



SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Reg. No. LV 900 000 283 00 • Jēkaba iela 11, Rīga, LV-1811, Latvia
Phone: (+371) 6708 7324 • Fax: (+371) 6708 7366 • E-mail: saeima@saeima.lv

Riga, 30 September 2013
No 9/16-2-n/95-11/13

Mr. Gediminas KIRKILAS
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs
of the Parliament of Republic of Lithuania

Dear colleague,

Following the tradition, informal consultations of the European Affairs Committees of the parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was held in Riga on 22 – 23 September 2013. Meeting was convened in order to exchange the views on important European Union policies.

The representatives of European Affairs Committees of the parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania discussed issues related to the role of national Parliaments in shaping and scrutinising EU decision-making, development of Europe 2020 Strategy and Eastern Partnership.

Please find enclosed the common statements of the meeting for your reference, as the Presidency of the COSAC.

I am looking forward to seeing you in upcoming COSAC Ordinary meeting in Vilnius.

Respectfully yours,

Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica
Chairperson of the Saeima
European Affairs Committee

**MEETING STATEMENT
ON THE UPCOMING EASTERN PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT**

23 September 2013

Riga

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs of the national Parliaments of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania,

with regard to the Article 8 of the Treaty on the European Union providing that the Union shall develop a special relationship with neighbouring countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine), aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation;

emphasising the strategic importance of the Eastern Partnership region for the European Union;

noting that the Eastern Partnership Programme demonstrates the EU's solidarity, long-term commitment, and strong political and economic interest in the region, and that it is based on mutual commitments to international law and fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and freedoms, the market economy and good governance, among others;

with regard to the Eastern Partnership Summit that will be held in Vilnius on 28–29 November 2013 and is intended to consolidate irreversible progress in developing the relations between the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries that have chosen the path of closer integration with the EU;

express their support for the aspirations shared by the Eastern Partnership countries to become closer to the EU and for their objectives and commitments related thereto, including those specified in Article 49 of the Treaty on the European Union;

emphasise their strong support for the initialling or signing of the Association Agreements at the Eastern Partnership Summit on 28 November 2013 with those Eastern Partnership countries that are ready and willing to do so;

stress the need for a shared and consistent response on the part of the European Union to the Russian Federation's actions that concern the Eastern Partnership countries and are in contradiction with the Helsinki Accords, commitments to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and international law and **call** the Russian Federation to respect the sovereign rights of those countries to adopt political and economic decisions leading to the further development of their countries;

encourage the Eastern Partnership countries to continue their efforts and commitments to implement reforms and pursue closer political and economic integration with the European Union;

emphasise that unresolved regional conflicts in the Eastern Partnership countries undermine sustainable economic, social and political development of those countries, as well as regional cooperation, stability and security; **point out** that these conflicts are used to undermine the sovereignty and autonomy of those countries, and therefore more active engagement of the institutions of the European Union is necessary in finding ways to resolve those conflicts;

welcome the Resolution of the European Parliament of 12 September 2013 on the pressure exerted by Russia on Eastern Partnership countries;

stress the responsibility of the parliaments of the European Union to support the parliaments and societies in the countries going through a transition period and **call for** closer cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular with a view to engaging civil society;

believe that parliamentary diplomacy may play an important role in contributing to the foreign policy objectives of the European Union to enhance respect for human rights and to promote democratic reforms; therefore, **stress** the importance of employing instruments of parliamentary cooperation such as EURONEST and other parliamentary forums;

call on the European Commission and the European External Action Service to consider the possibility of offering new forms of cooperation to the Eastern Partnership countries that have not planned to sign any bilateral Association Agreements or Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements in order to ensure the active cooperation of those countries with the European Union;

invite parliaments and governments of the European Union Members States, the European Parliament, and other institutions of the European Union to combine their efforts in order to achieve substantial outcomes at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius.