

**The informal meeting of the Delegations of the Committees on European Affairs
of the National Parliaments of
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland**

**Druskininkai
7 September 2009**

CONCLUSIONS

The representatives of the Committees on European Affairs of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, having met in Druskininkai on 7 September 2009 for their informal meeting,

On Eastern Partnership

- *welcome* the conclusions of the European Council of 18-19 June 2009 and *stress* the importance of the Eastern Partnership initiative. Eastern Partnership should evolve into a comprehensive policy supporting and fostering efforts of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in getting closer to the EU through political association and economic integration;
- *are convinced* that further implementation of this initiative is highly beneficial to the EU and all countries involved in terms of bringing welfare and stability to the citizens of our Eastern partners through the adoption of EU values and standards;
- *emphasise* the importance of developing a multilateral cooperation platform at the governmental and parliamentary levels and the necessity to provide national parliaments with an opportunity to participate in the Eastern Partnership Parliamentary Assembly;
- *aim* at practical implementation of the principles and provisions endorsed under the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit,
- *expect* closer cooperation with the Eastern Partnership parliaments by inviting the representatives from six Eastern neighbouring countries.

On EU Baltic Sea Strategy

- *regard* EU Baltic Sea Strategy as an instrument for enhanced regional co-operation, and *address* Baltic Sea challenges in the following fields: environment, transport and communication, competitiveness and innovations, and energy security;
- *express* their support to the measures for the reduction of the ecological threats to the Baltic Sea and in particularly minimizing ecological threat owing to the chemical weapons storage area on the seabed and concentration of hazardous substances, as well as the threat to maritime transport;

- *believe* that EU Baltic Sea Strategy is an instrument for enhanced regional co-operation, strengthening human contacts through development of cultural, scientific and education relations, as well as co-operation between NGOs;
- *are convinced* that the parliamentary platform could provide for effectiveness of debates and closer cooperation and therefore might be broadened by inviting parliamentary representatives from other countries (Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany).

On Stockholm Programme

- *welcome* the Communication from the European Commission on the future Stockholm Programme in the area of freedom, security and justice as a well-balanced document;
- While a reunited Europe celebrates the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and commemorates August 23 as a European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, *welcome* the Council conclusions on European Conscience and Totalitarianism and reiterates the need to continue the process of evaluation at EU level of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes;
- *highlight* in line with the Commission Communication that memory of these crimes against humanity must be a collective memory shared by us all. Therefore the future Stockholm Programme needs to reflect raising Europe-wide awareness of the totalitarian crimes and ensuring the principle of adequate treatment and non-discrimination of victims of all the totalitarian regimes, the further evaluation of totalitarian crimes, as acknowledged also by the European Commission in its communication of 10 June 2009. *Stress*, however, that the effective implementation of this EU wide process cannot be achieved without the active involvement of the Union itself, including its financial support.

On the Climate Challenge

- *state* that one of the key international priorities and challenges facing the EU is the successful conclusion at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009 of the international negotiations regarding a new policy regime for climate change after the 2008-2012 commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol;
- *recognise* the importance of a common EU position in achieving a new ambitious agreement on climate change at the international level;
- *support* global EU leadership in tackling climate change problems and to its continuous determination to pursue the ambitious goal of reaching a legally binding and comprehensive international agreement on climate change;
- *believe* that both developed and developing countries should assume their responsibility and take appropriate climate change mitigation actions;
- *note* that an urgent comprehensive discussion on climate change financing would allow to find out the financial obligations of each EU Member State in view of the Copenhagen Agreement. It is crucially important for the EU Member States that the European Commission submits its proposals regarding the distribution of the financial burden among EU Member States prior to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.