

## **Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments Luxembourg, 22-24 May 2016**

### **Draft conclusions of the Presidency**

#### **Preliminary remarks**

The Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments was held in Luxembourg at the European Convention Center Luxembourg on 22-24 May 2016, and attended by the Speakers of Parliaments of ... Member States as well as by the President of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission. Also taking part were the Speakers and Presidents of ... EU candidate countries and other countries attended as observers. The Conference was chaired by Mr Mars Di Bartolomeo, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg.

In his introduction, the Speaker stressed the inestimable added value of the European project, which is a project of peace, freedom, economic and social development based on our core values.

The Conference was divided into four sessions:

1. "Management of migration flows". The session began with a keynote presentation by...
2. "Strengthening of the European Union". The session began with keynote presentations by...
3. "Role of National Parliaments and interparliamentary cooperation". The session began with keynote presentations by...
4. "Ensure the security of citizens while respecting fundamental freedoms". The session began with keynote presentations by...

#### **Managing the Migration Flows**

1. The Speakers acknowledge that the European Union is facing a massive influx of refugees and migrants fleeing mostly Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and several African countries.

2. The Speakers are closely following the initiatives taken by the European Commission to address the refugee crisis, especially the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration.

Nevertheless, it should be underlined that any complex answer to migratory pressure may only be successful if the causes of the crisis are properly addressed at the source of the problem. Therefore, any kind of automatic redistribution mechanism cannot be perceived as a proper response to the crisis, which in consequence will create strong pull factor and deepen the crisis.

3. The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States

overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.

4. The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.

5. The Speakers welcome that their claims made during the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015 “to take concrete and immediate action to deal more effectively with the tragedies at sea caused by the increasing migration flows from the southern shores of the Mediterranean as well as to face the problems caused by waves of refugees arriving from eastern borders of the Schengen area” have been taken into account. In this sense, they particularly welcome the good cooperation between EU and NATO and the tremendous work undertaken by NATO in its action, especially in the Aegean Sea.

6. The Speakers plead for a strengthening of solidarity and responsibility within the EU. Nevertheless, Member States should have the opportunity to take sovereign decisions as regards preferred measures of contribution. In this context, they support the decision of the European Council of 7 March 2016 to accelerate substantially the implementation of relocation, which includes conducting the necessary security checks and resettlement to alleviate the heavy burden that presently weighs on countries particularly affected by the massive influx of refugees and migrants.

7. The Speakers ~~welcome~~ take note the Communications from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 and on 4 May 2016 in which it presents the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System options (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe ~~and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016.~~ In the context of proposal on the recast of Dublin Regulation, other solutions than a permanent and compulsory redistribution mechanism should be considered as possible burden sharing measures. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane, ~~and more~~ efficient and solidarity and responsibility based European asylum policy, as well as a better structured legal migration policy.

8. The Speakers note with concern that the amalgam between “terrorists” and “refugees” as well as the amalgam between religious fanaticism and religious belief is gaining more and more ground. They highlight that refugees are also victims of the terrorist system and flee among others the massacres and killings of Daech. They express the need to not stigmatize those under the right to international protection.

9. The Speakers emphasize the need to welcome the refugees with humanity and dignity and to support them in their process of integration in their host country with full respect for high standards in the security and public order issues. Comprehension and mutual respect are the fundamental basis of the relationship between refugees and the host society.

10. The Speakers recognize that Turkey is a strategic partner for the EU, particularly regarding cooperation on migration. They compliment the Turkish population that is hosting 2.7 million refugees living on its territory. However, the Speakers wish that this cooperation on migration is separated from the EU accession negotiation process and that this cooperation is fulfilled while fully respecting the fundamental values of the EU.

11. The Speakers welcome the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers note with satisfaction that much progress has been achieved already, including Turkey's opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, the introduction of new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing.

12. With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. However, any actions undertaken on this matter shall be made within the comprehensive EU offer addressed to Turkey to resolve the migration crisis. Member States shall have the opportunity to take sovereign decisions as regards preferred measures of contribution in implementation of commitments made to Turkey. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.

13. The Speakers thank and support humanitarian organisations, including the United Nation agencies, NGOs and organisations of the Red Cross for their commitment in supporting refugees and migrants.

14. The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they ~~welcome~~ take note of the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers ~~follow~~ state that the proposal on the reform of the "Dublin regulation" announced by the Commission should be a subject of discussion among EU Member States. However, it should be stressed that the instruments proposed will be a very strong pull factor and instead of solving the problem it will deepen it.

15. The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU's external borders and look forward to the adoption of the Council on the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.

16. The Speakers welcome the revised draft regulation for establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) included in the package of measures on "smart borders". They are convinced that this

Entry/Exit System will modernise the management of external borders by improving the quality and effectiveness of controls and help Member States deal with the increased volume of travellers entering and leaving the EU.

### **Strengthening the European Union**

17. The Speakers note that the “Rome Declaration”, signed on 14 September 2015 by 4 Parliaments/Chambers as well as, in the meantime, by 12 additional Parliaments/Chambers, supported by two candidate countries and still open for signature, calls for significantly greater political integration within the EU— as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.

~~18. The Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks to transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.~~

18. The Speakers take note of the Declaration of 15 April 2016 proposed by the Marshal of the Sejm “Europe of Solidary States” - security, borders, renewed institutions, which in recognition of the need for a debate about the future of the European Union, advocates the concept of Europe based on solidarity of equal, free and sovereign nation-states, and, at the same time, indicates the need to clearly specify the powers of the EU institutions and sharply outlines the boundaries of their influence on the legal space of the Member States.

19. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must insist on its core values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law- and that these values can never be questioned. In this sense, the Speakers underscore that the EU must ensure the respect of the core values on which it is based.

20. The Speakers note that following the consequences of the financial and economic crisis, the social dimension of the EU needs to be strengthened. In the light of this, they highlight the need to further align the economic policies to social policies and to achieve a balance between economic and budgetary equilibrium and social equilibrium. The Speakers also recognize the need to strengthen the social dimension of the European semester.

21. The Speakers are concerned about the alarming rates of youth unemployment in the EU and desire that the EU becomes synonymous of opportunity for young Europeans to ensure that there is no lost generation.

22. The Speakers are ~~closely~~ following the package of proposals of the European Parliament for a reform of the electoral law of the EU. At the same time, the Speakers point out that pushing for the suggested solutions aiming at further harmonisation of the electoral laws of the EP can have negative consequences, both political and legal. As a result, instead of strengthening the European Union, this could undermine the EU's credibility in the eyes of citizens.

### **The Role of National Parliaments and Interparliamentary Cooperation**

23. The Speakers emphasize the general willingness of national Parliaments to play a more active role in the European Union. They also welcome the wish of national Parliaments to be more involved in the debates around the European Semester and the National reform programs.

24. The Speakers insist on the obviousness that the free trade Agreements TTIP and CETA are brought to national Parliaments.

25. The Speakers believe that the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) would be, in addition to existing forms of parliamentary control and involvement, a practical tool for willing Parliaments to play a proactive role and to contribute further to the good functioning of the EU. They also recognize that some national Parliament would not be able to use the “green card” ~~(enhanced political dialogue)~~ because of internal constitutional traditions.

26. The Speakers welcome the efforts initiated under the three pilot projects as well as by the COSAC on introducing a “green card” ~~(enhanced political dialogue)~~, while noting that some questions related to the “green card” ~~(enhanced political dialogue)~~ remain open. In this sense, they welcome the decision of the Dutch Presidency to put this topic on the agenda of the LV COSAC, to be held in The Hague on 13-14 June 2016. They also look forward to the 25th Bi-Annual Report of COSAC that will present a follow-up work on this topic and encourage COSAC to continue discussions on the introduction of a “green card” ~~(enhanced political dialogue)~~.

27. The Speakers reiterate that the “yellow card” procedure needs improvement without Treaty change. In this sense, the Speakers support the COSAC in its demands to the Commission to strengthen efforts to ensure better quality and more timely responses to reasoned opinions.

28. The Speakers take note on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 and on the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the “red card” mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation.

29. The Speakers welcome the agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council on 26 November 2015, which will enhance Europol’s mandate to ensure that it is fully equipped to counter the increase in cross-border crimes and terrorist threats.

30. The Speakers call on Member States to fully implement the instruments provided by the current and future Europol regulation.

31. The Speakers reaffirm that pursuant to Article 88 of the TFEU the scrutiny of Europol’s activities shall be carried out by the European Parliament together with national Parliaments. They shall constitute a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, established jointly by national Parliaments and the competent committee of the European Parliament. The Speakers emphasize that the modalities of scrutiny of Europol’s activities must be defined by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments, while stressing that the European Parliament and national Parliaments are on equal footing and reminding that the new Europol regulation will enter into force on 1 May 2017.

32. In order to define the modalities of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, the Speakers propose to adopt a step by step approach and to ask a Working Group, composed by the troika of the Conference of Speakers, to consider scrutiny mechanisms and to present a draft

proposal, after consulting other Parliaments/Chambers. This Working Group would send this preliminary draft to all Parliaments/Chambers before the interparliamentary meeting organised by the LIBE committee at the European Parliament in autumn 2016. Thus, the Parliaments/Chambers have the chance to discuss and comment this preliminary draft. Finally, based on the preliminary draft and the ensuing discussions, the Working Group will prepare and submit a draft text by 16 December 2016, allowing Parliaments/Chambers to amend the text until February 2017 ahead of the next Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, so that it can be adopted then.

### **Ensuring the Security of Citizens while Respecting Fundamental Freedoms**

33. The Speakers strongly condemn the heinous and cowardly attacks perpetrated in recent months in Europe and in many other countries in the whole world, and they express their condolences to the victims and their families. These deadly attacks are targeting the European values of freedom, democracy and the respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this sense, the Speakers confirm that the best answer to terrorism is effective international cooperation between all the authorities involved, including reinforced information exchange, -while -ensuring that of freedom and the rule of law.

34. The Speakers underscore that the EU itself is a symbol of rights and freedoms and is a reference model for the protection of fundamental rights and respect for fundamental liberties towards not only EU citizens but also to those living within its borders.

35. The Speakers reaffirm the added value of a “European Union of security” and the need to employ in a coordinated way the framework and the instruments put in place by the institutions of the European Union.

~~European Commission.~~

36. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must fight against terrorism, radicalisation leading to terrorism and recruitment as well as financing linked to terrorism while safeguarding the solidarity and the unity between Member States. In this sense, they follow with particular interest the development of the European Agenda on Security for the period 2015-2020. In addition, the Speakers look forward to the “New EU strategy on foreign and security policy” which will be presented by the High Representative/Vice-President, Federica Mogherini in June 2016. They recall that national Parliaments have submitted proposals on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as well as on the issue of migration as their contribution to the preparation of the “EU Global Strategy”. The Speakers underscore the need to strengthen the Common Security and Defence Policy as an European response for modern threats coming from the South as well as the East. Stronger CSDP means stronger and more secure both EU and its respective member states. Combatting terrorism we should not forget more conventional threats. We should invest in development of our mutual cooperation in the area of defence and defence industry.

37. The Speakers are closely following the implementation of the Joint Action on Human Rights and Democracy for the period 2015-2019, adopted by the Council on 20 July 2015, which reaffirms the EU’s commitment to promote and protect human rights and to support democracy worldwide.

38. The Speakers note with concern the security threats posed by terrorism and highlight the need to improve the cooperation among European intelligence services, national experts on fight against terrorism and other authorities. They also invite Member States to share information with Europol and Eurojust in the fight against terrorism and organized crime. The Speakers recognize that substantial progress has already been made at Member State and EU level to enhance the collective ability to combat terrorism. In this sense, they take note of the directive on Passenger Name Records (PNR), adopted during the plenary session on 14 April 2016.

39. The Speakers note with concern the growing phenomenon of “foreign terrorist fighters” and highlight that priority should be given to preventing radicalization and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organizations. In addition, the Speakers stress the need to ensure that those already radicalized follow deradicalization programs and cannot convey terrorist propaganda messages or hate speech. In this sense, the Speakers look forward to the code of conduct against hate speech online developed by the European Commission and reaffirm the need to proactively exchange information about those people most at risk of being radicalized.

#### **IPEX (Interparliamentary EU information exchange)**

40. The Speakers welcome the conclusions on IPEX adopted at the Meeting of the Secretaries General of European Union Parliaments held in Luxembourg on 14-15 February 2016.

41. The Speakers note with satisfaction that, during these last years, IPEX has become a reliable and effective tool to exchange documents and information relevant for interparliamentary cooperation, thanks also to the continuous commitment of the European Parliament.

42. The Speakers thank the Italian Presidency for its work and results produced during the year of the Italian Chairmanship of the IPEX Board, in particular in their efforts to implement the new guidelines, adopted in Rome on 13 March 2015. The Speakers also would like to thank the Austrian Parliament for hosting the annual meeting of the IPEX correspondents, the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg and the European Parliament for hosting the Board meetings, the Belgian Senate for its availability to formally employ the IPEX information officer and the European Parliament for providing logistics and the infrastructure.

43. The Speakers call the Luxembourg Presidency to continue the discussions on a Digital Strategy, meant to provide IPEX with a comprehensive and efficient strategy with the view of a mid-term work programme to be carried out by the rotating presidency.

**Amendments to the Draft conclusions of the Presidency**  
**by the Croatian Parliament**

**Strengthening the European Union**

**Amendparagraph 18:**

The Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks to transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.

**as follows:**

The Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks **totransfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions as well as**~~(to be deleted)~~ to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU, **in accordance with the Founding Treaties** ~~(to be added)~~.

**Paragraph 18 after the Croatian Parliament’s amendments:**

The Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU, in accordance with the Founding Treaties.



## Cyprus House of Representatives

### Paragraph 3:

The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.

### To be amended as follows:

The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, conflicts and instability in the countries of origin, climate change and the economic crisis.

### Rationale:

Undoubtedly, the current migration and refugee crisis is the external dimension of conflicts and political instability in the immediate and greater neighborhood of the EU and from our point of view a reference to this fact is sensible.

### Paragraph 4:

The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The

Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.

**To be amended as follows:**

The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are children and particularly unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.

**Paragraph 12:**

**With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.**

To be amended as follows:

With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem. Furthermore, the Speakers acknowledge that implementation in good faith of the Visa Liberalization Roadmap and the Readmission Agreement vis-à-vis all EU member states is a necessary precondition for the Agreement between EU and Turkey to take effect.

**Paragraph 14:**

**The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers follow the proposal on the reform of the “Dublin regulation” announced by the Commission.**

To be amended as follows:

The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers ~~follow~~welcome the proposal on the reform of the “Dublin regulation” announced by the Commission, with a view to establishing a fairer approach that will incorporate effective burden-sharing.

Rationale:

Safeguarding Schengen goes hand in hand with a much needed reform of the “Dublin system”, especially in view of the fact that acute migratory movements towards the EU are expected to continue. A binding mechanism that will effectively allocate new applicants when member states are facing disproportionate pressures is urgently needed. The need for reform has been widely acknowledged, including by the European Parliament and the European Council.

#### **Paragraph 15:**

**The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU’s external**

**borders and look forward to the adoption of the Council on the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.**

To be amended as follows:

**The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in ~~these~~this unstable ~~regions~~region. The Speakers ~~welcome~~follow closely the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU's external borders and ~~look forward to the adoption of the Council on~~including the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.**

Rationale:

We are very well aware of significant reservations voiced by several member states as well as political groups within the EP, particularly regarding necessary safeguards of national sovereignty, pertaining to the mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard. Pending relative discussions in both the Council and the European Parliament, we believe that the phrase "look forward to its adoption" is perhaps undue.

**To be inserted as a new paragraph (23), after paragraph 22:**

**The Speakers take note of the Sustainable Energy Security Package announced by the EU Commission on 16 February 2016, as a step towards the direction of enhancing energy security, competitiveness, as well as sustainability of energy, in the context of the Energy Union.**

Rationale:

An Energy Union has been one of the flagship strategic goals of the EU and the Sustainable Energy Security Package could potentially form an important step towards its achievement. A reference in the conclusions is, I believe, necessary.

**Paragraph 30:**

The Speakers call on Member States to fully implement the instruments provided by the current and future Europol regulation.

**To be amended as follows:**

The Speakers call on Member States to fully implement the instruments provided by the current ~~and future~~ Europol regulation.



Berlin, 13. Mai 2015

**Änderungsvorschläge zu den vorläufigen Schlussfolgerungen  
der Präsidentschaft der EU-PPK vom 22.-24. Mai 2016 in  
Luxemburg**

Zu den von der luxemburgischen Präsidentschaft am 6. Mai 2016 vorgelegten vorläufigen Schlussfolgerungen der Präsidentschaft der EU-PPK vom 22.-24. Mai 2016 in Luxemburg werden zu dem Abschnitt „Rolle der nationalen Parlamente und interparlamentarische Kooperation“ folgende Änderungsvorschläge vorgebracht:

**1) Punkt 19**

Es wird vorgeschlagen die Formulierung des luxemburgischen Parlaments „can never be questioned“ durch „must never be questioned“ zu ersetzen.

**2) Punkt 24 Handelsverträge**

Im Hinblick auf die Ratifizierungsverfahren von CETA und TTIP hat die luxemburgische Präsidentschaft folgende Formulierung gewählt:

*„The Speakers insist on the obviousness that the free trade Agreements TTIP and CETA are brought to national parliaments.“*

Es wird vorgeschlagen, dass sich die nationalen Parlamente ausdrücklich für gemischte Abkommen aussprechen, die neben der EU durch die Mitgliedstaaten ratifiziert werden müssen und somit einer Zustimmung nationaler Parlamente bedürfen. Zudem sollten nationale Parlamente über den Verlauf des Verhandlungsprozesses kontinuierlich informiert werden, damit sie ihre Positionen auch im Verlauf des Prozesses und nicht

nur bei der Ratifizierung vorbringen können. Zwar wurde die Rolle der nationalen Parlamente bei EU-Handelsverträgen auf der EU-PPK vom 20.- 21. April 2015 in Rom als eigener Tagesordnungspunkt thematisiert und entsprechende Schlussfolgerungen verabschiedet, jedoch könnten die inzwischen erfolgte Einrichtung der Leseräume in zahlreichen Mitgliedstaaten begrüßt und die Kommission aufgefordert werden, den Zugang zu den Verhandlungstexten für nationale Parlamente weiter zu vereinfachen. Abs. 24 könnte somit wie folgt geändert bzw. ergänzt werden:

*„The Speakers stress that considering their scope the free trade agreements TTIP and CETA should be mixed agreements and insist that national parliaments have to give their consent. They reiterate the need for national parliaments to have access to information relating to ongoing trade negotiations, so that their possibility to express their views and concerns will not be restricted to the ratification procedure. They welcome the newly established reading rooms for TTIP consolidated texts by member states and invite the Commission to further facilitate the access to these documents for national parliaments.“*

### 3) Punkt 28 zur sog. roten Karte

Das luxemburgische Parlament bezieht sich zum Teil auf den Beschluss der Staats- und Regierungschefs über eine „neue Regelung für das Vereinigte Königreich innerhalb der EU“ vom 18./19. Februar 2016:

*„ (...) In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the „red card“ mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to **block** EU legislation“*

Die Formulierung „den EU-Gesetzgebungsprozess zu blockieren“ geht über die im Beschluss gewählte Bestimmung hinaus. Um eine unionsrechtliche Überinterpretation der Formulierung zu vermeiden, sollten sich die Schlussfolgerungen an diesem Punkt strikt am Text des Beschlusses der Staats- und Regierungschefs orientieren. Der letzte Satz von Punkt 28 könnte daher wie folgt geändert werden:

*„ (...) In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the „red card“ mechanism that would enable national Parliaments to request from the Council Presidency to include the item on the agenda of the Council for comprehensive discussion and afterwards to*

*discontinue the consideration of the draft legislative act – unless the draft is amended to accommodate the concerns expressed in the reasoned opinions.”*

**4) Punkt 32 zur Ausgestaltung der parlamentarischen Kontrolle von Europol**

Das luxemburgische Parlament schlägt u. a. die Einrichtung einer aus der Troika bestehenden Arbeitsgruppe zur Ausarbeitung eines Konzepts zur parlamentarischen Kontrolle von Europol.

Es wird angeregt, die Formulierung wie folgt zu ergänzen:

*“(....) and to ask the Working Group, composed by the Troika of the Conference of Speakers and of interested national parliaments represented on the political level to consider (...)”*



17 May 2016

## Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments

*Luxembourg, 22-24 May 2016*

### Draft conclusions of the Presidency

#### European Parliament's amendments

7. The Speakers welcome the Communication from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 in which it presents the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System options (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane and efficient European asylum policy, as well as a better managed legal migration policy. They underline the need to move quickly towards an asylum system that is truly common in terms of sharing of responsibility and of solidarity.
12. With regard to the ~~agreement-statement~~ reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this ~~Agreement-statement~~ must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.
14. The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers ~~follow-welcome~~ the proposal on the reform of the "Dublin regulation" ~~announced-issued~~ by the Commission.
15. The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU's external borders and look forward to the quick adoption by of the Council and the European Parliament of the on-the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.
24. The Speakers underline the important role of national Parliaments in dealing with ~~insist-on-the obviousness-that-the~~ free trade Agreements such as - TTIP and CETA ~~are brought to national Parliaments.~~
28. The Speakers take note on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 and on the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the "red card" mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation. In this context, the Speakers take note of the supplementary mechanism agreed concerning the application of the subsidiarity principle.

29. The Speakers welcome the new Europol regulation, adopted and signed on 11 May 2016~~agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council on 26 November 2015,~~ which will enhance Europol's mandate to ensure that it is fully equipped to counter the increase in cross-border crimes and terrorist threats. They remind that the entry into force of the Europol regulation is foreseen for the 1st May 2017.
30. The Speakers call on Member States to fully implement the instruments provided by the current and future Europol regulation, and remind that the efficiency of Europol is directly linked to the quantity and quality of information and intelligence provided by the Member States to Europol.
31. The Speakers reaffirm that pursuant to Article 88 of the TFEU the scrutiny of Europol's activities shall be carried out by the European Parliament together with national Parliaments. According to the new Europol regulation, t~~h~~ey shall constitute a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, established jointly by national Parliaments and the competent committee of the European Parliament. The Speakers emphasize that the objectives and missions of this scrutiny group have been defined by the new Europol regulation, whereas modalities of parliamentary scrutiny of Europol's activities must be defined by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments, while stressing that the European Parliament and national Parliaments are on equal footing. ~~and reminding that the new Europol regulation will enter into force on 1 May 2017.~~
32. In order to define the modalities of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, the Speakers propose to adopt a step by step approach and to ask a Working Group, composed by the troika<sup>i</sup> of the Conference of Speakers, to consider scrutiny mechanisms and to present a draft proposal, after consulting other Parliaments/Chambers. This Working Group would send this preliminary draft to all Parliaments/Chambers ~~b e f o r e~~ the interparliamentary meeting organised by the LIBE committee at the European Parliament in autumn 2016. Thus, the Parliaments/Chambers have the chance to discuss and comment this preliminary draft. Finally, based on the preliminary draft and the ensuing discussions, the Working Group will prepare and submit a draft text by 16 December 2016, allowing Parliaments/Chambers to amend the text until February 2017 ahead of the next Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, so that it can be adopted then.

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<sup>i</sup> The troika will be composed of the Parliaments of Luxembourg, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the European Parliament.



**Conférence des Présidents des Parlements de l'Union européenne**

**Amendements du Président du Sénat, M. Gérard Larcher**

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**Point 4 :**

Après la première phrase, insérer une phrase ainsi rédigée :

« Les Présidents déplorent la gravité de la situation que la Grèce et l'Italie ont dû affronter et constatent la lourdeur de la charge supportée par ces deux pays. »

**Point 5 :**

Dans la dernière phrase, après les mots : « saluent particulièrement », insérer les mots : « l'opération navale européenne « Sofia » contre les trafiquants d'êtres humains en méditerranée, ainsi que... »

**Point 10 :**

Compléter le texte proposé par une phrase ainsi rédigée :

Considère également qu'il est crucial que la Turquie respecte ses engagements en matière de protection des libertés fondamentales, en veillant notamment à la liberté d'expression et au pluralisme des médias et exprime sa préoccupation à l'égard des intimidations et des procédures judiciaires et administratives dont peuvent notamment faire l'objet des journalistes et des universitaires.

**Point 12 :**

Dans la première phrase, après les mots : « les Présidents », insérer les mots : « s'interrogent sur les conditions de mise en œuvre d'un tel accord, particulièrement sur une éventuelle libéralisation du régime des visas qui est conditionnée au respect plein et entier par la Turquie des 72 critères fixés par la Commission européenne. Les Présidents... »

**Point 15 :**

Compléter le texte proposé par une phrase ainsi rédigée :

« Les Présidents soulignent le rôle fondamental de l'agence FRONTEX dont les compétences et les moyens opérationnels doivent être renforcés et pérennisés, ainsi que l'importance de la coopération avec les pays tiers notamment par la conclusion d'accords de réadmission »

**Après le Point 16 :**

« Les Présidents soulignent que les migrations vers l'Europe en provenance d'Afrique sont très largement imputables à des motifs économiques en lien avec la question du développement. Ils insistent, en conséquence, sur l'importance d'une politique européenne ambitieuse en faveur du co-développement. »

**Après le Point 18 :**

« Les Présidents font valoir qu'un nouvel élan de l'intégration européenne implique que l'Union européenne s'attache à revoir son mode de fonctionnement afin de se concentrer sur les domaines dans lesquels elle peut apporter une réelle « plus-value », de veiller en permanence à la simplification de ses modes d'action et de rendre les politiques européennes compréhensibles et accessibles par les citoyens européens. »

**Point 22 :**

Compléter le texte proposé par une phrase ainsi rédigée :

« Les Présidents rappellent que toute réforme de la loi électorale de l'Union européenne doit pouvoir faire l'objet d'un examen par les parlements nationaux au titre de la subsidiarité, conformément au protocole n° 2 sur l'application des principes de subsidiarité et de proportionnalité. »

**Point 38 :**

Compléter le texte proposé par deux phrases ainsi rédigées :

« Déplorant le retard pris dans l'adoption d'un dispositif indispensable pour la sécurité des citoyens européens, les Présidents soulignent l'urgence de sa transposition dans les droits nationaux et de sa mise en œuvre opérationnelle.

Comme le souligne la « déclaration de Paris », adoptée le 30 mars 2015 par plusieurs Parlements/Chambres, les Présidents appellent l'Union européenne à adopter rapidement des mesures qui permettront de renforcer l'efficacité de la lutte contre le terrorisme au niveau européen, comme la directive sur les armes, d'améliorer le fonctionnement des fichiers européens, comme le système Eurodac, et de renforcer Europol et Eurojust ».

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY, PROPOSED BY THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

*(dated 17 May 2016)*

(Indication: new text **bold and underlined**, deleted text ~~double-crossed~~)

### **Managing the Migration Flows**

1. The Speakers acknowledge that the European Union is facing a massive influx of refugees and migrants fleeing mostly **from** Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and several African countries.
2. The Speakers are closely following the initiatives taken by the European Commission to address the refugee crisis, especially the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration.
3. The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.
4. The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. **The Speakers underline the fact that those reaching a Schengen Area Member State illegally should be returned to a safe country of origin or transit. The Speakers note that accepting the list of safe third countries is an urgent need.** They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.
5. The Speakers welcome that their claims made during the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015 “to take concrete and immediate action to deal more effectively with the tragedies at sea caused by the increasing migration flows from the southern shores of the Mediterranean as well as to face the problems caused by waves of refugees arriving from eastern borders of the Schengen area” have been taken into account. In this sense, they particularly welcome the good cooperation between EU and NATO and the tremendous work undertaken by NATO in its action, especially in the Aegean Sea.
6. The Speakers plead for a strengthening of solidarity and responsibility within the EU. In

this context, they support the decision of the European Council of 7 March 2016 to accelerate substantially the implementation of relocation and resettlement to alleviate the heavy burden that presently weighs on countries particularly affected by the massive influx of refugees and migrants. **However, both relocation and resettlement can only be based on the voluntary will of Member States.**

7. The Speakers welcome the Communication from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 in which it presents the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System options (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane, more solidarity-based and efficient European asylum policy, as well as a better structured legal migration policy. **The Speakers underline the need for an asylum procedure, which should be completed outside of the European Union in closed and protected hotspots.**
8. The Speakers note with concern that the amalgam between “terrorists” and “refugees” as well as the amalgam between religious fanaticism and religious belief is gaining more and more ground. They highlight that refugees are also victims of the terrorist system and flee among others the massacres and killings of Daech. They express the need to not stigmatize those under the right to international protection.
9. The Speakers emphasize – **based on each and every Member State’s will** – the need to ~~welcome~~**treat** the refugees with humanity and dignity and to support them in their process of integration in their host country. Comprehension and mutual respect are the fundamental basis of the relationship between refugees and the host society.
10. The Speakers recognize that Turkey is a strategic partner for the EU, particularly regarding cooperation on migration. They ~~complement~~**acknowledge the efforts of** the Turkish population that is hosting 2.7 million refugees living on its territory. However, the Speakers wish that this cooperation on migration is separated from the EU accession negotiation process and that this cooperation is fulfilled while fully respecting the fundamental values of the EU.
11. The Speakers welcome the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers note with satisfaction that much progress has been achieved already, including Turkey’s opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, the introduction of new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing.
12. With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.

13. The Speakers thank and support humanitarian organisations, including the United Nations agencies, NGOs and organisations of the Red Cross for their commitment in supporting refugees and migrants.
14. The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. **In order to achieve that Member States must give full effect to existing European and Schengen legislation. The Speakers agree that the unity of the European Union is depending on regaining full control of the external borders of the Schengen Area.** The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers follow the proposal on the reform of the “Dublin regulation” announced by the Commission.
15. The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU’s external borders and look forward to the adoption of the Council on the proposal ~~to establish~~ **of establishing the** European Border and Coast Guard.
16. The Speakers welcome the revised draft regulation for establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) included in the package of measures on “smart borders”. They are convinced that this Entry/Exit System will modernise the management of external borders by improving the quality and effectiveness of controls and help Member States deal with the increased volume of travellers entering and leaving the EU.

### **Strengthening the European Union**

- ~~17. The Speakers note that the “Rome Declaration”, signed on 14 September 2015 by 4 Parliaments/Chambers as well as, in the meantime, by 12 additional Parliaments/Chambers, supported by two candidate countries and still open for signature, calls for significantly greater political integration within the EU.~~
18. The Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks to ~~transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions, as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.~~ **The Speakers underline that the division of competences between the Union and its Member States, as well as the equality of Member States must be respected.**
19. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must insist on its core values –human rights, **dignity, freedom, democracy, and equality,** the rule of law **and respect for human rights**– and that these values can never be questioned. In this sense, the Speakers underscore that the EU must ensure the respect of the core values on which it is based.
20. The Speakers note that following the consequences of the financial and economic crisis, **strengthening** the social dimension of the EU needs to be ~~strengthened~~ **considered**. In



the light of this, they highlight the need to examine possible ways for further aligning the economic policies to social policies and achieving a balance between economic and budgetary equilibrium and social equilibrium. The Speakers also recognize the need to strengthen of a debate on strengthening the social dimension of the European ~~semester~~ Semester.

21. The Speakers are concerned about the alarming rates of youth unemployment in the EU and desire that the EU becomes synonymous of opportunity for young Europeans to ensure that there is no lost generation.
22. The Speakers are closely following the package of proposals of the European Parliament for a reform of the electoral law of the EU.

### **The Role of National Parliaments and Interparliamentary Cooperation**

23. The Speakers emphasize the general willingness of national Parliaments to play a more active role in the European Union. They also welcome the wish of national Parliaments to be more involved in the debates around the European Semester and the National reform programs.
24. The Speakers insist on the obviousness that the free trade Agreements TTIP and CETA are brought to national Parliaments.
25. The Speakers believe that the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) would be, in addition to existing forms of parliamentary control and involvement, a practical tool for willing Parliaments to play a proactive role and to contribute further to the good functioning of the EU. They also recognize that some national Parliament would not be able to use the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) because of internal constitutional traditions.
26. The Speakers welcome the efforts initiated under the three pilot projects as well as by the COSAC on introducing a “green card” (enhanced political dialogue), while noting that some questions related to the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) remain open. In this sense, they welcome the decision of the Dutch Presidency to put this topic on the agenda of the LV COSAC, to be held in The Hague on 13-14 June 2016. They also look forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Report of COSAC that will present a follow-up work on this topic and encourage COSAC to continue discussions on the introduction of a “green card” (enhanced political dialogue).
27. The Speakers reiterate that the “yellow card” procedure needs improvement without Treaty change. In this sense, the Speakers support the COSAC in its demands to the Commission to strengthen efforts to ensure better quality and more timely responses to reasoned opinions.
28. The Speakers take note on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 and on the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers ~~acknowledge~~ welcome the “red card” mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation.
29. The Speakers welcome the agreement reached by the European Parliament and the

Council on 26 November 2015, which will enhance Europol's mandate to ensure that it is fully equipped to counter the increase in cross-border crimes and terrorist threats.

30. The Speakers call on Member States to fully implement the instruments provided by the current and future Europol ~~regulation~~ **regulations**.
31. The Speakers reaffirm that pursuant to Article 88 of the TFEU the scrutiny of Europol's activities shall be carried out by the European Parliament together with national Parliaments. They shall constitute a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, established jointly by national Parliaments and the competent committee of the European Parliament. The Speakers emphasize that the modalities of scrutiny of Europol's activities must be defined by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments, while stressing that the European Parliament and national Parliaments are on equal footing and reminding that the new Europol regulation will enter into force on 1 May 2017.
32. In order to define the modalities of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, the Speakers propose to adopt a step by step approach and to ask a Working Group, composed by the troika of the Conference of Speakers, to consider scrutiny mechanisms and to present a draft proposal, after consulting other Parliaments/Chambers. This Working Group would send this preliminary draft to all Parliaments/Chambers before the interparliamentary meeting organised by the LIBE committee at the European Parliament in autumn 2016. Thus, the Parliaments/Chambers have the chance to discuss and comment this preliminary draft. Finally, based on the preliminary draft and the ensuing discussions, the Working Group will prepare and submit a draft text by 16 December 2016, allowing Parliaments/Chambers to amend the text until February 2017 ahead of the next Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, so that it can be adopted then.

### **Ensuring the Security of Citizens while Respecting Fundamental Freedoms**

33. The Speakers strongly condemn the heinous and cowardly attacks perpetrated in recent months in Europe and in many other countries in the whole world, and they express their condolences to the victims and their families. These deadly attacks are targeting the European values of freedom, democracy and the respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this sense, the Speakers confirm that the best answer to terrorism is ~~that of~~ **to provide freedom and the rule of law. Speakers emphasize the need to support the European Union's migration policy with material assets, such as financial aid and other necessary tools.**

## HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

### Managing the Migration Flows

1. The Speakers acknowledge that the European Union, especially frontline States, is facing a massive influx of refugees and migrants fleeing mostly Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and several African countries.

Mis en forme : Anglais (Royaume-Uni)

3. The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in ~~deplorable~~ extremely difficult conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees in consultation with the host member State. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.

4. The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.

5. The Speakers welcome that their claims made during the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015 “to take concrete and immediate action to deal more effectively with the tragedies at sea caused by the increasing migration flows from the southern shores of the Mediterranean as well as to face the problems caused by waves of refugees arriving from eastern borders of the Schengen area” have been taken into account. ~~In this sense, they particularly welcome the good cooperation between EU and NATO and the tremendous work undertaken by NATO in its action, especially in the Aegean Sea.~~ In this sense, they particularly welcome the good cooperation between EU and NATO and NATO's positive contribution to the international efforts to cut the lines of illegal trafficking and migration from Turkey to the Greek islands

7. The Speakers welcome the Communication from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 in which it presents the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System options (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane, more solidarity-based, more fair burden-sharing and efficient European asylum policy, as well as a better structured legal migration policy.

10. The Speakers recognize that Turkey is a strategic key partner ~~for and candidate country~~ the EU, particularly regarding cooperation on migration. They compliment the Turkish population that is hosting 2.7 million refugees living on its territory. However, the Speakers ~~wish underline~~ that this cooperation on migration is separated from the EU accession negotiation process and that this cooperation is fulfilled while fully respecting the fundamental values and established conditionality of the EU.

11. The Speakers welcome the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers note ~~with satisfaction that much~~ progress has been achieved already, including Turkey's opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, the introduction of new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing.

12. With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers ~~insist stress~~ that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the

implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to ~~avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions~~respect the principle of non-refoulement. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.

Strengthening the European Union

~~19. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must insist on its core values — human rights, democracy and the rule of law — and that these values can never be questioned. In this sense, the Speakers underscore that the EU must ensure the respect of the core values on which it is based.~~

19. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must lay emphasis on the preservation and promotion of its founding values, namely, respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and that these values should never be questioned. In this sense, the Speakers underscore that the EU member states must ensure the respect of their common values on which the EU is founded.

21. The Speakers are concerned about the alarming rates of ~~youth~~ unemployment in the EU, particularly of youth unemployment, and desire that the EU becomes synonymous of opportunity for young Europeans to ensure that there is no lost generation.

Mis en forme : Police : (Par défaut)  
Arial, Couleur de police : Noir, Anglais  
(États-Unis)

Mis en forme : Anglais (États-Unis)

**AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY  
AMENDMENT PRESENTED BY ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

**CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF THE EU PARLIAMENTS  
Luxembourg, 22-24 May 2016**

11.delete “welcome” and replace with “note the adoption of”.

Delete “note with satisfaction” and replace with “emphasise”.

Delete “much”.

Delete “already”.

Amended paragraph to read as follows: *The Speakers **note the adoption of the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers **emphasise that progress has been achieved, including Turkey’s opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing.*****

## AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY

### AMENDMENTS PRESENTED BY ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND SENATE

#### CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF THE EU PARLIAMENTS

Luxembourg, 22-24 May 2016

2.add to end of sentence: “as well as efforts to tackle the root causes of refugee and migration flows by reinforcing the focus on the external dimension of migration, in a spirit of partnership with migrant-sending countries”.

Amended paragraph to read as follows: *The Speakers are closely following the initiatives taken by the European Commission to address the refugee crisis, especially the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration, **as well as efforts to tackle the root causes of refugee and migration flows by reinforcing the focus on the external dimension of migration, in a spirit of partnership with migrant-sending countries***”.

4.delete “Aegean” and replace with “Mediterranean”.

Add: “and commend efforts undertaken in the framework of joint operation EU NAVFOR MED – Sophia”.

Amended paragraph to read as follows: “*The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the **Mediterranean** Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015, **and commend efforts undertaken in the framework of joint operation EU NAVFOR MED – Sophia**. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.*”

7. Add: “emphasising the need to achieve solidarity and effectiveness”.

Amended paragraph to read as follows: “*The Speakers welcome the Communication from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 in which it presents the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System options (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016, **emphasising the need to achieve solidarity and effectiveness**. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane and efficient European asylum policy, as well as a better managed legal migration policy.*”

11.delete “the introduction of new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities”.

Amended paragraph to read as follows: “*The Speakers welcome the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers note with satisfaction that much progress has been achieved already, including Turkey’s opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing*”.



## PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

The following are the proposed amendments by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta, to the draft Conclusions of the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments to be held in Luxembourg between 22 and 24 May 2016:

### Amendment to paragraph 8

8. The Speakers note with concern that the amalgam between “terrorists” and “refugees” as well as the amalgam between religious fanaticism and religious belief is gaining more and more ground. They highlight that refugees are also victims of the terrorist system ~~and flee among others the massacres and killings of Daech~~. They express the need to not stigmatize those under the right to international protection.

### Amendment to paragraph 18

18. ~~Whilst not all Speakers present could endorse the “Rome Declaration” seeking to transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions,~~ the Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks to transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to should play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.

### Amendment to paragraph 24

24. The Speakers insist on the obviousness that the free trade Agreements TTIP and CETA are brought to national Parliaments and are further encouraged to promote the setting up of TTIP reading rooms by the relative government to ensure access to the negotiation documents by national parliamentarians who will eventually be required to ratify the agreement.

### Amendment to paragraph 31

31. The Speakers reaffirm that pursuant to Article 88 of the TFEU the scrutiny of Europol’s activities shall be carried out by the European Parliament together with national Parliaments. They shall constitute a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group (JPSG), established jointly by national Parliaments and the competent committee of the European Parliament. The Speakers emphasize that the modalities of scrutiny of Europol’s activities must be defined by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments, while stressing that the European Parliament and national Parliaments are on equal footing and reminding that the new Europol regulation will enter into force on 1 May 2017.

## Amendment to paragraph 32

32. In order to define the modalities of the ~~Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group~~JPSG, the Speakers propose to adopt a step by step approach and to ask a Working Group, composed by the chairpersons of the relevant committees of the parliaments of the troika of the Conference of Speakers and from other willing parliaments, to consider scrutiny mechanisms and to present a draft proposal, after consulting other Parliaments/Chambers. This Working Group, functioning under the direction of the troika Speakers, would send this preliminary draft to all Parliaments/Chambers before the interparliamentary meeting organised by the LIBE committee at the European Parliament in autumn 2016. Thus, the Parliaments/ Chambers have the chance to discuss and comment this preliminary draft. Finally, based on the preliminary draft and the ensuing discussions, the Working Group will prepare and submit a draft text by 16 December 2016, allowing Parliaments/ Chambers to amend the text until February 2017 ahead of the next Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, so that it can be reviewed and recommended for adoption~~adopted then~~.

## New paragraph 32a

### New paragraph 32a

The Speakers encourage the Parliaments to draw upon the experience gained from the setting up of the inter-parliamentary conference on the CFSP/CSDP and the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union in order to proceed swiftly with the setting up the new JPSG.

17 May 2016



**NATIONAL COUNCIL SLOVAKIA**

**Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments  
Luxembourg, 22-24 May 2016**

**Draft conclusions of the Presidency**

**On “Management of migration flows”**

1. The Speakers acknowledge that the European Union is facing a massive influx of refugees and migrants fleeing mostly Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and several African countries.
2. The Speakers are closely following the initiatives taken by the European Commission to address the refugee crisis, especially the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration.
3. The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.
4. The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.
5. The Speakers welcome that their claims made during the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015 “to take concrete and immediate action to deal more effectively with the tragedies at sea caused by the increasing migration flows from the southern shores of the Mediterranean as well as to face the problems caused by waves of refugees arriving from eastern borders of the Schengen area” have been taken into account. In this sense, they particularly welcome the good cooperation between EU and NATO and the tremendous work undertaken by NATO in its action, especially in the Aegean Sea.

614. The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers follow the proposal on the reform of the “Dublin regulation” announced by the Commission.

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Noir, Surlignage

745. The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU’s external borders and look forward to the adoption of the Council on the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.

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846. The Speakers welcome the revised draft regulation for establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) included in the package of measures on “smart borders”. They are convinced that this Entry/Exit System will modernise the management of external borders by improving the quality and effectiveness of controls and help Member States deal with the increased volume of travellers entering and leaving the EU.

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96. The Speakers plead for a strengthening of solidarity and responsibility within the EU. In this context, they note statement of the EU Heads of State or Government of 7 March and European Council Conclusion of 17-18 March 2016 to accelerate substantially the implementation of relocation and resettlement to alleviate the heavy burden that presently weighs on Greece while reiterating that the EU-Turkey Statement does not establish any new commitments on Member States as far as relocation and resettlement are concerned.

~~they support the decision of the European Council of 7 March 2016 to accelerate substantially the implementation of relocation and resettlement to alleviate the heavy burden that presently weighs on countries particularly affected by the massive influx of refugees and migrants.~~

107. The Speakers note welcome the Communication from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 in which it presents the process for the reform options of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane and efficient European asylum policy, as well as a better managed legal migration policy.

118. The Speakers note with concern that the amalgam between “terrorists” and “refugees” as well as the amalgam between religious fanaticism and religious belief is gaining more and more ground. They highlight that refugees are also victims of the terrorist system and flee among others the massacres and killings of Daech. They express the need to not stigmatize those under the right to international protection.

129. The Speakers emphasize the need to welcome the refugees with humanity and dignity and to support them in their process of integration in their host country. Comprehension and mutual respect are the fundamental basis of the relationship between refugees and the host society.

6 May 2016

139. The Speakers recognize that Turkey is a strategic partner for the EU, particularly regarding cooperation on migration. They compliment the Turkish population that is hosting 2.7 million refugees living on its territory. However, the Speakers wish that this cooperation on migration is separated from the EU accession negotiation process and that this cooperation is fulfilled while fully respecting the fundamental values of the EU.

141. The Speakers welcome the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers note with satisfaction that much progress has been achieved already, including Turkey’s opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, the introduction of new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing.

152. With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.

163. The Speakers thank and support humanitarian organisations, including the United Nation agencies, NGOs and organisations of the Red Cross for their commitment in supporting refugees and migrants.

~~14. The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new~~

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Noir, Surlignage

~~Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers follow the proposal on the reform of the “Dublin regulation” announced by the Commission.~~

~~15. The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU’s external borders and look forward to the adoption of the Council on the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.~~

~~16. The Speakers welcome the revised draft regulation for establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) included in the package of measures on “smart borders”. They are convinced that this Entry/Exit System will modernise the management of external borders by improving the quality and effectiveness of controls and help Member States deal with the increased volume of travellers entering and leaving the EU.~~

#### **On “strengthening the European Union”**

17. The Speakers note that the “Rome Declaration”, signed on 14 September 2015 by 4 Parliaments/Chambers as well as, in the meantime, by 12 additional Parliaments/Chambers, supported by two candidate countries and still open for signature, calls for significantly greater political integration within the EU.

18. The Speakers acknowledge that the “Rome Declaration” seeks to transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.

19. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must insist on its core values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law- and that these values can never be questioned. In this sense, the Speakers underscore that the EU must ensure the respect of the core values on which it is based.

20. The Speakers note that following the consequences of the financial and economic crisis, the social dimension of the EU needs to be strengthened. In the light of this, they highlight the need to further align the economic policies to social policies and to achieve a balance between economic and budgetary equilibrium and social equilibrium. The Speakers also recognize the need to strengthen the social dimension of the European semester.

21. The Speakers are concerned about the alarming rates of youth unemployment in the EU and desire that the EU becomes synonymous of opportunity for young Europeans to ensure that there is no lost generation.

22. The Speakers are closely following the package of proposals of the European Parliament for a reform of the electoral law of the EU.

#### **On “Role of National Parliaments and interparliamentary cooperation”**

23. The Speakers emphasize the general willingness of national Parliaments to play a more active role in the European Union. They also welcome the wish of national Parliaments to be more involved in the debates around the European Semester and the National reform programs.

24. The Speakers insist on the obviousness that the free trade Agreements TTIP and CETA are brought to national Parliaments.

25. The Speakers believe that the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) would be, in addition to existing forms of parliamentary control and involvement, a practical tool for willing Parliaments to play a proactive role and to contribute further to the good functioning of the EU. They also recognize that some

national Parliament would not be able to use the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) because of internal constitutional traditions.

26. The Speakers welcome the efforts initiated under the three pilot projects as well as by the COSAC on introducing a “green card” (enhanced political dialogue), while noting that some questions related to the “green card” (enhanced political dialogue) remain open. In this sense, they welcome the decision of the Dutch Presidency to put this topic on the agenda of the LV COSAC, to be held in The Hague on 13-14 June 2016. They also look forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Report of COSAC that will present a follow-up work on this topic and encourage COSAC to continue discussions on the introduction of a “green card” (enhanced political dialogue).

27. The Speakers reiterate that the “yellow card” procedure needs improvement without Treaty change. In this sense, the Speakers support the COSAC in its demands to the Commission to strengthen efforts to ensure better quality and more timely responses to reasoned opinions.

28. The Speakers take note on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 and on the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the “red card” mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation.

29. The Speakers welcome the agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council on 26 November 2015, which will enhance Europol’s mandate to ensure that it is fully equipped to counter the increase in cross-border crimes and terrorist threats.

30. The Speakers call on Member States to fully implement the instruments provided by the current and future Europol regulation.

31. The Speakers reaffirm that pursuant to Article 88 of the TFEU the scrutiny of Europol’s activities shall be carried out by the European Parliament together with national Parliaments. They shall constitute a Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, established jointly by national Parliaments and the competent committee of the European Parliament. The Speakers emphasize that the modalities of scrutiny of Europol’s activities must be defined by the European Parliament, together with national Parliaments, while stressing that the European Parliament and national Parliaments are on equal footing and reminding that the new Europol regulation will enter into force on 1 May 2017.

32. In order to define the modalities of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, the Speakers propose to adopt a step by step approach and to ask a Working Group, composed by the troika of the Conference of Speakers, to consider scrutiny mechanisms and to present a draft proposal, after consulting other Parliaments/Chambers. This Working Group would send this preliminary draft to all Parliaments/Chambers before the interparliamentary meeting organised by the LIBE committee at the European Parliament in autumn 2016. Thus, the Parliaments/Chambers have the chance to discuss and comment this preliminary draft. Finally, based on the preliminary draft and the ensuing discussions, the Working Group will prepare and submit a draft text by 16 December 2016, allowing Parliaments/Chambers to amend the text until February 2017 ahead of the next Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments, so that it can be adopted then.

#### **On “Ensure the security of citizens while respecting fundamental freedoms”**

33. The Speakers strongly condemn the heinous and cowardly terrorist attacks perpetrated in recent months in Europe and in many other countries in the whole world, and they express their condolences to the victims and their families. These deadly attacks are targeting the European values of freedom, democracy and the respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this sense, the Speakers confirm that the best answer to terrorism is that of freedom and the rule of law.

**Mis en forme :** Couleur de police :  
Noir, Surlignage

## AMENDMENTS NL Tweede Kamer en Eerste Kamer

### (p.1) Preliminary remarks

The Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments was held in Luxembourg at the European Convention Center Luxembourg on 22-24 May 2016, and attended by the Speakers of Parliaments of ... Member States as well as by the President of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission. Also taking part were the Speakers and Presidents of ... EU candidate countries and other countries attended as observers. The Conference was chaired by Mr Mars Di Bartolomeo, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg.

Recalling paragraph 5.1 of the Stockholm Guidelines, it is recognised that the Speakers of certain Chambers, because of their constitutional position, cannot directly associate themselves with substantive political statements, and therefore should not be seen as indicating specific support for all sections. Nonetheless, they recognise on behalf of their Chambers the importance of the issues raised and the intentions of colleagues in proposing particular ways forward.

In his introduction, the Speaker stressed the inestimable added value of the European project, which is a project of peace, freedom, economic and social development based on our core values.

(p.4 under Strengthening the European Union)

22. The Speakers are closely following the package of proposals of the European Parliament for a reform of the electoral law of the EU and underline that the organisation of elections is first and foremost a competence of the Member States.

41. The Speakers note with satisfaction that, during these last years, IPEX has become a reliable and effective tool to exchange documents and information relevant for interparliamentary cooperation, thanks ~~also~~ to the continuous commitment of the European Parliament and the national parliaments contributing to IPEX.

## AMENDMENT

### The Netherlands, Eerste Kamer (The Senate)

28. The Speakers take note on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 and on the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers  
| ~~acknowledge~~ take note of the “red card” mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation.

Prague, May 17, 2016

I am aware that those are conclusions of the presidency that the presiding speaker of the conference, i.e. the Speaker of the Parliament of Luxembourg is responsible for. Nevertheless, I would like to make following comments:

#### Session I – Managing the migration flows

General remark – It is necessary to distinguish between genuine refugees who really need international protection and il/legal migrants who come to Europe mostly of economic reasons

Paragraph 9 – Naturally, I am not against treating the refugees with humanity and dignity. Nevertheless, their integration in the host country does not correspond to reality – politicians have to respect views of their fellow-citizens and voters that are in stark contrast to the idea of integration. Comprehension and mutual respect are definitely fundamental but they have to be mutual and not only on the host's side. Besides, migrants have their own will, many of them do not want to integrate and they want to settle down only in countries with the most generous social benefits.

Paragraph 13 – many NGOs do much more harm than good in this matter, some of them out of good will, for some of them it is a lucrative business

#### Session II - Strengthening the European Union

Paragraph 21 – It is in contradiction to the thesis, not expressed in the text but widely used, that immigration helps to solve the manpower shortage in the EU. If there are no jobs for often highly qualified young Europeans it would be very difficult to find jobs for mostly unskilled immigrants without language knowledge who come from completely different environment (cultural , climatic etc.)

Milan Štěch

President of the Senate of the Czech Republic

## **Romanian Chamber of Deputies` amendments to the draft Conclusions**

**Conference of Speakers of the EU Parliaments**

**Luxembourg, 22-24 May 2016**

**Draft conclusions of the Presidency**

### **Managing the Migration Flows**

1. The Speakers acknowledge that the European Union is facing a massive influx of refugees and migrants fleeing mostly Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and several African countries.
2. The Speakers are closely following the initiatives taken by the European Commission to address the refugee crisis, especially the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration.



3. The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.
4. The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants.
5. The Speakers welcome that their claims made during the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015 “to take concrete and immediate action to deal more effectively with the tragedies at sea caused by the increasing migration flows from the southern shores of the Mediterranean as well as to face the problems caused by waves of refugees arriving from eastern borders of the Schengen area” have been taken into account. In this sense, they particularly welcome the good cooperation between EU and NATO and the tremendous work undertaken by NATO in its action, especially in the Aegean Sea.
6. The Speakers plead for a strengthening of active and passive solidarity and responsibility within the EU. In this context, they support the decision of the European Council of 7 March 2016 to accelerate substantially the implementation of relocation and resettlement to alleviate the heavy burden that presently weighs on countries particularly affected by the massive influx of refugees and migrants.
- 6<sup>1</sup> **The Speakers equally plead for firmness and celerity in implementing the decisions of returning to their countries of origin for those migrants who entered illegally in the EU and who do not have the right to remain here.**
7. The Speakers welcome the Communication from the European Commission on 6 April 2016 in which it presents the process for a reform of the Common European Asylum System options (CEAS) and developing safe and legal pathways to Europe and take note of the proposals presented on 4 May 2016. The Speakers reaffirm the need for a more humane, more solidarity-based and efficient European asylum policy, as well as a better structured legal migration policy.
- 7<sup>1</sup> **The Speakers consider that the proposals presented by the European Commission on 4 May 2016 must be subject to prior larger consultations, in order to avoid any further blockage and to make sure that every member state’s actual capacities of receiving migrants are duly taken into account.**

8. The Speakers note with concern that the amalgam between “terrorists” and “refugees” as well as the amalgam between religious fanaticism and religious belief is gaining more and more ground. They highlight that refugees are also victims of the terrorist system and flee among others the massacres and killings of Daech. They express the need to not stigmatize those under the right to international protection.
9. The Speakers emphasize the need to welcome the refugees with humanity and dignity and to support them in their process of integration in their host country. Comprehension and mutual respect are the fundamental basis of the relationship between refugees and the host society.
10. The Speakers recognize that Turkey is a strategic partner for the EU, particularly regarding cooperation on migration. They compliment the Turkish population that is hosting 2.7 million refugees living on its territory. However, the Speakers wish that this cooperation on migration is separated from the EU accession negotiation process and that this cooperation is fulfilled while fully respecting the fundamental values of the EU.
11. The Speakers welcome the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan: support of refugees and migration management, activated on 29 November 2015. The Speakers note with satisfaction that much progress has been achieved already, including Turkey’s opening of its labour market to Syrians under temporary protection, the introduction of new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities, stepped up security effort by the Turkish coast guard and police and enhanced information sharing.
12. With regard to the agreement reached between the EU and Turkey on 18 March 2016, the Speakers insist that the implementation of this Agreement must be fully in line with international and EU law relating to access to asylum and international protection and the implementation of fundamental rights and procedural guarantees. The Speakers recognize that the way the Agreement will be implemented is crucial and it is important to avoid collective and arbitrary expulsions. In addition, the Speakers emphasize that refugees require EU protection and an attitude of rejection is not the solution to this problem.
13. The Speakers thank and support humanitarian organisations, including the United Nations agencies, NGOs and organisations of the Red Cross for their commitment in supporting refugees and migrants.
14. The Speakers support the European Commission in its efforts deployed in the roadmap for restoring a fully functioning Schengen system. The Speakers are aware that restoring the normal functioning of the Schengen system must be combined with the full support towards Member States facing difficult circumstances. In the light of this, they welcome the proposal of the European Commission for a new Emergency Assistance instrument for faster crisis response within the EU. The Speakers follow closely the proposal on the reform of the “Dublin regulation” announced by the Commission.

15. The Speakers recognize that the need to strengthen the control of EU external borders goes along with increased support to Syrian refugees, to neighbouring countries of Syria as well as to Member States most affected by this crisis. The European Union must play a proactive role in implementing the peace and development process in these unstable regions. The Speakers welcome the set of measures proposed by the European Commission to secure the EU's external borders and look forward to the adoption of the Council on the proposal to establish a European Border and Coast Guard.
16. The Speakers welcome the revised draft regulation for establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) included in the package of measures on "smart borders". They are convinced that this Entry/Exit System will modernise the management of external borders by improving the quality and effectiveness of controls and help Member States deal with the increased volume of travellers entering and leaving the EU.

### **Strengthening the European Union**

17. The Speakers note that the "Rome Declaration", signed on 14 September 2015 by 4 Parliaments/Chambers as well as, in the meantime, by 12 additional Parliaments/Chambers, supported by two candidate countries and still open for signature, calls for significantly greater political integration within the EU.
18. The Speakers acknowledge that the "Rome Declaration" seeks to transfer greater powers to the EU and its institutions as well as to give national Parliaments the chance to play a greater role in the decision-making process within the EU.
19. The Speakers emphasize that the EU must insist on its core values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law- and that these values can never be questioned. In this sense, the Speakers underscore that the EU must ensure the respect of the core values on which it is based.
20. The Speakers note that following the consequences of the financial and economic crisis, the social dimension of the EU needs to be strengthened. In the light of this, they highlight the need to further align the economic policies to social policies and to achieve a balance between economic and budgetary equilibrium and social equilibrium. The Speakers also recognize the need to strengthen the social dimension of the European semester.
21. The Speakers are concerned about the alarming rates of youth unemployment in the EU and desire that the EU becomes synonymous of opportunity for young Europeans to ensure that there is no lost generation.
22. The Speakers are closely following the package of proposals of the European Parliament for a reform of the electoral law of the EU **and consider that, in such matters, national parliaments should be consulted in a better and timelier manner.**

**AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**  
National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

**Existing paragraph 28**

28. The Speakers take note on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 and on the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the “red card” mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation.

**Proposed amendment to paragraph 28**

28. The Speakers take note of the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU planned on 23 June 2016 **and express their hopes for an outcome that would be beneficial to the EU as a whole and would best serve the interests of British and other European citizens alike. The Speakers furthermore take note of** the agreement reached by the 28 countries of the European Union concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the European Union. In this context, the Speakers acknowledge the “red card” mechanism that would permit national Parliaments to block EU legislation.

**UK House of Lords + UK House of Commons substantive (or semi-substantive) amendments:**

1. Preliminary remarks: after first paragraph in this section, insert:

Recalling paragraph 5.1 of the Stockholm Guidelines, it is recognised that the Speakers of certain Chambers, because of their constitutional position, cannot directly associate themselves with substantive political statements, and therefore should not be seen as indicating specific support for all sections. Nonetheless, they recognise on behalf of their Chambers the importance of the issues raised and the intentions of colleagues in proposing particular ways forward.

[NB: as tabled and agreed at Rome.]

2. Paragraph 24, line 1, delete from "insist" to end of sentence and insert "deem it of paramount importance that the CETA and TTIP Free Trade Agreements are considered mixed agreements and therefore sent to national Parliaments for ratification."

UK House of Lords + UK House of Commons non-substantive (linguistic) amendments/corrections:

3. Paragraph 5, line 1, delete "their claims made during the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015 "to take"" and insert "the Conclusions of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments 2015, calling for"
4. Paragraph 8, line 4, delete "Daech" and insert "Daesh"
5. Paragraph 20 line 1, delete 'an' and insert 'and'
6. Paragraph 25 line 4 replace "Parliament" with "Parliaments"
7. Paragraph 28, line 1, delete "on the referendum on maintaining the UK in the EU" and insert "of the referendum in the UK on its membership of the EU "
8. Paragraph 32, line 2, delete "composed by" and insert "comprising"
9. Paragraph 32, line 7, insert 'on' after 'comment'
10. Paragraph 38, line 8, at beginning insert "European Parliament"
11. Paragraph 43 line 1 after "call" insert "on"



*Congreso de los Diputados*

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## **AMENDMENTS TABLED BY THE SPANISH CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES**

Rt. Hon. Mr. Patxi López, Speaker of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, tables the following five amendments to the draft Conclusions of the Presidency of the Conference of Speakers of EU national Parliaments:

### **1. Addition amendment to item 3:**

3. The Speakers note that following the closure of the Western Balkans route, thousands of refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece in deplorable conditions, **which represent a serious violation of their human rights**. In this context, the Speakers welcome the regulation adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016, setting up an EU emergency support mechanism to help Greece and other Member States overwhelmed by the arrival of large numbers of refugees. In addition, the Speakers welcome the decision taken by the European Commission on 16 December 2015 to adopt a record EU humanitarian aid budget for 2016, while global humanitarian needs are increasing due to the growing number of refugees and migrants, the increasing impact of natural disasters, climate change and the economic crisis.

### **2. Addition amendment to item 4:**

4. The Speakers deeply regret the large number of victims and the number of migrants and refugees who risk their lives trying to reach Europe illegally. They emphasize the need to counter the practices of smugglers and stop the trafficking of human beings in the Aegean Sea, based on the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015. The Speakers note with concern that the most vulnerable group in the smuggling of migrants are unaccompanied minor refugees and migrants. **The Speakers consider necessary to set up and implement an effective European Rescue Agency whose mandate be focused solely on the rescue of the thousands of persons who die when trying to access European borders, which is a task different to border control.**

### **3. Addition of a new item, to be placed between current paragraphs 8 and 9:**

**The Speakers demand that a children's rights and gender perspective be incorporated to the measures and actions concerning the migrants crisis, with**



a view to guaranteeing the strict observance of International and European Union Law, and that the best interest of the minor be always borne in mind. They consider that it is necessary to implement procedures for the identification of children victims of human trafficking, and to urgently appoint legal guardians for unaccompanied minors. Likewise, the Speakers understand that there is a pressing need to adopt the necessary measures to avoid the statelessness of children who travel alone and find it extremely difficult to prove their nationality when they have been forced to separate from their parents.

**4. Addition of a new item, to be placed between current paragraphs 12 and 13:**

The Speakers demand that the agreement of the European Union with Turkey be enforced within the strict observance of the requirements stemming from International Law as regards asylum and refuge, and therefore, to guarantee that all asylum applications are dealt with in an individualized manner and with due guarantees. They understand that the Union should likewise set up a mechanism to channel and assess eventual non-compliance by Turkey of International Law and of the respect for human rights, including the requirements enshrined in the EU asylum legislation. This mechanism should guarantee the respect of the principle of non-refoulement, and that individuals may apply for refugee status and in case such status is granted, receive protection according to the Geneva Convention or with the equivalent guarantees in the internal legal system.

**5. Addition amendment to item 16:**

16. The Speakers welcome the revised draft regulation for establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) included in the package of measures on “smart borders”. They are convinced that this Entry/Exit System will modernise the management of external borders by improving the quality and effectiveness of controls and help Member States deal with the increased volume of travellers entering and leaving the EU. **They consider that, concerning the reform of the regulation on the Union borders, it is essential to make a decisive effort to standardise the establishment of organisations in charge of guarding borders in order to guarantee the observance of applicable law. The Speakers condemn the individual decisions taken by some States which pose restrictions to the movement of persons and jeopardise the functioning Schengen area.**