

CONCLUSIONS

of the

Meeting of the European Affairs Committees
of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Republic,
the Hungarian National Assembly,
the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland and
the National Council of the Slovak Republic

The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group countries:

With regard to the Art. 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union and with regard to the currently ongoing discussion on the strengthening of democratic legitimacy and accountability at the level of the National Parliaments of EU Member States and in the European Parliament

- appreciate the initiative of the Chairwoman of the Danish Committee on European Affairs Ms. Eva Kjer Hansen aimed at deepening the debate on the role of National Parliaments in more integrated financial, budgetary and economic union;
- acknowledge the Conclusions of the informal meeting held in Copenhagen on 11th March 2013 that are summarized in the proposals mentioned in the letter of the Chairwoman of the Danish Committee on European Affairs Ms. Eva Kjer Hansen and the Chairman of the Irish Joint Committee on European Affairs Mr. Dominic Hannigan;
- emphasize that the measures adopted to establish closer Economic and Monetary Union will have a significant economic and legal impact on all EU Member States which are fully involved in the internal market and to a various extent also in the broader forms of economic and fiscal coordination in relation to the European semester. Therefore, any form of inter-parliamentary cooperation must encompass all the 27 national parliaments;
- recommend the prompt establishment of an inter-parliamentary budget conference, possibly using already existing forms of cooperation, by all EU Member States and the European Parliament.

With regard to the EU Energy Policy and energy security

- remind the eminent domain of the Member States to define the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, the choice between energy resources and determination of the composition of energy supply;

- refer to the need for swift completion of the fully operating internal energy market;
- emphasize their support for increasing energy efficiency, which constitutes a key part of the effort to decrease the demands of the EU economy for natural resources and to contribute to EU energy security;
- would welcome more coordinated and more cohesive approach of EU Member States in the field of international energy relations, especially as regards to relations with third countries that are acting as EU energy partners by either importing energy resources to the EU or by providing transit of energy resources to the EU;
- point out instability and unpredictability of the common energy policy legal framework in medium-term to long-term period that causes significant difficulties in planning, investment decisions and implementation of majority of larger projects concerning energy sources and energy infrastructure;
- draw attention to the question of incidental unscheduled electricity overflows among national power systems that is currently affecting EU Member States within the Central Europe;
- note with uneasiness the persisting nonexistence of a global agreement on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, very ambitious emission reduction plans within the EU. Without the engagement of world's major producers of greenhouse gas emissions the current EU policy would disadvantage the EU economy in global competition and would only be a minimum contribution to the world's climate. Therefore, the EU climate and energy policy must be based on the outcome of the global climate negotiations to be concluded by 2015;