



Polish  
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## WARSAW EXPERT ROUNDTABLE ON A CLEAN AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

**Date: 8-9 April 2025**

**Place: PGE Narodowy, Łoża Książęca, Gate 1, level +1  
al. Księcia Józefa Poniatowskiego 1 (8 April)**

WI-FI Network: Wifi4net | Password: twojaenergia

**ECFR Warsaw Office, BelN Central Point, 9<sup>th</sup> floor,  
ul. Marszałkowska 107 (9 April)**

WI-FI Network: BIZNESHUB | Password: BIURABIZNESOWE

### AGENDA

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#### Day 1 (Tuesday)

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee & tea

15:30 – 15:35 Welcoming

**Piotr Buras, Head of Warsaw Office, European Council on Foreign Relations**  
**Paweł Śliwowski, Acting Director of Polish Economic Institute**

15:35 – 15:45 Opening Speech

**Andrzej Domański, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Poland (TBC)**  
**Michał Baranowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Republic of Poland**

15:45 – 16:00 Keynote Speech

**Heather Grabbe, Senior Fellow, Bruegel**

16:00 – 17:30 High-level Expert Roundtable on competitiveness

**Bartłomiej Banaszak, Director of European Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Republic of Poland**

**Fernanda Ferreira Dias, Director-General, Ministry of Economy, Portugal**

**Kerstin Jorna, Director-General, DG GROW, European Commission**

**Tomas Juhas, Director of Department for European Affairs and the Internal Market, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic**

**Kirsten Scholl, Director-General for European Policies in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany (TBC)**

**Meyndert van der Kolk, Deputy Director of European Affairs, Netherlands**

**Moderation: Marek Wąsiński, Head of the World Economy Team, Polish Economic Institute**



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## Day 2 (Wednesday)

09:00 – 09:30 Coffee & tea

09:30 – 11:00 Decarbonisation and competitiveness – how to achieve climate targets, competitiveness and economic security

*The EU is dependent on vital resources – both energy resources and critical raw materials. This hampers its competitiveness. Regulatory requirements, high labour and capital costs exacerbate this challenge. Both former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen strongly stress the need for combining the issue of decarbonisation of the economy with increasing the block's competitiveness. How do we strike the right balance between cheap energy imports and continuing the energy transition? To what extent does the EU really need energy-intensive industries? In an open market economy, is it possible to be a leader in clean-tech? Finally, how should we regulate state subsidies to green technologies so as to maintain EU cohesion?*

■ 09:30 – 10:00 Introductory remarks

**Ines Bouacida, Research Fellow, Climate and Energy, IDDRI**

**Mats Engstrom, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations**

**Philipp Jaeger, Policy Fellow, Jacques Delors Centre**

**Moderation: Szymon Kardaś, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations**

■ 10:00 – 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20 – 12:50 External Vulnerabilities and Internal Opportunities – the EU's economic security in times of geoeconomic interdependency

*The EU's economic stagnation has led to its comparative decline in the world economy. China is overtaking the EU economically and the U.S. continues to lead. Their policies pose a great challenge to the EU's open economy. The EU is twice as dependent on foreign final demand than the US. In times of economic nationalism, how should the EU navigate these challenges and provide economic security to its member states? One of the possibilities should be boosting its final demand on European goods, especially in high tech sectors. Are new packages of regulatory simplifications proposed by the European Commission a sufficient response? How do we build a stronger, safer, more competitive and innovative EU? How do we develop relations with the two great economic powers?*

■ 11:20 – 11:50 Introductory remarks

**Romana Vlahutin, Visiting Distinguished Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States**

**Daniel Gros, Director of the Institute for European Policymaking, Bocconi University**

**Cordelia Buchanan Ponczek, Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs**

**Moderation: Marek Wąsiński, Head of the World Economy Team, Polish Economic Institute**

■ 11:50 – 12:50 Discussion

12:50 – 13:50 Lunch



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13:50 – 15:20 Is the Brussels effect dead? - between economic security and regulatory simplification

*The EU is well known for its regulatory role, being named a regulatory superpower with the possibility to disperse regulatory attitude to other countries – the Brussels effect. The prowess was clearly seen in the digital sphere. Regulations such as GDPR, DSA, DMA or the AI Act not only try to curb big tech but also tame the negative impact that many digital tools have on society. However these are also often blamed for the European economy's lower competitiveness of, especially compared to the US. As the enforcement mechanisms, implementing acts and self-regulatory tools are still to be finalised, it is fair to say that the jury is still out when it comes to the pro- or anti- innovative impact of the latest set of EU digital laws. Are the provisions aimed to enhance competitiveness enough to give Europe a boost? Are the regulations just a straw man for the lack of genuine single market, especially in services? Or has Europe really ended up a blind alley, unable to turn around?*

■ 13:50 – 14:20 Introductory remarks

**Anna Wohlfarth, Executive Director, Interface**

**Łukasz Klejnowski, MEP advisor**

**Varg Folkman, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre**

**Moderation: Ignacy Świącicki, Head of the Digital Economy Team, Polish Economic Institute**

■ 14:20 – 15:20 Discussion

15:20 – 16:00 Wrap up



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