

**Ambassador Mull's Remarks at the
German Marshall Fund and the George C. Marshall European Center Conference
Energy and Euro-Atlantic Relations: Shifting Security Dynamics.
May 13, 2014**

Thank you, Michał and Robert, for organizing this very timely conference on the role of energy security in the Euro-Atlantic relationship. The German Marshall Fund and the George C. Marshall European Center are skilled at tackling the problems of the day and foreseeing the challenges of the future.

The events of the past few months have only reaffirmed how important energy is to our trans-Atlantic relationship. Energy is an important base of our economic might, and its secure supply is essential to maintaining the U.S. and EU's positions as global economic leaders. As Secretary Kerry said last month in Brussels, "no nation should use energy to stymie a people's aspirations. It should not be used as a weapon. It's in the interest of all of us to be able to have adequate energy supplies critical to our economies, critical to our security, critical to the prosperity of our people." In the case of Ukraine, we have been working in lock step with European partners to help Ukraine bring natural gas in from Poland and Hungary and develop a route through Slovakia.

On a bilateral level, energy security is a core common interest that the United States shares with our Polish ally. Achieving energy security requires increasing the diversity both of energy sources, that is the specific fuels and technologies used to generate energy, and of the suppliers of those energy sources.

To increase energy diversity, the United States and Poland are working together commercially and technically on shale gas development. In 2012 we hosted an expert from the U.S. Geological Survey, and later this month we will host experts from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to share with our Polish colleagues how Pennsylvania has successfully developed its shale gas industry, going from virtually zero wells a decade ago to more than 6,000 wells today.

Our Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cooperated with Polish counterparts on best regulatory practices for the civil nuclear sector, and American companies have expressed interest in providing their proven technologies for Poland's first nuclear power plant.

American companies have also been active in Poland's renewable sector from wind energy to biomass, and they look forward to future investments here once Poland passes its pending renewable energy legislation. American firms are also ready to help Poland introduce smart-grid technology which would make Poland's energy transmission more efficient.

Polish officials have frequently told us they would like to see the United States exporting liquefied natural gas to Europe. We encourage interested Polish companies to talk to American liquefied natural gas exporters to explore possible commercial arrangements for such trade.

All of these examples show how we are working together and working smarter to diversify our energy resources. We have made great progress, but more can be done.

The coal sector is one area where more needs to be done here in Poland to mitigate the negative impact of coal use on the environment. Poland's abundant coal resources will continue to be a part of its energy mix, but safeguarding the environment is also a security issue. It is important for Poland, as it is for all countries, to take seriously the need to balance energy security and environmental security.

Moreover, Poland's reliance on coal is not entirely a contribution to energy security since currently 10% of Polish coal consumption consists of imported Russian coal. Poland must find ways to use coal smarter in order to reduce the negative environmental impact of coal as well as the need to import coal from Russia. For instance, how can you produce more energy with less coal? How can you produce a cleaner burn? We are prepared to engage on these issues and are bringing out an expert from our Environmental Protection Agency for six weeks beginning this month to explore these issues with Polish counterparts.

Climate change is an urgent challenge that all nations should be working expeditiously to address. Our goal is to steer investment towards cleaner forms of energy and advance clean fossil fuel technologies like carbon capture and storage.

By embracing other energy sources, such as shale, nuclear, renewables, and liquefied natural gas, Poland will strengthen its energy security and its economy.

With his Energy Union proposal, Prime Minister Tusk has spurred an important conversation on what Poland and the EU can do to increase energy security. Certainly, proposals to remove energy islands and bottlenecks and diversify energy supplies to the EU would be positive steps. But, as the Prime Minister said earlier this month, the details for such an Energy Union still need to be worked out.

I have no doubt that energy is a core component of our transatlantic economic strength and will remain so for decades to come. Ensuring energy security, through diversification and efficiency, is essential to our economic and geopolitical well-being.

You can be sure that the United States will continue to support Poland and Europe in these efforts in the years to come. Thank you.