



8TH CONFERENCE OF THE SEECP SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

Antalya, 5-8 June 2010

FINAL DECLARATION

We, the Speakers and Vice Speakers of the Parliaments of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Participating States: Mr. Luka BEBIĆ, Mr. Beriz BELKIC, Ms. Gordana COMIC, Mr. Ranko KRIVOKAPIC, Mr. Grigorios NIOTIS, Mr. Alexandru STOIANOGLO, Mr. Mehmet Ali ŞAHİN, Ms. Tsetska TSACHEVA, Mr. Ardjan TURKU and Mr. Trajko VELJANOSKI met in Antalya on 7 June 2010,

together with the Special Invitees: Mr. Mevlüt ÇAVUŞOĞLU, Ms. Doris PACK, Mr. Miodrag VUKOVIĆ, Mr. Robert WALTER, Mr. Hido BIŠČEVIĆ, Ms. Mariana VITANOVA, Mr. Alexey KUDRIAVTSEV and Mr. Ramil HASANOV,

Reaffirming our commitment to the overall development in South East Europe (SEE) as well as to the consolidation of inter-parliamentary interaction among the SEECP Participating States, with an aim to realizing the common ideals and principles embraced in the "Charter on Good Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in Southeastern Europe", and conclusions of the previous Conferences of the SEECP Speakers of Parliament,

Acknowledging the potential of SEECP for substantially strengthening the neighbourly relations among the Participant States and for contributing to our endeavours to transform our region into an area of peace and stability,

Highlighting the common history and culture as well as shared values and joint vision that we hold for the future of our region,

Reaffirming that this future lies under the broader umbrella of European integration, which we happily note as the priority objective of all the countries in the region,

Cognizant of the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation in securing political and legislative support for regional cooperation as well as in deepening people-to-people relations and understanding,

Have declared as follows:

1. We reaffirm our firm engagement in making concerted efforts to promote all-round growth of good-neighbourly relations, friendship and cooperation based on international law and mutual interests, and to contributing more ambitiously to ensuring peace, stability, prosperity and development of the states and peoples in the region in light of the common European perspective.

2. We express our thanks and appreciation to the European Parliament, the European Commission and EU Member States for their strong support and encouragement for regional cooperation in SEE, and expect the continuation of this constructive approach.

3. We call upon all Parliamentarians of the SEECP Participating States to increase public awareness on European integration processes and on the

importance of dialogue, tolerance, peaceful co-existence and preserving the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual fabrics of our societies in line with the European standards.

4. We underline the importance of regional ownership principle for the further stabilisation of the South East Europe. We believe that higher solidarity and cooperation among the SEECP Parliaments will contribute to assurance of sustainable regional stability and wealth of the region.

5. We welcome the expansion of the liberalization of the EU's visa regime to a part of the Western Balkans and express our expectation that it will be expanded to the rest of the region promptly.

6. We express our support to the “open door” policy of NATO, thus underline the importance of MAP instrument in bringing aspirant countries closer to NATO membership and encourage the Alliance to make this instrument available as widely as possible.

7. We encourage further deepening and diversifying of economic cooperation in the region that would bring about a sense of economic interdependence and integration to the benefit of all our peoples.

8. We underline the importance of the regional ownership principle for the further stabilisation of the South East Europe and we endorse regional cooperation and joint acts on overcoming the negative impacts of the world economic crisis on SEECP countries.

9. We stress that one of the main objectives of interparliamentary cooperation in South East Europe is to support the policies of the governments with a view to reinforcing the cooperation at the intergovernmental level.

10. We affirm the importance of closer ties and regular exchange of views between the SEECP Parliamentary and Governmental Level.

11. We emphasise our commitment for further development of cooperation between SEECP Parliamentary Dimension and Parliamentary Assemblies, Regional and International Organisations.

12. We recognise Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, Conference of European Integration Affairs Committees of States participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process of South Eastern Europe (COSAP), Parliamentary Dimension of Central European Initiative (CEI) and other regional initiatives as close regional partners of the SEECP Parliamentary dimension and stress the importance of inclusion of the SEECP Parliaments to their meetings as a means of fostering regional cooperation and bridging regional ties. We reiterate the importance of the maintenance of beneficial interaction between the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and existing mechanisms for regional parliamentary cooperation.

13. We note with appreciation that Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) has demonstrated, within a relatively short period of time, its capability to transform our vision of regional cooperation into concrete projects, as the operational arm of the SEECP.

We commend RCC's efforts in streamlining and strengthening cooperation in all priority areas for our region, particularly the overarching dimension of Parliamentary Cooperation and hosting the Preparatory Meeting in Sarajevo on 30-31 March 2010 under the auspices of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Turkey.

14. We underline the significance of the Memorandum of Understanding on Inter-parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe which was signed at the Seventh Conference of the Speakers of SEECP Parliaments in Sofia, providing a sound framework for parliamentary cooperation in the region and for the activities of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe (RSPC SEE). We point out the need of finalizing the development and adoption of the Draft Guidelines of Proceedings of the RSPC SEE. We reiterate the importance of maintaining beneficial interaction between the RCC and the RSPC SEE.

15. We welcome the initiative taken by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey as the CiO proposing to establish a Parliamentary Assembly of the SEECP Participating States.

16. We agree on establishing a Working Group with the aim to elaborate the guidelines and modalities for further development of SEECP Parliamentary dimension and leading to setting up a Parliamentary Assembly. The final outcome of the Working Group shall be presented at the forthcoming Conference of the SEECP Speakers of Parliament.

17. We will designate an MP and a substitute, together with the national coordinator to take part at the Working Group. In case of a bicameral system the designated representatives shall be one per Chamber. The first meeting of the Working Group will be held under the auspices of the SEECP CiO, the SEECP Troika and the SEECP Regional Secretariat in close cooperation with the RCC.

Adopted in Antalya on 7 June 2010