

90 LAT IZBY BAWELNY W GDYNI

1935



2025

90 YEARS OF THE
GDYNIA COTTON ASSOCIATION

On 4–5 June 2025, the Gdynia Cotton Association celebrated its 90th Anniversary. The event was attended by representatives of national and local authorities, Polish and international textile industry organisations, Honorary Members, Ordinary and Associate Members, as well as long-standing friends and supporters of the Association.

Ms Beata Rutkiewicz –	Voivode of the Pomeranian Province
Ms Aleksandra Kosiorek –	Mayor of the City of Gdynia
Mr Adam Gawrylik –	Representative of the Marshal's Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship
Mr Artur Dąbkowski –	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
Ms Katarzyna Krajewska –	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
Mr Marek Kłoczko –	President of the Management Board and General Director, Polish Chamber of Commerce
Mr Eric Trachtenberg –	Executive Director, International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), Washington, D.C., USA
Dr Terry Townsend –	General Secretary, Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (DNFI)
Mr Josep Artigas –	Vice Chair of CICC and President of Centro Algodonero Nacional, Spain
Mr Antonios Siarkos –	President of the European Cotton Alliance, Greece
Mr Fritz Grobien –	Vice President, Bremen Cotton Exchange, Germany
Dr Małgorzata Zimniewska –	President of The Textile Institute, Manchester, UK
Mr Peter Wakefield –	Chair of the ICAC Private Sector Advisory Council
Mr Peter Iglowski –	Professor of Arbitration Law, Lewis & Co., France



90th Jubilee of the Gdynia Cotton Association 1935 – 2025

HONORARY PATRONAGE



Ministerstwo
Rozwoju i Technologii



WOJEWODA POMORSKI
BEATA RUTKIEWICZ



MIECZYSLAW STRUK
MARSZAŁEK
WOJEWÓDZTWA POMORSKIEGO



RADA
MIASTA
GDYNI



Patronat Honorowy
**PREZYDENT
MIASTA GDYNI**
Aleksandra Kosiorek



Politechnika Łódzka
Patronat Rektora



KRAJOWA IZBA GOSPODARCZA

PROGRAMME

**04 June 2025
(Wednesday)**

- 14:00 – 16:00 Official Meeting of the Honorary Members' Convention and the Board of the GCA**
- 19:00 – 22:00 Dinner by invitation from the Chairman of the Honorary Members Convention**

**05 June 2025
(Thursday)**

- 13:00 The 90th Anniversary of the GCA**
- 13:00 – 14:30 Official opening and addresses**
- President of the GCA: Ignacy Józkowicz
Mayor of Gdynia: Aleksandra Kosiorek
Prize-awarding ceremony
- 14:30 – 16:00 Jubilee Session**
- Special Guest:** Executive Director of the ICAC:
Eric Trachtenberg
Cotton: Challenges and Opportunities
Vice President of the GCA: Jerzy Kotwas
History of the Gdynia Cotton Association

Invited Guests - speeches

- 19:00 – 23:00 Gala dinner by invitation from the President of the Gdynia Cotton Association**

**06 June 2025
(Friday)**

- 10:30 – 13:30 85th General Assembly of the GCA Members**
- 10:45 – 13:30 Event for Guests and accompanying persons**
- 13:30 – 15:00 Farewell lunch**

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PRZEGLĄD WŁÓKNO
ODZIEŻ
WŁOKNIENICZY SKÓRA

**OFFICIAL MEETING
OF THE HONORARY MEMBERS' CONVENTION
OF THE GDYNIA COTTON ASSOCIATION
4 June 2025**

The anniversary celebrations commenced with a meeting of the Board and the Honorary Members' Convention of the Gdynia Cotton Association, held in the newly refurbished conference rooms on the 5th floor of the Gdynia Cotton House. The meeting was attended by numerous invited Guests, including representatives of Polish governmental and industry institutions, as well as international delegations from partner cotton organisations.



A walk-through of the Cotton House's premises

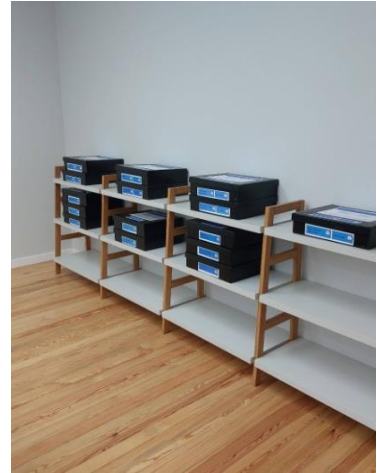
Before the official part of the meeting began, the Guests were invited to take part in a brief tour of the GCA's premises — a perfect introduction to the remainder of the celebrations. The tour offered participants a valuable opportunity to learn more about both the history of our Association and its current activities.

Guided by the GCA's Director, the tour included the historic areas of the building, featuring numerous memorabilia and archival documents that illustrate the development and operations of the GCA from its foundation to the present day. Guests had the opportunity to admire, among other things, original interior design elements from the 1930s, archival photographs, and a range of exhibits related to the GCA's work over the past nine decades.



Particular interest was sparked by the refurbished cotton classification rooms, which constitute the most important element of the GCA's educational infrastructure.

Participants had the opportunity to explore – or revisit – various standardisation systems used in different parts of the world. While most of these systems now hold primarily historical value due to the widespread adoption of instrumental cotton quality testing methods, they nonetheless illustrate the meticulous and structured rules that governed international cotton trading over the past decades.



For many Guests, the visit was a sentimental journey into the past, as it was in these very rooms that they once took part in specialist courses and training sessions on cotton quality assessment — spending many hours in hands-on classes, learning to classify raw cotton in line with the standards in force at the time.

Throughout the visit, the Guests shared not only their professional knowledge but also numerous anecdotes and personal memories related to the development of the GCA and its organisational transformation over the years. They recalled key milestones in its history, its role in Poland's economic transition, as well as the challenges posed by today's global cotton market.

Notably, the GCA's educational efforts in manual cotton classification continue to enjoy international recognition, drawing professionals from across the globe.



Following the tour, participants gathered in the spacious conference rooms, where the official meeting of the Board and the Honorary Members of the Gdynia Cotton Association commenced. The meeting was held in a warm and collegial atmosphere, marked by thoughtful reflections on the GCA's history and a summary of its achievements over the years.

Meeting of the Honorary Members and the Board of the Gdynia Cotton Association

The ceremony was opened by the Director of the Gdynia Cotton Association - Jerzy Kotwas, who formally introduced all special Guests. In his introductory speech, he presented the history and activities of the GCA, highlighting its importance as an institution linking the cotton industry, academia, and trade communities — both in Poland and internationally.

He also emphasised the vital role of the Gdynia Cotton Association in the development of the Port of Gdynia as the largest cotton port on the Baltic Sea, as well as its broader contribution to Poland's maritime economy.



In the subsequent part of the meeting, invited guests — representatives of public administration, local authorities, and both international and national industry associations — took the floor. Their speeches, which frequently referenced both the historical context and the current state of the sector, as well as its future prospects, offered valuable insights into technological developments, the position of cotton among other textile raw materials, and the urgent need to pursue sustainable development in the textile economy.

Representatives of foreign delegations present at the meeting emphasised the important role that the Gdynia Cotton Association has played for many years within the international structures of our industry — particularly in organisations such as ICAC, CICC, EUROCOTON, EURATEX, and through bilateral cooperation with the International Cotton Association (Liverpool, UK), the Bremen Cotton Exchange (Germany), the European Cotton Alliance (Greece), the American Cotton Shippers Association (USA), Centro Algodonero Nacional (Spain), the French Cotton Association (AFCOT), Cotton Incorporated (USA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USA).

Thanks to this extensive engagement, the Polish Association is now regarded as one of the most prominent organisations of its kind globally.



The high quality of the classification services provided by the Association was also emphasised, alongside the significance, impartiality, and professionalism of the Arbitration Court operating within the Gdynia Cotton Association since 1938, which plays a crucial role in resolving commercial and quality disputes arising in the cotton trade.

During the solemn meeting of the Board and the Honorary Members Convention, many Guests signed the GCA's Memorial Book, maintained since 1948, leaving their reflections on its rich heritage and mission, as well as conveying their congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Anniversary.



Following the official proceedings, the Guests were invited to a commemorative lunch, which provided an excellent opportunity for more informal discussions, exchange of experiences, reunions after many years, and the forging of new friendships.



In a relaxed atmosphere — accompanied by a commemorative cake — warm thanks, congratulations, and announcements of further joint efforts to support the development of the cotton sector were shared.

DINNER BY INVITATION of the Chairman of the Honorary Members' Convention of the Gdynia Cotton Association

The first day of the 90th Anniversary celebrations of the Gdynia Cotton Association concluded with a dinner hosted by the Chairman of the Honorary Members Convention, Mr Artur Gacek, at the Super Yachts Club, located in the newly built marina (2019) in the Presidential Dock.

The dinner was enhanced by a stunning view of the marina, dotted with moored yachts — notably, many of Polish manufacture.

In his brief welcome, the Chairman Gacek highlighted that Poland is one of the largest producers of motor and sailing yachts in Europe, with an annual output of around 30,000 units. Brands such as GALEON, COBREY, and DELPHIA are Polish companies renowned worldwide. Even the yacht of Rafael Nadal — the famous Spanish tennis player — valued at 5.5 million USD, was built at the Polish shipyard SUNREEF in Gdańsk.



Among the yachts moored along the quay was the catamaran LAGOON, on which some of the Anniversary Guests will have the pleasure of sailing on Friday, 6 June, during a 2–3 hour cruise around the Gulf of Gdańsk.

Inviting everyone to enjoy the evening and wishing them unforgettable experiences during Friday's voyage, the Chairman of the Honorary Members Convention — following the sailors' tradition — wished all invited Guests and the Gdynia Cotton Association fair winds and a joyful reunion at future anniversaries.

90th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Gdynia Cotton Association
5 June 2025
Courtyard by Marriott Hotel – Gdynia

The celebrations commenced at 1:00 pm with opening remarks by the Vice President and Director of the Gdynia Cotton Association - Jerzy Kotwas, who thanked all the Guests for accepting the invitation and attending in large numbers the 90th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Gdynia Cotton Association.



The official opening was conducted by the President, Ignacy Józkowicz, who in his introductory speech emphasised that the Gdynia Cotton Association is one of the oldest professional self-governing organisations in Poland. Its history is closely linked not only to the dynamic development of the national textile industry but also to the thriving new commercial port in Gdynia, built to serve the economy of the Second Polish Republic.

On 26 March 1935, the founding meeting of the new organisation marked the beginning of our Association's activities. Its international standing was further consolidated by the establishment, on 26 September 1938, of Poland's first Arbitration Court affiliated with the Gdynia Cotton Association, protecting the interests of its members in both domestic and international cotton trade.

Over its 90 years of operation, the Gdynia Cotton Association has earned a prominent position within the global cotton trade system, effectively serving the interests of the Polish textile industry. It has become a widely recognised and respected institution:

- promoting fundamental principles of commercial integrity and the inviolability of contractual provisions in the trade of cotton, yarns, and cotton fabrics;
- advocating the benefits of this environmentally friendly, renewable, and natural textile raw material; and
- serving as one of the few centres worldwide for the education of cotton experts.

Subsequently, invited Guests took the floor to convey their congratulatory messages.

Mayor of Gdynia – Ms Aleksandra Kosiorek

In her address, the Mayor referred to the grand economic and political vision for the Second Polish Republic a century ago — the creation of an entirely new city and commercial port, realised by its

principal architects, Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski and Tadeusz Wenda. An important component of this project was the establishment of an institution to safeguard the interests of Polish cotton merchants and processors through the creation of the Association, today known as the Gdynia Cotton Association.

Thanks to its 90 years of activity, the Association — proudly bearing the name of Gdynia — has greatly contributed to the promotion of the city, which, considering its growth and beauty, continues to captivate residents and visitors more with each passing year.



Concluding her speech against the backdrop of a film showcasing the city of Gdynia, the Mayor congratulated the Board of Directors and all Members of the Gdynia Cotton Association on the remarkable anniversary and presented a commemorative watercolor painting.

Pomeranian Voivode – Beata Rutkiewicz

The next item on the agenda was the ceremony of awarding honorary distinctions *"For Merits in the Development of the Economy of the Republic of Poland"*, granted by the Minister of Economic Development and Technology – Mr. Krzysztof Paszyk – in recognition of significant contributions to the Polish economy through professional achievements, research and development activities, organizational or promotional work, representing a tangible input into the development of the textile sector.

On behalf of the Minister, the decorations were presented by the Pomeranian Voivode – Ms. Beata Rutkiewicz.

The decorations and commemorative diplomas were awarded to:

- **Artur Gacek,**
- **Jacek Jakubiak,**
- **Jerzy Kotwas,**
- **Ryszard Kozłowski,**
- **Roman Olszewski.**



Ms. Beata Rutkiewicz, the Pomeranian Voivode, read out a congratulatory letter addressed by the Minister of Economic Development and Technology – Mr. Krzysztof Paszyk – to the members of the Cotton Association in Gdynia.



The Pomeranian Voivode, Beata Rutkiewicz, also honoured the Cotton Association in Gdynia with the **Medal "Sint sua praemia laudi"** – *Let merit have its reward* – a prestigious distinction established in 1918 and awarded to institutions or individuals for promoting and supporting the region. She also presented a commemorative watercolour painting.



Marshal's Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship – Adam Gawrylik

On behalf of the Marshal of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, Dr Mieczysław Struk, Mr Adam Gawrylik — Member of the Board of the Pomeranian Voivodeship — extended his congratulations on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of the Gdynia Cotton Association and presented a commemorative bronze GRYF statuette, the region's most prestigious award recognising support for economic development.



In his speech, President Adam Gawrylik highlighted the Association's commitment to the Pomeranian region as well as, out of concern for climate and the environment, the promotion of cotton and other natural fibres alongside sustainable practices within the textile industry.

President of the Maritime and River League – Capt. Andrzej Królikowski
The Maritime and River League — a Polish social organisation established in 1924 with the aim of promoting maritime issues among the Polish public — awarded the Gdynia Cotton Association its highest distinction, the **PRO MARI NOSTRO Cross**.



In his laudatory speech and words of congratulations and appreciation, **Captain of the Merchant Marine, Andrzej Królikowski** emphasised the significant contribution the **Gdynia Cotton Association** has made over its 90 years of operation to the development of the Polish textile industry, the Republic of Poland, and the commercial port of Gdynia.

Further anniversary congratulations, along with best wishes for continued development of the Association and future cooperation, were extended by:

- **Marek Kłoczko** – President of the Board, Polish Chamber of Commerce
- **Josep Artigas** – Vice-Chair of CICC (Committee for International Cooperation between Cotton Associations in Liverpool) and President of the **Centro Algodonero Nacional**, Spain
- **Fritz A. Grobien** – President of the **Bremen Cotton Exchange**, Germany
- **Antonios Siarkos** – President of the **European Cotton Alliance**, Greece
- **Malgorzata Zimniewska** – President of **The Textile Institute**, Manchester, UK
- **Maciej Łukowicz** – Regional Director for Northern Poland, **Diagnostyka S.A.**

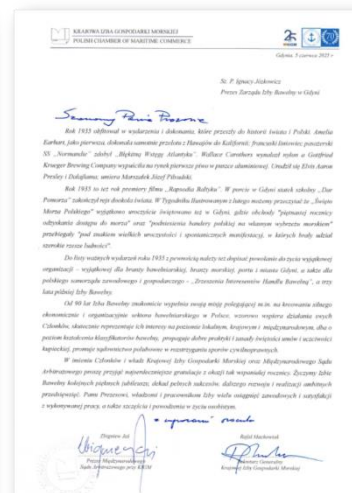
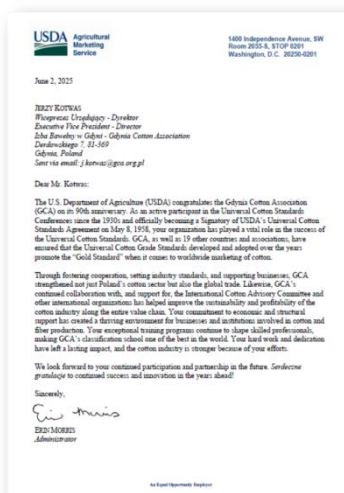




The guests accompanied their well-wishes and congratulations with commemorative gifts.



The GCA Office also received congratulatory letters from partner industry associations.



On behalf of all recipients of the industry awards, a word of thanks was delivered by the Executive Vice President – Director Jerzy Kotwas. He also emphasised that the distinctions awarded to the Gdynia Cotton Association by the regional authorities are a great honour for its Members and a recognition of their long-standing commitment, and in many cases – of their selfless work for the benefit of the city and port of Gdynia as well as the Polish textile industry.

During the coffee break, the Anniversary Guests had another opportunity to talk, reconnect after years, and reminisce about the times they spent together at the Association.



A video report from the first part of the Jubilee Session can be viewed at the following links: <https://www.gdynia.pl/dla-mediow/komunikaty-dla-mediow,4100/od-90-lat-gdynia-w-centrum-rynku-baweln,589237> and <https://youtube.com/watch?v=u9RRIBd-KIA&feature=shared>

JUBILEE SESSION – Presentations

The second part of the celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of the Gdynia Cotton Association began with a presentation titled *Cotton as a Global Common Good*, delivered by the Special Guest:

Eric Trachtenberg – Executive Director of the **International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)**, Washington, D.C.



It is a great honour for the Gdynia Cotton Association that the head of the world's leading cotton organisation travelled to join in celebrating our Jubilee.

Eric Trachtenberg brings extensive professional experience – he is an expert in agricultural economics and served for over 25 years in the United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

For the past three years, he has been the Executive Director of ICAC, passionately engaging in matters affecting cotton producers and processors, while sharing his vast knowledge to support and promote all natural fibres.

In his presentation, Mr Trachtenberg outlined the opportunities and challenges for cotton in two key areas: the role and responsibilities of ICAC in the global cotton sector, and the future prospects and challenges facing the cotton industry.



He placed particular emphasis on the political and environmental factors that will increasingly shape cotton's production and consumption, especially in competition with widely used and cheaper synthetic fibres. In building the economic relevance of cotton, it is essential to consider its eco-friendly advantages, yet one must also acknowledge the higher production costs, yield and price volatility, and competition with food crops.

He also highlighted the economic and social role of the cotton sector, which—particularly in low-income countries—provides a livelihood for millions of people, creates opportunities for industrial transformation, access to education and professional development, and ultimately contributes to conflict reduction, countering extremism, and strengthening the role and financial independence of women.

In the second part of his lecture, Director Trachtenberg presented the activities and mission of ICAC as a global organisation that publishes statistics on cotton production, consumption, exports, imports, and stocks, supports sustainable development and training, and monitors textile-related policies while countering disinformation about cotton.

As always, Mr Trachtenberg's contribution sparked great interest and lively discussion.



President I. Józkwicz once again thanked Director Eric Trachtenberg for his visit and insightful lecture.

The next presentation, titled *The History of the Gdynia Cotton Association*, was delivered by the Executive Vice President and Director of the GCA, Mr Jerzy Kotwas.

While outlining the political and economic landscape of the Second Polish Republic after regaining independence in 1918, he emphasised the rapid development of the textile sector and the strategic role of the Port of Gdynia. By the 1930s, the port was not only handling all cotton imported into Poland but had also become the largest cotton port on the Baltic Sea.



The establishment of the Gdynia Cotton Association was significantly supported by the then state authorities, while the strong commitment of numerous professionals from the textile, shipping, and trade sectors contributed to its success. In March 1935, the Association was founded and just three years later the Cotton House was opened, along with Poland's first arbitration court for cotton-related disputes.

After World War II, the Association was reactivated, the building was rebuilt, and the Gdynia Cotton Association regained its role as a leading institution within the Polish cotton sector. It resumed its core activities, including matters related to cotton production, trade, processing, quality testing, and the resolution of commercial and quality-related disputes involving cotton, semi-finished goods, and final products.

Key milestones in the post-war history of the Association include joining the Universal Standards Agreement for Cotton in 1960, becoming a member of CICCA – the Committee for International Cooperation between Cotton Associations – in 1978, Poland's accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) in 1991, and the Association's entry into EUROCOTON – the European Committee of the Cotton and Allied Textile Industries – in 2005.

Of particular note is the Gdynia Cotton Association's activity as a recognised training centre for cotton classifiers. Its certificates are highly valued worldwide.

Following the presentation, the guests reflected not only on the Association's history but also on the factors that may influence its current standing and future development.

Concluding the official part of the Jubilee Session, President Ignacy Józkowicz thanked all attendees for their participation and invited the guests to the evening event – a formal dinner at the GRAND Hotel in Sopot.



Gala Dinner in GRAND Hotel – Sopot 05 June 2025

The GRAND Hotel is a unique place, with almost 100-year history and tradition of the most elegant place ensuring services on the highest level, and receiving on its premises guests who are the world economic, political, and artistic elites, and crowned heads as well.

The Casino Hotel – that was the Hotel original name, was to serve the habitués of the bathing resort and of the casino of Sopot. It was open 1927 and it was a flagship project of the Sopot municipality of the interwar period. The cost of building the Hotel consumed about 20 million of Gdańsk guilders.

World War II was a turbulent time for the Hotel, but fortunately, the building did not suffer a lot and when the war was over, the previous functions were restored very quickly, at the same time the name was changed into the "GRAND HOTEL".

The "GRAND" of Sopot is also the place where fascinating cultural life has been going on – abundant with financial and sex scandals. Films have been made in the hotel interiors and exteriors, radio broadcasts have been recorded, prestigious conferences have been organised. The Hotel was also a background for the most important cultural event in Sopot – this is the annual Sopot International Song Festival.

The casino is now one of the attractions of this place, but no longer the essence of the Grand Hotel functioning. Nevertheless, the list of guests who have stayed here is impressive, including, among others:

Alfonso XIII – King of Spain – in summer of 1931
Greta Garbo – actress – in April 1932
Josephine Baker – singer and dancer – in 1938
Ignacy Mościcki – President of Poland
Jan Kiepura – Polish singer (tenor voice) and actor – in 1958
Marlene Dietrich – actress and singer – in 1966
Henry Kissinger – American politician and diplomat – in 1966
Charles de Gaulle – President of France – in September 1967
Fidel Castro – President and Prime Minister of Cuba – in 1972
Mohammad Reza Pahlavi – Shah of Iran – in 1977
Charles Aznavour – singer – in 1984
Omar Sharif – American actor born in Egypt.

In the hotel lobby, on the left-hand side of the coffee shop, there is a hall in which the photos of those mentioned above and of many other guests are exposed.

The Grand Hotel in Sopot continues stimulating the imagination as a stylish venue of meetings, which enriched the evening and left the guests of the Gdynia Cotton Association's 90th Anniversary Jubilee with unforgettable memories.







Guests enjoyed a pleasant atmosphere and subtle musical accompaniment while socialising in the Grand Hotel's restaurant until 11:00 pm. Those who stayed overnight in Gdynia returned in high spirits by coach provided for their convenience.

**85th ORDINARY REPORTING-ELECTIVE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS
OF THE GDYNIA COTTON ASSOCIATION
6 June 2025**

The final part of the three-day celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Gdynia Cotton Association — an institution that for nearly a century has shaped and represented the interests of the Polish cotton sector — took place on 6 June 2025 in the conference room of the Courtyard by Marriott Gdynia Waterfront Hotel. Representatives of the ordinary and honorary members, as well as invited domestic and international guests, participated in the 85th Ordinary Reporting-Elective General Assembly of the Gdynia Cotton Association.



The Assembly was opened by the President of the Gdynia Cotton Association Ignacy Józkowicz, who, welcoming all the assembled Members and numerous Guests, emphasised the Association's rich 90-year history. He highlighted that the Association was born in the challenging interwar period of Poland and has since endured numerous political and economic transformations, as well as challenges posed by globalization.



He also reminded the assembly that the GCA remains a cornerstone for the entire industry, fostering cooperation, dialogue, and solidarity among its Members, while professionally representing their interests both nationally and internationally.

In the first part of the meeting, President Józkowicz welcomed and formally presented membership certificates to five new companies — BURSA Filip Bursa, KAYA s.c., TRAWENA sp. z o.o., POLANEX sp. z o.o., and ŚWIAT LNU sp. z o.o. — which have joined the Gdynia Cotton Association since the last General Assembly in 2024.

Next, in accordance with the agenda, the following were carried out:

- the election of the Chairman and Secretary of the General Assembly;
- the adoption of the agenda and meeting regulations;
- and the confirmation that the convening of the Assembly complied with the GCA's Statutes.

Proceeding with the next items on the agenda, the Chairman of the General Assembly, Mr Artur Gacek, carried out the appointment procedures for the members of:

- the Mandates Committee,
- the Motions Committee,
- the Returning Committee,

as bodies necessary for the proper conduct of the 85th General Reporting Elective Assembly. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman of the Mandates Committee presented information on the number of representatives present and the valid mandates held for voting during the General Assembly, thereby confirming the validity of the resolutions adopted at the 85th Ordinary Reporting Elective General Assembly of the Members of the Gdynia Cotton Association.

Report on the Substantive and Financial Activities of the Association in 2024



Following the formal constitution of the Assembly and the approval of the Minutes of the 84th General Assembly, the participants proceeded with the presentation and discussion of the reports submitted by the Board of Directors and the Auditing Committee regarding the GCA's activities in the past year, as well as the draft budget of the Gdynia Cotton Association for the year 2025.

The report on the GCA's operations in 2024 highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Board and the Office of the GCA, including:

- Promotional activities in support of both the Polish and international cotton and textile-clothing sectors;
- Sector-wide dialogue aimed at strengthening industry resilience and competitiveness;
- Information and education services provided to GCA members;
- Ongoing efforts to maintain the GCA's tangible assets and financial stability as fundamental pillars of its sustainable operation;
- Allocation of the net profit generated through the GCA's commercial activities.

Subsequently, the members reviewed the draft budget for 2025, which outlined the main projected income streams and expenditure items related to the GCA's current operations.



In its report, the Audit Committee issued a positive assessment of the functioning of the GCA's governing bodies, highlighting the professional performance of both the Board of Directors and the Office, the quality of the financial data presented, and recommended that the General Assembly approve the submitted reports.

Discussion and Resolutions of the General Assembly

Following the presentation of the reports and financial information, the members of the Gdynia Cotton Association engaged in a substantive discussion. Topics addressed included issues of key relevance to the Association and the cotton and textile-clothing industry, such as:

- the increasing requirements placed on the textile sector in relation to sustainable development,
- the intensification of information and educational activities to encourage younger generations of professionals to pursue careers in the industry,
- the potential accession to the *Make The Label Count* (MTLC) initiative – during a lively discussion, participants highlighted the implications and commitments that would arise from the Gdynia Cotton Association's formal involvement in this organisation.

In line with the subsequent item on the Agenda, the General Assembly proceeded to vote on a series of resolutions, which led to:

- the approval of the GCA's financial statement for 2024,
- the decision to allocate the net profit to the GCA's reserve capital,
- the approval of the annual report on the GCA's activities in 2024,
- the adoption of the 2025 budget, and
- the granting of a vote of discharge to the outgoing Board of Directors for the fulfilment of their duties during the reporting period.



The next item on the agenda of the General Assembly was the election of the governing bodies of the Gdynia Cotton Association for a new two-year term (2025–2027). The Chairman of the General Assembly presented the profiles of the nominated candidates, highlighting their long-standing commitment and extensive experience in the cotton industry.



By Resolution No. 13/2025 the General Assembly decided on the following composition of the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee of the Gdynia Cotton Association for the upcoming term:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	Name	Company
1.	FRYDRYCH Iwona	COTTON HOUSE Jakubiak Spółka Jawna
2.	GARNYS Anna	GALIA
3.	GRABOWSKA Katarzyna	POLITECHNIKA ŁÓDZKA
4.	GRZYWACZ Marek	SGS Polska Sp. z o.o.
5.	JÓZKOWICZ Ignacy	Manufaktura AEGALLERY Agata Józkowicz
6.	KICIŃSKA-JAKUBOWSKA Anna	INSTYTUT WŁÓKIEN NATURALNYCH I ROŚLIN ZIELARSKICH
7.	LESIK Krzysztof	POLONTEX S.A.
8.	MATYJA Renisław	GALTEX S.A.,
9.	RADWAŃSKI Marek	POLSKA IZBA LNU I KONOPI
10.	TOMKIEWICZ Edyta	TECHNOTEX S.A.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

	Name	Company
1.	CHABROWSKI Ireneusz	SWP - Stowarzyszenie Włókienników Polskich
2.	GAUJARD BENOIT	PRZĘDZALNIA LAMBRECHT - Okonek
3.	KIELBASA Mirosław	ŚWIAT LNU Spółka z o.o.

In accordance with established practice, the Chairman of the General Assembly requested that the Constituent Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Auditing Committee of the Gdynia Cotton Association be held.

The duly constituted Auditing Committee elected Mr. Ireneusz Chabrowski as its Chairman.

Subsequently, the Chairman of the Honorary Members Convention proposed Ignacy Józkowicz for the position of President of the Board of Directors of the Gdynia Cotton Association for the 2025–2027 term. The Board of Directors confirmed the nomination by unanimous open vote.

The following individuals were proposed and unanimously approved in an open vote as Vice Presidents of the Association:

- Ms. Iwona Frydrych
- Mr. Marek Radwański

Pursuant to §34 point 16 of the Statutes of the Gdynia Cotton Association, the President of the Board proposed the appointment of the Director of the Gdynia Cotton Association as Executive Vice President for the 2025–2027 term. Following the adoption of the proposal, the Board of Directors submitted Motion No. 01/2025 to the General Assembly for an open vote.

By unanimous decision, the General Assembly approved the Board's motion to appoint Mr. Jerzy Kotwas, Director of the Gdynia Cotton Association, as Executive Vice President.

The final item on the agenda was the adoption of the Directive Resolution for the next reporting period, outlining priorities for the activities of the Board of Directors, the Director, and the Association Office. The resolution especially recommended:

- acquiring new members and encouraging their active involvement in the substantive work of the Association,
- continuing the Association's educational, informational, and analytical activities,
- increasing the Association's visibility through the promotion and support of its Members and the textile and clothing sector,
- promoting cotton and other natural fibres, and supporting sustainable development within the textile and clothing industry,
- maintaining a sound financial and asset management policy to strengthen the Association's financial stability,

- pursuing external funding opportunities to support the Association's professional activities and ensure the upkeep and condition of its headquarters.

The 85th General Assembly of the Gdynia Cotton Association concluded the official celebrations of the GCA's 90th Anniversary – once again demonstrating that the Gdynia Cotton Association remains a respected and valued partner for the entire industry, thanks to its professional services for members and its deep respect for a rich, multigenerational tradition.

Guided Sailing Cruise on the Bay

For the guests of the Anniversary Celebration and accompanying persons of the General Assembly participants, the Association's Office organised a special sailing cruise on the Bay of Gdańsk. The event served not only as a tourist attraction but also as an opportunity to learn about the rich history of the region.



In comfortable conditions aboard a catamaran, guests enjoyed picturesque views of Gdynia's modernist skyline. During the cruise, a guide offered an engaging overview of the city's history – from its origins as a small fishing village, through the dynamic growth of the interwar period, to the present day, in which Gdynia plays a key role in Poland's maritime economy.



The story was enriched with interesting facts about the city's topography and architecture, recollections of pioneers who came to settle in the newly built city, and anecdotes related to Gdynia's port identity. The cruise was met with great interest and provided not only a unique opportunity to see the city from a different perspective, but also a moment of relaxation and integration for its participants.

The final, warm accent prepared for all Jubilee guests was a farewell lunch, along with a short meeting at the Gdynia Cotton Association headquarters for those who had not previously had the chance to visit.

With this, the three-day gathering of members and friends came to an end, as the Gdynia Cotton Association enters the next decades of its operations. The Association intends to continue fulfilling its mission by shaping a strong, economically and organizationally resilient cotton sector in Poland and abroad. It will continue to support and collaborate with its members and cotton-related organizations in the areas of production, trade, processing, quality testing, and dispute resolution concerning cotton, semi-finished and finished cotton goods.

The Gdynia Cotton Association will also support producers, processors, and traders of other natural and man-made fibres that are climate- and environmentally friendly, while further contributing to the development of a sustainable economy.

The Board of Directors and Management of the Gdynia Cotton Association extend their heartfelt thanks to all guests for taking part in the celebration of the Association's 90th Anniversary. Your presence made this Jubilee an exceptional and unforgettable event. We are pleased to share with you a photo gallery that will help bring back memories of these special days.

<https://szaryczlowiekcom.photonesto.com/g/90-lecie-izby-bawelny-w-gdyni>

hasło: cotton