

## 10th Europe-Ukraine Forum

The **10th Europe-Ukraine Forum**, accompanied by the **1st Eastern Fair**, was co-organised by the **Institute for Eastern Studies** (host of the Economic Forum in Krynica) and the **Podkarpackie Region of Poland**. It brought together 900 delegates from 25 countries, who attended more than 40 events, including debates, lectures, and presentations by experts and Ukrainian regions. The leading theme of this year's meeting was «**Opportunities Not To Be Missed**». Among the 900 participants who gathered in Rzeszow city of Poland on 27-28 January, 2017 were government officials, MPs, EU decision-makers, businessmen and experts from Ukraine, Poland, the EU and the United States. More than 60 journalists from Poland, Germany, France, Ukraine, Italy and Spain provided the event's media coverage.

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«The pro-Western orientation of Ukraine is in the interest of Central and Eastern Europe countries. We have to respect Ukraine's decisions in the geopolitical sense,» said **Krzysztof Szczerski, Minister in Chancellery of the President of Republic of Poland**. «The West should help Ukraine to build a state,» he added.

«Everything we do for Ukraine, we do in fact for ourselves. Today, I am even more convinced of that than three years ago during the second Maidan,» **Rebecca Harms, a German MEP**, said during the plenary session «How Can the International Community Help Ukraine?» She also expressed her admiration for Ukraine which, despite the armed conflict, tries to introduce political and economic changes.

**Karel Schwarzenberg, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**, emphasized that despite minor differences in the Visegrad Group, the common position is clear – Ukraine needs support and we cannot disappoint it. «It's not just a matter of honour and decency, but also pragmatism,» Schwarzenberg said.

**Borys Tarasyuk, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, a Ukrainian MP**, talked about Ukraine's unabated enthusiasm for European integration. Nevertheless, he observed, the European Union itself not always adequately reciprocates Kyiv's aspirations. «Ukraine, of course, gave the reasons for this. We lack what the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including Poland, received: confirmation from Brussels: yes, we see you as a member of the European Union. We have never received such an assurance from Europe,» regretted Borys Tarasyuk.

**Wladyslaw Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship of Poland**, said that we cannot look for excuses in the European Union, but we have to work by ourselves to ensure that Ukraine will be part of Europe.

Speaking on «The Role of NATO's Eastern Flank in Building Regional Partnership,» **Tomasz Szatkowski, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of National Defence of Poland**, pointed out the activities of the Polish government, which – together with partners from other countries – regularly provides military assistance to Ukraine, e.g. trainings organised both in Poland and Ukraine.

**Vytautas Umbrasas, Deputy Minister of National Defence of Lithuania**, said that discussion on the eastern flank takes place at a crucial moment: amid the Russian aggression in Ukraine and Russia's calling into question the credibility of NATO.

According to **Margareta Cederfelt, a Swedish Member of Parliament**, conflict prevention and conflict resolution should be based primarily on trust between people and countries. This should be the purpose of talks and negotiations conducted in a constructive and goal-oriented dialogue.

**Dr. Nadiya Matviychuk-Soskina, Editor-in-Chief of Economic Annals-XXI**, while moderating a panel «New Technologies and Innovative Economy. How to Meet the Global Challenges?», said: «Connection of business, experts and state policy, as well as long-term national strategy, creates condition for innovation development.»

*Press-Centre of The Forum*