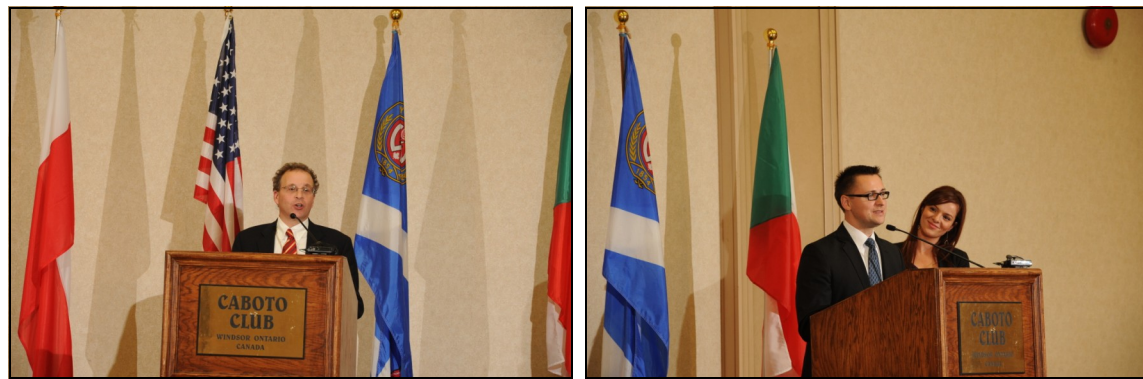


The second, extremely interesting speaker was Mr. Fred Kingston, Senior Advisor to the EU delegation to Canada, who talked about the negotiations on an agreement between Canada and the EU, which is to be signed at the beginning of 2012. Presently, the EU, which is the largest economy in the world, is Canada's second largest, commercial partner, while Canada is in eleventh place for the EU. In terms of investments, the EU is Canada's second largest partner and Canada is in fourth place for the EU. The predicted annual growth in GDP up to 2014 will amount to \$12 billion for Canada and \$17 billion for the EU. The agreement will facilitate exchanges, for example, of professionals, between the EU and Canada, thus including Poland.



The last guest speakers were Natalia Kusendova and Marcin Grządka, the Co-Chairs of the International Conference of Young Polonia Leaders Quo Vadis (QV) 3. This event took place during May 2011 in Toronto and brought together 208 delegates from 16 countries. They spoke of the growing role of the movement of young Polonia members worldwide, of the building of a communication network, and of the need for continuing joint projects in the future, for example, QV. This is the reason they are forming a QV corporation, so as to guarantee the continuation of this project. In a few days, on 4 November 2011, there will be an official announcement about the place, where the next conference, QV4, will take place.

Interest in the QV project was highly visible at the meeting, which was attended by a large group of leaders from Toronto and Chicago, in addition to representatives from Windsor, altogether more than 20 individuals. The young people circulated widely, trying to meet as many people as possible. They clearly showed a great need to make new contacts, to share their experiences and to look for new ways of creating future successes. Although for the most part they were born in Canada or the USA, they have in their hearts a place for Poland and this unites them.



Before dinner was served, the guests were able to admire a beautiful exhibition about Maria Skłodowska-Curie, specially purchased and transported by the Association from the Museum in Warszawa. Thanks to the Association, the exhibition has been displayed on loan in Toronto and Windsor and in December it will be in Ottawa.



Representatives of different levels of government in Canada took part in the meeting this year. They expressed their thanks and congratulations for the unceasing activities in Polonia, in the City of Windsor and beyond. They included Representative Joe Comartin, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh and well known to Polonia; Eddie Francis, the Mayor of Windsor, who emphasized our continuing involvement in the development of the collaboration between Windsor and Lublin, twin cities since 2000; and also Karen Majewski, the Mayor of Hamtramck in the USA, not a large town, but very Polish, close by on the other side of the Detroit River. The Hon. Dwight Duncan, MPP for Windsor-Tecumseh, sent a letter with congratulations.

It should be noted that an important part of the guests present consisted of representatives of fraternal, ethnic organizations: Italian, German and Chinese, as well as supportive individuals from the local community. There were also representatives of Polonia from several more distant locations, such as Kitchener and Hamilton and also Detroit, which is evidence of the interest in our event. At the end, there was the latest promotional material from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Polska? Tak!" - brief comments about Poland by famous people, such as actors, artists, and musicians, for example, Russell Crowe and Robert Redford. This short film, lasting about ten minutes, was very well received by those gathered in the hall.

In the closing part of the meeting, thanks were given to the sponsors, the organizers, and Polonia businesses, which had supplied the wine and the Polish food. The annual meetings of the Association are an unending source of information on the Polish community in Windsor, on Lublin, on Poland and on the activities of the young generation of Polonia leaders.

