



JOINT DECLARATION

on

Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Initiative (IPCI)
by the EaP/AA countries – Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Tuesday, 5 May 2015

On the occasion of the fourth Eastern Partnership Summit to be held in Riga on 21/22 May 2015,

We, the Chairpersons of the Committees on European Integration and Foreign Affairs, Parliament of Georgia, Committee on Foreign Policy and European Integration, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and Committees on European Integration and Foreign Affairs, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (hereafter: Committees),

- WELCOMING the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga,
- RESPONDING to the firm choices of our nations to become members of the European Union,
- REASSURING the commitment of our States to promote the common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities,
- RECONFIRMING our common goal for the European integration, towards which the successful implementation of the Association Agreements with the European Union will be of a fundamental value,
- NOTING the contribution of the Eastern Partnership for bringing our States closer to the European Union through democratic reforms, free trade, more engagement in security, increased people-to-people contacts and greater mobility,
- STRESSING upon the present challenges and threats against territorial integrity, sovereignty, democratic and economic development, as well as free choices of nations, which are common for our States and the European Union,
- CONVINCED in the importance of coordinated diplomatic and political actions to counter the security challenges including through engaging the European Union,

- TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the political and reform agenda as well as challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Association Agreements,
- DETERMINED to assist through parliamentary potential and means in the process of necessary reforms aiming at greater convergence of our States with the European Union,
- CONSIDERING the need to share experiences, to coordinate our policies and to communicate jointly with the European Union,
- WELCOMING the Republic of Moldova's visa-free regime with the European Union and expecting a positive decision on granting visa-free regime for Georgia and Ukraine at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga,
- UNDERLINING the differentiation and "more-for-more" principles as fundamental pillars of the Eastern Partnership,

Have agreed to launch an Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Initiative, namely through:

1. Annual meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees to assess, review, coordinate and set political agenda for political association and economic integration with the possibility of ad hoc meetings upon the call of any of the three countries;

2. Inter-Parliamentary Working Groups among the members of the Committees for the purpose of sharing experience, best practices, and coordination of common policies and positions;

3. A regular communication channel among the staffers of the Committees for the purpose of sharing information and best practices;

4. Joint coordination of policies and positions on:

- Policy issues, including but not limited to approximation with the European Union and building democratic institutions and strengthening the rule of law
- Harmonization of the national legislation with the Acquis Communautaire
- Economic and trade issues, including but not limited to the challenges in the implementation of the deep and comprehensive free trade areas with the European Union
- Energy issues, including but not limited to the functioning of the European Energy Community and the establishment of the Energy Union
- Security issues, including but not limited to the challenges and conflicts in the region
- Any other issue upon the decision of the Chairpersons of the Committees

5. Encouragement of the establishment of a platform for dialogue with the civil society and SMEs of our countries for providing expertise and advice in particular reform fields, as well as monitoring of the AA implementation process;

6. Initiation of work on the creation of AA+ formats with the countries that have gone through the similar process of the European integration.

Done in Tbilisi, on 5 May 2015, in five original copies in the English language.

On behalf of the Committee on European Integration, Parliament of Georgia
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