Open letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair

Right Honourable Sir,

Thank you very much for your address during the BCC Gala on 26 January of this year. The BCC Award for you was received very well in Poland. I know from press reports that its reception in the United Kingdom was not so good. In our opinion the real reasons for that were the economic stagnation in England and the growing rate of unemployment, not to mention the growing criticism of Great Britain’s membership in the European Union. Those associated with BCC agree with your previous and current views regarding the European Union and the role of our countries in it. It is true that several hundred thousand Poles have found employment in the UK. But they have also contributed taxes to the budget of the country, not to mention the profits earned by British companies. According to the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, in the years 2004-2009 immigrants increased the UK’s GDP by £ 4.91 billion. It is worth noting that Britain has positive trade balance with Poland (nearly £ 3 billion) and that more than 1,100 companies with British capital operate in our country.

Your views on the unity and the global role of the European Union are correct and visionary. Isolationism would result in the European countries falling far behind not just China, India, Brazil, Mexico, but also other emerging economies. We have a proverb which says “Dogs bark, the caravan keeps going”. Let them bark, and you,
Prime Minister, continue to ride your caravan. Thanks to immigrants (including a large number of young Poles) Great Britain has been reporting a population increase and stands to become the most populous country in the EU by the year 2060. This is extremely important from the point of view of pensions and health care offered to all Britons.

Please, rest assured that, regardless of the current criticism of immigrants in England, we remain grateful to the British government and society, whom we have always liked and respected.

Yours respectfully,

Marek Goliszewski

President of BCC

President of the Euro-Atlantic Association

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**Business Centre Club** was established in 1991. It is Poland’s largest organisation of individual employers. It has 2,500 members (individuals and firms). Its members include the largest domestic and foreign corporations, as well as higher schools, publishing houses, hospitals, lawyers, journalists, physicians, army officers and students. BCC focuses on actions promoting economic development and offering assistance to entrepreneurs. BCC has been honoured with the Award of the European Economic and Social Committee. M. Thatcher, G. Bush, B. Clinton, B. Ahern and H. Kohl are the honorary members of BCC.

Press contacts: [http://www.bcc.org.pl/Eksperci-244.0.html](http://www.bcc.org.pl/Eksperci-244.0.html)