

MEETING OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEES ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND POLAND

Tallinn, 13-14 September 2012

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

The representatives of the Committees on European Affairs of the national Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, who met in Tallinn on 13-14 September 2012 to exchange views on European Union policy issues of common interest, have arrived at the following conclusions:

Energy – Security of Supply

- Recognize that the energy sector is to be considered as a key market in Single Market policies, because of its strategic role providing an essential influence to the other sectors of the economy ;
- Stress the support for developed energy infrastructure that facilitates supply diversity and supports internal market;
- Emphasize the necessity to strengthen energy security by creating interconnections as well as strengthen fair competition base for EU producers in relation to third countries;
- Acknowledge that in order for the energy market to be effective and secure supply it is necessary to establish common rules for imports from the EU and third countries;

Single Market

- Welcome the Commission's efforts to make the Single Market function to its full potential;
- Emphasize that the key to better functioning of the Single Market lies in the enhanced mobility of consumers, workers and enterprises. To that end a swift adoption of the amendments to the directive on recognition of professional qualifications as well as better implementation of the services directive are paramount;
- Acknowledge the growth potential of digital economy. Hence, development of infrastructure, evolvement of intellectual property rights regulations, and adoption of the regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions are needed;
- Acknowledge that the prerequisite for a functioning Single Market is more efficient trans-European infrastructure and better connections between EU regions. Therefore it is important that the aims of the new EU infrastructure fund (the Connecting Europe Facility) are to support the development and integration of the internal market, taking into account both macro-regional priorities and the needs of small and peripheral states and to be a suitable funding model for converging regions.

Europe 2020 Strategy - Recovery from the Economic Crisis

- Stress the need to further develop the principles of the European Semester and the Euro Plus Pact and to strengthen the policy coordination framework, in order to eliminate the threat to the stability of the EMU from unsustainable policies;
- Find it necessary to implement a new procedure for the excess budget deficit and excess imbalance as provided in the new reformed stability and growth pact and a new directive on the budgetary policy framework, and pay more attention to macroeconomic imbalances that give an early indication of economic and budgetary problems in Member States;
- Acknowledge that the strength and reliability of the single financial market of the EU is of the utmost importance in the development of a stable economic environment promoting growth and ensuring the effective investment of deposits and other financial assets throughout the European Union.