

**STATEMENT OF THE SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING
IN THE 5THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

Bratislava, 1 – 2 December 2005

The participants of the 5th Regional Meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments decided that the development of the European Union, as well as ensuring its decision making procedures are more democratic, efficient and transparent require the inclusion of national parliaments into a mechanism of decision making on the Community level.

A specific and natural role of the national parliaments is to control the application of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles. The provisions related to this issue have been included in the Constitutional Treaty. The Interinstitutional Agreement proposed by the President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria in his report would allow for the implementation of the above mentioned principles and at the same time it would be a starting point for further works of the Conference of Speakers of the EU parliaments.

The representatives of the meeting of the parliaments of the Regional Partnership (Central Europe) note that works on Financial Perspective 2007 – 2013 should also take into consideration the principle of solidarity.

The speakers of the parliaments of Bulgaria and Romania were invited to take part in the 5th Regional Partnership meeting. They reported on the progress made by Bulgaria and Romania towards acceding to the EU as of January 1, 2007.