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Highlights:

Taking into consideration the current situation on the European foreign exchange market, the economic forecast for Poland conducted by the European Commission on 5 May 2010 indicates that Poland's economic situation is moderately stable.

However, the government must be aware that the factors influencing Poland's stable economic situation won't last long and Poland's economy will soon have to become innovative and knowledge-driven to remain competitive.

Therefore, it is highly recommended to use legal and administrative tools and cross-ministry cooperation in order to introduce innovation to Poland's economy.

Innovation is one of the key sources of competitive advantage for a company on the international market and is crucial for long-term economic growth.

AMCHAM'S POSITION ON POLAND'S CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE ISSUE OF INTRODUCING INNOVATION

As a response to the economic forecast for Poland introduced by the European Commission, the upcoming Polish Presidency in the E.U. Council and the opinions raised by AmCham company members about remaining competitive by implementing innovations, we prepared a position paper for the Ministry of Economy. In the paper:

- We evaluated the economic growth forecast for Poland conducted by the European Commission that indicates Polish GDP growth in 2010 at 2.7% (in 2011 at 3.3%) – illustrating the moderately stable economic situation in Poland.
- We indicated the necessity of continuing activities aimed at maintaining Poland's economic stability. We illustrated, however, that the factors influencing the current, relatively stable, economic situation in Poland won't last long and in the near future Poland will have to become a knowledge-based economy to remain competitive. Implementing innovation should be a top economic priority.
- We agree with the government's legislative proposal from April 27 about the electronic signature and the Ministry of Economy plan to launch a website that provides entrepreneurs with access to innovative solutions offered by R&D units.
- We illustrated the necessity for the Ministry of Economy to cooperate with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to ensure full cooperation between academia and enterprises and to make the academic environment more business-friendly. This is crucial to implementing innovation.
- We advised the Ministry of Economy to efficiently utilize the upcoming Polish Presidency in the E.U. Council, especially since the Ministry of Economy will be leading the discussion with ministers from E.U. countries responsible for competition and commerce during the Presidency.

The Polish version of this position can be downloaded at:
<http://amcham.pl/file/pdf/20100514.pdf>

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