

## **Conclusions of the Chairperson**

Prague, 18 April 2007

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments of Regional Partnership Countries chaired by Přemysl SOBOTKA, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, took place in Prague from April 17 to April 18, 2007.

### **The meeting was attended by the participants:**

**Přemysl SOBOTKA**, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic  
**Miloslav VLČEK**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

**Katalin SZILI**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary

**Marek JUREK**, President of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

**Maciej PŁAŻYŃSKI**, Vice-President of the Senate of the Republic of Poland

**Anna Elisabeth HASELBACH**, Vice-President of the Federal Council of the Republic of Austria

**Pavol PAŠKA**, President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

**France CUKJATI**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

**Janez SUŠNIK**, President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia

Main topics of the meeting included Science and Research as the Future of European Union and Common Agricultural Policy.

### **WITH RESPECT TO THE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH THE CHAIRPERSON HEREBY**

- States that Europe must do its best to be able to use the results of research and development activities to the maximum possible extent while sharing such results and eventually converting the results into economic and social values;
- Expresses his approval of the Presidency conclusions of the Council of the European Union of March 8-9, 2007, which, in the part Strengthening innovation, research and education, reiterate the importance of spending 3% of GDP on research and development by 2010;
- Accents the need for use of all possible support in the area of public and private sector partnership namely with respect to common technology initiatives with the emphasis on involvement of small and medium enterprises;
- Proposes to reassess the administration and organisational models of European universities mainly because most of the universities aspire to be actively involved in research activities, but distribute relatively limited financial resources for research and development available in Europe among themselves and do not put enough emphasis on the trans-disciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects; furthermore the universities are not connected to the business sector thus detached from reality;
- Calls on serious discussions on final form of the European Institute of Technology in order to ensure it meets its role when it comes to building partnerships among the universities, research institutions and private sector. At the same time the chairperson supports the idea of locating the seat of the European Institute of Technology in one of the new EU member countries as promised by the European Union in 2003;

- Acknowledges the necessity to adopt uniform intellectual property protection strategy which shall be simpler and less costly while maintaining high level of research quality and patent rights proceedings.

**WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY  
THE CHAIRPERSON HEREBY**

- Emphasises the need for a deep reform of Common Agricultural Policy and appeals to have this planned reform implemented equitably without making a difference between the old and the new EU member states;
- Being aware of the fact that individual agricultural sectors are already subject to reform within the framework of Common Agricultural Policy reform, the chairperson strongly disagrees with the planned ban of beet-sugar use (chaptalisation) in wine production (particularly if the acidification process is tolerated in south European countries), because this manufacturing process has been used in central European countries for more than 200 years;
- Pronounces his dissatisfaction with actual course and impacts of the sugar regime reform since the production of sugar is not reduced evenly in all member countries but only in those countries where sugar beet growing represents a traditional agricultural activity.