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Call for a change of views

In the evening, during the festive plenary assembly, Professor Bruno O. Braun pointed out in his keynote speech that one of the biggest challenges for the technology location in 2020 is winning the trust of the public regarding future technological developments and increasing the acceptance of technology in general. In his opinion, it is possible to achieve this in the long term only through a uniform federal education strategy.

In his ceremonial speech, Federal Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen made it clear that economic growth can not be stopped in the coming years, especially in view of the increasing global population. He called for a change of view for businesses, politics and society as a whole, and a concentration on development and deployment of resource-saving technologies and processes. In this field, Germany has a great chance to expand its leading position and to become a market leader and trend setter.

Association of German Engineers/Verein Deutscher Ingenieure (VDI), Düsseldorf, Germany
www.vdi.de



From left: VDI President Mr Bruno O. Braun, German Federal Environment Minister Mr Norbert Röttgen and VDI Director Mr Willi Fuchs.

24th Polish Technicians' and Engineers' Congress

The participants of the 24th Polish Technicians' and Engineers' Congress, held on 24–25 May 2011 in Lodz, have expressed their satisfaction that this event, ending a year of debates and actions towards consolidation of the Polish technical community and scientific environments, has been held in the time preceding the inauguration of the Polish presidency of the EU.



Polish Technicians' and Engineers' Congress, 25 May 2011

Engineers, technicians, scientists and businessmen participating in the 24th congress judged that actions leading to economic growth in Poland are a priority. Noting with satisfaction developmental changes, the technical community also discerns negative phenomena in the economy, especially those that do not seek to reduce considerably unemployment and the discontent of many social and professional groups. It is assumed that the technical and social development of Poland during the next years depends greatly on working out and enforcing system solutions, first of all in innovation, energy security, safe transport and infrastructure.

Most important tasks

1. Innovation: unambiguous definition of pro-innovative policy purposes; wide international cooperation; elite higher education; supporting innovation of enterprises; wider participation of national universities, institutes and economic institutions in international research and development programmes; creating effective monitoring systems; wider cooperation of non-governmental environments and organisations in both direct and indirect actions leading to common standpoints and procedures for development of Polish innovation; participation in large international research programmes; establishing a governmental body submitted directly to the prime minister to coordinate pro-innovative policy



Mrs Ewa Mankiewicz-Cudny, President (right) and Prof. Jozef Suchy, Vice-President of the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations (middle) meeting FEANI Secretary General Mr Dirk Bochar in preparation of the Polish EU Presidency

2. Energy security: development and wide implementation of modern, economically effective technologies in mining, coal and biomaterial processing to ensure energy security; rationalisation of shale gas mining technological processes; rationalisation of energy and heat consumption; energy transmission, distribution and effective use by ultimate industrial and municipal consumers; building nuclear power stations as one of most important ways of ensuring energy security in Poland

3. Transport sector: maximum use of EU funds for optimisation of exploitation of weakly invested transport infrastructure; minimisation of carbon dioxide and particulates emission and creation and use of alternative energy sources; strengthening of the role of governmental and local administration in transport development through minimisation of negative effects of motor use and minimisation of transport costs; creation of integrated transport system and strengthening actions aimed at the north-south transport system; development of urban and inter-urban transport and intelligent transport systems; ensuring traffic safety; minimisation of pollution of the environment and implementation of high-speed railways

Polish leadership of the EU offers perfect conditions

The participants of the 24th Polish Technicians' and Engineers' Congress are convinced that Polish leadership of the EU offers perfect conditions for greater integration and adjustment of social, legal, economical and technical relations in Poland to those of the united Europe. In order to put into practice the outcomes of the congress, it is necessary to create and implement periodic monitoring by means of conferences to be held annually by the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations with the participation of interested branch associations.

Moreover, the participants of the congress are convinced that a priority for the next time should be science investment, technical development and the implementation of new technologies. Proper realisation of these postulates and conclusions requires engagement of scientific environments such as universities and research institutes, as well as the Academy of Engineering in Poland and the members of the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations.

The congress also submits to the ministers of economy, science and regional development the proposal to take patronage over a large group of small and medium enterprises by technical environment. The results of those projects will be presented during the international fair "Innovation, Technology, Machines".

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Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament and former Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, in his opening video-address