

# Radek Sikorski

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*Expert in international affairs*



**Journalist and Former Marshal of the Sejm  
(Speaker of the House)**

**Senior Fellow, Center of European Studies,  
Harvard University**

**Radosław (Radek) Sikorski is one of the most internationally recognised Polish politicians of his time. He was Marshal of the Sejm (Speaker of the House/Parliament) from 2014-15 and was Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2007-2014.**

Radek was born in Bydgoszcz, Poland, where he headed the students' strike committee during the unrest in March 1981. He was granted political asylum in Great Britain in 1982-89 in which he graduated from the University of Oxford with a B.A. and an M.A. in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE).

He was a war correspondent in Afghanistan and Angola in 1986-89 during which time he won the World Press Photo award (1988) for a photograph taken in Afghanistan.

As Deputy Minister of National Defence in 1992, Radek initiated Poland's NATO accession campaign. In 1998-2001 he served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Honorary Chairman of the Foundation for Assistance to Poles in the East.

From 2002 to 2005, he was resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. and executive director of the New Atlantic Initiative. He was editor of the analytical publication European Outlook and organised international conferences on topics such as UN

reform and the 25th anniversary of the Solidarity movement. He appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs as an expert on Atlantic issues. In 2012 he was named one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers by the Foreign Policy magazine "for telling the truth, even when it's not diplomatic".

Radek was elected senator for Bydgoszcz in 2005 and served as Minister of National Defence in 2005-07. In 2007, he was elected to the Lower House of the Polish Parliament (the Sejm) from the Civic Platform list. He was sworn in as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland on 16 November 2007. He has been Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs since 1st January 2010. He was elected Vice-Chairman of the Civic Platform in October 2010. On 24 September 2014, Radek was elected the Marshal of the Sejm in the 7<sup>th</sup> term.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, he was the Polish signatory of the Treaty of Lisbon, in 2007. Together with Carl Bildt, he launched EU's Eastern Partnership and he proposed and helped to set up the European Endowment for Democracy. He negotiated and signed the Poland-Russia regional visa-free regime, Poland-US missile defense agreement and together with the Foreign Ministers of Germany and France, the accord between the pro-EU opposition and Ukrainian President Yanukovich, in 2013.

He is the author of several books, including *Dust of the Saints*, *The Polish House: An Intimate History of Poland*, and *Strefa Zdekomunizowana* [The Decommunized Zone]. He is currently working on a book about foreign policy and on Poland's successful transition over the last 20 years. In addition to speaking about international affairs, Radek is also called upon to address the subjects of defence matters, cybersecurity and internet reform. He also has views on the current turmoil within the EU, including the debate about the UK's role and the interplay with other EU states.

## Public Service

- Marshal of the Sejm (Speaker of Parliament), 2014 – 2015
- Minister for Foreign Affairs, 2007-2014
- Minister of Defence, 2005-2007
- Senator, 2005-2007
- Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1998-2001

