

**Natalia Tomaszewska<sup>1</sup>**  
*Poland*

## LAST DECADE IN POLISH FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

### **Abstract:**

*Polish relations with Africa are important but rather overlooked topic. Article deals with political and economic relations with this continent. The Author delves into the topic, analyzing, among other, statements of politicians, exposes of foreign ministers or official visits. In the economic aspect, Author put emphasis on the activity of private Polish companies on the local markets. Author compares Poland's exports on national scale to African countries from 2008 to 2016, also considering what specific products are exported.*

### **Keywords:**

*polish-African relation, Polish foreign policy toward Africa, economic relation with Africa*

## Introduction

Africa for decades was in centre of global policy, first as the subject of decolonization, than as bottomless pit for charity help, as the most underdevelopment, affected by famine, diseases and civilization backwardness. We can observe how the image of Africa evolves toward worth to investing in continent. Although Africa is extremely diverse, with difficult history full of civil, religious and ethnic wars, one of the bloodiest pogroms in the history of humanity, she slowly begins to emerge from the traps of history. Polish foreign policy toward Africa seems to be too broad concept for one article. However the author's intention is to make an introduction to these issues, to signal key elements in further analyze of this area of Polish foreign policy.

Author of this article focuses on last decade in Polish foreign policy and on economic relations between Warsaw and African countries. Especially will put the emphasis on last years, when Poland increases the business expansion and also the political relations starts to be more popular in the media. In this cross-

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<sup>1</sup> PhD student at the University of Wrocław of Political Science, Wrocław, Poland, e-mail: tomaszewska.natalka@gmail.com

sectional analyze Author will present the general conceptions of foreign policy in last 10 years, will indicate the role of Presidents and Foreign Affairs Ministers in this relations. Also will be raised the strategy of promoting and gaining support for Poland as the non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council among African countries.

In case of economic relations author will focus on Polish companies that enter and strengthening their position on the African market. Increasing economic relations are also a key factor in strengthening political relation between particular countries and Poland.

Polish foreign policy after 1989 was mainly directed at her closer neighbourhood. The most crucial aims were the membership in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and in European Union (EU)<sup>2</sup>. These goals were achieved in 1999 and in 2004. Despite this, before and after their implementation these two factors create the directions of Polish foreign policy and totally subordinated our actions on international scale to them.

After 14 years of membership in EU we can say with absolute certainty that Poland is one of the pillars of European Union. The contemporary challenges and threats, political and economic development of Poland, commitment to global security and expectations of role she wants to play in region, cause that attempts to only understanding world are simply not enough<sup>3</sup>. Poland had to face of the new role in which she will actively participate in creating it. The emanation of it was the participation in war in Afghanistan, Iraq, realization the conception of Three Seas or active seek of chances in Chinese Silk Road. Also an example of undertaking actions in many directions was the increasing diplomatic and economic relation with Africa.

### **Political aspects of relations with Africa**

Relations with Africa are dominated by prism of Middle East and North Africa region (MENA). It is visible in public agenda, especially when Arab world struggle with non-democratic regimes during Arab Spring since end of 2010. Direct interest of European Union of MENA as part of European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and possibilities of energetic cooperation create a situation in which relations with Africa was understand mostly by countries like Libya, Egypt, Tunisia or Morocco. Despite this, we can distinguish many actions, not only of Polish government but also private business sector toward other than North, regions of Africa.

The background of Polish foreign policy should be started from 1989 however it is not a thematic scope for one article. Still, must be underlined that

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<sup>2</sup> A. Turkowski, *Polityka zagraniczna Polski w perspektywie podejścia systemów-światów*, „Studia Polityczne”, Nr 2 (42), 2016, p. 193.

<sup>3</sup> *Polska polityka zagraniczna: kontynuacja czy zerwanie?* <<http://www.batory.org.pl/upload/kont.pdf>> (10.04.2018).

after 1989 relations between Africa and Poland was dominated by political and ideological issues. Condemnation of colonialism and its new forms, support of national liberation movements, establishment of diplomatic relations with new states prevailed in these relations. However, Africa has been pushed out to the periphery of both Polish politics and directions of economic expansion<sup>4</sup>. That is why Author wants to analyze last 10 years in external relation of Poland. From 2006 till 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was led by Anna Fotyga. 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in her expose, she underlined the strong role of EU, as one of the area of implementation of Polish political and economic interests, especially connected with energetic security.

European Union plays an important role not only in speech of Minister Fotyga but also in policy of whole government in that time. One of the priorities of Polish government was exact defining the competences of the EU institutions, and increasing the solidarity among member states in case of energy issues. Despite clearly pro-European attitude Anna Fotyga also mentioned the importance of other regions, like Africa.

Since 2006 Poland assign financial help for humanitarian aims and development actions to ensure peace and security not only for countries to the east and south of ours borders, but also for Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and African countries<sup>5</sup>. In 2007 Poland transfer for humanitarian aims 4,07 million zlotys, which is 1,46 million dollars (global humanitarian assistance in 2006 reached 8,9 milliard dollars<sup>6</sup>, Poland's budget for 2007 was 236,4 milliard zlotys<sup>7</sup> this numbers can show what part, both of Polish budget and global humanitarian assistance was the help form Poland). Main addressees of this assistance were among other Sudan, Afghanistan and Moldova<sup>8</sup>. Staying in topic of Africa, the help for Sudan amount to 360 thousand dollars, which was intended for refugees in West Darfur camps. Also Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs found 20 deep wells in Kulbus, which allow 15 thousand people access to drinking water<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> J. Knopek, *25 lat polityki zagranicznej III RP wobec Afryki Subsaharyjskiej*, [w:] *Polska polityka zagraniczna 1989-2014*, [red.] J. Knopek, W. Rafał, Warszawa 2016, p. 292.

<sup>5</sup> *Sprawozdania stenograficzne z posiedzeń Sejmu RP V kadencji, 41. posiedzenie Sejmu w dniu 11 maja 2007 r.*, p. 364, <[http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter5.nsf/0/F46789E275E31E43C12572D8006E1D11/\\$file/41\\_d\\_ksiazka.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter5.nsf/0/F46789E275E31E43C12572D8006E1D11/$file/41_d_ksiazka.pdf)>, (22.01.2018).

<sup>6</sup> *Global Humanitarian Assistance 2007/2008*, <<http://devinit.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/2007-GHA-report.pdf>>, (22.01.2018).

<sup>7</sup> *Analiza wykonania budżetu państwa i założeń polityki pieniężnej w 2007 roku*, <<https://www.nik.gov.pl/plik/id,1550.pdf>> (22.01.2018).

<sup>8</sup> *Polska pomoc humanitarna 2007*, <<https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Pomoc,humanitarna,2007,623.html>>, (22.01.2018).

<sup>9</sup> *Pomoc humanitarna dla Sudanu*, <<https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Pomoc,humanitarna,dla,Sudanu,651.html>>, (22.01.2018)

Mentioned earlier energetic security was one of the reasons to strengthen cooperation with potential suppliers of energetic resources<sup>10</sup>. This refers to North Africa, especially Algeria. Although in that time we can point out many diplomatic meeting between prime minister or minister of foreign affairs and the representatives of governments of African countries, the main points of talks were energetic security and diversification of sources.

Fotyga ensures in her expose that Poland is strongly committed to develop of democracy in African countries, as much as is devoted to fight against terrorism, which was one of the main problem in Nigeria. We also put the effort to “help many countries, building the image of Poland as a solidary country with those in need. An important role in the implementation of the foreign aid program, especially for the African countries, is played by non-governmental organization and Polish missionaries and missionaries whose humanitarian activities are and will be supported by the government”<sup>11</sup>.

Since the November of 2007 the prime minister of Polish government was Donald Tusk, in that time the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was led by Radosław Sikorski. In his expose in May 2008, 2009 and 2010 we can find many similar issues, from which the most significant and most often mentioned was the relation with EU.

It can be stated beyond any doubt that “government of Donald Tusk represents the general pro-European strategy which was consequently realized since 2007 till 2015. Implementation of Polish aims was possible only in cooperation inside the EU, which was clearly shown also in economic policy in that time”<sup>12</sup>. In Sikorski’s expose from 2008 we can distinguish few crucial parts. The role of EU is one of it. The so called “catch up” the rest of Europe in economic, political and civilization sense, involvement in integration process inside the EU member, and solidarity in decision process are next elements pointed out during the speech in Parliament. “A common European foreign policy, in order to be effective on any dimension of importance to the Union—be it in regards to China and the whole of Asia, to the Mediterranean world and the Middle East, or to Latin America and Africa—requires intra-Union consolidation. Large member states, among them Poland, have an important role to play in this process”<sup>13</sup>. The general shape of policy toward distance regions like Latin America or Africa should be established on European level.

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<sup>10</sup> *Polityka zagraniczna i bezpieczeństwa Polski po 1989 roku*, red. Cziomer E., Kraków 2015, pp. 112-114.

<sup>11</sup> *Expose 2007*, <[http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/c/MOBILE/polityka\\_zagraniczna/priorytety\\_polityki\\_zagr\\_2017\\_2021/expose2/expose\\_2007/](http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/c/MOBILE/polityka_zagraniczna/priorytety_polityki_zagr_2017_2021/expose2/expose_2007/)>, (23.01.2018).

<sup>12</sup> A. Starzyk, N. Tomaszewska, *Conception of Intermarium in Polish foreign policy in XXI century*, “International Studies”, No. 1 (10), 2017, pp. 15-28.

<sup>13</sup> *Government Information on Polish Foreign Policy in 2008*, <[https://www.pism.pl/files/?id\\_plik=8741](https://www.pism.pl/files/?id_plik=8741)>, s. 16, (30.01.2018).

The geographical determinism constitute that Polish foreign policy should be focused on Europe and her neighbours. Especially on eastern neighbours, where Poland, can become a bridge between state like Ukraine or Belarus and Europe, leading to the intensification of the cooperation and integration process. “Greater integration should proceed hand-in-hand with an ever-greater role for the Union in its own neighborhood and on a global scale. We are concerned that the European Neighborhood Policy is properly shaped, especially as it applies to the East. This is a result not only of Poland’s geographical location on the Eastern boundaries of the EU, but also from our consciousness that East of our borders lie European neighbors, while to the South-in North Africa and the Middle East-lie neighbors of Europe. This is a fundamental distinction”<sup>14</sup>. In 2009 and 2010 Africa was much less discussed topic in Sikorski’s expose. The only mentions we can find are those concerning the very general assurance of continuing the engagement in humanitarian and development cooperation with African countries. Also what seems to be consistent with the main points of expose from 2008, Poland want to use the diplomatic facilities of other European countries in states where our presence is rather negligible.

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 Sikorski came to Rwanda, Egypt and Kenya with diplomatic visit. Main points were the appointments with authorities of this countries (Prime minister of Rwanda – Bernard Makuza, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya Moses Wetangul and the Prime Minister Rail Oding, General Secretary of the League of Arab States in Egypt Amrem Mousse, and Egypt Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmand Abul Gheit<sup>15</sup>) visit in schools and other educations facilities building from Polish development help. In Kibeho in Rwanda Polish financial help enable to open a facility for blind children, which would not be possible without the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross. In Africa many other organizations engage into assistance activities, like “Center for Youth Research of the University of Warsaw in cooperation with the Foundation Partners Poland and the Economic Foundation Poland-East Africa. This last foundation has realized, among others project involving the renovation and construction of a primary school in the Kawangware slums”<sup>16</sup>.

In expose of Minister Radosław Sikorski from 2012 we cannot find a single mention about Africa. The Polish foreign policy focuses more than before on European Union, on our nearest neighbours, and on strategic cooperation between Poland and other European countries. Sikorski claimed

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<sup>14</sup> *Government Information on Polish Foreign Policy in 2008*, <[https://www.pism.pl/files/?id\\_plik=8741](https://www.pism.pl/files/?id_plik=8741)>, s.14, (30.01.2018).

<sup>15</sup> *Sikorski z czterodniową wizytą w Afryce*, <<http://fakty.interia.pl/swiat/news-sikorski-z-czterodniowa-wizyta-w-afryce,nId,867719>> (03.02.2018).

<sup>16</sup> *Ibidem*.

that “thanks to European Union Polish power of influence multiplies”<sup>17</sup> which refers to Eastern Partnership and possibilities to finance the cooperation with partners’ country. During the session of parliament 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, exceptional activity, conferring to Minister Sikorski, demonstrated deputies, who asking questions, submitting interpellations or appearing on the parliamentary podium.

*Tab. 1. Deputies appearances in Parliament 29 March 2012*

Deputy	Main elements in speech
Cezary Grabarczyk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increasing interest among Polish businessmen of Africa;</li> <li>- indication on unstable conditions and pursuit of economic activities and the lack of current information about market investment;</li> <li>- an important element of Polish foreign policy should be the establishment of economic contacts through intergovernmental arrangements. This is the only way to increasing Polish companies presence in Africa;</li> </ul>
Maciej Orzechowski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promotion of democracy, especially taking under consideration Arab Spring;</li> </ul>
Bożenna Bukiewicz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- presenting the Arab Spring matter;</li> <li>- the aim of Polish foreign policy should be support and solidarity for all those who fight for freedom, democracy and human rights, not only governmental help but also by non-governmental organizations and volunteers;</li> <li>- Poland as guide for African countries on way to democratic changes and support the building of civil society;</li> <li>- no reforms can be made without embedding in culture;</li> <li>- the results of revolutions are migrant crisis or problems with energetic resources supplies, that is why Poland should increase her activity on field of common European policy toward Africa, to support democratic changes and stabilize the region;</li> <li>- act on development cooperation can be an effective tool to create a mechanism of financing and maintaining business continuity, e.g. by giving the opportunity to conduct long-term development projects;</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> *Expose 2012*, <[http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/polityka\\_zagraniczna/priorytety\\_polityki\\_zagr\\_2017\\_2021/expose2/expose\\_2012](http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/polityka_zagraniczna/priorytety_polityki_zagr_2017_2021/expose2/expose_2012)> (31.01.2018).

Roman Kotliński	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- asking the deputies how ministry of foreign affairs use the potential of students from Arab states and Africa?;</li> </ul>
John Abraham Godson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Africa need partnership, not help;</li> <li>- Africa is marginalized in Polish foreign policy, should be more important for Polish government – especially in face of efforts Poland undertake to become a non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council;</li> <li>- every year thousands students from Africa leave their countries to study abroad. What action Polish government undertake to increase in Poland the number of African students;</li> </ul>
Killion Munyama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sub-Saharan Africa should become a market for Polish products, Polish companies should have the information's about this absorbent market and Polish authorities should create conditions for lively international exchange between Poland and African continent;</li> <li>- despite fact, that absorptiveness of the market and possession of strategic natural resources, necessary for the development of any industry, Polish products are not promoted, and the awareness of Polish businessmen about the possibility of expansion into the African market is negligible;</li> <li>- Poland cooperate with EU on realizing the common strategy toward Africa, established in Lisbon 2007, however this cooperation is not proportional with the potential of Poland;</li> <li>- Africa is no more poor and underdevelopment continent, her economic growth amounts 5,5%-11%, 6 on 10 the world's fastest growing countries were in Africa, the World Bank predicts that Africa can be on an economic trampoline, as China – 30, and India – 20 years ago. Africa gained on the export of raw materials: she has 10% of the world's oil, 80% of chromium, platinum and uranium, about 50% of gold and 30% of diamonds and more than 80% of the coltan needed for the production of many electronic devices. African economies are developing because many countries are reducing trade barriers and lowering taxes for entrepreneurs;</li> <li>- Polish enterprises can satisfy the demand of good and cheap technical solutions necessary in such fields as</li> </ul>

	agriculture, transport, industry with profit for African countries and Poland <sup>18</sup> ;
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Source: own work, based on: *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 11. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 29 marca 2012 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/098143BF99F8DB23C12579D100082E1E/%24File/11\\_b\\_ksiazka.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/098143BF99F8DB23C12579D100082E1E/%24File/11_b_ksiazka.pdf)> (30.01.2018).

The list of deputies appearances in 29th March 2012, taking under consideration the fact that this date is the time of Sikorski's information for Parliament about Polish foreign policy, is rather short. To general statements with lack of details have a small contribution to the development of the discussion about Polish engagement in Africa. However two deputies K. Munyama and J. A. Godson underlined many important issues, which were more than actual 6 years ago. J. A. Godson as first, mentioned about the politic potential of the Africa during the effort to become non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council – one of the most crucial aim for Polish foreign policy since 2004, was partially depend from all countries in this continent. The profits from increasing the economic presents in Africa or from making Poland more attractive for African students, was also highlight.

The importance of Africa for Polish economy has no reflection in speeches of the minister of foreign affairs. After omission of this topic in 2012, Radosław Sikorski tries to show his priorities as less Europocentric. In 2013 he claimed that Poland will always support the democratization process as much as look of concern on domestic war in Syria or using chemical weapon in Damascus. Also he underlines the big and still not fully used potential of Africa. Although minister speak about the increasing export to Africa – 16% compared to last year or speak about Poland participation in European policy toward Africa we cannot find any details about this cooperation or on expected development of relation and implemented any programs for economy and Polish entrepreneurs<sup>19</sup>. The activity of deputies is also rather insignificant. Only J. A. Godson and K. Munyama present not only knowledge about the continent but also are engage in developing the relations between Poland and Africa. Constantly for years fulfilling the mandate of the MP, they try to convince to increase Polish presence in this region, and bring it to the level of strategic goal, especially for economy.

<sup>18</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 11. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 29 marca 2012 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/098143BF99F8DB23C12579D100082E1E/%24File/11\\_b\\_ksiazka.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/098143BF99F8DB23C12579D100082E1E/%24File/11_b_ksiazka.pdf)> (30.01.2018).

<sup>19</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 11. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 20 marca 2013 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/48239696DF9135D8C1257B350004E792/%24File/36\\_a\\_ksiazka.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/48239696DF9135D8C1257B350004E792/%24File/36_a_ksiazka.pdf)> (30.01.2018).

Tab. 2. Deputies appearances in Parliament 20 March 2013

Deputy	Main elements in speech
Tadeusz Iwiński	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- presence of Poland in Arab states and Africa (Libya or Egypt) is insufficient;</li> <li>- he criticized the strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reduce the number of Polish embassies on south of the Sahara<sup>20</sup>;</li> </ul>
J. A. Godson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- quick economic growth in Africa – 5-6%, many Africans who are business and political elites in their countries were studied in Poland. We should find the way to use these absolvents to improve our relations with African countries, e.g. give them opportunity to opening honorary consulates in African countries, where there are no Polish embassies;</li> <li>- lack of trade departments at embassies (3 in North Africa, 1 in South Africa)<sup>21</sup>;</li> </ul>
K. Munyama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poland from years provides Africa not only humanitarian help, but also substantive and professional support for democratic transition;</li> <li>- financial help is mainly granted to non-governmental organizations, which help directs among others to early school children and women;</li> <li>- economic cooperation – as crucial element for African continent and for Poland<sup>22</sup>;</li> </ul>

Source: own work, based on: *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 11. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 20 marca 2013 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/48239696DF9135D8C1257B350004E792/%24File/36\\_a\\_ksiazka.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/48239696DF9135D8C1257B350004E792/%24File/36_a_ksiazka.pdf)> (02.02.2018).

Year 2013 was successful in Polish-African relations, although in parliament speeches we could observe the lack of this topic. First since 2007 visit of Prime Minister in African countries, accompanied by a strong group of Polish entrepreneurs, was an important image signal that Poland is present in Africa and will build her potential there. The table below shows what were the assumed goals and that were the elements of visits.

<sup>20</sup> B. Popławski, *Afryka w exposé Sikorskiego*, <<http://afryka.org/afryka/afryka-w-expos--sikorskiego,news/>> (30.01.2018).

<sup>21</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 11. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 20 marca 2013 r...*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem.*

Tab. 3. Foreign visits of Polish politician in Africa in 2009-2013

Name of politician	Date and place of visit	Description
Donald Tusk	10-12.04.2013 Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prime Minister came with representatives of 30 Polish companies from the industry of: energy, armaments, transport, construction, agriculture (PKN Orlen, Grupa Lotos, Bumar, Łucznik, H. Cegielski, Kulczyk Holding, Ursus S.A., Solaris, Dawtona, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Fibris, Izodom 2000 Polska, Trustee, Navimor, Ancora, Cenzin, Energoprojekt – Katowice and Consus);</li> <li>- a cooperation agreement was signed between 1. the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency and the Nigerian Investment Agency, 2. the Polish Ministry of Economy and the Nigerian Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, 3. The agreement on strategic partnership between Polish and Nigerian Ministries of Foreign Affairs. All agreement concern: condition of cooperation, investment project, annual consultation;</li> <li>- Tomasz Ostaszewicz director of promotion and bilateral cooperation in the Ministry of Economy announces the launch of the government program "Go Africa" to encourage Polish companies to invest in Nigeria<sup>23</sup>;</li> <li>- D. Tusk made promises to apply for Nigerian membership in the UN Security Council;</li> <li>- according to the Government Information Center, talks with Goodluck Jonathan concerned strategic economic cooperation, regional policy, including involvement in the conflict in Mali and the fight against</li> </ul>

<sup>23</sup> T. Chojnowski, *Tusk w Nigerii. Tamtejsze media milczą, a polska prawica kpi*, <[http://wyborcza.pl/1,76842,13723351,Tusk\\_w\\_Nigerii\\_\\_Tamtejsze\\_media\\_milcza\\_\\_a\\_polska\\_prawica.html](http://wyborcza.pl/1,76842,13723351,Tusk_w_Nigerii__Tamtejsze_media_milcza__a_polska_prawica.html)> (30.01.2018).

		<p>terrorism, as well as climate issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- D. Tusk open the Polish-Nigerian Economic Forum Abuja. The Forum will be attended by representatives of the most important companies from both countries<sup>24</sup>;</li> </ul>
Beata Stelmach	6-9.05.2013 Angola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promoting the development of Polish-Angolan economic, scientific and cultural relations;</li> <li>- meeting with graduates of Polish universities;</li> <li>- a visit of the Maritime Academy in Namibe, built by Navimor from Gdańsk<sup>25</sup>;</li> <li>- organization of the Polish-Angola Economic Forum, the program assumed the presentation of participated institutions and companies, direct meetings of Polish companies (16 Polish companies from the mining, agricultural and construction sectors) with interested Angolan partners;</li> </ul>
Donad Tusk	15.10.2013, Republic of South Africa (RSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- meeting with president Jacob Zuma and vice-president Kgalem Motlanth;</li> <li>- main priorities: trade and economic relations, as well as European Union relations with South Africa and with Africa as a continent in general, regional topics;</li> <li>- signed: an Interstate agreement on economic cooperation (assuming, inter alia, appointment of the Joint Economic Commission), Cooperation agreement between Polish Investment and Trade Agency and its South African counterpart Industrial Development Corporation and between the Warsaw School of Economics and Wits Business School;</li> <li>- Republic of South Africa is the largest economic partner of Poland in Africa, maintaining a high level of trade reaching</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup> *Po wizycie w Nigerii*, <<https://www.premier.gov.pl/wydarzenia/aktualnosci/po-wizycie-w-nigerii.html>> (30.01.2018).

<sup>25</sup> *Wiceminister Beata Stelmach z misją gospodarczą w Republice Konga*, <[http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/wiadomosci/wiceminister\\_beata\\_stelmach\\_z\\_misja\\_gospodarcza\\_w\\_republice\\_konga](http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/wiadomosci/wiceminister_beata_stelmach_z_misja_gospodarcza_w_republice_konga)>, (30.01.2018).

		<p>USD 800 million. The most important South African investments in Poland include SAB Miller's investment in the brewing industry (Browary Tyskie and Browary Lech) as well as the Fra-Mondi consortium in cellulose, paper and wood plants (Zakłady Celulozy i Papieru w Świeciu Celuloza SA)<sup>26</sup>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Polish representatives of business (also in Zambia): transport sector: Ursus i Newag; mining industry: Famur; mining companies: Kopex Group and Kulczyk Investments; defence sector: Wojskowe Zakłady Inżynieryjne, Wojskowe Zakłady Uzbrojenia, Wojskowe Centralne Biuro Konstrukcyjno-Technologiczne and Polski Holding Obronny; engineering and construction companies: H. Cegielski Poznań and Zakłady Mechaniczne RUFUS; furniture industry: FM Bravo, Meble VOX, Profile VOX i AS Ćmielów;</li> <li>- RSA is also interesting in cooperation in field of maritime economy, ships and yacht construction, development of port infrastructure, and training of specialists<sup>27</sup>;</li> </ul>
Donald Tusk	19-21.10.2013 Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- meeting with President Michael Sata;</li> <li>- opening ceremony of Business Forum in Lusaka during which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Izodom (company producing building materials for energy-efficient houses) and two Zambian companies – GladRich Investments Limited (developer) and Alinaswe Developments (an architectural company);</li> <li>- It is planned to launch a local Izodom construction elements plant, the companies</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup> Premier z wizytą w RPA, <<https://www.premier.gov.pl/wydarzenia/aktualnosci/premier-z-wizyta-w-rpa.html>>, (30.01.2018)

<sup>27</sup> *Ibidem*.

		decided to pilot a construction of 20 houses in the suburbs of Lusaka <sup>28</sup> ;
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Source: Own work based on official government articles.

After active year in sphere of political and economic relations with Africa R. Sikorski in expose from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 pointed out much more issues than in 2013:

- Presence of polish armed forces in Mali and in Central African Republic, which is connected with strategic partnership with France.
- In the countries of Africa and the Middle East, Poland will continue to call for respect for the rights of religious minorities, especially Christians.
- Intensification of economic relations with selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, according to government programme “Go Africa”.
- Attempts to organize Congress of African graduates of Polish universities – to include them into system promoting Poland and Polish-African relations.
- Undertaking actions to create scholarship offer addressed to Africans and other students from outside of Europe, who today make up more than 1/3 of foreign students.
- Creating new facilities and improvement of activities of already existing, in economical and non-traditional formulas<sup>29</sup>.

Although Minister has more detailed speech, we cannot say the same about deputies. Only in very general appearance in Parliament Grzegorz Schetyna highlight the Poland’s presence in Arica, possibilities to increase it and the necessity of supporting polish companies and entrepreneurs.

One year after, in new government lead by Ewa Kopacz, mentioned deputy G. Schetyna becomes the ministry of foreign affairs. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 he presents the main assumption for this part of government activity. As crucial he recognizes four spheres:

1. Sphere of political dialogue, oriented towards building lasting, multidimensional bilateral relations with our non-European partners.
2. Bigger influence on the European policy towards Asian countries, Africa, Latin America and Oceania.

<sup>28</sup> *Wizyta w Zambii: premier na Forum Gospodarczym w Lusace*

<<https://www.premier.gov.pl/wydarzenia/aktualnosci/wizyta-w-zambii-premier-na-forum-gospodarczym-w-lusace.html>>, (30.01.2018); *Wizyta w Zambii: premier spotkał się z prezydentem Michaeliem Satq*, <<https://www.premier.gov.pl/wydarzenia/aktualnosci/wizyta-w-zambii-premier-spotka-sie-z-prezydentem-michaelem-sata.html>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>29</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 67. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/757955B50A87A1BDC1257CD3000B2502/%24File/67\\_b\\_ksiazka.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/757955B50A87A1BDC1257CD3000B2502/%24File/67_b_ksiazka.pdf)>, (30.01.2018).

3. Establish substantive and long-term cooperation in relation to non-European regional organizations.
4. Building a consensus of state and local governments, scientific and economic environments for global priorities of Polish foreign policy<sup>30</sup>.

In accordance with mention above spheres G. Schetyna pointed out few points directly connected with Africa. From the most general statements<sup>31</sup>, to more specific elements like enumerate countries which are main partners for Poland: the Republic of South Africa, Nigeria, Angola, Ethiopia and Senegal, development of the network of Polish diplomatic facilities, starting from Senegal or the intensification of dialog with regional organizations. What is worth to highlight, are planned business meetings with Angola, Republic of South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia, which is the exemplification of repeatedly emphasized intentions to increase economic relations<sup>32</sup>. Poland is also active involvement into elaboration of a new development agenda after on United Nation Summit in 2015<sup>33</sup>.

Table 4 present the most substantive speeches of deputies during the session of Sejm 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015. Again J. A. Godson shows the biggest concern of Africa issues. These taking under consideration of permanent attempts to strengthen Poland position on the African market prove that Polish MPs do not see the opportunities.

*Tab. 4. Deputies appearances in Parliament 23.04.2015*

Deputy	Main elements in speech
Marek Krzakała	– stability in North Africa is our and European priority;
Andrzej Gałazewski	– issue of illegal migrants from Africa trying to get to Europe;
Piotr Polak	– point on tragic situation of migrants from Africa;

<sup>30</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 91. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 23 kwietnia 2015 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/07D5239CA45617BCC1257E31000FA59E/%24File/91\\_b\\_ksiazka\\_bis.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/07D5239CA45617BCC1257E31000FA59E/%24File/91_b_ksiazka_bis.pdf)>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>31</sup> Like difficult international situation, unstable regions like Middle East, Africa, Easter Europe, difficulties connected with migrant crisis, need of more sufficient European Neighbourhood Policy as the answer for challenges coming from North Africa or necessity to increase Poland's political and economic presence in Africa, also in cooperation with other European countries

<sup>32</sup> D. Boćkowski, *Polska polityka zagraniczna wobec świata muzułmańskiego – próba definicji problemu*, [w:] *Polityka zagraniczna III RP. 20 lat po przełomie*, t 1: *Koncepcje, bezpieczeństwo, kwestie prawne i polonijne*, red. A. Jarosz, K. Olszewski, Toruń 2011, p. 113-116.

<sup>33</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 91. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 23 kwietnia 2015 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/07D5239CA45617BCC1257E31000FA59E/%24File/91\\_b\\_ksiazka\\_bis.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/07D5239CA45617BCC1257E31000FA59E/%24File/91_b_ksiazka_bis.pdf)>, (30.01.2018).

J. A. Godson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increasing the presence of Africa in public and parliament debate;</li> <li>- intensification of diplomatic visits and economic cooperation with Africa, launching the program “Go Africa”;</li> <li>- without support of Africa Poland will not become non-permanent member United Nation Security Council;</li> <li>- historical occasion to build strong relation with Africa, thanks to having two deputies in Polish parliament from Africa;</li> <li>- challenges for polish economic relations with Africa: lack of consular infrastructure and diplomatic staff, restrictive visa regime, double taxation, no financial and credit guarantees;</li> </ul>
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Source: own work, based on: *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 91. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 23 kwietnia 2015 r.*, <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/07D5239CA45617BCC1257E31000FA59E/%24File/91\\_b\\_ksiazka\\_bis.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter7.nsf/0/07D5239CA45617BCC1257E31000FA59E/%24File/91_b_ksiazka_bis.pdf)> (03.02.2018).

After elections in 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015, the minister of foreign affairs becomes Witold Waszczykowski. In his expose 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016, he outlines the general view of foreign policy not only on 2016, but also for the whole term of new government. This policy will be based on principles of state sovereignty and solidary cooperation with partners for achieving common goals, primacy of international law, common and universal democratic world values, economic diplomacy and mutual knowledge of societies, also those very distant, which can be also understand in terms of geographic conditions<sup>34</sup>. This is direct reference to relation with Africa. We can specify some issues relating to mentioned continent:

- migrant crisis, as one of the most important challenges for Poland and Europe;
- Africa is continent of many opportunities and challenges like political instability, regional conflicts, terrorism, uncontrolled migrations, activities of large organized criminal groups;
- support from African countries for Polish attempts to become non-permanent member of Security Council UN;
- opening or restarting of some diplomatic facilities, e.g. in Tanzania and Senegal, or even in Zambia;

<sup>34</sup> *Sejmowe expose ministra Witolda Waszczykowskiego*, <<http://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news,462714,sejmowe-expose-ministra-witolda-waszczynkowski.html>> (30.01.2018)

- in 2016 Poland will strengthen relations with Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Senegal;
- continue and develop the "Go Africa" program<sup>35</sup>.

Again Killion Munyama underlined the positive aspect of increasing the number of diplomatic facilities, and highlight the fact that embassy should be open in Zambia, which is very well connected with Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia<sup>36</sup>. One year later W. Waszczykowski in his expose accenting the dramatic situation in south of Europe, instability in North Africa and Middle East and increasing the activities of terrorist groups. More detailed statements refer to development of a network of diplomatic facilities, like reactivation of embassies in Senegal and Tanzania, or visits of Macky Sall, the President of Senegal and planned in 2017 by minister Waszczykowski visits in: Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania.

*Tab. 5. Selected foreign visits in Africa of Polish authorities 2015-2017*

Name of politician	Date and place of visit	Description
Bronisław Komorowski	29.05.2015 Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- official visit of President to participate in march against terrorism after tragic attack on Museum in Bardo, where also were killed Polish citizens;</li> <li>- meeting with Al-Badži Ka'id as –Sibsi, the President of Tunisisa, Francoise Holland, the president of France, Matteo Renzi, prime minister of Italy and Ahmud Abbas for Palestinian Authonomy<sup>37</sup>;</li> </ul>
Witold Waszczykowski	23- 26.11.2017, Algeria and Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- situation in region, especially uncontrolled migrations and terrorism</li> <li>- meeting with prime ministers Ahmed Ujahia, Jusef Szahid, and ministers of foreign affairs Abdelkader Messahil and</li> </ul>

<sup>35</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 10. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 29 stycznia 2016 r.* <[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter8.nsf/0/6A4CD2F71231A36FC1257F4D003FECA4/%24File/10\\_b\\_ksiazka\\_bis.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter8.nsf/0/6A4CD2F71231A36FC1257F4D003FECA4/%24File/10_b_ksiazka_bis.pdf)>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>36</sup> *Ibidem.*

<sup>37</sup> *Polska uczestniczy w działaniach przeciw terroryzmowi*, <<http://www.prezydent.pl/archiwum-bronislawa-komorowskiego/aktualnosci/wizyty-zagraniczne/art.380,polska-uczestniczy-w-dzialaniach-przeciw-terroryzmowi.html>>, (30.01.2018).

		<p>Chemais Džinawi, and with President of Tunisia Bedži Kaid Essebi<sup>38</sup>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- main priorities: bilateral cooperation, situation in Sahel, Mali, and perspectives for Libya and Syria, current challenges for Arabic world support from Algeria and Tunisia for Polish candidacy to UN Security Council;</li> <li>- signing agreement with Algeria on the establish Joint Intergovernmental Commission for economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation, which will allow efficient management of bilateral economic cooperation<sup>39</sup>;</li> </ul>
Andrzej Duda	7-9.05.2017, Etiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9th May President Andrzej Duda appeared on the forum of African Union (AU);</li> <li>- increasing the political presence on African continent, for example by opening new embassy or permanent participation on summits of AU;</li> <li>- co-financing common development project, also by program “Go Africa”;</li> <li>- Poland as the candidate for member on Security Council want to listen and represent the African interests;</li> <li>- highlight the issues connected with security: access to drinking water, conflicts over natural resources, economic inequalities, health protection, and connected with criminality;</li> <li>- Polish foreign policy is focused on promoting the democracy, and values like freedom, dignity, solidarity (development and humanitarian help)</li> </ul>

<sup>38</sup> *W sobotę szef MSZ udaje się z wizytą do Algierii i Tunezji*, <[http://msz.gov.pl/pl/p/msz\\_pl/c/MOBILE/aktualnosci/wiadomosci/w\\_sobote\\_szef\\_msz\\_udaje\\_sie\\_z\\_wizyta\\_do\\_algie\\_rii\\_i\\_tunezji](http://msz.gov.pl/pl/p/msz_pl/c/MOBILE/aktualnosci/wiadomosci/w_sobote_szef_msz_udaje_sie_z_wizyta_do_algie_rii_i_tunezji)>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>39</sup> *Ibidem*.

		and equality; – the slogan of polish campaign in Security Council is “Solidarity – Responsibility – Involvement” <sup>40</sup> ;
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Source: own work.

Significant meaning has the visit in 26-28.10.2016 of the President of Senegal Macky Sall<sup>41</sup>, with strong political and economic representation<sup>42</sup>. A huge number of accompanying persons was not only the prove about the importance of the visit, but also about the great expectations, especially in economic relations, both sides have. The measurable results were signing memorandums on the Agreement:

- on political consultations between Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland and Senegal,
- between the Minister of Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Poland and the Minister of Tourism and Air Transport of the Republic of Senegal,
- between the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland and the Minister of Agriculture and Equipment of the Republic of Senegal on cooperation in the field of agriculture
- Memorandum of Understanding between Polska Agencja Inwestycji i Handlu and *Senegal's Agency for the Promotion of Investment*<sup>43</sup>.

Other elements of visit consist of opening the Polish-Senegalese Economic Forum or meeting with Prime Minister Beata Szydło and Marshal of the Senate Stanisław Karczewski.

Issue that cannot be neglected is the intensification of Polish campaign to become a non-permanent member of Security Council UN. Directly involve in it was the President of the Republic of Poland, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Active in this sphere were Polish diplomatic facilities, as much as Special Envoys, who works in regions were

<sup>40</sup> *Prezydent Andrzej Duda w Etiopii. "Afryka jest kontynentem o dużym potencjale"*, <<https://www.polskieradio.pl/130/5788/Artykul/1762860,Prezydent-Andrzej-Duda-w-Etiopii-Afryka-jest-kontynentem-o-duzym-potencjale>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>41</sup> *Andrzej Duda: Wizyta prezydenta Senegalu impulsem do rozwoju relacji gospodarczych*, <<http://www.prezydent.pl/aktualnosci/wydarzenia/art,386,wizyta-oficjalna-prezydenta-republiki-senegal-u-w-polsce.html>> (30.01.2018).

<sup>42</sup> Among them: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economy and Finance, Minister of Industry and Mining, Minister of Water Supply and Sewerage, persons involvement into cooperation representatives of *Senegal's Agency for the Promotion of Investment*, *President of Seaport in Dakar*, President of the National Council of Employers, President of the National Confederation of Employers, President of the National Union of Traders and Industrialists of Senegal.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibidem*.

Poland does not have an extensive network of diplomatic missions (Africa, Pacific) and by some degree parliamentary deputies<sup>44</sup>. All this entities put effort to organize series of meetings with ambassadors accredited to Poland, prepared promotional materials in official UN languages, showing our commitment to the work of the Organization. Poland convince, also in Forum of AU, that her representatives will not forget the granted support and will gladly use the experience and knowledge about the region from Africans during her work in Council. However we cannot forget that this issue was raised since 2012.

In Polish parliament was established a Group on Africa 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011. It was create in purpose of supporting exchange between the African continent and Poland in cultural, scientific-educational and economic fields, promoting cooperation between government institutions and organizations, non-governmental organizations and enterprises, monitoring development cooperation between Poland and Africa and promoting intercultural tolerance<sup>45</sup>. Since 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 till 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 the group has conduct 37 sessions. The topics of meetings were differential, among others can be distinguish substantive analyzes, reports, opinions in the field of economic cooperation, meetings with ambassadors, governors, with representatives of non-governmental organizations, missioners, students organizations, but also with Parliamentary members or Ministers. Group members participate or organizing cultural and educations events, which confirms not only political-economic character of Polish-African relations.

Political relations with Africa since 2008 were increasing through years. An attempts to looking other markets and countries to invest were connected with political possibilities to not only establish new relations, but to strengthen existing ones, which has been measurably beneficial due to the support of African countries for UN voting. Policy in case of Africa is inseparably linked with economy. Non agreement could be implemented without political support. This opinion shares Karol Zarajczyk the Director of Ursus Company: “Every visit of the head of state, like the visit of President Andrzej Duda here in Ethiopia, drives economic contacts between us, entrepreneurs from Poland and local companies. A recent visit of the President of Senegal in Poland was a very clear signal for business”<sup>46</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> *Sprawozdanie Stenograficzne z 35. posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w dniu 9 lutego 2017 r.*

<[http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter8.nsf/0/8E7E4FB126949A76C12580C3000D81A5/%24File/35\\_b\\_ksiazka\\_bis.pdf](http://orka2.sejm.gov.pl/StenoInter8.nsf/0/8E7E4FB126949A76C12580C3000D81A5/%24File/35_b_ksiazka_bis.pdf)>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>45</sup> *Parlamentarny zespół ds. Afryki. Regulamin,*

<[http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/opinie7.nsf/nazwa/zesp\\_afryka/\\$file/zesp\\_afryka.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/opinie7.nsf/nazwa/zesp_afryka/$file/zesp_afryka.pdf)>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>46</sup> *Prezydent Andrzej Duda z wizytą w Etiopii. Zachęcał polskie firmy do ekspansji w Afryce,* <<https://www.polskieradio.pl/42/273/Artykul/1761747,Prezydent-Andrzej-Duda-z-wizyta-w-Etiopii-Zachecal-polskie-firmy-do-ekspansji-w-Afryce>>, (30.01.2018).

## Economic aspects of relations with Africa

Political expansion of African market cannot be detached from economic diplomacy – the promotion of Polish companies and entrepreneurs. Foreign policy and attempts to strengthen relations with any country should be bounded with economical interest. Efficient policy in case of Africa cannot be developed without parallel economic activities. At the same time, none significant contracts or agreements can be concluded without the support of the authorities. Expanded network of diplomatic facilities is a big support for any Polish businessmen, especially in case of providing information helpful for conducting economic activity, such as: economic situation in particular country, legal regulations, local operating conditions or partners potential for cooperation, initiating and supporting the establishment of bilateral chambers or business clubs, support investment projects<sup>47</sup>.

As the official webpage of Ministry of Foreign Affairs claimed trade exchange between Poland and Africa systematically grew. In 2007 trade with this continent amounted to 1.47 billion USD, and till 2011 grew to 2.21 billion USD<sup>48</sup>, despite this, trade with Africa in 2011 was rather insignificant – 0,97% of general export, and 0,79% of general import<sup>49</sup>. However in 2012-2014 the export to Africa increase by 37%, and assumed about 4.47 billion USD<sup>50</sup>.

The best way to show the significant change in Poland-Africa trade are numbers. According to Izabela Marczak, the largest increase in trade relations was 90,98%, and it was recorded with Algeria, next was Nigeria, where the trade increase by 47,05%, Zambia – 44,25%, Senegal – 16,4% and South Africa – 11,6%<sup>51</sup>. Although the growth with RSA was definitely smaller then with for example Nigeria, we must remember that South Africa was and still is one of the main partners in Africa in general, the trade relations between these two countries are stable with tendency to growth.

In 2016 the total trade with Africa amount 2.52 billion USD. The date we can find on Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) testify about a certain decrease of trade with Africa after 2015 (see the Chart 1). However to talk about a kind of collapse of trade with Africa, we must wait for the exact data for 2017. Despite that, I. Marczak claims that trade with Africa will increase by

<sup>47</sup> *Czym jest „dyplomacja ekonomiczna”?*, <[http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/p/msz\\_pl/polityka\\_zagraniczna/dyplomacja\\_biznes/](http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/p/msz_pl/polityka_zagraniczna/dyplomacja_biznes/)>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>48</sup> *Where does Poland export to?*, <[https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/visualize/tree\\_map/hs92/export/pol/show/all/2007/](https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/visualize/tree_map/hs92/export/pol/show/all/2007/)>, (30.01.2018).

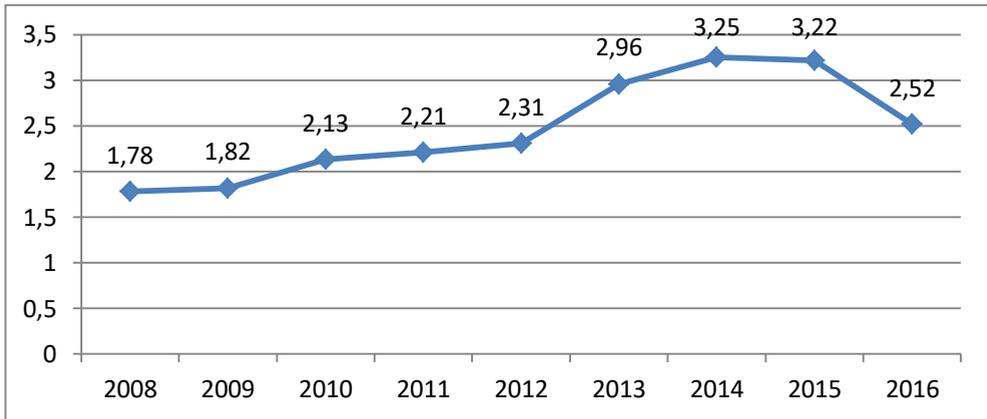
<sup>49</sup> *Priorytety polskiej polityki ekonomiczno-handlowej*, <[http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/polityka\\_zagraniczna/inne\\_kontynenty/afryka/priorytety\\_pl\\_polityki\\_ekonom\\_handlowej/?printMode=true](http://www.msz.gov.pl/pl/polityka_zagraniczna/inne_kontynenty/afryka/priorytety_pl_polityki_ekonom_handlowej/?printMode=true)> (30.01.2018).

<sup>50</sup> I. Marczak, *Afryka staje się jednym z ważniejszych partnerów biznesowych Polski, wartym już prawie 5 mld zł rocznie*, <<http://innpoland.pl/119525.afryka-juz-nie-taka-dzika-przynajmniej-nie-dla-polski-wartym-juz-prawie-5-mld-zl-rocznie>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>51</sup> *Ibidem*.

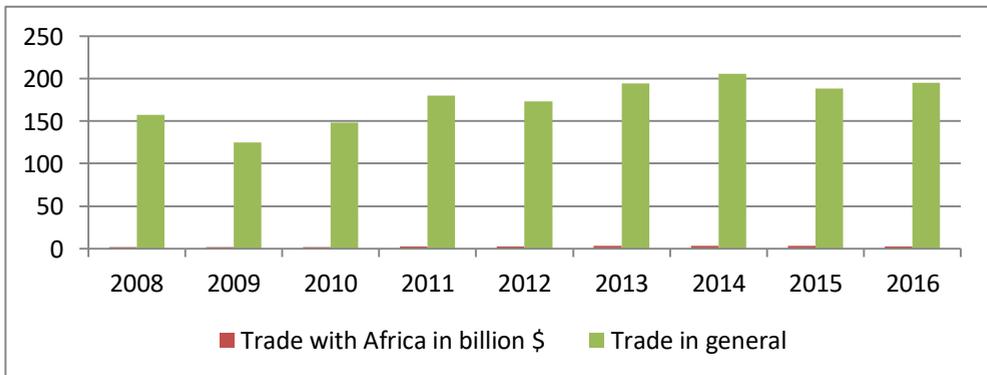
3% till 2019<sup>52</sup>. The omnipresent optimism about cooperation with Africa has not yet been transform into its huge share in Polish trade, in which Africa will not play, a significant role for a long time. Nevertheless, the beginnings seem to be promising, especially when economic expansion is supported by political and economic diplomacy.

*Chart 1. Trade with Africa in billion Dollars 2008-2016*



Source: own work based on <<https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/>> (06.02.2018).

*Tab.2. Trade with Africa in compare with Poland's trade in general*



Source: own work based on <<https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/>> (06.02.2018)

<sup>52</sup> *Ibidem.*

One of first Polish businessman in Africa was Jan Kulczyk, who bought the only gold mine in Namibia<sup>53</sup>. Grupa Asseco very well known on Polish and European market company, id already present with success in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Angola. Asseco often establish companies in other countries belonging to the main group, like in Nigeria, where they create Asseco Software Nigeria (ASN). ASN is present in Nigeria since 2013, one of the first big contract was signed with Access Bank, second with Wapic Insurance, next with Zenith Insurance<sup>54</sup>. All of this is connected with IT systems for banks, local administration, insurance and telecommunication companies. Creating the IT infrastructure, data processing centers, system of management of documents and business processes gives the Nigerian partners necessarily “know-how”, which not only influence of development of Nigerian market but also on development of cooperation between Asseco and African countries. One of the products Asseco delivers to their partners is Kompleksowy System Informatyczny ZUS (KSI ZUS), started in Poland, is now develop on other countires. The program “is a dedicated, multiplatform and multisystem system developed for the Social Insurance Institution. KSI ZUS is the country’s largest IT system, both in terms of the amount of collected information, and in terms of the number of people using the system and the frequency of such usage. KSI ZUS is a centralized system that can be compared to the IT system of a bank managing ca. 100 million accounts, with each account having several operations per month”<sup>55</sup>. In 2017 they provide the “Unmanned System for Long Distance Photogrammetric Missions, ordered by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Lagos State in Nigeria. The System will capture photogrammetric data from the vast urban agglomeration area which then will be post-processed and made available through the geoportal. It will enable, among others, a more effective planning of the regional development and management of land administration resources as well as monitoring of environmental pollution. The portal will also provide an easy access to information for the general public and investors”<sup>56</sup>. Polish companies are no interested in exploitation but in the development of Africa. Transfer of technology and needs which Polish companies satisfy, prove the fact that the profile on consumers in Africa had dramatically changes. Although Africa still need help e.g. food and agriculture products however she reaches for the new technologies, which will help in her development, and by this will help in build her potential and power in future.

In Ethiopia Asseco cooperates with Information Network Security Agency (government agency, which focus on national security, building and developing

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<sup>53</sup> G. Nowacki, *Kulczyk kupuje kopalnię złota*, <<https://www.pb.pl/kulczyk-kupuje-kopalnie-zlota-745303>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>54</sup> *Company*, <<https://ng.asseco.com/company/>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>55</sup> *Social security*, <<https://ng.asseco.com/offer/public-institution/social-security/>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>56</sup> *Asseco to Provide Unmanned Systems to the Nigerian Local Government*, <<https://pl.asseco.com/en/news/asseco-to-provide-unmanned-systems-to-the-nigerian-local-government-2480/>>, (30.01.2018).

IT competences). This cooperation includes actions for the construction of a modern energy market in Ethiopia, under which the proprietary software of Asseco Utility Management Solutions will be delivered and implemented<sup>57</sup>.

Ursus is the largest Polish manufacturer of tractors and agricultural machinery, which conquers the African market. In 2013 first factory was open in Ethiopia, where the agreement amounted to 3 174 and 390 trailers. In 2017 Ethiopian factory was visited by Polish President A. Duda, which denotes the fact that Polish companies have the support of authorities in case of expansion on African market. In 2015 Ursus signed another agreement, this time with Tanzania amounted to 2400 agricultural machine, where the company commit to not only open the assembly room but also, hire and train staff there. Next state in Africa where Ursus want to become an icon of mechanization of agriculture is Zambia, where they signed the agreement with Industrial Development Corporation for 2694 tractors and 250 agriculture machines<sup>58</sup>. Ursus plans the cooperation with Dobre Holding in Namibia and Karmag Industrie in Algeria.

Among other companies dynamically operating in Africa we can distinguish OSM Łowicz, Polfarma Lubawa SA or Polish Snail Holding.

As it was mentioned before, after 2014 we can observe a kind of decreasing trade exchange with African countries. When we look on table 3, we can observe how to particular countries has change the polish export. Expressed in percent numbers confirm theses that African countries are rather stable partners. However, especially with North Africa we see the negative changes in case of export.

*Tab. 3. Polish export in general to selected African countries 2008-2016*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Morocco	22%	8,0%	7,5%	11%	11%	11%	15%	11%	12%
RPA	22%	21%	24%	30%	24%	21%	21%	18%	22%
Algeria	16%	13%	15%	19%	19%	15%	24%	15%	12%
Egypt	14%	20%	13%	9,8%	9,6%	11%	10%	17%	15%
Tunisia	5,3%	5,7%	4,8%	4,0%	4,1%	4,1%	4,0%	4,0%	5,5%
Nigeria	4,8%	6,8%	4,2%	6,4%	4,8%	4,8%	4,7%	3,6%	3,5%

Source: own work based on: <<https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/>> (07.02.2018)

Exported products are consistent with the general policy of Poland toward Africa and mentioned in article the spheres in which Poland has big potential.

<sup>57</sup> K. Marszałek, *Asseco: nowy projekt na rynku afrykańskim*, <<https://www.crm.pl/aktualnosci/asseco-nowy-projekt-na-rynku-afrykanskim>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>58</sup> S. Ogórek, *Ursus podpisał rekordowy kontrakt. Tysiące ciągników i maszyn pojedą do Zambii*, <<https://www.money.pl/gospodarka/wiadomosci/artukul/ursus-zambia-kontrakt-umowa,25,0,2283289.html>>, (30.01.2018).

Since years the most popular is export of machines by which we can understand most of all office machines, computers, carbon-based electronics, sound recordings, valves, electric batteries, telephones, refrigerators.

In case of economic relations between Poland and Africa we cannot forget about the governmental program “Go Africa”, which in almost every political speech occurs as efficient tool in improving relation with African partners. According to Deputy Killion Munyama this program attracted a huge number of organizations, entrepreneurs and NGOs in terms of improving relations between Poland and Africa. This portal provide polish entrepreneurs in all necessity information starting from general information like climate conditions, natural resources, infrastructure, visa policy, through business law, bilateral cooperation, economic situation or access to the market. Every from 54 countries has an extensive and detailed description being the basis for anyone who wants to start their activity there<sup>59</sup>.

Tab. 4. Polish products exported to Africa 2008-2016

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Machines	29%	40%	46%	39%	40%	37%	39%	35%	28%
Transportation <sup>60</sup>	17%	15%	15%	12%	15%	16%	12%	15%	17%
Paper Goods <sup>61</sup>	23%	9,9%	4,3%	5,0%	8,5%	10%	10%	11%	8,1%
Stone and Glass <sup>62</sup>	8,8%	9,1%	7,5%	4,9%	4,3%	3,2%	4,9%	5,0%	3,5%
Chemical products <sup>63</sup>	6,8%	6,0%	6,9%	7,5%	10%	11%	9,6%	8,8%	12%
Foodstuffs <sup>64</sup>	2,5%	3,4%	2,1%	2,7%	4,4%	4,5%	6,7%	7,6%	12%
Metals <sup>65</sup>	2,9%	7,4%	4,7%	5,9%	3,7%	3,4%	3,4%	2,9%	5,0%
Mineral products <sup>66</sup>	0,35 %	1,1%	3,7%	14%	1,7%	2,5%	4,4%	2,9%	2,6%

Source: own work based on: <<https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/>> (07.02.2018)

<sup>59</sup> *Go Africa*, <<http://www.goafrica.gov.pl/>>, (30.01.2018).

<sup>60</sup> Delivery trucks, cars, vehicle parts.

<sup>61</sup> Toiled paper, brochures, shaped paper, paper containers.

<sup>62</sup> Laboratory, ceramic ware, refractory bricks, rock wool, safety glass.

<sup>63</sup> Beauty products, hair products, shaving products, packaged medicaments, cleaning products, perfumes.

<sup>64</sup> James, chocolate, baked goods, fruit juice. Vegetable food: wheat, tea, spices, frozen fruit and nuts, coffee.

<sup>65</sup> Flat-rolled iron, razor blades, small iron pipes, iron structures, hand saws.

<sup>66</sup> Coke, Cement, refined petroleum.

## Summary

Africa start to be recognize as continent of huge opportunities. This continent, especially when we look on the number of population, need of rapid development of its infrastructure and improve the acquisition and processing of food, is the obvious direction for any developing companies. “As for Africa, we are focusing on the agri-food sector, including agricultural machinery. Polish companies [can also] target contracts for infrastructure, construction or energy projects”<sup>67</sup>,

Although Africa is a continent rich in resources and large human resources, they have an existential challenge – to feed their people. Polish companies investments in Africa, are not only the results of cheaper labour and transport. European market shrinks’, any promotion and investments cost a lot, but gives no assurance of success. The profile of African consumer also change, which gives the opportunity to open for new products. Mentioned help of government to increase the relations with authorities of African states, diplomatic and information help form embassies are not insignificant.

Since 1989 polish foreign policy had few crucial elements that define our action for years. However Africa was never one of them. Even now when polish companies storm the African market it is hard to see increasing concern among not only Polish politician, but also Polish society. The fact that Poland is not a global player does not mean she cannot have global interest. Investing in Africa is one of such global interests with effective future. Author sees the lack of presentation in this article of technical-scientific cooperation, also in sphere of education concern not only students, but also scholarship programs or international projects, like Southern African Large Telescope or construction and equipment of Naval Academy in Namibia. Also could be raised the military cooperation and the meaning of Polish military presence in African countries. However this article is only the basic for further considerations on given topic.

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<sup>67</sup> A. B. Lønsetteig, *Poland targets Asia and Africa with new trade agency*, <<https://www.gtreview.com/news/europe/poland-targets-asia-and-africa-with-new-trade-agency/>>, (30.01.2018).

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