

CONCLUSIONS

of the

Meeting of the European Affairs Committees
of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Republic,
the Hungarian National Assembly,
the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland and
the National Council of the Slovak Republic
at Velehrad, 3rd October 2016

The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrad Group countries:

With regard to the issue of Brexit – state of play after the referendum in the United Kingdom and possible impact on V4 Countries

- are convinced that further steps following the referendum should be made, from both parts – the EU and the United Kingdom, with deliberation and responsibility, having in mind our interest in institutional and economic stability and minimisation of possible negative impacts on V4 countries, aiming at achieving the best possible relationship;
- will observe attentively further development of “Brexit agenda” at the EU level, based on the fact that possible leave of the United Kingdom would influence future setting within the EU institutions;
- believe in the necessity to reduce the possible negative effects of the Brexit on the future economic EU-UK relation;
- are convinced that possible future access of the United Kingdom to the Internal Market must be based on proper application of all four freedoms that, in effect, constitute one complex entity;
- are concerned about several recent attacks on V4 countries nationals in the United Kingdom, and express the hope that the British authorities will undertake necessary actions to effectively prevent such incidents in future;
- with regard to discussions on the future of the EU following after the referendum in the United Kingdom, call on the European Commission to: (i) focus more on its original mission, which is, before all, an executive-administrative role, rather than being a political body, and (ii) when proposing new legislative drafts, to be more self-restrained, focus on such drafts on which broad consensus is probable to be reached, and avoid proposing drafts which have obviously from the very beginning a potential to divide the Member States into two irreconcilable groups.

With regard to the issue of Migration into the EU and proposed reform of the European Asylum System

- presume it is important to remind, particularly in current situation, the values of our European civilisation are based on traditions of ancient origin: Greek Philosophy, Roman

Law, Judaism and Christianity, whose preservation for future generations is our principal task;

- clearly emphasize that they do not renounce their responsibility for participating on common European solutions and do not renounce their solidarity with most affected Member States or other non-EU Countries, however, they stress a need to decide on key measures by consensus within the European Council, fundamental decisions cannot be subject to a vote in the Council of Ministers;
- find crucial, at this very moment, to implement measures restricting illegal entry of migrants into the EU together with measures on effective repatriation of illegal migrants that are already in the Member States back from the EU;
- repeatedly call for the need of achievement of full utility and operability of the Hotspots, as a necessary precondition of further steps;
- continue to stress that any relocation and resettlement mechanisms for asylum seekers within the EU have to be voluntary for both the persons and the states involved, otherwise the functionality of any such measures will be severely limited and motivation for integration of migrants into the host society will be absent, and security risks will increase;
- believe that issues of integration of applicants for international protection and their access to labour markets should be decided within the competence of the Member States;
- support increased cooperation with the third countries located in the neighbourhood of ongoing conflicts, as it is one of the ways that can help addressing some of the problems associated with the migration into the EU before entering the territory of the EU, and at the same time finds necessary to focus not only on the Middle East region, but on the North African, Eastern Europe and Western Balkans regions as well.
- express their concern about further political development in Turkey with regard to the EU-Turkey Agreement on migration issues, and they are sceptical to the continuation of the process of Visa-liberalisation with Turkey, given the evolvment of fulfilling necessary conditions from the part of Turkey;
- call for the resumption and intensification of efforts to seek solution of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine and solution of the problem of internally displaced people in Ukraine that could potentially form another source of mass migration into the EU, especially into Visegrad countries.