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**Asymmetry of economies of Russia and Poland: conflict of interests?**

Despite a huge amount of significant changes that have taken place in the Polish economy in the last 25 years, Russia continues to be one of the main trade partners of Poland, but remains one of the major trading partners.

A characteristic feature of the Polish-Russian economic cooperation is its asymmetry. Before we start to analyze the particularities of the bilateral economic relations, first of all, we should pay attention to the different economic models of the two countries. The drivers of Polish economy are small and medium size enterprises. They are the main actors in the Russian-Polish economic relations. Mention should be made of the fact that the main source of growth of Polish economy is export of manufactured goods, not always of high-technology nature.

Since August 2014 because of the economic crisis that affected the Russian economy, decrease of oil prices, conflict in Ukraine, sanctions imposed by EU, the trade turnover started to reduce rapidly. According to the Russian statistics, in 2014-2016 it decreased by 56% to 13.057 billion of USD, Russian exports - 9.098 billion of USD and Russian imports from Poland decreased to 3.958 billion of USD. It means that trade turnover reduced twice in comparison with 2014. The question is why it has happed.

To my mind the main reason is the decline of the demand of Russian households caused by smaller oil revenues of Russian economy, while sanctions played a less significant part.

In 2016 Poland among Russia's trade partners was on 10th place: in the Russian exports on the 11th place, in Russian imports on 9th place. Nevertheless among the foreign trade partners of Russia among the EU countries Poland retained the fourth place after Germany, the Netherlands and Italy.

From the point of view of Polish-Russian economic relations, it opportunities, Poland could be considered by Russian companies as a supplier of high-technology, investment and innovation in a range of industries. Poland could play a role of an intermediary that provides consulting, training, certification, innovative products from the EU. The priority areas of cooperation between Poland and Russia in this context are mechanical engineering (vehicles, mining equipment, etc.), pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper industry.

In the case of Russia, if its economy manages to diversify export, because of geography, Polish market will be a good place to export.