



Aleksander Kwasniewski

POLITICIAN

Europe's security architecture, energy policy and industrial strategy are now being redesigned around Ukraine, Russia and the future of the EU, and most corporate leaders are getting that picture second-hand. The people who can explain what is likely to happen next, and why, are usually the people who were in the room when the current architecture was built. Very few of them are accessible to private-sector audiences.

Aleksander Kwasniewski is Poland's former two-term President whose record on NATO accession, EU membership and the Ukraine Orange Revolution gives international audiences a head-of-state reading of European security and Eastern European risk.

Aleksander Kwasniewski's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Aleksander Kwasniewski

- He was President of Poland through the single most consequential decade in the country's modern foreign policy, signing the 1997 Constitution and overseeing accession to NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004.
- As the mediator of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution and a long-time EU envoy on Ukraine-EU negotiations, he holds one of the deepest first-hand views of the Russia-Ukraine-EU interaction now dominating European risk analysis.
- His current institutional footprint is substantive: Chairman of Yalta European Strategy, Distinguished Scholar at Georgetown, former member of the Atlantic Council International Advisory Board and former board member of the International Crisis Group.
- Club de Madrid membership places him alongside more than 120 former heads of state and government, reinforcing the peer-level standing corporate audiences expect when a former President speaks.
- His long-standing reconciliation and tolerance work, including chair of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation and the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center board, gives him credibility across a range of cross-cultural and public-diplomacy briefs.

Biography highlights

- President of Poland, 1995 to 2005 (two terms)
- Led Polish accession to NATO (1999) and the European Union (2004); signed the 1997 Constitution
- Mediated the 2004 Ukraine Orange Revolution; co-led the European Parliament monitoring mission on Ukraine to November 2013
- Distinguished Scholar in the Practice of Global Leadership, Georgetown

AVAILABLE FOR

- After Dinner Engagement
- Guest Appearance
- Panel Participation
- Speaking

ALEKSANDER'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Geopolitics
- Political Risk & Policy
- Risk Management
- Scenario Planning & Strategic Foresight

LANGUAGES: English

University

- Chairman of Yalta European Strategy; founder of Amicus Europae; member of Club de Madrid and the Global Commission on Drug Policy
- Chair of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation; supervisory board, Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center

Biography

The generation that designed modern Poland's international position included a short list of people who had to take the decisions in real time. Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of Poland from 1995 to 2005, is the one with the clearest record on the outcomes that still shape the continent: a new Constitution in 1997, accession to NATO in 1999 and to the European Union in 2004. Two terms, each won at the ballot box, in a country that had become a democracy less than a decade before he took office.

His post-presidential record is built around Ukraine and European security. He mediated the 2004 Orange Revolution, brokering the settlement that ended the crisis and placed Viktor Yushchenko in the Ukrainian presidency. From then until late 2013 he co-led the European Parliament's monitoring mission in Ukraine and headed EU talks with Ukraine on the association agreement whose collapse in 2013 triggered the Euromaidan protests the following year. Few external politicians have as long an unbroken view of the Ukraine-EU-Russia triangle as he does.

The current institutional portfolio reflects that expertise. He is Chairman of Yalta European Strategy, founder of the Amicus Europae Foundation, and Distinguished Scholar in the Practice of Global Leadership at Georgetown University. He sits on the Club de Madrid and the Global Commission on Drug Policy, on the supervisory board of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center in Kyiv, and on the International Advisory Council to Uzbekistan. His earlier international board roles included the Atlantic Council of the United States International Advisory Board and the International Crisis Group.

For governments, multinational corporations, financial institutions and policy audiences trying to read European security, Eastern European risk and the trajectory of Ukraine, Kwasniewski is among the small group of former heads of state who speak with both political experience and current institutional engagement. His register is direct, and his material is built for executive audiences working on decisions that have consequence.

Key speaking topics

- European security and the future of the EU and NATO
- Ukraine, Russia and the Eastern European geopolitical picture
- Poland's transition, EU accession and political economy
- International diplomacy and mediation under pressure
- Reconciliation, tolerance and post-conflict public policy
- Global drug policy reform

Ideal for

- Boards, CEOs and investment committees assessing European and Eastern European geopolitical risk
- Financial institutions, energy companies and multinationals with Central and Eastern European exposure

- Policy forums, think tanks and international affairs audiences
- Diplomatic, EU and NATO-adjacent events

Audience outcomes

- A head-of-state reading of the forces shaping European security and Ukraine's position
- Inside account of the 2004 Orange Revolution mediation and the 2013 EU-Ukraine association talks
- Historical context from Poland's NATO and EU accession directly applicable to emerging-market strategy conversations
- A clearer view of how current international institutions are likely to respond to ongoing crises, from someone who has advised them

Aleksander Kwasniewski's Videos



What Aleksander Kwasniewski's clients say

The event was deemed to be a big success by our clients. His speech was considered by all to be one of the true highlights of the Conference. President Kwasniewski combined great wisdom with practical observations and good humor.

Sachs International