Poland and Euro-Atlantic Security: Beyond the Ukraine Crisis
Part of the ESIA Ambassador Series

with

Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of Poland to the United States of America

Recent events in Ukraine have highlighted Poland's pivotal position in the Euro-Atlantic community as a confident, original, and occasionally controversial stakeholder. 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of both Poland's integration into the EU and the handover of the Polish zone in Iraq back to U.S. control, which arguably turned the page on Donald Rumsfeld's "New Europe" narrative. Under the leadership of President Komorowski, Prime Minister Tusk, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sikorski, Poland's foreign policy has become too complex and pragmatic to allow for easy characterization. Although the Eastern Partnership has been criticized by some as an "anti-Russian" initiative, Warsaw can hardly aim to alienate Moscow and even attempted to reconcile with Medvedev's Russia over the Katyn and Smolensk tragedies. Far from being an "Atlanticist Trojan Horse" in Brussels, Poland also utilized its 2011 European Union presidency to advocate for a stronger EU, including in the field of defense, through the Weimar Triangle and CSDP frameworks. Clarifying the drivers of Polish policy is especially important and timely today, in the context of the aforementioned Ukraine crisis, Prime Minister Tusk's appointment as Permanent President of the European Council, and the departure of Minister of Foreign Affairs Sikorski

Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf is the current Ambassador of Poland to the United States of America and the former Ambassador of Poland to Uruguay and Paraguay, to Costa Rica, and to Spain. He has also served as Secretary of State for Foreign Relations and Security, where he directed budget negotiations for the European Union for the years between 2007 and 2013, and as Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the late 1970s, he participated in the Democratic-led opposition movement in Poland. During his studies and professorship at Warsaw University he specialized in Latin America socio-politics.

October 7, 2014
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Lindner Commons
1957 E Street NW, 6th floor, Room 602
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/schnepf

This event is on record.