

**MEETING OF THE SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS
OF THE V4 COUNTRIES
WARSAW, 13 APRIL 2013**

JOINT DECLARATION

The Speakers of the Parliaments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland and their representatives, gathered in Warsaw on 13 April 2013, discussed issues related to intensifying relations and building cohesion between the V4 countries and their nations on the economic, infrastructural and cultural level; the initiative of strengthened cooperation within the Common Security and Defence Policy; and the formula of the inter-parliamentary conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union; and in particular:

expressed their satisfaction at the progress of Visegrad cooperation so far, thanks to which the V4 was increasingly recognised as a political brand, not only in Europe, but also beyond;

acknowledged the particular importance of the parliamentary dimension of this cooperation, based on the direct popular legitimacy given to members of parliament chosen in general elections;

stressed at the same time that, apart from cooperation and meetings at the level of Speakers of Parliaments, it is necessary to develop working relations and joint activities at the level of committees and other parliamentary groups, such as the recent meetings of the committees responsible for administration, local government, regional development and European affairs;

expressed the will to support such parliamentary initiatives and create conditions for their effective implementation;

called on the V4 governments to consistently deepen and broaden the areas of mutual cooperation, *inter alia* by

stimulating the development of versatile contacts between V4 societies, so that they can learn more about each other, and looking for ways to constantly improve the harmonisation of their policies in order to enable them to present a common stance in matters of common interest on the international arena;

supported a further consolidation of the cooperation between all V4 countries, which had been strengthened during the Polish Presidency, with a view to presenting Central Europe as an interesting and important economic region – a process requiring joint actions to be implemented during the incoming Hungarian Presidency;

stated that the continuous improvement of infrastructure quality, especially at cross-border stretches, was not only conducive to increased economic cooperation, but also to increased citizen mobility;

welcomed the initiative to organise the Visegrad Bicycle Race, which will take place in mid-May, leading from Budapest to Cracow, and accompanied by promotional events in Budapest, Bratislava, Prague and Cracow;

supported the Letter of Intent to establish a Visegrad Battlegroup signed by the V4 defence ministers on 6 March 2013 in Warsaw;

noted that the European debate more and more often focused on the need to ensure stronger democratic legitimacy of economic governance in the European Union and the Economic and Monetary Union in consistence with the parliamentary dimension of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including Common Security and Defence Policy;

expressed their expectation of a swift establishment of the Inter-parliamentary Conference under Article 13 of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union, which would respond to the above requirements and allow for the participation of all the parliaments of the European Union;

considered it advisable for the said Conference to be established by the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments; this issue should be discussed at the oncoming meeting in Nicosia.