

Polish- British Round Table



In the 21st century, Britain and Poland are partners in the European Union, NATO and many other organizations. Both generally agree on the need for an open, free, outward-looking and broadly Atlanticist Europe, but they also have significant differences of perspective on many issues. Both their agreements and their differences are of growing importance for each country, for Europe, and sometimes for the wider world.

It is in this context that a tradition of Polish-British Round Tables that reaches back to the 1960s has been revived in a now well-established format. In its current incarnation, the Polish-British Round Table brings together leading figures from politics, business, academia, journalism and think tanks in both countries, to discuss major topics of current interest in the Renaissance setting of the Villa Decius in Kraków.

The proceedings begin with a public event at the Jagiellonian University: In 2012, this was a televised debate between BBC Trust chairman

and former European Commissioner Chris Patten and former Polish President Aleksander Kwaśniewski. The Round Table proper comprises a maximum of thirty-five people sitting round a single table, in informal but well-informed debates introduced by one speaker from each side. Topics in recent years have included Overcoming Economic Crisis, European Security and EU Enlargement. Participants have included David Miliband, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Malcolm Rifkind, Lucy Neville-Rolfe, Adam D. Rotfeld and Andrzej Olechowski.

The Round Table is organised and run by a group of independent think tanks and institutions, and is entirely independent of both governments. However, it has enjoyed the support of the Foreign Ministries of both countries and has become a valued fixture in Polish-British relations – always viewed in a wider European and global context.

Timothy Garton Ash, on behalf of the Steering Committee.



Timothy Garton Ash



Emma Reynolds



Howard Davies



Chris Patten



Isabel Hilton



Malcolm Rifkind

Europeans are afraid of changes because they think that they are entitled to a good life.

Chris Patten

If we are to answer global challenges, we must create a European demos.

Aleksander Kwaśniewski



Aleksander Kwaśniewski



Adam D. Rotfeld



Małgorzata Katużyńska



Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz



Andrzej Olechowski



Lena Kolarska-Bobińska

The event was delightful. Kraków is a gem, full of castles, churches and art nouveau stained glass. ... British pleas for redefining the purpose of the EU were politely ignored.

Howard Davies



It is a unique and an excellent forum of dialogue between Polish and British intellectuals, thinkers and leading experts.

Adam Daniel Rotfeld



We discussed the most important issues on the European agenda and special relations between Poland and the United Kingdom.

Andrzej Olechowski

Britain has the challenge of embracing Europe and Poland has the challenge of embracing a global vision.

David Miliband



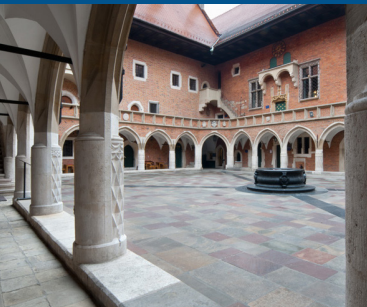
Chatham House

is home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs which was founded in London in 1920. The Institute is a world-leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on how to build a prosperous and secure world for all.



European Studies Centre

the European Studies Centre at St Antony's College in the University of Oxford is a leading centre for the interdisciplinary study of Europe. It is home to Oxford's new Programme on Modern Poland.



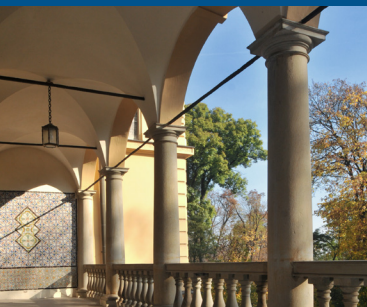
Centre for European Reform

is a think-tank devoted to making the European Union work better and strengthening its role in the world by taking on more responsibilities globally, on issues ranging from climate change to security. It aims to promote an open, outward-looking and effective European Union.



demosEUROPA – Centre for European Strategy

is an independent international research institution which aims to provide strategic insights into key aspects of the European Union, the functioning of its institutions and policies. It seeks to formulate answers to the challenges facing the European Union, its member states and citizens.



Unia & Polska

explores issues dealing with the European Union's eastern neighbourhood policy and other themes related to Poland's membership of the European Union. Set up in 2001 as a part of the legacy of Unia & Polska magazine which prepared Poles for membership of the European Union.



Villa Decius Association

is a cultural organisation of an international outreach which promotes intercultural dialogue and advocates pluralism in public life. Over the years it has become one of the most recognised and important institutions linking Poland with Europe.



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