



## **THE Sopot DECLARATION 2021**

Ten years ago, during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the first Sopot Declaration was adopted. At that time, we acted with the feeling that we had gained a real influence on the directions of development of this great European project, but also that we carried a huge burden of responsibility. With hope we proposed deepening and accelerating the European integration, strengthening the EU institutions and developing an effective decision-making system. We called for greater solidarity in addressing challenges, many of which remain relevant today, including strengthening the single market and the competitiveness of the European economy, reversing unfavourable demographic trends, reducing social inequalities and creating an inclusive socio-economic model to harness the potential of diversity. We believed that a community based on the values of openness, tolerance, solidarity, respect, cooperation and dialogue can cope with challenges that no country can overcome alone.

Today, a community of values, goals and actions is essential to repair the economic and social damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic and to make Europe after COVID-19 greener, more digital, more resilient and better prepared for current and future challenges.

Climate and environmental protection require the joint commitment of all stakeholders and ensuring global action. The Europe's ambitions to reduce emissions can be realized by strengthening the competitiveness of our economy, providing an appropriate regulatory framework, supporting the transformation of enterprises and bringing new technologies to the market. A fair green transition should take into account the diversity of our economies and reduce social costs in regions that need to make an extraordinary effort to meet the goals adopted for 2030 and 2050.

The single market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. However, it cannot remain in its pre-pandemic shape. All the freedoms guaranteed by the Treaties need to be deepened, especially in the area of services and the data economy. We need to shorten supply chains and ensure that



Europe has access to the strategic resources and components it needs to develop modern industry.

We need faster digitization to seize the opportunities that the new age has brought us. We need regulatory governance to enable and stimulate investment in artificial intelligence. The development of digital technologies should benefit society as a whole, and people should be a point of reference.

We need modern education, one that will give young people the opportunity to find themselves and develop in an increasingly complex and demanding world, and we declare the commitment of entrepreneurs to its creation.

The foundation of any community is the observance of the commonly agreed rules. Without respect for the rule of law, we will not guarantee our citizens and companies a sense of security and trust, which are essential for investment and development. The rule of law should be protected and vigorously enforced. We should keep in mind that trust is created through dialogue, and the European Union develops through respect for diversity. Effective dialogue requires a genuine willingness to reach an agreement on the part of all parties. Lack of dialogue is always a failure. We call on the Polish government to engage in genuine dialogue with the EU institutions. We want a Poland that makes a positive contribution to the preparation of the European Union for the challenges of the future. We want a Europe that responds to these challenges jointly and effectively.

Sopot, 22/10/2021

**Polish Confederation Lewiatan**