



JAKUB OSTALOWSKI (2)



## A Word of Introduction

It gives me great satisfaction to present a set of contributions to the debate that took place on 3 December 2015, at a session of the General Assembly of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the position statement adopted by the General Assembly (the highest-ranking body of the Academy). This position statement concerns the migration crisis that Europe is currently struggling with, and it represents an attempt to view that crisis both from our national perspective and from the EU perspective.

To sum it up as succinctly as possible, the Academy's General Assembly expressed its profound conviction that the resolution of the current crisis should proceed through solidarity-based cooperation among the EU member states. The influx of migrants may bring benefits to individual countries, if it is accompanied by adequate programs supporting their integration into society and promoting openness and tolerance among society. Maintaining the Schengen zone is in the interests of the EU and the interests of Poland. Because of the way that zone functions, only combined efforts of European cooperation might yield the desired effects in coping with the challenges that the migration crisis entails.

The Polish Academy of Sciences is sending out a clear signal that it does perceive the threat that this humanitarian crisis might entail for the future of the EU. How we cope with the challenges brought by the current crisis will affect how other crisis situations will be viewed in Europe in the future. Those situations may affect our country in more important ways, and perhaps then we, too, will feel the need for a solidarity-based and coordinated crisis response from the EU countries.

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