Since the outbreak of the current Ukraine crisis, Poland's national security has deteriorated. For the first time since the end of the Cold War, Poland’s latest National Security Strategy of the Republic of Poland (adopted in November 2014) indicates that Poland is threatened with military attack and that Russia represents the main threat. For this reason, Poland has undertaken intensive actions to strengthen its national security. This talk will address the role of the Ukraine crisis in developing the transatlantic security system. It will provide a Polish perspective on U.S. actions in the ongoing crisis in the context of the three pillars of Poland’s security and defense policy: (1) building up the state’s own military resources and capabilities; (2) NATO membership and close relations with the USA; and (3) cooperation within the EU framework.

Justyna Zając teaches international relations at the University of Warsaw. She served on the National Security Strategic Review Commission as an appointee of the President of the Republic of Poland. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the Standing Group on International Relations (the European Consortium for Political Research), and she has authored several books and articles on transatlantic security, the European Union, U.S. foreign policy, and Poland’s foreign and security policy.