

**Conclusions of the Presidency**  
**of the Summit of Presidents of Parliaments**  
**of European Union Member States from Central and Eastern Europe**  
**Prague, 27 September 2008**

**The participants of the summit**

**Noting** the ongoing discussions on the role of national parliaments in the EU held in the framework of interparliamentary cooperation within the Conference of the Speakers of EU Parliaments, COSAC as well as the joint parliamentary meetings with the European Parliament

- I. state** that they will facilitate the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon in their respective countries and explain the need for ratification in a wider public discussion;
- II. consider** involvement of national parliaments as legitimate representatives of the people of members states in the European Union decision making processes as
  - a)** a step necessary to strengthen the democratic principles of decisions made by the European Union bodies;
  - b)** a tool increasing the level of identification of individual citizens with the integration process;
  - c)** an important tool for dynamic division of activities between the European Union and individual member states particularly in connection with the application of the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality;
- III. invite** the European Commission to provide the national parliaments with detailed information about:
  - a)** procedure the Commission will follow in reaction to possible negative reasoned opinions raised by the national parliaments resulting from the subsidiarity and proportionality principle check;
  - b)** mechanisms and rules of management of reasoned opinions presented by the national parliaments with regards to the already communicated cumulative approach;
  - c)** intended rules for informing the national parliaments about development of co-operation in the area of freedom, security and justice that may namely concern the citizen rights as well as individual member states interests;
  - d)** possibilities for involvement of national parliaments into the assessment of Eurojust activities and Europol activities supervision;

- IV. encourage** the parliaments and governments of the countries represented at the summit
- a) to pay corresponding attention to discussion on national level of EU legislation drafts in order not to disparage the influence of citizens on the content of Union policies;
  - b) to note the fact that the decisive tendency heads towards the partner and co-operative model of relationship between the government and the parliament instead of sharing information about government activities with the parliament only;
  - c) to deepen the discussion about perspectives of competence justice in the European Union inclusive of possibilities for involvement of national parliaments in the judicial subsidiarity principle check;
  - d) to analyse the impact of existing or intended transitional clauses (*passerelle*) and flexibility clause on determination of the rules and scope of activities of European Union including the appropriate projection by means of anchoring the significant rights of national parliaments compared to the decision making of the head of states and governments in the European Council;
  - e) to take into account independent roles of both chambers in the parliamentary scrutiny of European agenda in countries with bicameral parliaments;
  - f) to pay attention to early exchange of information on pre-selection of legislative proposals announced by the European Commission which is indispensable for effective identification of the documents that seem questionable from the point of view of the subsidiarity principle;
- V. reaffirm** their support to the continued enlargement process of the EU, in accordance with the enlargement strategy, and in particular welcome the legislative and institutional measures taken by candidate countries with a view to fulfilling accession criteria at the earliest possible date or even to completing accession negotiations;
- VI. recommend** to the Parliaments represented at the Summit to communicate immediately and intensively with each other in case of occurrence of a foreign political crisis or a direct military conflict. Furthermore, the Parliaments represented at the Summit shall inform each other about their standpoints and endeavour to contribute to a swift identification of generally acceptable solution by adequate means;
- VII. welcome** the conclusions of the European Council from September 1, 2008, the European Parliament Resolution of September 3, 2008 and the Moscow agreements from September 8, 2008 and emphasizes the unity of the European Union in solidarity with Georgia;
- VIII. support** future closer cooperation with the national parliaments of the Eastern neighbours of the European Union, for the benefit of promoting democracy values such as: respect for human rights, rule of law, full observance for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of the States and therefore **welcome** the initiative of Eastern Partnership and **urge** to discuss a potential constitution of its parliamentary dimension.