

**MEETING OF THE DELEGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEES ON EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
AND POLAND**

Vilnius, 13–14 April 2014

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Having considered the draft programme of the LI COSAC and other relevant items on the European Union agenda on 13–14 April 2014 in Trakai, the Chairs of the Committees on European Affairs of the national Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland adopted these conclusions and addressed the LI COSAC highlighting the need to take the following action:

**REGARDING DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY AND EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP: DAY
AFTER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS**

- Call on the national Parliaments to immediately begin building constructive, equitable and result-oriented relations with the European Parliament in its new legislative period after the European Parliament elections in 2014;
- Encourage national Parliaments to actively participate in creating the European Union policy by taking the lead in the Community and by proposing the vision of the future of Europe;
- Emphasise that in order to successfully pursue further EU integration and consolidation, European citizens should feel the ownership of the European project;
- Note that the decision-making mechanism in the European Union has to become effective, sufficiently simple and transparent. There is a need to develop a real partnership with the non-governmental sector to ensure the legitimacy of decisions in the eyes of the citizens;
- Invite national Parliaments to raise a new generation of European politicians who adhere to strong moral and ethical values and are capable of thinking freely and innovatively as well as of willingly assuming responsibility for decision-making by leaving no room for populist, nationalistic and discriminatory rhetoric in European politics.

ON THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

- Welcome the decision of the European Council to sign the EU – Georgia Association Agreement and the EU – Moldova Association Agreement earlier than planned;
- Call on the national Parliaments, the European Parliament and other EU institutions to strengthen support for reforms in the Eastern Partnership, particularly in those partner countries where reforms related to the Association Agreements, including DCFTAs, are being implemented;
- Acknowledge the need for reviewing and renewing the aims of the Eastern Partnership defined in the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit by providing the participating countries with individual approach as well as by taking into account European aspirations and real progress of each country and look forward to the fourth Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga;

- Urge the national Parliaments, the European Parliament and other EU institutions to search for ways to strengthen cooperation between the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries in the area of foreign security and defence;
- Recognise the need for democratic, objective and independent sources of news in Russian language that rely on strong journalistic values and operate independently based on the values of free media; invite the European Commission to find ways to allocate financial resources for setting up and maintaining such TV and other media channels in Eastern Europe;
- Support the initiative and the indicated road map proposed by former and present journalists articulated in the letter of 11 April 2014 to the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso inviting to establish the EU-financed Russian language TV station, provisionally called *The Voice of Europe*, which would operate on the basis of values of free media, provide fact-based news, and serve as a platform for discussion and qualitative entertainment.

ON UKRAINE

- Support Ukraine's efforts to strengthen its political and economic association with the EU and the need to provide Ukraine with a clear prospect of EU membership;
- Call the Hellenic Parliament to include into the LI COSAC agenda the point on Eastern Partnership as it was agreed during the last COSAC Chairpersons meeting in Athens, and to invite the delegation of Ukrainian authorities as well EU officials to participate in the LI COSAC;
- Call on the LI COSAC to appeal to the European Council, in view of the new security challenges which emerged after the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, to urgently bring back the issue of common EU security and defence policy on the agenda and seek closer cooperation with NATO.