

XVIII Economic Forum Krynica

11. September 2008

**„It pays to be decent“
Commemoration of the life and legacy
of Bronislaw Geremek (6.3.1932 – 13.7.2008),**

Member of the European Parliament,
ehem. Außenminister der Republik Polen

Mitglied des Kuratoriums des Komitees zur Förderung der deutsch-französisch-polnischen
Zusammenarbeit e.V. („Weimarer Dreieck“)



Lech Wałęsa

Marcin Geremek

Photo: K.-H. Standke

Moderator:

Denis MacShane, MP, ehem. Europaminister, U.K.

Special Guests:

Marcin Geremek, Warsaw

Lech Wałęsa, ehem. Präsident der Republik Polen

Speakers:

Christopher Beazley, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, European Parliament

Elmar Brok, Member of the European Parliament

Mikolaj Dowgialewicz, Secretary of State, Office of the Committee for European
Integration, Warsaw

Jerzy Halbersztadt, Director, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

Jarosław Kurski, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Gazeta Wyborca, Warsaw

Vytautas Landsbergis, former President of Lithuania, Member of the European
Parliament

Nicolas Schmit, Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg

Borys Tarasyuk, Member, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Leopold Unger, Le Soir, Brussels

Daniel Vernet, Editor-in-Chief of the Foreign Affairs Section, Le Monde, Paris

Es wurde ferner eine Botschaft des Präsidenten der Europäischen Kommission, José Manuel Barroso, (s. Anlage), verlesen.

An der Gedächtnisfeier haben u.a. teilgenommen: **Roland Dumas**, ehem. Außenminister der Französischen Republik und Mitgründer des Weimarer Dreiecks, Paris, **Markus Meckel**, MdB., ehem. Außenminister der DDR, Berlin, **Henri Ménudier**, Sorbonne Nouvelle III, Paris und Vizepräsident des Komitees zur Förderung der deutsch-französisch-polnischen Zusammenarbeit e.V., **Zdzisław Najder**, Präsident, Klub Weimarski, Warschau sowie **Klaus-Heinrich Standke**, Präsident des Komitees zur Förderung der deutsch-französisch-polnischen Zusammenarbeit e.V. (,Weimarer Dreieck'), Berlin/Cabourg.

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Brussels,
D(08)1638

10. 09. 2008

Tribute to Professor Geremek

I would like to welcome the initiative of the Economic Forum to devote this special session to the life and work of Professor Bronislaw Geremek.

Once in a while, we are blessed with a political figure of rare stature. Someone of vision, whose strength of conviction ensures a consistent path. Someone of true political courage. Someone who can make a difference.

Bronislaw Geremek was such a man. The respect in which he was held was testament to his humanity, his wisdom, and his intelligence. A practical politician with a depth of idealism. He will be sorely missed.

But he leaves behind him a remarkable legacy – as a historian, as a politician, and as an inspiration to a generation of Europeans on the path towards unity and prosperity. He will be remembered as a truly independent spirit, as a powerful symbol of how freedom can prevail against the odds.

I am sorry that I am unable to join you today, but I know that your discussions today will be inspired by the memory of a truly great European.

José Manuel BARROSO