

**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments**  
**of Regional Partnership Countries**

Warsaw, 5 November 2010

The meeting was attended by: Barbara Prammer, the President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria; Přemysl Sobotka, the President of the Senate of the Czech Republic; Miroslava Němcová, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic; László Kövér, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Hungary; Pavel Gantar, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia; Blaž Kavčič, the President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia; Grzegorz Schetyna, the Speaker of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and Bogdan Borusewicz, the Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland.

*and the invited guests*

Tsetska Tsacheva, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria; Teodor Meleşcanu, the Vice President of the Romanian Senate and Luka Bebić, the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia.

The 12<sup>th</sup> parliamentary summit of the Regional Partnership countries was held on the eve of the year 2011, when two of its member states, Hungary and Poland, will be presiding over the European Union Council. The summit held a debate on energy security of the European Union and on the Eastern Partnership, to which both presidencies are planning to draw the attention of all EU Member States next year.

During the debate, the summit participants heard the speeches and opinions voiced by Mr. Günther Oettinger, the European Commissioner for Energy as well as the representatives of the Polish government, Waldemar Pawlak - Deputy Prime Minister and Radosław Sikorski - Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will be responsible for enforcing the aforementioned priorities of both Central European presidencies on behalf of the EU Council in the second half of 2011.

The Presidents of both Polish and Hungarian Parliaments also provided the summit participants with information on their respective presidency programmes.

During the debate on *European Union and Energy Security Challenge* the presidents of parliaments discussed a number of issues, including:

- ensuring appropriate level of energy security, including energy supply sources and routes;
- implementing measures aimed at joint reaction of EU and Member States in the event of energy supply disturbances;
- further development of regional energy markets;
- strengthening external energy policy, including building mutual relations with third countries in the energy sector.

The Presidents of Parliaments agreed on the following:

- The priorities should be consistently enforced as regards coordination of positions on key EU initiatives and continued cooperation among Central European countries as regards development of priority energy infrastructure in line with the Budapest

Declaration of 24 February 2010 and the letter of 14 September 2010 from the Visegrad Group to G. Oettinger, Commissioner for Energy. All the infrastructure projects referred to in that letter should be implemented as soon as it is possible.

- In addition to the development of energy infrastructure,, including direct North-South interconnections, political cooperation is also critical, in particular with respect to Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020 and development of external energy policy of the European Union.
- Central European countries should utilize their potential in the process of proactive development of the EU energy policy by combining their voting power and coordinating their actions.
- Building mutual relations with third countries in the energy sector is aimed at ensuring appropriate level of energy security, in the spirit of cooperation on the part of the Member States.

During the debate on *Eastern Dimension of European Neighbourhood Policy - Past Achievements and Further Perspectives* Presidents of Parliaments agreed that:

- It is of utmost importance that Eastern Partnership countries cooperate with the European structures.
- Bilateral relations represent a crucial issue in the process of Eastern Partnership development; in particular, negotiation of Association Agreements as well as decisions on expanded and more complex free trade zones.
- Human relations provide significant means for reaching mutual understanding as well as building economic, social and cultural relations. Supporting mobility of citizens and visa liberalisation in a secure environment is another important aspect of the Eastern Partnership. The EU, in line with the Global Approach to Migration, should therefore take gradual steps towards full visa liberalisation as a long term goal for individual partner countries and on a case by case basis provided that conditions for well-managed and secure mobility are in place.

The Presidents of Parliaments

- have positively evaluated the first year of Eastern Partnership implementation and progress in strengthening multilateral cooperation as well as bilateral relations between the European Union and partner countries. We believe that in order for the Eastern Partnership initiative to succeed, we should cooperate with non-Member States and international financial institutions, in particular with the European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank;
- have welcomed the birth of informal cooperation of the Group of Friends of the Eastern Partnership at the meeting of high-level officials held on 29 September 2010 in Brussels.
- Look forward to further developments from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit in Budapest in May 2011 and welcome that Eastern Partnership will be one of the priorities of the Polish EU Presidency.

Participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting arranged for the next meeting of the Presidents of Parliaments of Regional Partnership countries to be held in April 2011 in Slovakia.