



THE CLIMATE MANIFESTO

Combating global warming is a challenge for us all. Preventing climate changes and reducing their negative effects is – on the one hand – an opportunity for the future generations to live in a friendly environment, but – on the other hand – it reduces the possibility of the current economic development due to the rise of the costs of economic activities connected with the investments into environmental protection. It also means an exposure to competition of enterprises operating in the countries, which have not signed the Kyoto Protocol. However, the Polish Confederation of Private Employers “Lewiatan” is of the opinion that the economic growth and climate protection are not necessarily contradicting issues.

We, the entrepreneurs support the activities of the European Commission in reducing the negative impact of the current growth on climate changes. There are some doubts, however, as to the tools, with which the Commission wants to achieve these changes, and as to the pace of their implementation. We think, nonetheless, that business, together with its partners – the government, self-governments of all levels, government agencies and NGOs, schools and universities, as well as each and every citizen – can and should undertake relevant actions, which will enable future generations to live in stable climate conditions.

Therefore, we think it necessary:

- to put the problems of climate changes on the list of priorities as a long-term subject having influence on the social, economic and ecological spheres;
- to prepare a national programme of adaptation to climate changes;
- to prepare a full analysis of costs and losses for Poland resulting from climate changes;
- to undertake proactive measures on the European Union level in the area of climate-energy package, and particularly the new system of emissions trading in order to prepare and implement the instruments of climate protection adjusted to the specifics of each country;

- to undertake proactive measures on the European Union level for the introduction of mechanisms, which will protect the European industry against unfair competition of the countries, which do not conduct active policy of climate protection;
- to undertake proactive measures on the European Union level for the use of structural funds in the fiscal years of 2014-2020 to construct “low-carbon” economies;
- to prepare a strategy of using the funds from the sale of excesses of the Kyoto Protocol and the means acquired from the auction for the rights to emit greenhouse gases in order to ease the difficult situation of Poland as a “high-carbon” country, and to promote an effective and innovative economy capable of competing in the world of the 21st century;
- to prepare legislature concerning mechanisms and incentives in the area of the improvement of energetic effectiveness – both by enterprises and households, regulations promoting pro-ecology initiatives and legal incentives to invest into renewable sources of energy and pure technologies;
- to prepare an analysis of the possibilities for using pure coal technologies in Poland and creating a friendly environment for their development and implementation;
- to engage the whole society into climate protection.

The consequences of climate changes will affect us all. With the sense of responsibility and common activities, the entrepreneurs, the society, the government and self-governments may prevent negative effects of the global warming. Moreover, these activities may become a stimuli to create a modern and a competitive economy, a source of scientific inspiration, to establish new sectors and branches of industry, as well as product and process innovations. However, they have to be undertaken together, taking into account the threats rising both from climate changes, and their restrictive limitation.

We are obliged to think in the long-term perspective, and therefore, we engage today into a well-considered, planned support of the activities for the prevention of climate changes to make a friendly climate for the entrepreneurship a fact.

Polish Confederation of Private Employers “Lewiatan”
11 July 2008