

# Message from the President



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2004 was particularly important to both our country and its economy. Since 1 May 2004, Poland has been a full member of the European Union. We start to experience practical what it means to operate in conditions applying in the Community. The statistics show high pace of growth of the Gross Domestic Product. Prognoses for present year are equally good, however the result of the construction industry sector are not satisfactory. The previous year passed on attempts to put a stop to the falling tendency that had lasted for several years (in this sector of economy). Unusual behavior of the market and a very high level of sales in first months of the year was rather a result of the market panic before the introduction of 22% VAT tax than the actual growth of consumption. A slight increase in cement sales, when compared to the previous year, doesn't necessarily mean the appearance of the lasting tendencies in Polish construction industry. We observe a slow growth in the numbers of projects is being realised at the moment and the scheme of building new motorways and highways is being continued.

For the cement industry joining the European Union was a final outcome of long-term actions carried out at many levels. We have been initiating changes for long time through adaptation of our standards to those operating in EU. Privatization of industry allowed thorough modernisation. Labour organisation has been changed radically together with style and efficiency of management.

At present plants are managed according to the philosophy of sustainable development, where decision-making is equally influenced by production issues, and issues concerning environment

and future generations. As a result of such activities, our industry is one of the most modern European industries.

One must stress the role played in our activities by Cembureau European Cement Association. Thanks to the membership in this organisation, we have permanent access to information and opportunity to share experiences of European industry. We also have a possibility to express our opinion and make decisions about issues referring to the cement industry. Poland as a member of the organisation, is perceived as a serious partner at the Cembureau forum. The opinion is reflected in the fact that our Association has been trusted with organisation of General Assembly of Cembureau in 2005 in Warsaw.

The year 2005 is special to our Association also for another reason. Beginning with 1 January this year, the Association gathers only cement manufacturers. Lime plants have established their own organisation - Polish Lime Association. However I am convinced that friendly relations between members of both Associations and cooperation of these industries will be continued. I would like to wish the managers and employees of both these sectors to achieve many successes in 2005.

**Andrzej Tekiel**  
President of the Polish Cement  
and Lime Association

