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General Meeting of HIPH's Members

21st General Meeting of the Members of the Polish Steel Association was held on 25th March in Katowice. The General Meeting assessed the 2008 performance of the Board and the Council of the Association favourably by granting them with a vote of acceptance. The Meeting also approved the Association's financing principles as well as costs estimates for 2009. Minutes from the 21st General Meeting has been disseminated among the Members. The minutes are also accessible on the web-site: www.hiph.org

Letter to the Prime Minister of Poland

On 31 March 2009, the Board of the Association addressed a letter to the Prime Minister of Poland. In connection with the economic crisis, as a Polish Steel Association gathering all the major domestic steel manufacturers, we appealed to the Prime Minister for taking up the measures which, in our opinion, may improve the market situation. Our proposal included the support for infrastructural investments and EURO 2012 by means of a pension from domestic supplies of materials and services, attempts to change EU bilateral agreement with Russia to reduce imports, allowing electricity used by the energy consuming sectors to be exempted from excise tax as well as improving the inter-industry collaboration.

World Coke & Anthracite Summit

An international coke conference was organised by Coaltrans on 16-17 March 2009 in Cracow. Delegates from around the world assessed the current situation on the coke market and sought the ways of surviving and overcoming the difficult situation by the manufacturers in particular. The Polish producers endeavoured to find the ways and directions as to the ownership

and organisational changes. HIPH was requested to make a presentation on the steel sector in Poland under the crisis. During the interactive panel carried out on the first day of the conference, the President of the Association delivered a speech on "New developments in the Polish steel industry vs. consumer challenges in the future". The representatives of Polski Koks S.A. were very active on the forum. The conference was a success. Congratulations!

Meeting of the Environmental Protection Team

A meeting of the Environmental Protection Team acting at the Association was held on 31 March 2009. During the meeting the following issues were presented to the Members:

- the current information on the situation after the REACH initial registration and on what lies ahead of the enterprises in the nearest future,
- the status of legislative works on the package of legal regulations with respect to the air emissions management such as:
 1. a bill on the management system of the national threshold for the emission of greenhouse gases and other substances,
 2. a bill on EU trading system for the emissions of greenhouse gases (called as the ETS Act),
 3. a bill on the system to balance and settle the emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide for large combustion sources.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Economy, 10 steelworks and 3 production plants, the Members of the Association.

Letter to the Ministry of Economy on AD for imports of seamless tubes from China

On 18 March 2009, the Association submitted a motion to the Trade Policy

Department at the Ministry of Economy for imposing temporary AD duties for import of seamless tubes to the EU customs area from China.

CO₂ and 3E Forum

On 4th March 2009, Warsaw hosted a special joint meeting of the CO₂ Forum and the Forum of Electricity and Gas Recipients aimed at summarising the measures taken up in connection with the implementation of the Climate and Energy Package. The Green Effort Group's accomplishments in that matter were presented. The meeting was combined with a ceremony during which the representatives of the Polish government elaborated on the final results of the negotiation. The Board of HIPH was appreciated for the help and co-operation with the Polish Government provided in the course of negotiation of the documents implementing the Climate and Energy Package.

ESTA Meeting in Cracow

On 13 March 2009, Cracow hosted a meeting of ESTA, the Committee of the European Welded Tube Manufacturers. The following issues were discussed:

- the current status of antidumping procedures,
- situation in the EU welded tube production and in tube imports from the third countries,
- the market situation under the world's economic crisis.

In December 2008, the antidumping procedure against the imports of welded tubes from Belarus, Thailand, Russia, China and Ukraine was finalised by imposing the duties. The antidumping procedure against the imports of closed cold-formed sections from Belarus, Turkey and Ukraine is underway. Situation of the EU producers of welded tubes is exceptionally difficult at the moment. Tube prices are continuously subject to decline. The situation gets even worse due to the third countries' aggressive exports to the EU and diminishing demand on the international markets. In Q1 2009, the demand for

welded tubes in the European Union constituted just 40-50% of the demand noted in 1Q 2008. Such a situation forced many producers to cut the production drastically and reduce the employment or working time. The situation gets even more complicated due to the producers' cash flow problems and difficulties with obtaining loans from financial institutions.

Polish and Russian Economic Collaboration Commission

On 10 and 11 March 2009, International Polish and Russian Economic Collaboration Commission had a meeting at the Ministry of Economy. The President of the Association was actively involved in the discussions. Minutes from the meeting with details are available on www.mi.gov.pl

AGH's Social Council

On 6 March 2009, a meeting of the Stanislaw Staszic AGH Social Council took place in Cracow. The President of HIPH is one of its members.

The meeting was dedicated to the following issues:

1. Report by the University's authority from their activity in previous term of office in 2005-2008 as well as the activities planned for the next term of office in 2008 2012.
2. Proposal of AGH's scientific and research offer tailored to the current needs of Poland's economy.

During the discussion, the AGH's educational system received a positive feedback. The University has over 2,000 scientists and 500 laboratories at its disposal. The Council's members were presented with the celebration programme for 90th Anniversary of AGH's foundation.

KIG and Chambers from the Małopolskie and I skie Region

On 6 March 2009, Cracow hosted a meeting of Mr A. Arendarski, the KIG's President with the Boards of Chambers from the Małopolskie and I skie Region being the members of KIG (HIPH is a KIG's member). The crisis impact on the

condition of KIG's members was discussed. The small and medium enterprises have been giving worrying signals as they start facing cash flow difficulties in connection with the economic crisis and so called "toxic currency options". The program for the KIG's General Meeting which will take place in June 2009 as well as a bill of the new Act on economic self-government were included in the discussion.

With BCC on Privatisation

On 20 March 2009, the Katowice headquarters of Bombardier Transportation Polska Sp. z o.o. (ZWUS), hosted a discussion on "Privatisation of enterprises and its impact on the regional development strategy". Under the circumstances whereby the global crisis shakes the market repeatedly, its negative effects are to be badly felt by the state enterprises. The privatisation has been a way to mitigate these effects. The President of HIPH presented experiences from the privatisation carried out in the steel sector it can be a benchmark for the enterprises yet to be privatised including the energy and mining industry.

Mediation Centre, Court of Arbitration at KIG

As HIPH is a member of the Polish Chamber of Commerce, we received an offer for the Mediation Centre to be utilized also by members of our Association. Details of the offer are available on www.sakig.pl.

Invitations to Events

On 11-13 May 2009, 14th International Entrepreneurs Forum FUTURALLIA will be organised in Doha (Catar). For further information please visit: www.goeastgowest.eu.

On 27-29 May 2009, The Commercial Aspects of Oil Trading & Refining, a 3-day course will be provided in Istanbul. For further information please visit: www.euromaneyenergytraining.com.