

**The informal meeting of the Delegations of the Committees on European Affairs of the
National Parliaments of
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland**

CONCLUSIONS

**Nida
17 September 2007**

The representatives of the Committees on European Affairs of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, having met in Nida on 17 September 2007 for their informal meeting,

On the expectations of the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)

- welcome the constructive atmosphere which allowed to overcome the constitutional crisis of the EU and call for full implementation of the scope and content of the IGC mandate, which would lead to the final conclusion of the negotiations on the Reform Treaty during the Informal Meeting of Heads of State and Government in Lisbon on 18-19 October;
- underline that the initial expectations of the Committees on European Affairs of the respective countries were that the role and position of the national parliaments would not be weaker in the new Reform Treaty than those defined in the Constitutional Treaty. The participants, therefore, welcome the provision of the IGC mandate to strengthen the role of the national parliaments;
- emphasise the vital importance for the EU of the provisions to make a reference to the spirit of solidarity among the Member States as regards the energy policy as well as the promotion of interconnection of energy networks in the new Reform Treaty and suggest that this issue remain in the focus of a political debate within the COSAC;

On the Nord Stream (Baltic Sea) gas pipeline

- express their great concern about environmental risks of the Nord Stream project, especially due to huge quantities of chemical munitions dumped during and after World War II;
- emphasize the necessity of the integration of the energy markets of the EU as well as the necessity of diversification of the supplies, stress that the implementation of the Nord Stream (Baltic Sea) pipe line project takes the EU away from achieving the goal of the common energy policy

- believe that the implementation of the large-scale project can affect the whole Baltic Sea region and could only be launched provided that a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is carried out and consultations with all parties concerned are successfully accomplished;

On the EU Mediterranean Dimension

- stress the importance of the Barcelona process and welcome the governmental and parliamentary cooperation in the framework of the EU-Mediterranean Dimension which was achieved through implementation of mutual commitments;
- underline that the South and Eastern Dimensions of the EU Neighbourhood Policy should be balanced and mutually recognised;

On Accession to the Schengen Area

- welcome the efforts and support of the Portuguese Presidency targeted at the accession of the New Member States to the Schengen Area;
- note that the enlargement of the Schengen Area will facilitate further enhancement of the development of the EU Internal Market;

On relations between the EU and Russia

- underline that the EU needs to remain united and consolidated in its policy towards Russia;

note that time has come to re-examine and strengthen the EU-Russia relations, which must lead to development of a clear strategy based on common values and the rule of law.