

**Report from the meeting of the Committee of Forecasting Poland 2000 + in the Polish Academy of Sciences**

Sprawozdanie ze spotkania Komitetu Prognoz Polska 2000+ w Polskiej Akademii Nauk

On 20 February 2013 there was a meeting of the Committee Forecasts Poland 2000+, organized by the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences under the direction of professor Michael Keiber. The meeting was attended by about 100 guests from all over Poland and three discussion papers were delivered.

First, professor Bogdan Galwas presented his paper entitled *The world of the first Decade of the twenty-first century. Time for a welfare state*, then futurologist Marek Chlebuś presented his work *The World According Network. Is the Internet propels our reality better?* Finally, professor Lucjan Pawłowski ended discussion with his paper entitled *Conditions of durable and sustainable human development*.

Professor Galwas noted that although the development of science and technology at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century looks impressive, world and Europe are threatened by many adverse effects: the economic crisis, unemployment, the sovereign debt crisis of the pension system, the economic stratification of society, desertification of many agricultural areas, the lack of drinking water. The result is that the modern world has become unstable, and many processes are going in the wrong direction, threatening our future. In the speaker's opinion Poland and Europe countries should strive, like the Scandinavian, to build a society in the framework of the social state. But there are also positive phenomena. First of all, in Europe, productivity is unprecedented and will meet all the needs of its residents. Secondly, our population is well educated, there is a good education system. Thirdly, we have a huge scientific potential to inhibit these negative changes and take control of them. However, the further development of the model of the welfare state, or even care, guaranteeing people jobs, adequate income, the possibility of learning are necessary.

Futurologist Marek Chlebuś proceeded with his speech discussing the fact that we have a new system and the old social crisis. There are no new ideas, technology and social organization of society right which are networked. However, life on the Web varies very much from the real life because there is no typical material world and even the concept of nation and state is disappearing. A net-

work where a new economy is slowly developing is the result of that, namely the economy of experience, observations, or wikinomia that requires a new synthesis of the concept of virtual wealth, its production, consumption, distribution, or the new Smith and Marx. Management of the network from the perspective of traditional economics is absurd. We must therefore look for a new models of co-existence the network society and management of traditional life on earth.

Professor Pawłowski in his speech concerning *Conditions for Sustainable Development* points out that the idea of the development refers to the quality of people's lives, to good quality of natural environment and the socio-political system. Undoubtedly, the development of capitalism accelerated the economic development but, at the same time, it also developed the social inequalities that threaten the freedom and equality of people. The current crisis is due to – in his opinion – the lack of ethical behaviour created by the crisis based on the objective of gaining wealth at any cost, which in practice leads to the fact that modern civilization is unsustainably growing. The modern practice of neo-liberal capitalism, where the current capital strength is not offset by the strength of the state, provokes such a situation. This threatens both social and ecological justice. The globalizing economy is so strong that multinational corporations in pursuit for maximum profit can effectively influence the existing legal systems, which together with endless privatization process, results in the avalanche of social inequalities, economic and many environmental problems in the global world. Therefore, we need a global socio-economic system that would guarantee social justice, employment and limited social environmental degradation and natural disasters as well as prevent humanitarian.

After these speeches, which were very interesting, substantive discussions began, mostly undertaken by various neo-liberal thinkers. Participants of the Committee noted that the discussion should be continued because the topic is very important for the future of Europe and Poland.

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