

**Wystąpienie Pana Andrzeja Domańskiego, Ministra Finansów
i Gospodarki podczas obchodów 70. rocznicy powstania
Banku Rozwoju Rady Europy, 17.03.2026**

Dear Governor,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the premises of the Ministry of Finance to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe Development Bank.

This hall, by the way, is called the Cinema Room as it used to host a cinema. This gave me the idea that if Oscars were given for performance in the MDB area, than the Council of Europe Development Bank would surely deserve the award!

During my speech at the joint meeting yesterday, I mentioned the Bank's unique role and contribution to the development of its members. The Bank's achievements over the past 70 years are truly impressive. It is one of the most efficient international financial institutions, with an exclusive social mandate. To date, it has invested over 93 billion euros in more than 2,300 projects across Europe. I am glad that Poland has been part of these investments.

The Bank's efficiency, the extensive knowledge of its staff and their ability to productively facilitate discussions were confirmed last year during the G20 meetings where the CEB chaired discussions among the MDBs. The Bank successfully advanced the implementation of the G20 roadmap towards better, bigger and more effective MDBs.

Dear Carlo, my salute to you and your Staff!

Turning now to today's panel topics. First of all, I would like to stress that the transition to a proactive, systemic and sustainable approach is absolutely necessary for fostering innovation and developing new social models.

In addition, restoring Europe's competitiveness, one of the priorities of the Polish Presidency last year, is more than essential.

We are all aware that Europe is facing a severe 'budget puzzle'. There are competing demands: the urgent need for increased defence and green transition investments on the one hand, and limited financial resources, on the other. This means that social spending may be pushed to the background. We must, therefore, stimulate growth in order to reconcile defence, energy security and social objectives.

In today's demanding geopolitical environment, competitiveness has rightly become the number one priority for the European Commission.

We recognise the steps taken to simplify processes, encourage investment and mobilise resources for new projects. However, we must also recognise that global players are putting pressure on Europe by means of new trade rules and intense price competition.

In just one year since Mario Draghi's report was published, the estimated investment gap in Europe has grown from 800 billion euros to 1.2 trillion. Europe has no shortage of assets. What it lacks is time.

If Europe wants to be known for innovation, high-quality products and services, we must unlock investment. This requires stronger capital markets, simpler regulations and closer cooperation between businesses and the administration.

Innovation must remain at the core of our agenda. Europe has outstanding researchers. Yet we struggle to bring discoveries to the market and integrate new technologies into industry. The case of artificial intelligence is very telling: the breakthrough ideas come from Europe, but the benefits are fuelling American, not European, tech giants.

Without growth, Europe will lose the race. Europe must focus on itself and finally gain momentum.

Europe does not suffer from lack of capital - it suffers from lack of an effective capital market. Without achieving it, the investment gap cannot be closed and competitiveness cannot be sustained.

Mobilizing European capital is essential to closing Europe's investment gap and boosting growth. This is why the Savings and Investment Union must move from strategy to execution.

This is also the task of MDBs to step up efforts to boost their performance in mobilizing private finance without which it will not be possible to finance an enormous needs that countries face nowadays.

While we need to focus on building a modern, knowledge-based economy and increasing private capital mobilisation, we must not forget the most vulnerable citizens and communities, social investments and global public goods.

The Council of Europe Development Bank is renowned for its valuable and unique role within the MDB system as Europe's social development bank. The Bank invests in global public goods by financing projects that promote environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and human capital development through initiatives in areas such as social housing, health, and education.

Dear Carlo,

We really appreciate the way the Bank is operating and pursuing its social mission. Therefore, you and your staff, who are also behind the Bank's success, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable achievements. Please continue your tireless work towards building resilient and thriving societies.

Ladies and gentleman,

I hope you have interesting and productive panel discussions. I also hope that the bank enjoys continued success for at least the next 70 years.

Thank you for your attention.