

**Wystąpienie Pana Andrzeja Domańskiego, Ministra Finansów
i Gospodarki, podczas 59. Wspólnego spotkania (Joint
Meeting) Banku Rozwoju Rady Europy, 16.03.2026**

Esteemed Governor of the Council of Europe
Development Bank,

Esteemed Director-General of Human Rights and Rule of
Law at the Council of Europe,

Esteemed Chairs of the Governing Board and
Administrative Council,

Distinguished members of the Governing Board and the
Administrative Council,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by warmly welcoming all of you to Warsaw.

In my capacity as Minister of Finance and Economy, as
well as on behalf of the Government of the Republic of
Poland, it is a great privilege and honour to host you here
for the 59th Joint Meeting of the Governing and
Administrative Boards of the Council of Europe
Development Bank. I am delighted that the meeting also
coincides with the Bank's 70th anniversary.

I imagine that, when the institution was created in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, its founders did not expect that its original mission — supporting refugees and displaced persons — would remain so relevant for decades to come.

Unfortunately, the world today, including our part of Europe, is no safer than it was 70 years ago. Global conflicts, including those in the Middle East and, above all, those beyond our eastern border in Ukraine, are sad proof of this.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bank for its commitment to supporting Ukraine, and to recall that the Council of Europe Development Bank was among the first multilateral development banks to respond — delivering emergency aid when Ukrainians needed it most including the integration of displaced Ukrainian people in host communities across Europe. Ukraine's accession to the Bank in 2023 has allowed it to establish a presence on the ground and provide additional support.

Poland and its citizens have not been and are not indifferent to the suffering of our neighbour, which has been so severely affected by Russia's aggressive invasion.

Poland has provided billions of euros of support in various forms, including military, humanitarian and refugee aid.

Our joint efforts and actions are already yielding results. According to OECD data, Poland is a global leader in integrating refugees from Ukraine into employment, with employment rates reaching almost 80%.

Poland is organising the Ukraine Recovery Conference, which will take place in Gdansk in June this year. As Chair of the URC Steering Committee, I will be tasked with considering the future of Ukraine after the war. This will not just involve material reconstruction; Ukraine will also have to rethink its economy and the reforms required as part of its accession process to the European Union. The road will not be easy, but I strongly believe that Ukraine will succeed.

Poland has also come a long way. The Bank has been present here and has supported our country in its economic transformation, which may have been challenging but at the end of the day - successful.

Poland's economic trajectory over the past three and a half decades represents one of the most successful development stories of the modern world.

The country has moved from a centrally planned system to a fully-fledged market economy – not by way of a gradual drift, but a decisive and coherent reform path that had unlocked long-term growth.

The scale of this transformation is clearly reflected in the data: Poland's nominal GDP expanded from USD 67 billion in 1989 to over USD 1 trillion in 2025, with only China achieving faster growth during the same period.

As a result of this sustained economic expansion and the crossing of this symbolic threshold, Poland has become a full member of the G20. In recent weeks, it has also joined the E6 — a coalition of the six largest European Union economies working together on economic reform initiatives.

Equally noteworthy is the improvement in living standards. Measured in purchasing power parity, Poland's GDP per capita surpassed that of Japan in 2025.

Dear guests,

Going back to the CEB's mandate: dedication to social inclusion and resilience building have been a priority for the Bank from the very outset.

Modern cities face challenges such as sustainable water management, climate change, the development of green infrastructure and adaptation to extreme weather events, traffic congestion, environmental pollution and social problems, including housing shortages and immigrant integration. We firmly support CEB's mission on that front.

Ladies and gentleman,

Poland believes in the power of multilateralism. Together, we can and we will overcome all the challenges and make the world a better place for our citizens. We are eager to continue our fruitful cooperation to create a more prosperous, sustainable and inclusive world for all, upholding, at the same time, the values that we have shared for decades.

Finally, let me express my highest appreciation to Governor Monticelli, the management team and the Bank's staff for their dedication and hard work for the benefit of the Bank's members.

I wish you all fruitful meetings during your stay in Warsaw and look forward to welcoming you to the Palace of the Commonwealth tomorrow for an enjoyable evening.

Thank you for your attention.