

Bratislava, 24 January 2012

CONCLUSIONS

of the

Meeting of the European Affairs Committees
of the Chamber of Deputies and 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 National Parliaments of the Visegrad
Group countries:

- appreciate contribution and emphasize the heritage of Mr. Václav Havel, one of the fathers
of the idea of the Visegrad cooperation;

Regarding the general European Union issues:

- consider the Hungarian and Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union as
successful and appreciating the EU leadership in dealing with the key EU issues in 2011;

- welcome the signing of the Accession Treaty of the European Union with Croatia at the
European Council meeting on 9 December 2011 and also consider this as an important
moment for the stabilization process of the Western Balkans. Encourage other National
Parliaments of the EU to a fast and successful end of the ratification process of the Accession
Treaty in order to welcome Croatia as a new Member State as of 1 July 2013;

- welcome the progress made by other candidate and potential candidate countries of the EU
specifically Montenegro and Serbia. Encourage Montenegro to further reforms regarding the
area of rule of law and fundamental rights. At the same time encourage Serbia to maintain the
present dynamics of fulfilling the political criteria of the Treaties;

- support the enlargement process of the EU but also stress the need of fulfillment of the pre-
accession criteria;

- emphasize the need of strategic development of the Eastern Partnership and signing the
negotiated agreement between the EU and Ukraine.

Regarding the economic and financial issues (Eurozone, EU economic governance):

- support actions aiming at genuine improvement of the functioning of the euro area and at increasing fiscal discipline and consolidation of public finances;
- underline that the strengthened euro area governance must be in line with the principles preserving the integrity of the European Union;
- emphasize that restoring confidence in common European currency concerns all EU Member States, and at the same time emphasize that restoring confidence is possible by consolidation of public finances;
- support that the parties to the fiscal pact, present and future members of the Eurozone, should have the same right to participate in the Eurogroup summits;
- support compliance with the rules of the Single Market, which is a core of the European project;
- support the strategy EU2020 and closer cooperation between EU Member States by implementation of the EU2020 objectives in practice;
- support development and coordination of stabilisation tools;
- welcome launching of the 2nd European Semester to strengthen coordination of economic policy.

Regarding the new competences of the National Parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon (principle of subsidiarity and submission of reasoned opinions):

- welcome present consultations and exchange of information between Member States of the European Union (regarding the legislative proposals which could be in a breach of the principle of subsidiarity) in order to fulfill a required majority for the yellow and orange cards;
- welcome and strongly support the use of the IPEX network as a useful tool for the mutual exchange of information concerning the scrutinizing of EU legislative drafts;
- on the basis of the Commission Work Program strongly support a closer cooperation of the Visegrad group countries in the early exchange of information concerning the EU legislative drafts that could be of importance with regard to their adherence to the subsidiarity principle;
- support the idea to discuss at the COSAC forum the problem of the non – sufficient effectiveness of the subsidiarity principle.