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## 'Safe, cheap & ecological' - Poland's energy policy to 2050

**T**he European Union has defined a framework for a uniform climate change and energy policy until 2020. This framework reflects various political goals: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, competitiveness and job creation, as well as guaranteeing energy supplies.

The EU framework also takes note of the long-term perspectives devised by the European Commission in 2011 in its action plan to move to a competitive low-emission economy by 2050.

The EU goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050 as compared with 1990 levels. Some executive measures are exemplified in the Green Book issued by the European Commission on March 27, 2013. In this context, what follows is a brief discussion of Poland's energy policy.

### POLAND'S POLICY

Poland has complied with the Protocol's requirements and reduced the level of emissions by as much as 30 percent. However, the Kyoto Protocol is not the only international emissions reduction

agreement to which Poland is a party. Further reduction goals are specified in the Accession Treaty signed upon Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004. The EU's commitments for 2020 are the so-called three times twenty percent: a commitment to reduce gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and increase renewable energy. Based on these commitments, Poland has elaborated its energy policy until 2030, and is soon to announce a draft energy policy until 2050.

Poland's energy policy priorities and goals were presented in the Position of the Polish Electrical Energy Committee dated August 6, 2013. These priorities were summed up by the headlines: **safe, cheap and ecological.**

Ecological priorities are reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, SOX, NOX and dust emissions. Emphasis is placed on the significance of using a major percentage of waste for energy, as well as on the possibility of underground carbon dioxide storage in accordance with amended regulations, the Waste Management Act and the Mining and Geological Law.

Poland's energy policy until 2030 (and also subsequently until 2050) assumes with regard to greenhouse gas emissions that new construction standards for power plants with the CO<sub>2</sub> capturing system should be implemented.

Other proposals include application of proceeds from auctions of CO<sub>2</sub> emission entitlements to support actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Most of the assumptions can be attained only if a system for the management of domestic greenhouse gas and other substance levels is created.

But regardless of further developments regarding changes to the Kyoto Protocol, Poland is bound by even more stringent EU directives. Implementation of the KP is progressing unlike originally assumed, and a significant number of signatories have elected not to implement its commitments. Hence, it is unclear whether reduction of gas emissions as proposed by the EU will be reflected in the solutions adopted by COP19 in Warsaw.

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