



DECLARATION

on enhancing Poland – US collaboration in small business initiatives

Chicago, May 19th, 2012

Building upon the unique partnership between the Polish American Congress/Polish National Alliance, Trade and Investment Section of the Embassy of Poland in Washington, D.C., Honorary Consuls of Poland in the United States, Polish Ministry of Economy and U.S. Department of Commerce, Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP), Polish Chamber of Commerce (KIG) and Illinois Trade Office in Warsaw, American Chamber of Commerce in Poland, US-Poland Business Council in Washington D.C., Polish American Chambers of Commerce in Chicago and Warsaw, Atlanta Polish Chamber, Polish-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida and the Americas, US-Polish Trade Council in Silicon Valley and Polish American Chamber of Commerce of Pacific Northwest, Warsaw Committee of the Chicago International Sister Cities, Polish American Business Club in New York, Polish American Contractors and Builders Association, Polish Regional Authorities, Technology Parks and Academic Institutions, as well as private sector representatives from US and Poland;

Appreciating renewed interest in trade and international investment on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as the progress achieved so far;

Taking into consideration emerging global trends and challenges, *e.g.* the development of new type of business sectors, rapid technological change and intense competition;

Recognizing that cross-sector collaboration is of key importance to drive business outcomes;

Aspiring to develop a shared approach to take advantage of market opportunities and fully explore new sources of growth;

The Participants of the first Poland – US collaboration workshop on small business initiatives held in Chicago affirm their dedication to reinforce and coordinate their efforts to increase trade volume, SMEs investment from the US in Poland, and a growing number of Polish companies establishing their foothold on American soil.

In particular, the Participants intend to further strengthen ties between their respective entities and carry out joint initiatives aimed to encourage entrepreneurial activity and improve business prospects, especially for smaller, family-owned companies in the US and Poland.



To advance these and other shared objectives, the Participants declare their intention to take joint initiatives in the following priority areas:

I. Communication

To build information network and exchange good practices in order to gain momentum and increase the visibility of successful trade and investment ventures.

II. Collaboration

To expand mutual understanding and undertake cross-sector business projects *e.g.* trade missions, conferences, seminars, match-making events, start-up initiatives in order to fully utilize innovation and small business development potential.

III. Coordination

To actively participate in coordinated efforts to mobilize resources in order to enhance synergy and effectiveness between the ongoing and planned promotional activities in the US and Poland.

The Participants agree to undertake joint effort in order to promote the passing of the Jolt Act introduced by Senator Charles Schumer to increase tourism and boost the US economy. By lifting the need for visas, business activity will increase for all industries. Another recommendation is to appeal to cooperation for the support of passing this legislation. Furthermore, it is resolved that various City Councils, State Legislators across the country introduce legislation supporting the Jolt Act.

The Participants are welcomed to review the progress achieved on the agreed upon “3Cs” framework of the Chicago Declaration during the second workshop planned in 2013.