

Prof. Dr. Jan Szyszko, Ph.D.

Warsaw, 27 April 2018

Member of Parliament  
of the Republic of Poland  
President of COP24

### Statement on the disinformation concerning the President of COP24

With reference to the numerous items of disinformation in the press concerning my alleged dismissal from the post of the President of COP24 in Katowice, let me kindly inform you that, to the best of my knowledge:

1. In accordance with the UN system, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change has worked out a rotation scheme of the Presidency of the Climate Convention. Under these rules, a representative of the regional group of Eastern European States is elected to preside over the sessions of the Conference for one year.
2. In May 2017, I was elected to serve as the President of COP24 by the group of the Eastern European States (see <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/the-big-picture/news-from-the-convention-and-protocol-bodies>).
3. In November 2017, in the course of COP23 in Bonn, on request of the group of Eastern European States, I was nominated to hold this post during COP24 in Katowice.
4. This post is personal rather than institutional in character, i.e. the President of the Climate Conference, who is, as a rule, called the COP President, is a specific person rather than the head of some climate agency of a given state. Just as in the case of the election of the Secretary-General of the United States, it is a specific person, rather than a person who holds a particular post in a given state, that is elected.
5. The change of the COP President requires consultations with the states of the region which have elected him and their consent. Otherwise we will have violation of the UN rules and this is unacceptable in the case of a UN member which now holds the position of a non-permanent member of the Security Council. Indeed, nobody has consulted this decision with me and I have not agreed to resign. Moreover, none of the countries of the region which nominated me has asked me to step down, either.

6. In light of the above, let me recall that, under the rules of the UN Climate Conference, I remain the President of COP24 who was nominated in the course of COP23 and that in accordance with the rules of this Conference I will discharge the President's duties entrusted to me - in Katowice during COP24 and throughout the Presidency period.

I am sending this statement in two language versions (Polish and English) to all the available mass media.

Bureau of Jan Szyszko, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland  
Plac Konstytucji 5, Suite 18, 00-657 Warsaw  
Tel. 22 – 626-83-23