

## **FTG Chairman's update: Initiative to establish a new Polish-Finnish Chamber of Commerce**

Dear FTG Member,

Trade Guild Board Members have over the past week been contacted by many FTG members with questions regarding an initiative to establish a new Polish-Finnish Chamber of Commerce. We have been asked especially if FTG is somehow involved in this initiative.

Invitations to attend a "statutory meeting of Polish-Finnish Chamber of Commerce" on June 7th were sent out to a number of businesses, including many FTG member companies.

*The FTG Board was not aware of this initiative until these invitations were sent out. FTG was not informed of this initiative in advance, nor has it participated in any advance discussions about the idea, our members' possible interest in such an initiative or the possible need to establish a second Chamber of Commerce to represent Finnish businesses in Poland.*

In the June 7th meeting participants were informed among other that the new Chamber would like to network through business mixers, to lobby on behalf of its members and to provide members with advisory services.

In other words, the vision appears to be for the new Chamber to engage with activities already conducted since 2004 by SPCC and the Finnish Trade Guild, in close cooperation with the Finnish Embassy, among other.

*The FTG Board does not see any need to establish a second parallel Chamber of Commerce to represent Finnish businesses in Poland. We believe that SPCC with its combined resources and large membership base is best equipped to represent Finnish business interests in Poland, and to further develop its activities in line with members' expectations.*

We see no benefits in Finnish businesses in Poland possibly being represented by two separate Chambers. Such a division could even be counter productive. Experience shows that in a market like Poland the joining of forces by the Nordic countries and Estonia under one Chamber of Commerce and cooperating within the same well reputed Scandinavian referencegroup is both effective and produces good results. This view has also been confirmed by the respective Embassies.

The Finnish Embassy and Finpro have stated that they will continue to cooperate solely with SPCC and FTG as it is the only organization with sufficient financial and human resources to represent Finnish business interests effectively.

If you have any related questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other FTG Board Members.

Best regards – and don't forget to register in time for the June 15th FTG Summer Picnic!

Johan Puotila  
Chairman