



# 11th Meeting

of the Presidents of Parliaments of Regional  
Partnership Countries, Bulgaria,  
Romania and Croatia



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ljubljana, 16-17 October 2009

## Joint Statement

by the Presidents of Parliaments of Regional Partnership countries  
Ljubljana, 17 October 2009

The 11th Meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments of Regional Partnership Countries, extended to the participation of Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia, was held in Ljubljana on 16 and 17 October 2009 under the chairmanship of the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Pavel Gantar.

The meeting was attended by the Speaker of the National Council of the Republic of Austria Ms. Barbara PRAMMER, the Speaker of the Federal Council of the Republic of Austria Mr. Erwin PREINER, the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic Mr. Přemysl SOBOTKA, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Mr. Miloslav VLČEK, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary Mr. Béla KATONA, the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Mr. Bronisław KOMOROWSKI, the Deputy President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland Mr. Marek ZIÓŁKOWSKI, the President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Mr. Pavol PAŠKA, the President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Blaž KAVČIČ,

*and as invited guests*

by the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Ms. Tsetska TSACHEVA, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Luka BEBIĆ and the Vice-President of the Senate of Romania Mr. Teodor MELESCANU.

The discussion focused on:

*Climate change and challenges of sustainable transport policy in the region*

Adapting to climate change is an all-European and global challenge, which calls for a coordinated response by the European Union as a whole, this being a multisectoral challenge requiring the inclusion of a number of policies.

The rapid economic development, the related increase of transit traffic and, consequently, growing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions present a negative impact on the environment.

The Partnership countries noted that a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was not possible as long as traffic relied predominantly on the use of fossil fuels.

The participants highlighted:

- the necessity of a timely adoption of a legally binding global agreement;
- an active policy allowing to develop an environment and society-friendly sustainable mobility, a balanced use of various forms of transport, the development, modernisation and revitalisation of rail transport, the improvement of public transport services;
- among the Regional Partnership countries there should be a rationalisation of transport in a sustainable way by promoting, establishing and maintaining cross-border public transport links;
- the efficient use of new, alternative energy sources.

The participants noted that the economic crisis and the challenges of contemporary world also provided an opportunity for a new, green development paradigm that might help overcome the present crisis and contribute to setting up a sustainable economic system. A modification of the pattern of managing mobility needs and a balanced development and reasonable integration of all transport subsystems are of key importance.

### *Climate change and the role of agriculture within sustainable development policy in the region*

As it appears, agriculture will face significant challenges in the future, partly due to climate change. The adaptation of agriculture to climate change is unavoidable since adequate and, in particular, timely response may mitigate the expected negative impacts.

The debate highlighted that:

- the adaptation of agriculture should be cost-efficient and based on solutions allowing environment friendly competitive farming and sustainable and multifunctional management;
- while adapting to climate change, particular attention needs to be devoted to agricultural production technologies and measures to promote the use of renewable energy to simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The participants spoke in favour of enhancing cooperation and integration with the scientific community in the EU and other countries, and of sharing the findings of research studies, climate models, and other methodological tools.

***The Lisbon Treaty provisions concerning subsidiarity check – challenges for the parliaments of Regional Partnership countries***

The participants expressed confidence that the forthcoming entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty would contribute to a more efficient and transparent functioning of the European Union and represented a significant step toward reducing the democratic deficit. They stressed that for the actual implementation of the new, greater role in influencing the decision-making at the level of the European Union, more efficient interparliamentary cooperation was necessary.

It was agreed that the exchange of good practices at the level of national parliaments would be decisive for the efficient conduct of the subsidiarity check, first of all for the use of yellow and orange card procedure as envisaged in Protocol 2 to the Treaty of Lisbon and its impact on EU decision-making. It was reiterated that the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees (COSAC) and certainly of Speakers of national parliaments of member countries as well were an adequate platform for the exchange of opinions and good practices on the matter.

The participants agreed that the next meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments of Regional Partnership countries would be held in Poland in the autumn of 2010.