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MONTHLY MEETING

AmCham Monthly Meeting in October.....	1
Photo coverage of the event.....	2

THE AMCHAM MONTHLY MEETING IN OCTOBER WAS THE FINAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO MEET FACE TO FACE THIS YEAR BEFORE HEALTH OFFICIALS BANNED IN-PERSON MEETINGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS A PANDEMIC PRECAUTION. AMCHAM TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME NEW US DIPLOMATS IN WARSAW: COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR **HEATHER ROGERS**; DEPUTY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR **RYAN BOWLES**, ENERGY ATTACHÉ **ROBERT RUDICH**, COMMERCIAL OFFICER **NEIL PICKETT**, AND US CONSUL IN POLAND **ANDY UTSCHIG**.

MONTHLY MEETING

OCTOBER

MEET THE US EMBASSY TEAM

AMCHAM WELCOMES NEW US DIPLOMATS TO WARSAW

AmCham's partnership with the US Embassy in Warsaw is critical to delivering the chamber's mission and services. Over the years, the partnership has been developing from good to great, and it felt like a family meeting when AmCham members welcomed newly-appointed US diplomats in Warsaw at the Monthly Meeting in October. Their posting in Warsaw signals that Poland will remain a key partner for the US in security and also political and business relations, and that the American business community in Poland will continue to have strong support in Washington.

COMMERCE

From a business perspective, the most significant new diplomat in Warsaw is Heather Rogers, who came to Warsaw for a three-year tenure as the Commercial Counselor. Rogers said that her focus in Poland will be the investment climate and challenges that US companies face in Poland. She said that the US government can help such companies navigate these problems in some cases. "The US government may speak to the Polish government on behalf of such companies," Heather Rogers said. Roger's deputy is Ryan Bowles, another new US diplomat in Warsaw. Bowles will serve in Poland for three years. He will

cover energy and regulatory issues specifically. Another appointee is Neil Pickett, Commercial Officer, Commercial Service of the US Department of Commerce, at the US Embassy in Warsaw. Pickett's work will concern the statutory activities of the Commercial Service, primarily supporting US companies looking to expand their business to Poland and advocating on behalf of US companies in tender challenges in Poland. The Commercial Service also helps Polish companies invest in the US. Pickett will serve in Poland for three years and has an in-depth understanding of business. Before joining the Commercial Service, he worked in the private sector, developing international business networks.

ENERGY

Arguably, the most important new appointment was that of Robert Rudich, the Energy Attaché to Poland and the first energy attaché in the history of the US Embassy in Warsaw. Rudich said that his appointment reflects the importance the US government attaches to energy issues in Poland. It is a very deliberate signal that the US sees the energy field as an opportunity for partnership between Poland and the US. His specialty is in nuclear energy, focusing on new nuclear power designs that

offer unique business opportunities. He said he hoped to work closely with AmCham member companies in other energy areas, including gas, coal, and renewables. Rudich will serve at the US Embassy in Warsaw for three years.

TRAVEL TO THE US

Along with the newly appointed diplomats, AmCham hosted US Consul Andy Utschig, who has served in Poland for some time now. Utschig said that while the US has introduced some travel restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the country is still open for business travel. To enter the US for business during the pandemic, travelers need to qualify for "national interest exceptions," but Utschig said that the US administration wants people to travel to the US to aid in improving the economy. "If you need to travel to the US for business, contact us, and we will respond within five days," the US consul encouraged AmCham members.

AmCham in Warsaw

The last time at the Marriott

The AmCham Monthly Meeting in October was the final opportunity for AmCham members to

meet face to face in 2020 before health officials banned in-person meetings across the country as a

pandemic precaution later in the month. The venue was the Marriott Warsaw, which provided an

excellent breakfast bar for participants of the meeting.



1. Heather Rogers, Commercial Counselor, US Embassy in Warsaw. 2. Ryan Bowles, Deputy Economic Counselor, US Embassy in Warsaw. 3. Rob Rudich, Energy Attache, US Embassy in Warsaw. 4. Neil Pickett, Commercial Officer, US Department of Commerce, US Embassy in Warsaw. 5. Andy Utschig, Consul, US Embassy in Warsaw. 6. Dorota Dąbrowska-Winterscheid, AmCham Managing Director; Rob Rudich; Tony Housh, AmCham Chairman (Northrop Grumman). 7. Paweł Gruza, KGHM Polska Miedź; Dorota Dąbrowska-Winterscheid; Heather Rogers; Andy Utschig. 8. Weronika Kuna, Microsoft; Marzena Dreła, AmCham Deputy Director; Agata Krawczyk, JP Morgan. 9. Robert Grader, Warsaw Marriott Hotel; Dorota Dąbrowska-Winterscheid. 10. Marek Szydłowski, AmCham Vice Chairman (Integer); Andrzej Krawczyk, CVC Capital Partners. 11. Andrzej Kozłowski, Emitel; Anita Kowalska, AmCham.