**2023 Sopot Declaration**

**What will tomorrow bring? That's for us to decide!**

**We are facing milestone elections that will determine not only our internal affairs, but also our future in the European Union. As participants in the 2023 European Forum for New Ideas, we want to outline our key demands at this crucial moment:**

**The European Union needs Poland as much as Poland needs the European Union!** In a world of rapidly progressing global change, we cannot be alone. Poland and the world need a Union that is resilient, independent, agile, competitive and responsible. A Union that is engaged in climate, digital and demographic challenges, that skilfully responds to poverty in Europe and beyond, to threats of war, to the challenge of migration, and so on. An effective and efficient Union needs internal reforms, and an effective monitoring and enforcement of adopted regulations. It’s all about **less, but better**.

The **European Union is not only a single market, but above all a community of values**. At the heart of the EU's identity are civil liberties, free courts, the rule of law, equality, respect for diversity, solidarity, concern for social and economic development, investment in equal opportunities, respect for regional self-government. In a word: democracy.

3 **We should once again become a model state in the European Union.** Our country was admired and set as an example of a transformation success story among the newcomers to the Union after 2004. Today, it acts as a brake on necessary reforms and an example of violation of EU law, intolerance, violation of the independence of the judiciary, oligarchic governance, politicisation of the public media, the prosecution service, and so on. Let us do everything to return to the ranks of pro-European countries. Let us make good use of next year's elections to the European Parliament and the time of the Polish presidency of the EU.

4 **We must continue to support Ukraine on its path towards the Union.** Poland's assistance to Ukraine and its people in the first months of Russia's aggression has inspired admiration among others. Let us strive to continue in these efforts. We are pleased that our Ukrainian partner, the Union of Ukrainian Entrepreneurs (SUP), is with us at EFNI and has gained observer status at BusinessEurope.

**We expect swift action from the new Parliament, Government and President of the Republic of Poland to repair our relations with the European Union, to ensure compliance with the EU Treaties and court rulings, respect for democratic principles, the Constitution and rational political dialogue. We want and need to be an important part of the European Union and eventually a member of the Eurozone.**

Sopot, 11.10.2023