

Statement

Meeting of the European Affairs Committees of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Visegrád, 17 November 2005

After the meeting held under Hungarian V4 presidency the participating delegations summarised the results of the discussion.

The delegations agreed that national parliaments have crucial responsibility in expressing sincere views on problems regarding the current crisis of the Union. The emerging difficulties require an overall approach formulating global, deeper solutions. The initiatives of the new Member States may evidently give an impetus to the European cooperation. The participants emphasised that the representation of national interests is strongly connected to common European goals.

In light of the major issues on the agenda of the European Union the delegations have concluded as follows:

The financial perspective for 2007-2013

The EU Affairs Committees of the V4 countries expressed their conviction that it is of major importance to reach a political agreement on the new Financial Perspective of the European Union by the end of this year, so as to allow Member States sufficient time for preparation.

Consequentially, the British EU presidency is requested to put forward its detailed proposals as soon as possible and to make all the necessary efforts to reach the above objective on the basis of the compromise already achieved by the Luxembourg presidency.

Free movement of workers

In light of the positive experiences of the EU-15 that applied no limitations against job-seekers of the new Member States, delegations call upon the 12 Member States to open up their labour markets following the re-examination report on transitional restrictions due next February.

Visegrád co-operation

Delegations expressed their willingness to continue the inter-parliamentary Visegrád co-operation in the future. They emphasised the possibility of enriching the co-operation accidentally with other Member States as well.

Constitutional Treaty

The participants believe that despite the failure of the ratification process of the Constitutional Treaty, the most important results thereof should be achieved in a way which is more comprehensive and transparent for the citizens.