



**COMMITTEE:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

**COUNTRY:** Poland

**AGENDA ITEM:** Addressing the Strategic Implications of China's Expanding Global Influence

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Poland, a sovereign country located in Central Europe, is bordered by Germany to the west; the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south, Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania to the east; and the Baltic Sea and Kaliningrad Oblast, a Russian exclave, to the north, has been a state member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since 12 March 1999. Over the past three years, Poland has outspent all fellow NATO members, with spending almost 5% of its gross domestic product (GDP) on defence. It now has the third largest army in NATO, after the US and Turkey.

As China is expanding its global influence through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI or B&R), technological and financial investments, and partnership with Russia, there are growing challenges for NATO's security alliance. Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 32 countries from North America and Europe. With China expected to spend over \$1 trillion on its "Belt and Road Initiative " which increases China's economic connectivity in 130 countries around the world, encompassing more than 60% of the world's population and one third of global GDP there are challenges appearing for NATO's allies.

As NATO listed China as a "Challenge to NATO's interests, security and values " China's partnership with the most significant and direct threat to Allies' security, Russia, is the other major concern of the alliance.

The key goal to achieve global prosperity and stability for both Poland and NATO's alliance is to decrease importation from China to Europe by maintaining the importance of self-reliance and independence. Also having good relations with the neighboring states of China can boost strategic cooperation in special situations such as war times and can help promote peace and security worldwide.

As the country of Poland we believe global cooperation will lead to a better and stronger world for every individual . We encourage everyone to join global peace, prosperity and development by sharing and understanding different perspectives.

