



Instytut  
Studiów  
Strategicznych



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung

## The Weimar Triangle and the future of the European Union

Conference Room M Bobrzynski

Jagiellonian University

Cracow, 25 May 2007

### Introduction Speeches

10.30-10.50

Bogdan Klich – Member of the European Parliament, President of the Institute for Strategic Studies

Stephan Raabe – Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland

### PANEL I

10.50 - 11.50

Moderator:

Bogdan Klich – Member of the European Parliament. President of the Institute for Strategic Studies

### STATES OF WEIMAR TRIANGLE – VISION OF EUROPE

Paweł Zalewski – The Chairman of the Polish Parliament Commission on Foreign Affairs

Ruprecht Polenz – The Chairman of the Foreign Committee of the Germany

Eduard Balladur – The Chairman of the French National Assembly's Commission for Foreign Policy

Discussion

Coffee break

## PANEL II

12.30 - 14.00

Moderator:

Stephan Raabe – Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland

### STATES OF WEIMAR TRIANGLE – AREAS OF COOPERATION

prof. Stefan Meller – Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Paweł Świeboda – Former Director of Department of the European Union in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, President of the Foundation *demosEuropa*

prof Stanisław Parzymies – Institute of International Relations at the University of Warsaw

dr Krzysztof Miszczak – Former Vice-Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Federal Republic of Germany, Former Director of Department of Security Policy in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

prof. Klaus-Heinrich Standke – President of the Committee for the Promotion of the French-German-Polish Cooperation (‘ Weimar Triangle’ )

prof. Henri Ménudier – Paris-Sorbonne University

A Representative of the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI)

Discussion

Coffee break

## PANEL III

14.15-15.00

### STATES OF WEIMAR TRIANGLE – POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND PUBLIC OPINION

Jerzy Marek Nowakowski – Journalist *Wprost*

Daniel Vernet – Journalist *Le Monde*

Konrad Schuller – Journalist *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Conclusions:

Bogdan Klich – Member of the European Parliament. President of the Institute for  
Strategic Studies

Stephan Raabe – Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland

# The Weimar Triangle and the future of the European Union

## Background of the Conference

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Place: conference room M Bobrzynski, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Description of event:

The Weimar Triangle was founded in 1991 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Poland, France and Germany K. Skubiszewski, R. Dumas and H. D. Genscher. It has emerged as an instrument helping Poland to actively participate in the European policy and supporting her integration with euroatlantic structures. It was a beginning of transition process in East and Central Europe. Soviet Union existed, Red Army was stationed on the territory of Poland and irreversibility of changes in Europe still didn't have a status of recognized obviousness.

Thanks to this initiative Poland could have, as the only one country in this region, consciousness of strong position at one's side of countries who have a big influence on the process of continent unification. During regular meetings of three Ministries of Foreign Affairs discuss about the most important international issues and also present Polish opinion on key issues concerning the European continent.

The last decade of the XX century was characterized by an incredible revival of Polish-German relations and efforts to overcome long-term stereotypes. After Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and to the European Union, beyond areas of greater activity (exchange of young people, regional cooperation, interparliamentary contacts and particularly cooperation in the army sector), it seemed that formula of Weimar Triangle should be changed.

No doubt, conflict in Iraq and controversies concerning European Constitution

made relations between Poland, Germany and France worse. Also in bilateral relations between Warsaw and Berlin appeared conflicts concerning issues of North gas piping, displacements after Second World War and also exhibition of Erika Steinbach.

In the context of divergences it should underline that each partner concentrates on issues related with historical and cultural consciousness. In this context it could predict, that historical debate and cultural exchange could have consulting area in the Weimar Triangle, which functioning could help in solving current problems and to be a forum of searching common solutions.

It is important to underline that the Weimar Triangle is not an institution. It is also not a decision institution. It functions as a discussion forum, which leads to an exchange of information and opinion, declares statements and issues declarations. Because the Weimar Triangle still exists and it becomes more active it means that these three countries have common hopes and businesses.

An exchange of opinions in the frame of the Weimar Triangle could be useful in common activities in institutions of the European Union.

Main objective of the conference “ The Weimar Triangle and the future of the European Union” will be to find common objectives and intentions, which could become an impulse to stimulate cooperation between Poland, France and Germany.

The conference will be devoted such issues as:

- future of the Constitutional Treaty, and particularly an institutional reform
- an opportunity of effectiveness realization eastern policy of the European Union with underling necessity of renegotiation treaties between Brussels and Russia, Ukraine and Mldova, an opportunity of impact on situation on Belarus
- building common energetic policy
- transatlantic policy
- review of results the Lisbon Strategy in these three countries and analysis of opportunities at reforms stimulation to achieve objectives of the Strategy
- review of the European Union challenges as a global power, such as coordination of foreign policy, building common armed forces.

Audience:

Scientists, politicians, journalists, students, experts.

The effect of the conference:

More intensive and dynamic dialogue on high level gives hope that Weimar Triangle is an important factor in creation of strategy and policy new, enlarged European Union. We expect that the Triangle will be an effective forum of preparing practical solutions in issue of internal consolidation enlarged European Union.

It concerns domains like Lisbon Strategy, European foreign policy, European neighbourhood policy.

Without acceptance of members capitals impossible is introduction deeper, more complicated reforms of the European Union structures. However it seems very important to initiate and stimulate new activities around common interests.

Weimar Triangle's States are crucial players in the field of European policy and have big influence on decision making process in Council of the European Union and European Parliament.

Continuation of dialogue within a frame of Weimar Triangle gives hope for more effective common debate about fundamental questions like global threats and challenges for Europe, forming enlarged European Union.

We consider that non governmental organizations can significantly support process of development cooperation between Weimar States because NGO's play an important role in forming public opinion. One of the most important achievements of the conference will be engaged to our discussion journalists and experts from Poland, Germany and France because they have possibility to increase of awareness of societies in question of Weimar Triangle its role and activity.