that on the occasion of COP24 all the countries of the Group can present their achievements in the implementation of responsible policies, favourable for climate protection and, at the same time, conducive to development. The EEG countries developed economically, while their emissions fell, and they have been able to sustain this trend until today. Most of them are Member States of the EU and they also include states which seek to join the EU. This Group also includes countries which develop new political and economic ties, while preserving the earlier ties.

### **Katowice – the host city and the region of Upper Silesia and Zagłębie**

- The region of Upper Silesia and Zagłębie is evidence to what can be achieved through consistent policy of sustainable development and economic transformation. 25 years ago factory stacks were the symbol of Katowice. Today the symbol of the city is its Culture Zone, with the International Congress Centre, the Silesian Museum and the excellent concert hall of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra. As the first city in this part of Europe, Katowice was designated as a “UNESCO Creative City”. It is a region with traditions, rich culture and history, including the history of Poland’s struggle to regain independence after World War One. Just before COP24 (11 November 2018) we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rebirth of the Polish statehood.
- Katowice is one of the symbols of Poland’s development and economic success. Both the city and the whole region transform into a zone of science, innovation, culture and modern industry. It should be emphasised that this mining region has undergone such a substantial change without any larger social unrest.
- Today’s Katowice is a modern metropolis, with rich experience in annually organising events with a national and international scope, which are attended by tens of thousands of persons.



- Katowice has an appropriate public transport network and hotel base. The international airport in Katowice is directly connected with important European airports. Along with the Cracow airport 60 km away, it makes it easy for delegates from all over the world to reach it through Warsaw, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam, Chicago, Brussels and Munich.
- The International Congress Centre, the Silesian Museum, the new library and seat of the orchestra were built on the site of a former mine. The context of this place perfectly suits the character of the event. The transformation over the last years demonstrates how much this region has done to improve the climate, becoming a living illustration of the Polish success of sustainable development policy.