

Bratislava, 22 May 2017

CONCLUSIONS

of the Meeting of the European Affairs Committees of the V4 Parliaments

Bratislava, 21 – 23 May 2017

Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the V4 Parliaments:

With regard to the Future of the European Union

- 1) acknowledge that the last 60 years have been the most peaceful and prosperous times in the history of Western Europe, in which the European Union has had an essential role. The existence of democratic and integrated Europe also contributed to the fall of undemocratic regimes in the Visegrád countries and to their democratic transition. Since 1989 the Visegrád countries are a part of the peaceful and prosperous era of European history, which was confirmed by their accession to the European Union in 2004. The European Union was founded on values such as respect for human rights, freedom, liberal democracy, social justice, rule of law and equality, which are as valid now as they were 60 years ago;
- 2) emphasise the need for the national Parliaments to be included and integrated in the discussions and the policy-making process relating to the future of the European Union in order to contribute to the necessary democratic legitimacy of this process;
- 3) recognise the various challenges and crises the European Union is facing today and the need to address them in an effective and significant way with the most possible engagement of the member states and European citizens;
- 4) welcome the efforts of the European Commission (“White Paper on the Future of Europe”) and the European Council (“Rome Declaration”) to provide a framework for debate on a new and modern vision for the European Union while stressing that the decisions concerning future course of the European integration lie mainly in the hands of the Member States;
- 5) support the goals and commitments of the Bratislava Roadmap and the Rome Agenda to make the European Union more safe and secure, more prosperous and sustainable, more social and more competitive, and stronger on the global scene, while recognising the various concepts of the reform of the European Union;
- 6) encourage the European institutions to further enhance their efforts to engage in a transparent and productive communication and cooperation with the national Parliaments, including improved reactions of the European Commission to national Parliaments’ reasoned opinions, thorough discussion in case a legislative proposal receives a significant number of reasoned opinions and more transparency in the informal dialogues;

On dual quality of food in EU member states

- 7) express concern at the conclusions of the investigation which have confirmed the long-term suspicions with regard to dual standards on foodstuffs quality in the European Union.
- 8) consider it unacceptable to introduce formally identical products with different quality parameters to the markets of individual Member States and categorically reject such practices of transnational corporations segregating European customers into citizens of the first and the second category;
- 9) emphasize the political dimension of this issue in a situation when the European Union more than any time before should be able to rely upon a trust of its citizens, which must, inter alia, also stem from abilities of relevant European bodies to prevent any discrimination and misleading of consumers, to guarantee their rights and protection as well as a high quality and safety of food placed on the European Single Market, and enhance the equality and cohesion of the EU member states.
- 10) welcome therefore conclusions of the European Council of the March 2017 which showed support to address the issue of dual quality standards of food at the High Level Forum for a better functioning food supply chain and call this body for the swift adoption of measures with the capacity to resolve the issue as soon as possible and to avoid its repetition in the future.
- 11) stress the importance of discussions and exchanges of views on dual quality of food in the field of European Parliament and Plenary Meeting of the COSAC.

Signatures of the heads of delegations:

Mr. Ľuboš Blaha (National Council of the Slovak Republic):

Mr. Richárd Hörcsik (National Assembly of Hungary):

Mr. Václav Hampl (Senate of the Czech Republic):

Mr. Igor Jakubčík (Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic):

Ms. Izabela Kloc (Sejm of Poland):

Mr. Jarosław Obremski (Senate of Poland):

The image shows six handwritten signatures in blue ink, arranged vertically on the right side of the page. Each signature corresponds to one of the names listed on the left. The signatures are: 1. Mr. Ľuboš Blaha (Slovak Republic), 2. Mr. Richárd Hörcsik (Hungary), 3. Mr. Václav Hampl (Czech Republic), 4. Mr. Igor Jakubčík (Czech Republic), 5. Ms. Izabela Kloc (Poland), and 6. Mr. Jarosław Obremski (Poland).