

## CONCLUSIONS

of the

### **Meeting of the European Affairs Committees of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, the Senate and the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the National Council of the Slovak Republic, with the participation of the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Georgia**

**The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group Countries, participating in the meeting in Prague,<sup>1</sup>**

#### ***Regarding the energy security of the European Union:***

- **note** that with regard to the high dependence of the Member States on energy imports from third countries and a dominant supplier of oil and gas, it is vital to strengthen the energy security of the European Union;
- **underline** the importance of building interconnections between energy networks in the EU, pointing out that cooperation between the Visegrad Group States in defining infrastructure projects of common interest to be co-funded under the Connecting Europe Facility and in using the newly prepared European Strategic Investment Fund could enhance swift development of energy infrastructure in the region;
- **highlight** the necessity to further diversify the supply of energy (sources, suppliers and transit routes), and in line with the Conclusions of the European Council held on 19-20 March 2015 call for using all external policy instruments to establish strategic energy partnerships with increasingly important producing and transit countries;
- **acknowledge**, in this context, the importance of finishing the Southern Gas Corridor that would facilitate the supply of gas from the Caspian Basin, and encourage further strengthening of energy partnerships with the Southern Caucasus countries;
- **remark** that a reduction of energy intensity leading to a reduction of energy consumption is one of the ways to achieve greater energy security, meet the goals of climate protection and also save often irreplaceable and non-renewable resources for more efficient use and for future generations;

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee on European Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly was represented at the staff level.

- **underscore**, in this context, the importance of supporting research and innovation programmes in the field of energy since new technologies, such as clean coal, storage or a new generation of renewables, could significantly contribute to the energy security in the future;
- **stress** that reducing dependence on imported energy resources for example through energy efficiency, recourse to the indigenous energy sources including deployment of renewable sources should be done in a cost effective manner not harming the competitiveness of the European economy;

***Regarding the Eastern Partnership before the Riga Summit:***

- **welcome** the Conclusions of the European Council held on 19-20 March 2015 stating that the EU is fully committed to the Eastern Partnership, pointing out that particular efforts should be devoted to advance cooperation in state building, mobility and people-to-people contacts, market opportunities and interconnections;
- **consider it essential** that a strategic decision on the long-term perspective of the Eastern Partnership should be adopted at the upcoming Riga Summit;
- **are convinced** that the future framework of the Eastern Partnership should reflect the need to differentiate between the six partner states, taking fully into account their sovereign decisions on the level of association and cooperation with the EU that these states wish to seek;
- **stress**, therefore, that the Eastern Partnership should allow for a „tailor-made“ approach to each partner country, while maintaining the common overarching principles of the Eastern Partnership that include, above all, commitments to the principles of international law and to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to market economy, sustainable development and good governance, as set out in the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit of 7 May 2009;
- **welcome** that Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have decided to strengthen their relationship with the EU by signing and ratifying the Association Agreements, including the DCFTAs, and support a speedy completion of the ratification process in the Member States of the EU;
- **emphasize** that it is vital now to focus on the implementation of these agreements, and point out, in line with the Vilnius Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit, that the incentive-based approach (“more-for-more”), whereby the pace of reforms

continues to determine the intensity of cooperation and those partners most engaged in reforms benefit most from their relationship with the EU, should be further applied;

- **support** the “European aspirations and the European choice” of some partner states, support the recognition of those aspirations by the European Union and encourage launching a debate on finding an appropriate form of cooperation for the period after the Association Agreements have been fully implemented;
- **support** the further advancements in the visa liberalisation process with all partner states, particularly by the swift finalisation of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plans with Ukraine and Georgia followed by the steps that will lead to full visa free regime with these partner states;
- **strongly condemn** the recent activities of the Russian Federation that has been blatantly violating the international law by annexing Crimea, supporting separatist forces in Eastern Ukraine and by destabilizing the situation in some partner states, such as Georgia and Moldova;
- **fully support** the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all the partner states, and point out that any attempts to re-draw the borders in Europe and undermine the territorial integrity and sovereignty of any country are absolutely unacceptable;

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