

**Intervention of Mr Józef Oleksy,
Representative of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
in the Convention on the Future of Europe
Brussels, July 11, 2002**

The EU enlargement and the consolidation of its position on the international arena come as one of the most serious challenges the European Union is facing at the beginning of the 21st century. An enlarged Union – which is politically stable and economically strong – has a much better chance to gain a position on the international arena that corresponds with its aspirations and economic and population potentials.

The European Union has, in the recent years, made a significant progress in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. Is that progress sufficient however to face new threats and challenges of a globalized world?

In order to build a coherent and effective foreign policy, the structures and instruments being at the Union disposal need to be improved. An increase in coordination of member states' foreign policies seems to be needed. A common framework of such coordination will in turn have to consider bringing closer the functions of the External Relations Commissioner and the foreign policy High Representative. Such an improvement of the synergy of what the Commission and the Council do in external relations should primarily base on drafting joint action plans and common projects. The *rapprochement* should proceed gradually through evolution.

The role of the Council in shaping the foreign policy needs to consider a clearer distinction between that area of the Council activity and its coordinating functions in general affairs. In that context the Seville Summit decisions are the first step in the good direction.

Poland's ambition is to strengthen and more precisely to define the Union's external role. That concerns most of all its eastern dimension. We want to become a bridge between the Union and its future eastern neighbours, sharing with them our experience and know-how of the transition period.

We would then also make the Union's eastern policy more open-minded and constructive. I believe that our experience, the level of our development and the stable infrastructure of economic and administrative cooperation with the

Eastern neighbours can and will contribute to the development of the EU's eastern policy.

To conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to stress that, as the Union is being reformed, its Common Foreign and Security Policy must definitely be strengthened. The Union's position and its international initiatives must be more than the total sum of the positions of individual member states. The world needs a new dynamism of Europe international presence.