

Opinion of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies on the

Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020

Reinforcing resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all

JOIN(2020) 7

The Chamber of Deputies:

- Supports the Eastern Partnership;
- Recommends the use of financial instruments for a themed programme for direct contacts between the organisations of the civil society from the EU and those from the countries of the Eastern Partnership;
- Underlines the importance of developing human capital, in particular through formal and non-formal education, and a mutual recognition system of obtained qualifications and underlines the particularities of the elder work force; appreciates the high potential of cooperation generated by the creative industries;
- Highlights the importance of diversifying the economies of the partner countries, as a premise for strengthening economic resilience and easing integration in the single market;
- Underlines the growth potential of the connectivity between EU and partner states – in the plan of transport, energy and digital interconnectivity corridors – and especially mentions the implementation of the Iași-Chișinău gas pipeline in July 2020; supports the development of civil air connections, harmonizing roaming tariffs between the Union and partner states, as well as satellite connectivity;
- Recommends establishing new cooperation priorities in the field of energy;
- Supports halting biodiversity loss and involving Member States with large rural areas, especially those in the vicinity, in support of partner countries;
- Expresses concern about lagging behind in areas such as good governance, rule of law, fight against corruption and ensuring independence of the press and recommends linking Union financial assistance to partner states with progresses in these areas;
- Recommends consulting the business environment from partner states;
- Evokes opportunities to strengthen cooperation between local authorities;

- Considers that the complex challenges faced by the partner states, including internal and external security, require increased attention from the Union and a dedicated framework for dialogue in order to increase mutual resilience.