

## Biography

# Michał Kurtyka

President of COP24

Former Minister of Climate and Environment, Republic of Poland

He is also trained physicist and engineer, economist, specialist in international negotiations, expert in the field of energy and the author of the government programme for the development of electromobility in Poland. He is a graduate of the prestigious Parisian École Polytechnique and a scholarship holder in the field of quantum optics of the National Institute of Standards and Technologies near Washington (DC), where he worked under the leadership of the Nobel laureate in physics, William D. Phillips. During his studies, he also specialized in economics, with special regard to market organization under the leadership of Professor Jean Tirole, the Nobel laureate in economics in 2014. In the field of international economics, he studied at the University of Louvain La Neuve and obtained a master's degree at the Warsaw School of Economics. He defended his doctoral thesis at the University of Warsaw. He was a lecturer in the field of change management, economics, market organization and industrial strategy at the University of Warsaw, Collegium Civitas, Oxford Programme On Modern Poland.

He started his professional career at the Office of the Committee for European Integration, in the team of Minister Jan Kuřakowski, responsible for conducting accession negotiations with the European Union, where he led an analytical team and was directly responsible for the energy and transport area.

Then he modernised many Polish companies, in which he supported the adaptation to the challenges of the European and global market. He was a promoter of European



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cooperation in the field of industrial change and adaptation of industry in Europe to the challenges of globalization, among others as part of the European University of Labour and the Dublin Foundation. The author of the government programme for the development of electromobility in Poland, described for the first time as a concept in the book written in 2013-2015, together with prof. Leszek Jesień, "New Electricity and New Cars". He is the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Electromobility Programme. As the deputy minister of energy, he was the originator of the "Electromobility Development Plan", and then he piloted the creation of the act on electromobility and alternative fuels, thanks to which the forms of transport will have the possibility of developing dynamically. As the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Energy, he is directly responsible for the technological development and introduction of innovations to the energy sector, implementation of climate and energy policy in the fuel and gas sector, conducting international relations with states and international organizations. His duties also include supervising the state's participation in the largest Polish energy companies in the oil and gas sector, such as Orlen, Lotos and PGNiG. He negotiates the provisions of the Winter Package, as well as legal acts regulating the electricity market in Europe. Author of many books, among others "Zwrot ku sprawiedliwej transformacji" (eng: "Turn to Just Transition") about the trends of the energy transition: changes in Asia and North America as well as in Europe, discussion on coal and transformation in regions, and solidarity in climate policy.



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