



Martin Mycielski

High-stakes public affairs, comms and wartime market-entry adviser

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en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Mycielski | pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcin_Mycielski

Mission-driven public affairs, communications and strategic business advisory operator for politically and socially sensitive challenges at international, Polish and Ukrainian level.

22 years across politics, public institutions, journalism, international NGOs, front-line humanitarian operations and wartime entrepreneurship support. Solving complex problems by combining institutional access, media intelligence, field-tested judgement and a high-level network of policymakers, experts, journalists and trusted intermediaries. Thriving where standard consultancy approaches fail.

UKRAINE MARKET ENTRY	PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ADVOCACY	COMMS & REPUTATION
Direct introductions, wartime market navigation and presence-building campaigns for businesses entering Ukraine, especially medical and defence-adjacent sectors.	High-level policy, institutional and stakeholder campaigns from Brussels and Strasbourg, through Warsaw and other EU capitals, to Kyiv, Ukraine.	Raising the public profile of organisations and individuals through digital comms, media relations and LLM-optimised image curation.

SELECTED IMPACT

- Built a rare combined profile: EU institutions and government official, Brussels journalist, NGO executive, campaign strategist and Ukraine field mission leader.
- Led advocacy campaigns and special interventions contributing to 2 European Commission policy shifts, 20+ amendments to European Parliament and PACE resolutions, 10+ motions and 15+ written declarations.
- Co-created award-winning campaigns recognised by the European Public Affairs Awards for Best EP Lobbying and Best NGO Campaign, plus a European Association Award. Trained social media & press teams.
- Directed a Ukraine aid operation delivering EUR 10m+ in defensive, medical and humanitarian support; personally led missions to areas including besieged Bakhmut, Avdiivka (Donetsk Oblast) and Kherson, earning 4 Ukrainian decorations for frontline support.
- Designed and implemented Ukraine positioning campaigns for 5 start-ups and companies in the med-tech & defence sector, solving administrative, legal and cross-cultural challenges, building trust within Ukraine and introducing them to stakeholders crucial for market entry.
- Succeeded in hostile, politicised and authoritarian-pressure environments: operated under high personal risk, targeted by far-right black PR campaigns, 2 Kremlin hit-lists and threat of a 15-year gulag sentence.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

09/2018 - present | Brussels / Warsaw / Kyiv

VICE-PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; FMR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - OPEN DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

- Co-manage an international human-rights and rule-of-law organisation headquartered in Brussels, with operations spanning Poland, Ukraine, the EU, the US and post-Soviet states.
- Lead strategy, communications, fundraising, partnerships, HR, governance and operations while advising senior partners in medical, defence-adjacent, media and policy sectors.
- Run high-stakes advocacy and public affairs campaigns involving EU institutions, national governments, parliaments, international bodies, experts, civil society, business partners and media.
- Serve as spokesperson and commentator for BBC World News, Euronews, Al Jazeera English, POLITICO Europe, EurActiv, TVN, Gazeta Wyborcza, Onet and other outlets.
- Lead multi-million € grant projects and social programmes combining communications & advocacy training, defence & humanitarian aid management, front-line operations, institutional engagement and politically-sensitive topics.

01/2017 - present (own firm since 2026) | Brussels / Warsaw

CHIEF STRATEGIC ADVISOR - MITCHELL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS GROUP

- Advise technology (Big Five), media, med-tech, defence and public-interest clients on high-stakes challenges, communications and media relations, institutional engagement, image/reputation and wartime market entry.
- Selected assignments include Lionbridge, Netflix, European Commission, EENA and Fire Safe Europe; other strategic advisory work confidential / available upon request.

02/2017 - 10/2018 | Brussels

BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT - GAZETA WYBORCZA

- Accredited journalist covering EU institutions for Poland's leading daily and news portal; built durable working relationships across Brussels press and policy circles.

12/2017 - 10/2018 | Brussels

DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION - EU DISINFOLAB

- Co-launched and represented one of Europe's first specialist counter-disinformation NGOs; built partnerships with EU institutions, governments and international bodies.
- Coordinated external relations, strategic comms and projects around election integrity and democratic resilience.

08/2017 - 10/2018 | Brussels

MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR - SAPER VEDERE

- Co-created award-winning EU campaigns and advised clients on institutional access, advocacy, stakeholder mobilisation and media leverage aimed at EU decision-makers. Trained social media managers and press officers.

11/2015 - 01/2017 | Brussels

PLENIPOTENTIARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & SPOKESPERSON - COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

- Coordinated international structures & institutional relations for Poland's largest civic movement since Solidarity; represented Polish pro-democracy civil society before EU institutions, international media and allied organisations.

05/2014 - 08/2016 | Brussels

DATABASE MANAGER - WORLD FEDERATION OF ADVERTISERS

- Managed the member-relations platform of the global federation representing major advertisers, strengthening experience with corporate stakeholders, cross-market coordination and service providers.
- Supported communications, member engagement, Global Marketer Week and other international events, adding practical exposure to global brand, advertising and association environments.

10/2012 - 04/2014 | Brussels

REACH CONSORTIA TEAM MEMBER - MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP / DENTONS US LLP

- Supported regulatory consortia operating in a complex EU legal and policy environment, including legal analysis, meeting organisation and coordination between corporate actors, advisers and technical experts.
- Developed practical understanding of regulated industries, compliance-heavy dossiers and the translation of technical/legal issues into usable stakeholder action.

01/2011 - 01/2012 | Brussels

PROMOTION, EVENTS AND INTERSHIPS COORDINATOR - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Served in the Polish EU Presidency Task Force at the Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU, working inside a high-pressure diplomatic environment during Poland's first EU presidency.
- Handled events, promotional activities and internship programmes for national officials at the Council of the EU, gaining direct experience of institutional protocol, government coordination and Brussels-level diplomatic delivery.

01/2010 - 04/2010 | Brussels

LEAD COORDINATOR OF THE EU-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Coordinated a high-level EU-China business conference at the European Parliament, supervising work across four offices and managing speakers, guests, agenda, logistics, communications and a Chinese government delegation.
- Added direct experience in business diplomacy, international stakeholder management and politically sensitive event delivery involving EU institutions and non-EU governmental actors.

11/2008 - 07/2009 | Brussels

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT AND CHIEF OF STAFF - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Worked in successive MEP offices, progressing to Chief of Staff; advised the MEP, supervised the office team, monitored political developments and represented the office externally.
- Drafted speeches and articles, handled website, media relations and communications, and specialised in security and defence issues - a foundation for later EU advocacy, political judgement and crisis-oriented advisory work.

10/2008 - 11/2008 | Warsaw

ANALYST - MARSHAL'S OFFICE OF THE MAZOWIECKIE VOIVODESHIP

- Gained practical exposure to regional public administration and policy analysis in Poland, adding national-government and local-institution context to later EU and advocacy work.

02/2008 - 03/2008 | Brussels

INTERN IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Early European Parliament experience inside a senior member office, contributing to understanding of parliamentary procedure, institutional access and EU political culture.

09/2004 - 10/2008 | Warsaw

CAMPAIGN CHIEF OF STAFF AND MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL BOARD - FREEDOM UNION / DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- Worked for four years in Polish politics, including campaign management, regional party leadership and political organisation in Warsaw and Mazovia.
- Built the base of electoral, coalition-building, messaging and political-operational experience later used in public affairs, advocacy and special-situation work.

PUBLICATIONS, MEDIA AND PUBLIC PROFILE

- Author of the Authoritarian Regime Survival Guide – a book originating from a viral civic-resistance thread that reached 3m people within one month and later became the basis for a 15-part web series. Available in bookstores worldwide.
- Published in specialist and mainstream international outlets including POLITICO Europe, Euractiv, EUobserver, Verfassungsblog, Emerging Europe and The Next Web, as well as the vast majority of leading outlets in Poland.
- Public record of 50+ TV appearances, 37 major press publications, 5 academic papers and 600+ academic mentions.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LANGUAGES

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| • Stanford Graduate School of Business - Stern Leadership Academy, Intellectual Contribution Award. | • USAID Executive Training Programme in Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Public Integrity - Hertie School, Berlin. |
| • Universidad Camilo Jose Cela, Madrid - MA in Diplomacy and International Relations, cum laude. | • NATO Tactical Combat Casualty Care, All Service Members - Armed Forces of Ukraine, Kyiv. |
| • University of Warsaw - English, Iberian Studies and Management / MBA studies. | • Languages: Polish and English native; French C1; Spanish A2. Driving licences A and B; security clearances; advanced digital and media production skills. |

REFERENCES

Selected references from government, parliament, business, media, academia and Ukraine-facing partners available upon request.