

EDITORS NOTE

Due to the resignation of Professor Andrzej Wierzbicki, from the position of Editor-in-Chief of the "*Future ...*" we would like to thank for many years of effort in creating and editing scientific journal of Forecasting Committee "Poland 2000 Plus". The essence of business, as Editor-in-Chief, it was not only confined to preliminary assessment of articles, but above all, the creation of the vision of the magazine and the concept of the consecutive numbers. We would like to thank Professor Andrzej Wierzbicki for the contribution to the journal, while expressing hope for further cooperation in creating the "*Future...*".

In this issue, we present the results of the heated discussion that took place at the meeting of Forecasting Committee "Poland 2000 Plus" on 17 December 2014. It was called "*The Future of Democracy*" and was a part of a series named "*Should the World be organized differently?*". This meeting was complementary to the discussion undertaken in a series of conferences on global threats in 2050. Both lectures and discussions presented different views. Prevailed, however, the voices of supporters of democracy, as a system most suitable for Western culture. All debaters and speakers acknowledged the need to jointly undertake reforms of the democratic system, which in most cases is based on a nineteenth-century solutions, not tailored to the requirements of the twenty-first century.

Mirosław Wawrzyński in the paper "*The Instability of Democracy in the Twenty-first-Century Globalization*" presents the basic factors causing that in the future democracy will face increasing difficulties due to internal tensions and external pressures on individual countries. Analysis of these factors leads to the conclusion about the need to undertake the necessary reforms leading towards increasing the responsibility of governing for the long-term consequences of its policies, and thus some form of restriction of democracy.

Konrad Prandecki in his paper "*Will Authoritarian Developmentalism Dominate The World ?*" attempted to answer the question whether an authoritarian developmentalism could be an effective alternative to democracy. He justified his choice of successes which can boast countries focused on economic development. The examples show that the form of power exercised does not matter, since the differences between democracy and authoritarianism are blurred in favor of the pursuit of the most dynamic economic development. As a result, in both systems creates a group with specific authority, which is based on the image of leaders. The greatest value of such systems is little variation over time, which enables stable economic development of enterprises, in particular in the sectors covered by the relevant development policies of the state.

Kacper Nosarzewski, Norbert Kołos, Piotr Jutkiewicz and Łukasz Macander presented a paper "*The Future of Political Participation. A Case Study on*

Future Governance in "*Global Europe 2050*" Report". As the title indicates, the main topic of this speech is a matter of social participation, which in the opinion of the authors will play an increasingly important role in the exercise of power. This approach is different from theses presented by Mirosław Wawrzyński, which allows comparison of the two opposing views on the same issue.

Edward Kirejczyk is the author of the last of the presented articles devoted to democracy. His text entitled "Between Representative and Direct Democracy". In 2050, it can be expected that the technical capabilities will be sufficient to vote directly. However, the use of such mechanisms is associated with numerous challenges discussed by the author, which shows the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of decision-making. He concludes that in the middle of the century the most adequate form of direct democracy would be to vote in the Swiss formula, where the gathering sufficient support, forces the authorities to organize a referendum on the matter.

Further three articles cover a variety of challenges associated with capitalism. These considerations are the result of earlier discussions on the future of capitalism, held mostly during the conference of Forecasting Committee, in March 2013.

Dariusz J. Błaszczuk in his article "*Predicting the economic science part. II*" continues the topic presented in the previous issue of the "*Future...*", i.e. evaluate the applicability of various instruments for evaluation of future events. In this issue are presented advanced econometric models suitable to study the future in economic sciences.

Stanisław M. Szukalski in the article entitled "*Sovereign-Wealth Funds in the global financial market*" raises questions about the consequences of the development of sovereign wealth funds and their impact on the relations between the countries of the debtors and their creditors. For this purpose, he presents the essence of funds, investment trends and their role in the financial crisis of 2007-2008.

Joanna Antczak is the author of a last article presented in this issue of "*Future...*". Text entitled "*The Implementation of Controlling to Assessing Prospective Economic Threats*" refers to the perspective of a few years, but it shows how modern management tools can serve to reduce future potential risks of doing business.

This issue also includes a short section From The World in which we present interesting (in a subjective choice) problems that can have a significant impact on the future of the world. At the end, in Chronicle, we present a brief history of the most important actions taken by Forecasting Committee "Poland 2000 Plus" in the recent period.

Editorial team