

CONCLUSIONS

from

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

Warsaw, 1 February 2016

Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the V4 States

With regard to the common asylum and migration policy – security of the external borders of the European Union:

- **acknowledge** that the current migration crisis is one of the greatest challenges the Union has ever faced, and this challenge has real potential to jeopardize political and social stability of the Member States, as well as the European Union as a whole;
- **note** that the current migration crisis is caused primarily by external factors such as the conflict in Syria or the deteriorating economic and demographic situation in African countries;
- **call** on the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament to i) begin addressing effectively causes and not only consequences of current situation, and ii) release appropriate EU financial, technical and human resources to bring necessary solutions in practice;
- **consider** it necessary to stop inflow of illegal immigrants immediately and before they enter the territory of the European Union, and to strictly respect the asylum law; therefore emphasize the need to focus on efficient protection of the EU external borders and, at the same time, also on the fight against smugglers that enable illegal immigrants enter into the Union;
- **consider** that it is necessary to focus more attention on aid to third countries where refugees are currently staying and where the greatest amount of support is needed. Involvement of third countries in solving the problem is therefore essential. It is necessary to increase the responsibility borne by other countries and to undertake joint actions in order to curb the current migration pressure;
- **call** for not condoning the situation in which Member States apply the required procedures selectively or deliberately fail to apply them in order to shift the weight of the pressure onto another State. Such a situation has largely contributed to the uncontrolled inflow of migrants and to the impotence of the European Union in coping with the crisis.
- **draw attention** to the fact that asylum legislation is sometimes applied selectively or not respected at all;

With respect to the topic of the United Kingdom and its membership in the European Union:

- **agreed** that the United Kingdom is an important member of the European Union and that its remaining within the community lies in the interest of the Union-
- **welcomed** the decision of the European Council held in December on seeking mutually satisfactory solutions in all of the reform areas submitted by the United Kingdom;
- **consider** that the Brexit scenario would be damaging for all interested parties and therefore **call** upon all European Union Member States and competent EU institutions to undertake the necessary efforts to find a compromise in view of the United Kingdom remaining in the European Union while at the same time safeguarding basic principles and common values.

With regard to the topic of using EU funds for projects connected with energy and transport infrastructure, the participants of the meeting:

- **underline** the significance of building a full internal energy market in order to guarantee energy security to all European Union Member States. In this scope it is essential to ensure cohesive development of energy infrastructure taking into account the economic potential of each country;
- **agree** that the strengthening and modernisation of the energy infrastructure in the region of the V4 Group should be carried out through closer cooperation between all its members, as well as through effective use of available funds, including the Connecting Europe Facility and the European Fund for Strategic Investments;
- **considering** the necessity of building the lacking transport connections in the region, particularly along the North-South axis, and the economic benefits stemming from greater cohesion between transport networks, both for V4 states and for the entire European Union, press for the effective use of European Union funds allocated for this purpose by way of continuing the already initiated cooperation in executing joint transport projects.

The participants of the meeting express their concerns about the lack of attention to the position of the V4 countries referring to the risks of the potential implementation of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline Project.