

CONCLUSIONS

of the

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

The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrád Group Countries

Regarding the state of play of the European Union's energy security:

- point out that establishment of energy security of the European Union depends on inter alia creation of a coherent, common EU energy policy, the diversification of the sources and supply routes, the expansion of gas storage facilities and increase of efficiency of energy consumption;
- are fully aware of the necessity to create new energy corridors or LNG terminals, therefore attach great importance to the diversification of energy sources and routes and consider that the Nabucco pipeline project will be a viable solution aiming to directly connect natural gas suppliers of the Caspian Sea region and the Middle East to the European Union;
- call upon all interested parties to utilize financial resources envisaged for energy infrastructure projects in European Economic Recovery Plan in order to establish the gas or electricity interconnectors;
- remind of some encouraging examples of gas supply assistance between European countries in the course of the latest gas crisis as clear sign of solidarity as well as the expansion of gas storage facilities in some EU member states;

Regarding the Eastern Partnership:

- welcome the initiative of the Hungarian National Assembly of inviting representatives from the countries participating in the Eastern Partnership Program to this meeting;
- strongly believe that the EU and their Eastern Partners by common endeavors based on mutual interests and commitments as well as on shared ownership and responsibility can properly address the individual needs of the Eastern Partnership countries;
- consider that the four thematic platforms – namely democracy, good governance and stability; economic integration with EU sectoral policies; energy security and contacts between people – constitute an adequate starting point to implement the Eastern

Partnership's multilateral framework and underline that in this cooperation people to people contacts are as important as the political and economic cooperation;

- express their serious concern relating to the inadequate financial assistance from the EU to the EaP partners, and call upon the interested parties to take all the necessary measures in order to achieve the progressive visa liberalisation that could facilitate people to people contact;
- warmly welcome the organization of a comprehensive Eastern Partnership meeting at foreign minister level on 2 March 2010 in Budapest with the participation of the Visegrad and Baltic countries and hope that next Eastern Partnership summit during the Hungarian EU-presidency could summarize tangible achievements and call on the EaP countries to develop the regional cooperation and enhance the mutual confidence;
- emphasize the need of active engagement of the Visegrad Countries in the Eastern Partnership program and recommend the incoming V4 Presidencies to maintain this issue on the agenda;

Regarding the EU2020, the new Strategy for sustainable growth and jobs:

- welcome the EU2020 initiative focusing on sustainable growth and innovation and wish to strike a balance between middle- and long-term goals in the course of the formulation of the objectives;
- agree that the EU2020 Strategy should include country specific objectives and actions that are clearly identifiable and quantifiable and these objectives should be periodically assessed. The objectives and actions should allow for the necessary adaptation to each country's specific situation;
- agree that the Member States should assume their responsibility in contributing to the overall competitiveness of Europe and support the stronger co-ordination by the EU institutions (European Council, Council, European Parliament, European Commission) in planning, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy;
- in this context in the interest of whole Union call on those EU Member States that have not opened their labour markets to the "new" Member States yet to ensure the free movement to all EU workers;
- emphasize that the common agricultural policy and cohesion policy should be better linked up with the new EU2020 strategy since a strong European economy can not be prosperous with blatant regional inequalities;
- believe that the recovery from the current crisis should be the point of entry into a new sustainable social market economy where the prosperity will result from innovation and from the better using of resources and where knowledge will be the key instrument.

Budapest, 24 February 2010