

**MEETING OF DELEGATIONS OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND POLAND**

**Riga
27-29 April 2008**

STATEMENT

- welcomes the successful process of Lisbon Treaty ratification already completed in several Member States of the European Union, and believes that the successful ratification process will end the protracted discussions on the institutional structures of the EU and allow to focus completely on vital economic and other issues;
- stresses that it is of great importance for the National Parliaments to boost the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty, and that National Parliaments should play the leading role in communicating the EU decision-making process to citizens;
- encourages Member States of the EU to make comprehensive agreements on the details of the Lisbon Treaty implementation process, and invites Member States and also the European Commission and the European Parliament to make this process as transparent and open as possible;
- emphasizes the clear role of National Parliaments laid down by the Lisbon Treaty, which simultaneously underlines the essential need for greater cooperation among the national parliaments in the process of examination of the EU legislation on the principles of subsidiarity under the existing frameworks of parliamentary cooperation such as COSAC, Speaker conference;
- welcomes the initiative on development of particular mechanism for the collective action for the modalities of the Lisbon Treaty, however believes that each parliament has its own scope and capability to use the rights established by the Lisbon Treaty;
- appreciates the steps taken by of the Slovenian Presidency and the European Commission to organize the public hearing on crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, and also welcomes the contribution of the European Parliament to this issue;
- expresses concerns about the hesitation of the EU to incorporate the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes in the framework decision on combating certain forms of racism and xenophobia and invites the EC to take further steps needed to facilitate the debates and publicity of this issue through establishment of the forum, museums, foundation, etc.;
- invites EU institutions and Member States to continue the discussion with the aim of reaching common understanding of European history regarding the crimes committed by the totalitarian regimes in order to ensure the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination of victims all totalitarian regimes;
- welcomes the European Union declaration of 18 April 2008 which reiterates its firm commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and calls to prevent further escalation of the situation;
- calls the EU under current circumstances to increase its activities in the field of successful development of EU neighbourhood policy, especially towards EU Eastern neighbours.