

Voice of the People

Manuscript
The future of EU
TVP, Poland

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00.02

The wind of change is blowing across Europe. In May EU has been enlarged by 10 new countries. Both old and new member states have high hopes but also some fears. Do they believe that the European community will survive? What does the future hold for them?

00.19

I hope it will be a good Union. But I'm... Just now Swedish people are not so fond of the Union.... But I do hope, because it's important for all the states to have an equal.. how to say.. an economic base to stand on. If it is too big a difference (in this economic base) - it'll makes some problems

00.48

Dr. Maciej Perkowski – specialist in international law

I believe this will strengthen Europe. If you look at the core of integration process within the Union, you'll notice it does not lead directly to quick profits, doesn't have economic success as the exclusive target. If it was so, we could certainly observe some weakening. Only in more distant perspective could we talk about strengthening. But if we consider political integration, then yes – the Union has become stronger. The expansion has a few planes: quantitative – because there's been an increase in population; political – larger number of member countries; and territorial – larger size. I guess that in these terms we can say that the Union has strengthened itself.

01.25

Dariusz Ciszewski – candidate to European Parliament

EU has every ability to survive and be a long lasting community, but only on a few conditions. The first is cultural and social identity. That's what the Union should be based on. In my opinion common market and uniform monetary system are not enough to entirely unite nations. We've got to go back to the roots. We all come from Christian culture, which is an important, crucial fact. It has the potential to unite all the member nations. That's what the "fathers" of the Union – Adenauer and Schuman – put forth too.

01.59

When in 1957 the Treaty of Rome gave birth to European Economic Community, it consisted of just six member countries. Now, after the recent expansion it has 25 members.

02.12

Do you believe the next enlargement is necessary?

Well.. it has to wait for at least 10 years.

Why?

There are a lot of poor countries now in Europe. And they have to have more economic increase. And then it can become a larger Europe.

02.38**Dariusz Ciszewski**

I think EU should expand further – particularly eastward. It also should work out a model of co-operation with these countries, which will never join the Union. This is to consolidate peaceful terms outside its borders. Poland ought to play a major part in the process of expansion to the East.

03.05

EU is well advanced in accession negotiations with Romania and Bulgaria. It supports these countries in their aim of joining the community in 2007. Turkey does not meet the required criteria yet. In December 2004 European Council will decide whether they'll set off with negotiations with this country.

03.27

I think it's gonna be a nation (organization) of separate countries. I don't think that we're gonna be like the US or something like that.

03.33

I'm not very much for the Union. I think we do better on our own. Because I think it [EU] is a little bit too big to have the same laws, rules. Because countries are in different state from the beginning.

03.48

I think independence is important. So that every state can decide for each country. (Only..) general law for all the countries...

04.02**Dr. Maciej Perkowski**

It seems to me that so far all the actions taken by the European Convent, the work on the Constitution, the positions held by governments at various summits – all that is heading at the opposite direction, which means that at least in the nearest future the Union will remain a multinational organization. It will be unique, original, with characteristic features, instead of some kind of a super-state.

04.25

How do people who are high in the EU... How can they think that they have the right to decide small things like... We had an article in our newspaper two days ago.... They decide on things like cucumber size instead of big things! And that is ridiculous, I think.

04.51

It's not good as it is. They are down on too small things. They must act (deal with) big things, not this... how we should hunt our birds up here! Who cares down in Portugal or Spain?

05.07**Dariusz Ciszewski**

I support the idea of Europe as a union of motherlands. Therefore I guess this kind of petty things should be decided upon by individual governments of the member states. Such technocratic approach of the present EU officials leads to anomalies and ridiculous situations. I think that united Europe needs visionaries – individuals who can see what Europe ought to be in 10-15 years' time.