



URZĄD MARSZAŁKOWSKI
WOJEWÓDZTWA POMORSKIEGO



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Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Region

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Mr Chairman, President, representatives of Ministries of Poland, Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you at the conference "Mare Forum Poland 2017". It is already for the second time that I have the pleasure to address such an important audience here in Sopot and Pomorskie. honorable guests and members of the maritime community from the region, Poland, Europe and all over the world take an active part at this prestigious conference.

The seaside location creates a number of economic opportunities for the Pomorskie region traditional industries, especially transport, fishing, tourism, shipbuilding and petrochemical engineering.

As we are all aware, the whole maritime industry is an important element of the Pomorskie regional economic potential with a direct and indirect effect on its competitiveness. For instance, the impact of seaports is multifaceted. They are, of course, an element of the transport system and a magnet for new greenfield infrastructure in the near and far range. They increase the dynamics of the economy through generation of demand for a

wide range of port-related services. While ports demand extensive investment around them, their positive impacts are wide ranging, including the structure and number of businesses, jobs, productivity of regional economy and direct budget revenue from taxes.

It is for these reasons that modern and versatile seaports are an important element of economic and transport policies of coastal regions and an important contributor to regional policy drawing on international and supra-regional transport links and trade relations.

Pomorskie is actively involved in actions designed to improve transport accessibility and deliver the cohesion policy by taking the long-term perspective of regional development over the years. We believe that effective multimodal corridors along the north-south and east-west axis will strengthen territorial cohesion in Pomorskie and the Baltic Sea area and improve the competitiveness of the network of the European Union regions. As a result, new jobs will be created in the area which, in turn, will help it to fully benefit from the single market.

It is obvious that the two large commercial seaports in Gdańsk and Gdynia, four logistic terminals with Deepwater Container Terminal in the lead, play a major role in transshipment from the North Sea to the Baltic Sea of , a huge mass of cargo, which has significantly changed European trends in transport services.

We are proud to observe that with over 55 million tonnes of bulk annually and nearly 2 million TEU of containers during the last year, our ports have gained the second position in the Baltic Sea.

Of course, we cannot forget about the role of medium-sized and small ports located in Pomorskie. They are drivers of the local economic growth. They also have a great potential to become centres of excellence for renewable energy, sustainable tourism and creative industries, given their natural assets. However, as they are somehow peripheral in the region what is necessary for them to use their potential is development of infrastructure.

Shipbuilding has also traditionally been a leading sector of this region's economy. After a period of collapse it has managed to find a niche. It has now focused on highly advanced units like cruisers, LNG-propelled ferries, wind farm construction vessels and etc. Polish private owned shipyards have correctly identified the new trends and established cooperation links with ship owners demanding the highest quality of the delivered vessels. I am sure, we all agree that it has been with a great success. The same can be observed in the offshore sector in Poland. As the shipyards have managed to gain necessary know-how and experience in related projects, this branch is now highly specialised, producing innovative vessels with high added value.

Yacht building is also a dynamically growing sector here and, in fact, Poland has gone into the lead in the European market in the production of the most popular yachts of 6 to 9 meters long. Pomorskie, as well as being home to

ship and yacht building shipyards and related companies boasts of a number of modern design studios, research and development centre and marine classification societies.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The Pomorskie Selfgovernment, I have the pleasure to represent, is doing its best to actively support efforts to offer the best conditions for the development of maritime economy. Considering that the issues of seaports and shipbuilding sector fall primarily under the responsibility of the national authorities, we are convinced that there can be benefits from effective cooperation and support at regional level as well. As a proof I would like to mention Pomorskie selfgovernment in consultation with the broad public has identified “Off-shore, port and logistics technologies” as one of the four Regional Smart Specialisations. We are really proud of the partnership of a great number of entities that have decided to gather and cooperate with regional authorities to strengthen the process of developing innovative technologies within the maritime sectors.

And finally I would like to mention that our Regional Development Strategy cover many issues related to the economic use of the maritime location potential, such as: transport connectivity of the sea ports, innovative maritime heavy industries and also close cooperation with the science and business sectors to educate highly qualified and skilled employees.

We are active in national and international forums to support and ensure the best conditions for creating possibilities, eliminating administrative obstacles and giving a chance for business to grow. A good example of this

can be work of Pomorskie delegates including Marshal Mieczysław Struk in the Committee of the Regions. Of course, all these efforts are possible thanks to close and very efficient cooperation with business partners from Pomorskie region.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I hope your time in Pomorskie will be both pleasant and fruitful. I would also like to pass greetings from Pomorskie Marshal Mr Mieczysław Struk. May your debates and cooperation bring the best possible results to all of us.

Thank you