

Prime Minister signed the Reform Treaty of the European Union

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After the ceremony of signing the Reform Treaty of the European Union in Lisbon, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers Donald Tusk said that it was a very important day for Poland. Referring to the 26th anniversary of the imposition of martial law in Poland, Tusk remarked that for his generation the signing of the Treaty on 13 December had a symbolic significance. "For my generation it is an important closure", he added.

Heads of states and governments as well as ministers of foreign affairs from EU member states signed the Treaty. Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski represented the Polish side. According to the head of Polish government, the Treaty simplifies the procedures of ruling in the European Union. "There is a chance that Europe will become even more strongly integrated and will be able to carry out more coherent policy", said the prime minister. Polish President Lech Kaczyński, as the chairman of the Polish delegation, also attended the ceremony.

The Treaty is to become effective as of 1 January 2009, following its ratification by all EU member states. Donald Tusk announced that Poland would be among the first states to ratify the Treaty and that it would become part of the Polish legal order.

The Treaty envisages a reform of the European Union. The European Community will be liquidated and its competences, rights and duties will be taken over by the European Union. It will acquire a uniform legal personality similar to that of an international organisation.

The reform calls for the strengthening of the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments of the member states. As of 2014 the number of European Commission members will be reduced. A high EU representative for foreign affairs and security policy will be appointed.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights was adopted together with the Treaty. Poland accepted it together with the so-called British Protocol, which limits the scope of its application.