

FINAL DECLARATION
13TH MEETING OF THE SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS
OF THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP
(AUSTRIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA
+ BULGARIA, CROATIA AND MONTENEGRO)
19 - 20 MAY 2011, BRATISLAVA

The 13th Meeting of the Speakers of Parliaments of the Regional Partnership countries extended to the participation of Bulgaria, Croatia and Montenegro, was held in Bratislava on 19 and 20 May 2011 under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Mr. Richard Sulík.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Speaker of the Federal Council of the Republic of Austria Ms. Susanne Neuwirth, the Speaker of the Senate of the Czech Republic Mr. Milan Štěch, the Madam Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Ms. Miroslava Němcová, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary Mr. István Jakab, the Deputy Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland Ms. Ewa Kierzkowska, the Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland Mr. Bogdan Borusewicz, the Speaker of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Blaž Kavčič,

and as invited guests by

the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria Ms. Tsetska Tsacheva, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Luka Bebić and the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro Mr. Ranko Krivokapić.

The Speakers of the Parliaments of the Regional Partnership countries:

- A. driven by the endeavour to advance the integration of the European Union also in the fields of tourism, cultural heritage and infrastructure;
- B. expressing their support to the improvement of the infrastructure with special regard on transport, energy and telecommunications with the enhancement of tourism aimed at creating ample conditions for the regeneration and conservation of a healthy environment;

In accordance with future challenges and trends in transport infrastructure will be needed:

1. to modernize and develop transport networks included in TEN-T (railway, road, waterborne and airport infrastructure), mainly projects of European union with status “European interest” in order to remove the existing bottlenecks in infrastructure to release a future potential for future economic and social development;
2. to realize projects and measures focused on facilitation of traffic-transport processes between EU and Asia, mainly by better utilising existing rail infrastructure and improving rail connections of Adriatic ports with hinterland;
3. to strengthen transport backbone of the region that is north-south corridor connecting the Baltic Sea and Adriatic Sea;
4. to realize projects to increase the availability and elimination of regional disparities;
5. to ensure integration and interoperability in the individual parts of transport infrastructure as well as an interconnection between different (modal) networks;

6. to underscore the need to revitalise important memorials of the past in order to preserve cultural heritage and make it a part of culture and sightseeing activities;
7. to support the development of road infrastructure in order to strengthen the position of the Regional Partnership members as transit countries;
8. to encourage the development of mutual relations and activities in the field of territorial development by engaging main stakeholders at the national and regional levels in the development of appropriate policies both within and outside the context of the European Union;
9. to support, to the maximum extent possible, the creation of Euro-regions between and among the countries of the Regional Partnership as an ample tool for tackling regional problems in the development of infrastructure and tourism;
10. to link the prepared projects in tourism and infrastructure with the maximum utilisation of the EU's Structural Funds.

Due to the actual challenges of the economic and financial crisis, which deserve closer attention of the Regional Partnership's Speakers of Parliaments and hence increased frequency of their meetings in other forums, the Speakers agreed to hold all future Regional Partnership meetings on a yearly basis, preferably in autumn, starting from the year 2012.

The participants agreed that the 14th Meeting of the Speakers of the Regional Partnership Parliaments would be held in Vienna, in autumn 2012. The date of the Meeting will be specified later on.