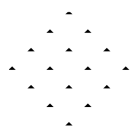


## **Akt Unii lubelskiej - Tekst angielski**

In the name of the Lord, amen. To the eternal memory of the cause herein described below. We the prelates and lords of the council, spiritual as well as secular, princes and dukes, the estates entire of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, to this end the landed envoys being convened at this general and common Sejm of Lublin, with the counsel-lords and envoys and estates of the Crown of Poland entire, that is, Walerjan the bishop of Wilno, through his empowered man, Gierzy Pieczkowicz the bishop of Samogitia, Hrehory Aleksandrowicz Codtkowicz the lord of Wilno, the supreme hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, starost of Grodno, tenure-holder of Mohylew; Stefan of Zbarazh Koributowicz the voivode of Troky, Ostafiej Wołowicz the lord of Troki, deputy-chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, starost of Brest and Kobryn; Jan Chodkiewicz, count of Szklów and Mysz, starost of Samogitia, the supreme marshal of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, administrator and hetman of the Livonian lands, starost of Kovno, tenure-holder of Płoteski and Telsze; Wasilej Tyszkowicz the voivode of Smolensk, starost of Minsk and Pinsk through his empowered man; Paweł Iwanowicz Sapieha the voivode of Nowogródek, Girzy Wasylewicz Tyszkowicz the voivode of Brest, starost of Wołkowisk, Gabrjel Iwanowicz Hornostaj the voivode of Minsk, starost of Kamieniec; Malcher Szemiott the castellan of Samogitia, tsivun<sup>1</sup> of Bierżany, through his empowered man; Hrehory Tryzna the castellan of Smolensk, Hrehory Wołowicz the castellan of Nowogródek, Starost of Słonim; Jan Mikołajowicz Hajko the castellan of Beresteczko, equerry of Grodno, tenure-holder of Trabsk; Mikołaj Talwosz the castellan of Minsk, starost of Dynemburg; Mikołaj Naruszewicz the district treasurer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, scribe of His Royal Majesty, tenure-holder of Merecz, Miadzioł, Uszpole, and Pieniany; Mikołaj Chrystof Radziwiłł prince of Ołyka and Nieśwież, court marshal of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; Jan Kiszka the carver of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Mikołaj Olechnowicz Dorohostajski esquire-carver of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, tenure-holder of Wieloń, Bojsagoła, tsivun of the domain of Samogitia, Gądzin; Lawryn Wojna the treasurer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, scribe to His Royal Majesty, tenure-holder of Kraśnik and Kwasowo.

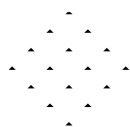
<sup>1</sup> tsivun – A kind of district officer in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania



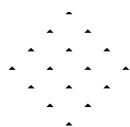
And the marshals of His Royal Majesty in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: the Reverend Łukasz Bolesławowicz Swirzski the tenure-holder of Krewo, Mikołaj Sapieha, Jan Wołczek equerry of Wilno and district second-equerry, tenure-holder of Wasiliszki and Kaleniec; Mr. Tyszkowicz, Jan Bolesławowicz Świrski of Wilno district, Malcher Snowski the magistrate of Nowogródek, tenure-holder of Kurzeniec from the Nowogródek district; Paweł Ostrowicki, the envoys from the Oszmiana districts, Aleksander Wahanowski, Jan Pałuski the tenure-holder of Niemonojcke, the marshals. Scribes to His Royal Majesty: Michajło Haraburda the tenure-holder of Świsłocz, Bazilius Drzewiński, Maciej Sawicki the starost of Mielnik, guard of Drohiczyn, Stanisław Naruszewicz tsivun of Wilno.

And we, the envoys of the lands and district of this famous state, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, delegated to this joint Sejm from the lands and districts under complete power: from the Voivodeship of Wilno, together with the above-designated marshal the Reverend Jan Swirski, the Reverend Malcher Matuszewicz Gedrojć; of the Voivodeship of Troki, Andrzej Dzierzko the chamberlain; Kasper Rajecki the standard-bearer for the land of Troky & Michajło Wrona; from the land of Samogitia, Mikołaj Stankiewicz Bielewicz the chamberlain of the land of Samogitia, tsivun of Ojragola [Ejragoła]; Iwan Ilgowski the tsivun of Wieswieńsk & tsivun of the same land of Samogitia, Jan Gradowski; from the land of Smolensk, Fiedor Kopeć & Jan Skirmont; from the voivodeship of Nowogródek, together with the above-mentioned marshal Malcher Snowski, Andrzej Iwanowicz, secretary to His Royal Majesty, chamberlain of Nowogródek; from the Voivodeship of Witebsk, Andrzej Kisiel the horodniczy<sup>1</sup> of Witebsk & Tymofei Hurko the deputy-judge of Witebsk; from the Voivodeship of Beresteczko, Dominik Pac the chamberlain of Brest, Adam Pocij the scribe of the land of Brest; from the Voivodeship of Mścislav [Mstislav], Isaj Szczołkan & Hreory Makarowski; from the Voivodeship of Minsk, Wasilej Rahoza the court standard-bearer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania & Andrzej Stankiewicz.

<sup>1</sup> Horodniczy was the chieftain/headman of the city.



And, from the districts belonging toward these voivodeships, from the Voivodeship of Wilno, from the District of Oszmiana, with the afore-named marshall Paweł Ostrowicki, Stanisław Stanisławowicz the landed judge of Oszmiana; from the District of Wilkomierz, Mikołaj Koncza, Krzysztof Razmysowicz; from the District of Lida, Szadzibor Dowgird & Szczęsny Augustynowicz Huba, and from the Voivodeship of Troki, from the District of Grodno, the Reverend Iwan Masalski the judge of the land in Grodno & Jan Klukowski; from the District of Kowno, Andrzej Ilgowski the tsivun of Twer & Kasper Giedroń; from the Voivodeship of Nowogródek, the District of Słonim, Michajło Sokołowski the judge of Słonim & Maciej Jacynicz; from the District of Wołkowysk, Jeronim Puksza the standard-bearer of Wołkowysk & Piotr Skrobott, from the Voivodeship of Witebsk, from the District of Orsza, Bogusz Alekiewicz Skoło the standard-bearer of Orsza & Fiodor Woropaj [Fyodor Voropai]; from the Voivodeship of Beresteczko, from the District of Pinsk, Stanisław Szyrma the wojski of Pinsk, Iwan Domanowicz the deputy-judge of Pinsk; from the District of Mozyrz, Fiedor Lenkowicz & Jan Kłopot; from the Voivodeship of Minsk, from the District of Rzeczyca, Andrzej Chalecki the landed scribe of Rzeczyca & Izmajło Zienkowicz. And all the other noble-men, citizens of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, being here in Lublin as well as not-being, the desire and will of whom all for all these below-described things is however well known to us from the district sejmiki [dietines] that have preceded this General Sejm of Lublin, thus as if the names of all of them were found here, along with their seals. And thereafter, also, from Wilno, the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the envoys: Franc Stanisławowicz Durnik, Fiedor Jackowicz Wielkowicz the Burgomasters & Hieronim Opachowski the scribe of the city of Wilno.



1. We do, by means of this letter of ours, betoken to all the people, being presently and in thereafter, those ones to whose attention this our letter shall have arrived, that we, with our obligation against our fatherland the Grand Duchy of Lithuania permanently presenting itself to us, whereto we ought to provide with all of the righteousness, pride & glory, common benefit, and most-of-all, strengthening against peril, internal and external alike, having regard to, and with our eyes fixed upon, the glorious, and very due to the dual nation, association and community as made yore by its ancestors with the citizens of the entire Polish Crown of that time, for time eternal and upon common consent done in written form, and strengthened by letters, seals, oaths, honours of both parties, and wielded for some considerable time by gentleness and sedateness of the both parties, but thereafter, rendered difficult in some measure, under the time of evil and jealousy. And so we have always thought about this, and likewise our ancestors, and have admonished our lords, Zygmunt<sup>1</sup> of famous memory as well as the lord fortunately ruling at that time both of the nations, the Polish and Lithuanian, master Zygmunt August<sup>2</sup>, the kings of Poland, and with our requests have led them so that, out of their lordly and royal responsibility, as the superior and single lords of both of nations, they may support with their grace and suzerainty the execution and effect of common registers as well as the other laws and privileges of ours that we do have with the Crown of Poland for the association and the community with the lords and the lands of the Polish Crown from the forefather of His Royal Majesty<sup>3</sup>, also under Aleksander the King<sup>4</sup>; and whatever has transgressed this community, deign they to insert into their rigour, having drawn us, with lords the councilors and the other estates of the Polish Crown, altogether into one place to deliver this same laudable cause that is beneficial to the dual nation, as this matter of union is clearly discussed by acts and constitutions and declarations and recesses<sup>5</sup> of the Sejms.

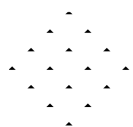
<sup>1</sup> Zygmunt I Stary/Sigismund I the Old (1467–1548) was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. Pursuant to the testament of his brother Alexander I Jagiellon, he was first elected Grand Duke and subsequently King (1506). A major event in the history of sixteenth-century Europe is associated with Sigismund's reign: on 10th April 1525, he received liege homage from Albrecht von Brandenburg-Ansbach (Albrecht Hohenzollern), Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, at Krakow's Market-Square. The Teutonic State was thereby secularised and turned into what became named the Ducal Prussia (with Albrecht/Albert as its ruler – the Duke).

<sup>2</sup> Zygmunt II August (1520–72) was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. It was the lot of this only son of Zygmunt I the Old and his queen consort Bona Sforza to become the last of the Jagiellons to reign in Poland. Zygmunt II had been made king when his father was still alive – a *vivente rege* election. It was during his reign, with the Union of Lublin in 1569, that Poland and Lithuania were merged into one state, referred to ever after as the Commonwealth of the Two Nations, or Poland-Lithuania. Zygmunt II never had any children, despite his three marriages – to Elizabeth of Austria (of the House of Habsburg), Barbara Radziwiłł, and Catherine of Austria (Habsburg), respectively.

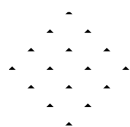
<sup>3</sup> Władysław II Jagiełło (c. 1351–1434), born Jogaila, was the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland. In 1386, having agreed to baptism, he married Jadwiga of the Anjou dynasty, the monarch of Poland. The marriage initiated a union between Poland and Lithuania was to last until the end of the 18th century. On July 15, 1410, the Polish-Lithuanian army under Jagiełło's command was victorious over the Teutonic Order in the famous Battle of Grunwald. The outcome of that conflict reinforced the position of Poland in Central Europe, whilst the importance of the Teutonic Order and its state then began to wane.

<sup>4</sup> Aleksander Jagiellończyk – Aleksander I Jagiellończyk/Alexander I Jagiellon (1461–1506) was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. Son of Kazimierz IV Jagiellończyk, he ruled the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from his father's death in 1492, whereas his brother Jan Olbracht (John Albert) in that same year ascended the throne of Poland. This marked a severance of the union between the Crown and Lithuania. Alexander was eventually made King of Poland after Jan Olbracht's death in 1501, who died childless. Contrary to what had been agreed in the Union of Mielnik (1501), Alexander in his testament named his brother Zygmunt/Sigismund his successor for the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

<sup>5</sup> 'Recess' meant a resolution assigned by a session of the sejm to be brought to a final determination by the subsequent assembly.



Howbeit, with the grace of lovable God who doth love commonality and unity, and who deign to keep and specially care for kingdoms, states, and republics across the world, and likewise with the grace of our lord as well, fortunately ruling us at this time, Lord Zygmunt August, Polish king, etc., as named afore, this is what we finally established, upon our sincere solicitation, that, primarily, at Warsaw, at the Sejm composed in the year one-thousand five-hundred and sixty-three, and thereafter, in Parczew of the year one-thousand five-hundred and sixty-four, having arrived thereat with the estates of the Crown, have we made quite considerable an introduction to improve this very unification and this partly infringed union, by reconciling amongst us, from both sides, and confirming the articles belonging to the union. Which articles, whilst they could not be secured there for that time by means of our registers with the Crown states, owing to the shortness of time and owing to the other and more impelling needs of the Commonwealth of the dual nation, now, therefore, of this time less restrained, having arrived all unto this common Sejm in Lublin on the twenty-third day of the month of December, in the past year one thousand five-hundred sixty-eight, composed by His Royal Majesty, under permission of both the Polish and Lithuanian councils and hitherto uniformly wielded and continued, those are the treaties and persuasions, below described, that we have made betwixt ourselves, which we, with the grace of God, have brought to this end and to this conclusion, upon concordant and uniform permission from both parties, and upon common record-compiling, derogating the recess of Warsaw or any other privilege as to nothing at all. Of which, eternal glory be to God, the only One in the Trinity, and thanks immortal to the King, His Majesty, of the grace of God the lord, King Zygmunt August, also to the respectable Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania glory be and pride for time perpetual.

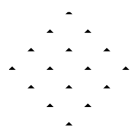


2. Firstly, that, although there have been the old records of friendship and alliance rendering the growth and improvement of the Commonwealth, and thus of the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, etc.; nevertheless, since there can be seen somewhat of a trusting appearance in them that is different from good and sincere brotherhood, and therefore, for a stronger coupling of the common and reciprocal fraternal love and to the eternal defence of the communal and undoubted fraternal faith of both countries for time eternal to the glory of God, to the worthy fame of His Royal Majesty with eternal recognition and of these same and both respectable nations, Polish and Lithuanian, and also to the perpetual extension of the immeasurable and ever-lasting honour, glory, adornment, strengthened honesty, respectability and majesty, have they renewed those old alliances and reconsidered and inferred in all this as below described.

3. That the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are already one inseparable and undifferentiated body; and hence an undifferentiated and single, shared Commonwealth of two states and nations has risen up and joined together as one people. 4. And with this dual nation, so it may have for time eternal one head, one lord, and one common king commanding, who shall be elected by the joint votes by Poles and Lithuanians, the place of election to be within Poland, and thereafter anointed for the Kingdom of Poland and crowned in Kraków. The election of whom according to Aleksander's privilege<sup>1</sup> is not to be impaired or hindered by the absence of either party, for the councils and all the estates of the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are to be summoned obligatorily et ex debito<sup>2</sup>. 5. The electing and elevating of the Lithuanian Grand Dux, which hitherto occurred separately in Lithuania, so it may terminate in the manner that none sign or else no parity occur or signify thereafter of which elevation or inauguration of a Grand Dux of Lithuania. And since the title of Grand Duke of Lithuania and the offices shall remain, then at the election and the crowning he is to be proclaimed also King of Poland and, this same one, Grand Dux of Lithuania, Ruthenia, Prussia, Mazovia, Samogitia, Kiev, Volhynia, Podlachia, and Livonia.

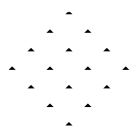
<sup>1</sup> As was provided by the (never ratified) Union of Mielnik of 1501, the joint election of the ruler, the king of Poland, was to be attended by the bishops, voivodes, and castellans of Lithuania, but their possible absence was not to undermine the election's validity. This provision implied that the Jagiellons would lose their hereditary rights with respect to Lithuania.

<sup>2</sup> Et ex debito – 'and out of obligation' (Latin).



6. The succession of His Royal Majesty naturalis et haereditaria, should it serve His Royal Majesty and anybody and for any reason in the Lithuanian Duchy, is not ever more to obstruct, for time eternal, this conjoining and consolidation of both nations and the common election of one lord, which His Royal Majesty hath relinquished for time perpetual to the Crown, having no doubt in this and securing this thing also for himself that we strip neither His Royal Majesty himself nor [his] own progeny, should God the Lord ever deign to give one to His Royal Majesty, but that it may have the provision from the Commonwealth as righteous and appropriate with their estate, unless it be taken over unto the kingdom, and still perpetrating no Crown dismembracio, of which it is sufficiently described and secured in the declaration by His Royal Majesty and in the recess of the General Sejm of Warsaw. 7. And, upon the coronation of a new king the laws, privileges, and freedoms of all the subjects of both nations and states so conjoined are to be sworn by the crowned king and forthwith confirmed upon one letter and in the same words for time eternal. 8. The sejms and councils this dual nation is to always have common and of the Crown, under the king of Poland, their lord, the lords to sit amidst the lords in their own person like deputies amidst deputies, and deliberate about the common needs at sejms as well as without sejms, in Poland and in Lithuania.

9. Also, that one of the parties be of advice and assistance to the other, and His Royal Majesty preserve the rights and privileges, to all the lands and nations, of the Crown of Poland and of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and the lands thereto belonging, the privileges and rights as granted by letter of any of the sorts by all of the ancestors of His Royal Majesty and from His Royal Majesty himself, from time of yore and from the conception of the union, as granted to all and sundry and to everybody separately, by whatever means, and the freedoms, honours, prerogatives, all the offices of the dual nation, entire and unaffected, all the rights, judgements, splendours, ducal estates, and noble families of the aforesaid nations, judicial resolutions from time of yore until this time for each of the estates to be preserved strongly and unaffectedly.



10. The oaths of the councils, dignitaries, officials, starosts of the Lithuanian nation, and of people of the excellent houses who would have made the same, are to remain in their power, as we have also preserved for ourselves in community through privileges as well as by common writing-down at the common Warsaw Sejm, the exposition being that all such oaths are to afterwards be made to the crowned king and to the Crown of Poland. Also with regard to keeping the oaths of common scripts, they are to be preserved and safeguarded, according to Alexander's privilege. 11. Also, in all adversities, by common assistance we, the prelates, dukes, councils, barons, and all the estates of the dual nation shall help one another with all our powers and potentials, as it may appear to the common council as salutary and required, comprehending things fortunate and adverse to be common and loyally helping each other. Nor, according to the common concord of Warsaw, are any foedera aut pacta<sup>1</sup> or collusions and alliances with outside nations to be made or established, and no envoys likewise are to be sent in matters of importance to alien domains, unless upon the knowledge and common counsel of both the nations, lest alliances or constitutings be made with any of the nations that have proved detrimental to any of the parties – these are no more to be upheld.

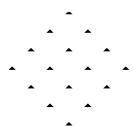
12. The currency in Poland as well as in Lithuania is to be, upon the common counsel, uniformis et aequalis in pondere et grano et numero petiarum et inscriptione monetarum<sup>2</sup>, which His Royal Majesty is to render effective, and so shall the descendants of His Royal Majesty.

13. The custom-duties, all tolls in Poland and Lithuania, of land and water, called by whatever name, royal as well as nobles', clergy's or municipal, His Royal Majesty deigns to abolish, so that no customs' duty ex nunc be collected thereafter for time eternal from clergymen, from secular people of the noble estate, nor from their subjects, on things of any sort of their own labour or subsistence, not covering the merchant tolls or colluding with merchants to the detriment and suppression of long-standing ordinary royal duties, in Poland as well as in Lithuania.

<sup>1</sup> Foedera aut pacta – 'alliances or agreements' (Lat.).

<sup>2</sup> Uniformis et aequalis in pondere et grano et numero petiarum et inscriptione monetarum – 'homogeneous in weight, in ore, in the number of pieces and in the inscription on the coin' (Lat.)

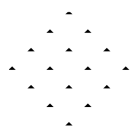




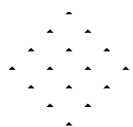
14. All the statutes and acts, any of these and for any reason established and enacted for any reason whatsoever against the Polish nation in Lithuania around the acquisition and lease of property in Lithuania by a Pole, in whichever way anybody would have obtained or be obtaining the same, be it after the wife or based upon the service or by the purchasing, donating custom, exchange, and acquisition of whichever sort, according to the common custom and law, all of these statutes so they have no validity as ones being contrary to the law, justice, and also to the common fraternal love and union, and communal bond, but so that a Pole in Lithuania and, likewise, a Lithuanian in Poland, may always obtain property and hold it in accord with the law where the property lies, by means of every legitimate habit.

15. And as regards the other articles of the privilege of Alexander the King, which have not as yet been declared at the Warsaw Sejm by a declaration from His Majesty the King or by means of common accord, but have been suspended, by common adjournment from the Sejm of Warsaw, toward this present General Sejm of Lublin: all of those as they are described in the privileges and in the common recording, and lastly, in the privilege of Alexander and the one given previously here in Lublin by His Majesty the King in this matter of a union, are to remain in complete validity for times eternal, and this however being appended for better explanation that the Grand Duchy of Lithuania is to retain the title and all of dignities and offices and worthiness of the estates, in accordance with the description in King Alexander's privilege, entirely and unaffectedly, for this causes no distraction or disruption of unity or of our communality.

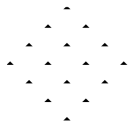
16. There shall be no other separate sejms that His Majesty the King may convene for the estates of the Crown and of Lithuania from this time forward. Rather, common diets shall he always compose from this dual nation as a single body in Poland, wherever it should appear the most appropriate to His Majesty the King and to the councils of the Crown and Lithuania. 17. The dignitaries and the offices, in the case that some of them are vacant or shall thereafter be vacant in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, are not to be given by His Majesty the King to anyone until [he] first has made an oath to His Royal Majesty and to His descendants, the crowned Polish kings, and to this inseparable body, the Crown of Poland.



18. We moreover sufficiently provide and foreswear the estates and persons of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania that the compulsory enforcement of dues of ourselves and of our descendants, not only according to the statute of Alexander the king but either not in accord with any other privileges, letters, constitutions, or sejm resolutions rendered, given, adopted in the Crown of Poland, any of those passed with respect the goods of the table [i.e. the *mensæ regæ*] of His Royal Majesty in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, distributed to whomsoever by all the ancestors of His Royal Majesty and by His Royal Majesty himself since the commencement of the union in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, afflicting it be not, with none of the estates, but all the rights, privileges given until these times by all the ancestors of His Royal Majesty and of His Royal Majesty himself since the commencement of the union in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the nations Lithuanian, Ruthenian, Samogitian, and to other nations and citizens of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and also to the lands, poviats, families and persons, remain entire, complete, and unaffected in nothing, also the perpetualities [i.e. perpetual usufructs], feuds or feoffs, frymarks [i.e., barter deals], exchanges, annuities, pledges of any sort as made at a sejm or without a sejm, according to each privilege, are to be wielded in time eternal, with no habit or explication adducting these in no doubt whatsoever. Also, likewise the conferring unto dignitaries, offices, which from time of yore and in deed have been vested upon them, liens and sums of any kind are to be retained in their entire law, without them being ought to re-assign any of the parts of their ordinary gains, named by whichever custom, elsewhere and for any other purpose save for their present wielding and privileges or letters as wielded up to that time. And whoever of his ancestors, not having the letters indicating that he keep the lands and every possession called by any name whatsoever, be still alive, such a one such property is to keep perpetually without the letters, like for the letters, according to the Lithuanian statute old and new and the old habits. And thereby, the lords of the council and all the estates, deputies of all the lands do under this present provision conclude for themselves and their descendants the power of establishing and renewing by any shape whatsoever such recollections and filing of execution, of any invention for the services and other wealths of yore.



And, since from this time onward the distribution of the goods of the table is to cease in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, nevertheless the properties, whichsoever of the ducal, noble, and lordly houses shall thereafter be vested unto the table of His Royal Majesty, then these such properties shall His Royal Majesty according to his will and his royal grace distribute to the peoples of the Polish as well as the Lithuanian noble nation, so that the landed martial service may thereby remain undiminished. Also in the recuperation from the Muscovite enemy of the castles, properties, possessions, and goods of all sorts shall His Royal Majesty return to those whose fatherland and possessions they had been previously, prior to their attainment from the foe. And if something has been given to somebody in this lieu, this shall be returned to the table of His Majesty the King. 19. All of which articles we the prelates and lords of the council, dukes, landed deputies, and all of the other estates of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, knowing them be commendable, needful, and beneficial to this dual nation, of the Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania alike, these already being one shared and inseparable Commonwealth, and written-down in this fashion upon our common permission with the estates of this famous Polish Crown, content and with good will and good fraternal inclination and love to the prelates, lords of the council, landed deputies, as well as all of the other estates and persons of the Crown, do by this letter of ours, for time eternal, on our part afford and the same do ensure, confirm, and strengthen with the seals, oaths, the righteousnesses of ours and of all of our progeny, with the condition and confirmation such as befits us with the largest and strongest of the persons, or of our places and offices, by means of peculiar as well as common habit, pledging and promising before God the good Lord, with the honest, noble, and Christian word of ours, that all whatever has been herein written we shall know, keep, and wield, and fulfill, ourselves and with our posterity, for eternal time without any stratagems, and without adducting anything of those forever into any doubt or variation, nor distracting ourselves, also, in nothing from this unity into which we have bound ourselves with the nation of this famous Crown of Poland in accord with the description of this present letter of ours and the articles as binding and explained in this letter in time eternal and everlasting, as also given to us by the Polish lords.



Which our common registers His Majesty the King, destined as our superior lord, has deigned to confirm by his royal authority. And should either of the parties be unwilling to keep the privileges and registers of commonality as rendered betwixt these two nations, for us or for themselves, or one separate be unwilling to so keep, then against such a party and each one separately like against a foe of ours and of the common nations we shall rise with our progeny beside our lord, the Polish King. To all of which do we oblige ourselves and our progeny under our oath always to do and fulfill, to strongly wield in all effect.

20. And all these things herein resolved and secured are not to ever be infringed or altered, be it by His Royal Majesty, or the lords of the council, all of the other estates and landed envoys of the dual nation, under common permission or individually from any of the parties or sides, whatsoever, but shall instead be preserved eternal, entire, and strong.

And to a better testimony and perpetual memory of the things above described, we the aforesaid prelates and the lords of the council, spiritual as well as secular, the dukes, we the landed deputies and the other estates being represented at this general and common Sejm of Lublin, have suspended our seals from this letter. Written and done at this same common Sejm of Lublin, on the first day of the month of July, in the year of our Lord one-thousand five-hundred sixty-nine.      Translated © by Tristan Korecki, Philip Earl Steele