

Introduction

The conference on the *EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy* held on 20-21 February 2003 in Warsaw reflects the importance attached in Poland to our relations with the countries that for now remain outside of the European Union. Poland's EU accession does not imply that we are turning our backs on our eastern neighbours; quite the opposite: it is a good opportunity to effectively support positive transition in East European countries and to support the pro-European aspirations of their people.

The two-day conference was a time for reflection about the role of the new Member States in the EU's policy towards its eastern neighbours; to share the experience of the present Member States which have taken advantage of their close ties with particular regions in order to develop a coherent policy of the Union; and to discuss the possible and desired neighbourhood policy of the EU.

The co-operation between the Stefan Batory Foundation and the Polish Foreign Ministry that made the conference possible underscores the authentic interest of the public administration and many non-governmental organisations and grassroots initiatives in day-to-day communication and collaboration with communities in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova. The conference is a follow-up to other projects of the Stefan Batory Foundation, including long-term international projects *The Enlarged EU and Ukraine: New Relations* and *Belarus – the Hidden Potential*, as well as other activities of a group of NGOs active internationally.

This publication brings the record of the key-note addresses by the President of Poland and the Polish Foreign Minister delivered at the conference; a summary of all sessions and discussions; and the Polish non-paper with Polish proposals concerning policy towards new Eastern neighbours after EU enlargement. For the publication *The EU Neighbourhood Policy. Lessons Learned* (Polish version only) and the extensive bibliography which attests to Poland's great interest and vigorous debates on eastern policy, please see the Batory Foundation's web site at www.batory.org.pl under Publications.

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