

**Ambassador Mull's Welcoming Remarks
at the Florida-Poland Gateway Initiative
April 16, 2015**

I'd like to thank all the organizers for putting together this conference:

- Polish Market magazine
- Latin Chamber of Commerce of the United States (Camacol)
- European Trade & Investment Association
- Polish Trade Center Corporation
- Polish-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida and the Americas
- Klaster Corporation

The Florida-Poland Gateway Initiative was proposed by private sector companies. This is no surprise. After all, it is business that drives the strong economic partnership between the United States and Poland. Ever since Poland emerged from communism more than twenty-five years ago, U.S. businesses have been on the forefront in helping Poland's economy grow. And Polish companies have found a welcoming and fruitful business environment for their investments in the United States.

The Florida-Poland Gateway Initiative is the latest proof of this long-lasting and durable relationship, and we are very pleased to support this initiative. Florida is an especially important state for Polish firms that wish to expand into South American markets, as well as gain access to the U.S. market. In fact, in 2016, we will build upon the momentum from today's efforts, when Poland hosts the next Camacol trade conference, which will bring together in Poland representatives from 22 South American countries.

Success in business ultimately depends on the commitment and efforts by private businesspeople, but governments can have a role to play. The U.S. government is making it easier for companies to do business in the United States. We developed a central point of contact within the U.S. government for companies seeking information on investing in the United States, called SelectUSA. SelectUSA highlights the many advantages the United States offers as a location for business and investment. SelectUSA also addresses issues involving federal rules, regulations, programs, or activities related to existing, pending, and potential investments.

We are delighted to see that Polish firms are beginning to take advantage of this new resource. Twelve Polish firms registered to attend last month's SelectUSA Summit in Washington, at which they saw first-hand the commitment of the U.S. government to attracting and retaining international investors. If anyone would like further information about the SelectUSA program, please contact the Commercial Service at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw.

I'd also like to tell you about an ambitious bilateral initiative between the United States and Poland, called the Polish-U.S. Innovation Program, or PLUS-IP, to encourage innovation in Poland. PLUS-IP is a collaboration between the U.S. Department of State and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland. The goal is to expand bilateral innovation cooperation, strengthen Poland's innovation ecosystem, and facilitate links between our academic communities, industries, high-tech companies, and governments, which, we hope, will lead to commercial projects.

And we are also focused on finalizing an ambitious free trade agreement between the United States and the European Union: the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or T-TIP. Our transatlantic economy is vibrant, complex, interdependent, and generates approximately half of the world's gross domestic product. That is a strong foundation which T-TIP seeks to build upon. T-TIP will help businesses operating in both the United States and Poland do businesses with fewer bureaucratic hurdles.

As you can see, there are numerous resources and initiatives that will make it easier for you to do business in the United States. Once again, I welcome you to this conference, and I look forward to seeing the business relationships between our countries grow even stronger.

Thank you.