

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 Hungarian National Assembly, the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Slovak National Council

Warsaw 24-26 April, 2009

The representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group Countries:

Regarding the ratification process of the Treaty of Lisbon:

- express their satisfaction regarding the compromise reached at the European Council summit of 11-12 December 2008 on the steps necessary to proceed with the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon;
- appreciate that the actions undertaken by the Member States and the European Union institutions aimed at finalizing the ratification process of the Treaty of Lisbon, responded to the necessity to base them on a solid democratic foundation;
- emphasize the importance of continuing these efforts, particularly in view of upcoming institutional changes in the composition of the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Regarding the elections to the European Parliament in June 2009:

- emphasize the utmost importance of the dynamic involvement of European citizens in the democratic life of the European Union *via* their participation in the European Parliament elections in June 2009;
- underline that in the wider context, the democratic control exercised by the European voters through their active participation in the European elections legitimizes the EU decision making process and integration process.

Regarding the financial crisis:

- recognizing the long-term disastrous effects of the financial crisis on the European economy, call on the European Union to continue essential efforts to implement extraordinary recovery measures to stimulate economic growth and employment;
- draw the attention to the importance of having sound public finances;
- warn against the danger of protectionism and encourage politicians to support the action and initiatives to revive the financial sector and strengthen society's confidence in the European financial institutions.

Regarding the energy security:

- draw attention to the need for enhanced co-operation in the areas of: improving energy effectiveness, increasing the share of energy from renewable sources, guaranteeing the continuity of supply of fuels and energy, implementing the technologies and development of infrastructure for competitive fuel and energy markets;
- stress the importance of ensuring the security of gas supply through joint action by Member States at both regional and community level;
- express deep concern over the environmental impact of the Nord Stream gas pipeline project which constitutes an ecological threat due to the disturbance of chemical weapons and hazardous substances stored on the Baltic seabed;
- call on to comply with commonly eco and technical standards for environmental protection of the Baltic Basin including the recommendations of the European Parliament resolution of 8 July 2008 P6 TA(2008)0336 on the Environmental Impact of the Planned Gas Pipeline in the Baltic Sea.

Regarding the Eastern Partnership:

- welcome the European Council statement on the Eastern Partnership's strategic importance for the European Union, included in the EU Presidency conclusions adopted at the Brussels summit in March 2009;
- recognize that the Eastern Partnership should be placed on an equal footing with other instruments of EU regional cooperation, likewise the Mediterranean Partnership;
- express their view that the financial resources committed to the Eastern Partnership should ensure accomplishment of its objectives;
- strongly support democratic progresses in countries like Belarus, embrace them once their leaders prove commitment to democratization and continue abolishing restrictions in post on their citizens in order to maintain and improve day-to-day relations with democratic societies;
- express the importance of parliamentary involvement to the Eastern Partnership and its intention to elaborate a common position regarding these matters during next V-4 meeting;
- emphasize that the Eastern Partnership Summit scheduled for 7 May 2009 in Prague, where representatives of partner countries are invited, will bring stability and prosperity to Europe.