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**Book review:**  
**A.A. Ambroziak (ed.) (2023),**  
***Poland in the European Union. Report 2023,***  
**SGH Publishing House, Warsaw, 160 pages**

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The monograph entitled *Poland in the European Union. Report 2023* is a collectively written study prepared by researchers of the Department of European Integration and Legal Studies, Collegium of World Economy, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, under the scientific editorship of Adam A. Ambroziak. This is the third edition of the cyclical report, in which the authors continue the discussion about economic and legal problems and the future of Poland in the European Union. This year the report is devoted to the important macro- and mesoeconomic (sectoral and regional) problems related to Poland's presence in the European Union (EU), as well as the integration within the EU itself. Significant advantage of this book is the discussion on current topics such as the situation in Ukraine, immigration to Poland, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, and public aid in Poland, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The book consists of 8 chapters. It is preceded by the *Introduction*, in which the authors present the purpose, concept, thematic scope, and content of each part.

The first chapter, written by Elżbieta Kawecka-Wyrzykowska, concerns an important issue, which is the impact of the situation in Ukraine on the progress of energy transformation in Poland. The main research issue in this chapter is formulated in the form of three questions regarding: (1) the manner and consequences of the situation in Ukraine on the energy transformation in Poland, (2) the costs and sources of financing of decarbonisation, (3) and the impact of the war on the justification for slowing down the energy transformation in Poland. The author emphasises the importance of deliberating on this topic by stating that the energy crisis caused by the situation in Ukraine has threatened the implementation of the current EU plan, assuming a 55% reduction in greenhouse

gas emissions by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Poland is a country that maintains provisions preventing the expansion of renewable energy capacity and does not participate in the EU economy decarbonisation plan as part of the package *Fit for 55* providing for climate neutrality by 2050. The author discusses in this chapter the structure of fuel consumption in Poland compared to the EU average and the actions taken to mitigate the negative effects of the situation in Ukraine on energy suppliers and consumers. Important element of this part of the study is an attempt to estimate the costs of energy transformation in Poland and the EU financial support that can be obtained. A list of arguments for and against the energy transformation was also prepared, taking into account the situation in Poland.

The topic of energy transformation in Poland is continued in the next chapter. Marzena Błaszczuk-Zawiła successfully introduces problems in terms of emissions of the main greenhouse gas – CO<sub>2</sub>. The Polish energy system is still dominated by centralised energy production based on coal. In 2020, Poland was one of the five largest greenhouse gas emitters of all EU Member States. Due to the high level of emissions, the Polish energy sector is a burden on the implementation of the EU's climate policy, the primary goal of which is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible. Achieving climate neutrality in Poland by 2050, the deadline approved by the European Council, will be a challenge. Implementing changes in the energy sector will require important political decisions and the involvement of significant financial resources. In this chapter, the author discusses in detail the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in Poland over 30 years (1990–2020). Interesting conclusions come from the comparison of changes in greenhouse gas emission levels in EU Member States in 1990–2020 and the share of individual EU-28 countries in the total EU greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Then, the key sources of the high level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Poland are discussed, pointing out the main causes generated by the energy and transport sectors, energy consumption for heating, cooling and lighting of buildings, as well as electricity consumed by household appliances. Both the description and presentation of data in charts and tables are noteworthy.

The next important issue covered in the Report is immigration to Poland during the years 2020–2022. Chapter three of the Report is written by Michał Schwabe. The author considers immigration to Poland, taking into account three events that shocked the market and brought a general sense of uncertainty and threat. The first is the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying periodic lockdowns, restrictions, and difficulties in crossing borders between countries. The second is the crisis on the Poland–Belarus border and the immigration of refugees from the Middle East to Poland. The third one is the situation in Ukraine, which forced millions of Ukrainians to leave their country, the vast majority of whom crossed the Polish border. All three factors are still relevant, and a thoughtful discussion is warranted. The author emphasises that they cause particular constraints and problems, primarily in terms of access to the Polish labour market, as well as free health and educational services. The problems are deepened by the influx of mainly women with children, poor knowledge of the Polish language making their assimilation difficult, and the desire to return to Ukraine after the end of the war.

The change in the level of research from macroeconomic to regional takes place in the fourth chapter. Adam A. Ambroziak analyses regional public aid in Poland after accession to the EU. This chapter's aim is to identify changes in the identification of regions, intensity, and geographical distribution of public aid in Poland. I highly value the decision to discuss this issue in the Report, because regional public aid in Poland is still the main instrument of public intervention at the voivodeship level. Firstly, the author presents the evolution of area classification and the intensity of admissible regional state aid in Poland. For this purpose, he conducts a detailed comparative analysis of the European Commission's guidelines on regional public aid and regional aid maps in Poland covering the years 2004–2027. Then, the geographical directions of regional aid in Poland are presented. Finally, the criteria for identifying regions are critically assessed, and the consequences of the applicable regulations are demonstrated. In conclusion, the author states that GDP per capita, as the only indicator, is not sufficient to properly identify regions and differentiate the intensity of support offered. The presentation of data on colourful maps and charts and the accompanying description enable quick and precise understanding of the situation in particular periods and drawing conclusions. The graphic side of the chapter should be considered as a distinctive element.

The topic discussed by Michat Kulpiński in chapter five is the European Union's trade in goods with African countries. In my opinion, this research area differs from the concept of the book, although the author focuses on the position of the EU and Poland in trade with Africa. In the introduction, the author emphasises the purposefulness of choosing the topic. He explains that for many years African countries were perceived mainly as a source of raw materials and agricultural products. Only since 2020 the EU has introduced the "partnership of equals" approach. Moreover, in recent years, much attention has been paid to the role that African countries play in the modern world, becoming an area of fierce competition between China, the USA, and Russia. Adopting Poland's point of view, the author discussed in detail Poland's trade relations with African countries and the commodity structure of trade flows between Poland, the EU, and the African continent. Interesting conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of the importance of trade with Africa for EU Member States. Similarly, the part regarding Poland's comparative advantage in European exports to Africa is cognitively valuable. The advantage of this chapter is the clear way of discussing the content, interpretation of data, and the way of drawing conclusions. These interesting descriptions are accompanied by well-thought-out graphics.

The book also includes the analysis of Poland's settlements with the EU budget after 18 years (from 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2022) and the funds available in 2021–2027. Elżbieta Kawecka-Wyrzykowska, in the sixth chapter, presents the results of the study on settlements in absolute terms, compared to other countries, and also in terms of the generic structure of transfers and payments to the EU budget. Then, the amount of funds available to Poland under the current budget of the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–2027 is presented. The attention is focused on discussing funds available for Poland under the cohesion policy and EU Common Agricultural Policy.

This is an exceptionally valuable study covering long research perspective. Moreover, the summary of the chapter is of great cognitive value, in which the author carefully discusses not only the most important aspects, but also refers to the considerations carried out in the previous chapters of the Report.

The last two chapters by Adam A. Ambroziak update previously published research results. The seventh chapter concerns public aid granted to Poland in the light of changes taking place in other EU Member States. The author demonstrates changes in the value, intensity, and direction of public aid on the annual basis until 2020. Very interesting conclusions come especially from the charts presenting changes in the structure of public aid in Poland compared to the EU in 2004–2020. The way the research is conducted also deserves recognition. The author uses his own calculations based on standard data and indicators calculated by the European Commission and also developed his own, non-standard Revealed State Aid Index and Similarity State Aid Index, which more accurately reflect the importance and targeting of the aid provided.

The last chapter is a continuation of the previous section of the Report. Adam A. Ambroziak presents current data on the value, intensity, and directions of public aid granted to Poland in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2022. To carry out the analysis, the author used data published by the Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, and the European Commission. The author analyses the distribution of public aid related to COVID-19 in EU Member States, with particular emphasis on Poland. The conclusions drawn in the last two chapters of the Report are interesting and valuable from a cognitive point of view. The presentation of data in various types of charts and tables greatly increases the readability of both fragments of the Report.

The book does not contain a summary. This may seem to be a shortcoming in the concept of the study, but it should be emphasised that each chapter includes extensive conclusions, which sometimes can be considered as summaries of the presented content. Chapters are also accompanied by reference lists.

The reviewed book presents the most important problems related to Poland's presence in the EU in original and creative way. It provides a scientific interpretation of occurring phenomena, allows drawing conclusions, and indicates possible scenarios. This is what makes this book particularly interesting. The main goal was formulated in the *Introduction* of the Report and the authors followed it in their considerations. To achieve the objectives defined in all chapters, appropriate research methods were correctly selected, the use of which is an asset of the Report. It is worth adding that in some chapters, the authors presented the results of their own research and calculations, accompanied by expert commentary resulting from their extensive knowledge and experience. The exceptional logic of the arguments should be emphasised. Furthermore, the graphical presentation of data ought to be noted. Numerous, refined tables and charts woven into the content increase readability and further facilitate the reception of the presented content. Additionally, it is worth highlighting that extensive literature on the subject was used to prepare the study.

It can be concluded that the monograph *Poland in the European Union. Report 2023*, written by a team of researchers under the scientific editorship of Adam A. Ambroziak, should be highly valued. It is a mature and interesting scientific, analytical, and research study presenting the most important problems related to Poland's presence in the European Union. This Report significantly enriches the Polish and the European Union's publishing markets. The scientific study is characterised by a high level of subject knowledge and conducted analyses, as well as up-to-date data.

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**Joanna Bednarz** – dr hab., profesor nadzwyczajny na Wydziale Ekonomicznym Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego. Jest kierownikiem Katedry Biznesu Międzynarodowego. Zainteresowania naukowo-badawcze: biznes międzynarodowy, nowe trendy w konsumpcji, zachowania młodych konsumentów, zarządzanie marką i produktem. Jest autorką wielu publikacji o tej tematyce. Angażuje się w działalność towarzystw naukowych: Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Polskiego Towarzystwa Ekonomicznego Oddział w Gdańsku, Stowarzyszenia Absolwentów IESE Business School University of Navarra.