



POLAND'S LEADERSHIP OF THE OSCE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Witness Biography

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau

Zbigniew Rau currently serves as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, a position he has held since August 2020. Prior to this appointment, he was a member of the *Sejm*, the lower house of Parliament in Poland, as well as the Chair of the *Sejm*'s Foreign Affairs Committee. During this term, he additionally served as head of the Polish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and led the Polish-British Parliamentary Group. From 2015 to 2019, he served as senator of the 6th term and governor of the *Łódź* Voivodeship. From 2005 to 2007, he was a member of the *Senat*, the upper house of Parliament in Poland.

In 1980, Rau joined the Polish independent trade union *Solidarność*, or Solidarity. The first independent trade labor union in the Soviet bloc, the Solidarity movement posed a direct challenge to Soviet authorities and is thus credited with contributing to the eventual collapse of the ruling Communist party in Poland. He was an active member in the movement and was responsible for verifying appointments to the Inter-company Founding Committee of the trade union within the *Łódź* region.

Rau graduated from the University of *Łódź* in 1977, finished his PhD studies in 1982, and obtained his post-doctoral law degree in 1996. He has taught at various universities throughout numerous countries and is Chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Center for Political and Legal Thought at the University of *Łódź*.