

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEES OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
THE SENATE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY, THE SEJM OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, THE
SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Bojnice, September 4, 2007

The representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group Countries have concluded as follows:

On the Experience of Slovenia with the Adoption of Euro,

the participants welcome the information about Slovenian experience with the adoption of Common European currency and consider them as a good example in Euro Changeover for Visegrad Countries.

On the Tax policy of the European Union,

the participants welcome the coordination of the EU Member States tax systems in the interest of removing discrimination and double taxation, preventing inadvertent non-taxation and abuse, and reducing compliance costs associated with the fact of being subject to more than one tax system;

the participants support the competence of the EU Member States to enact direct taxes legislation. For successful functioning of the Internal Market, the improvement of growth and employment and enhancement of the EU competitiveness in line with the renewed Lisbon strategy it is not inevitable to harmonize the EU Member States systems of direct taxes.

On the Accession of the new EU Member States to the Schengen Area,

the participants discussed their positions as regards the accession to the Schengen Area and they appreciate the effort made by the former (Finnish) Presidency of the COSAC and the current Portuguese Presidency of the European Union and their support in respect to the accession of the New Member States to the Schengen Area;

the participants confirm the unified approach of the EU Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group Countries and their mutual support concerning their Schengen Accession negotiations;

the participants hold that it is necessary to co-ordinate their positions regarding the EU visa policy with regard to the countries pertaining to the EU Neighbourhood Policy and in the process of introduction of the rules governing the agenda of the Local Border Traffic.

On the Institutional Reform of the EU (in the light of the IGC opened on 23 July 2007),

the participants express their support to the Mandate for an Intergovernmental Conference to draft an EU Reform Treaty as agreed at the European Council held in Brussels on 21 and 22 June 2007. In this regard the participants express their high appreciation of the German EU Presidency under the leadership of the Chancellor Angela Merkel for an excellent achievement at the June European Council and they underline the crucial importance of strictly respecting the lines provided by the IGC Mandate. Therefore they encourage the Portuguese EU Presidency in its pledge and efforts to hold firm in the process of transforming the IGC Mandate into the new EU Reform Treaty to be ratified and implemented as soon as possible so that our common goal can be met – i.e. to have the EU Reform Treaty entering into force prior to the next elections to the European Parliament taking place in June 2009;

the participants underline the undeniable role of the national parliaments and the importance of energy security policy as well as preventing climate changes set forth in the IGC Mandate and in the conclusions of the June European Council;

the participants recommend to the governments representing their countries at the IGC to pay an adequate attention to the strengthened control authority of the national parliaments in the area of judicial and police cooperation in the new EU Reform Treaty reflecting the inherent relation to the necessity of due protection of human rights in this area.