

CONCLUSIONS

of the

Meeting of the European Affairs Committees of the Hungarian National Assembly, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Republic, the Sejm and the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the National Council of the Slovak Republic

The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrád Parliaments

Regarding strengthening of the role of national Parliaments in the EU

- point out that in the rapidly changing world the EU and its institutions need to adapt to the challenges and remind that history has proven several times that the EU is a vivid organism, which can develop and adjust itself. Emphasise the need for national Parliaments to be included in the discussions relating to the future of the European Union;
- underline that democratic control over EU legislative and political processes must be strengthened both at the European and at the national level and in order to enhance legitimacy of the EU decision-making process, a more significant role for national Parliaments should be considered;
- welcome the policy of the incumbent European Commission in improving its relations with national Parliaments, especially by increased number of visits of Commissioners to Member States and highlight that this dialogue supports national Parliaments to exercise their competencies in national and EU policies;
- deem it fundamental that the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality be fully respected throughout the EU decision-making processes and in this respect the subsidiarity checks carried out by national Parliaments constitute a major guarantee;
- point out that subsidiarity control is carried out by political institution - the national Parliaments - therefore the adopted reasoned opinions should not be considered as instruments of solely legal analysis, but also as having political and economic context. This dual nature of the reasoned opinions should be further considered by the Task Force recently initiated by the President of the European Commission;
- additionally call on the European Commission to shorten its reaction time to reasoned opinions; since usually its replies are often delivered in several months after the submission of the reasoned opinions;
- are convinced that the potential available for national Parliaments under the current legal framework can be further utilized, especially by improving the collaboration among themselves at the early stage of subsidiarity check;
- appreciate that the number of reasoned opinions (65) submitted in 2016 is the third highest in a calendar year since the creation of the subsidiarity control

mechanism, however stress the importance of swift exchanges of views in the subsidiarity matters among parliamentary and government stakeholders in order to improve the procedure;

- underline that several national Parliaments have adopted reasoned opinions on the Winter Energy Package, “clean Energy for all Europeans”, arguing - among other things - that the respective draft regulation eliminates the Member State’s competence to determine its own energy mix. Are convinced that in line with the Treaty provisions the determination of the energy mix is an integral part of the state sovereignty and responsibility, which cannot be undermined. Regarding electricity market it is not admissible to create such rules eliminating any energy source on which energy mix and independence of a Member State depends;
- express their concerns that the trilogue meetings conducted by the EU institutions became an everyday practice of decision-making, causing serious difficulties for national Parliaments to scrutinize them;
- welcome the initiative of setting up a Subsidiarity and Proportionality Task Force to take a critical look at all policy areas to make sure the EU is only acting where it adds value and encourage all national Parliaments to take part in the work of the said Task Force.

Regarding state of play of the Brexit negotiations and the possible impacts of Brexit on the four fundamental freedoms

- express their hope that UK withdrawal from the EU will take place in an orderly and planned manner and highlight their concerns relating to the slow pace of the withdrawal negotiations as well as the diverging views of EU 27 and the UK on fundamental issues;
- agree with the core principle that UK future participation in the Single Market would require the acceptance of all four fundamental freedoms. The goal of the EU 27 must be to reach a fair deal with the UK that maintains the integrity of the EU and the integrity of the Single Market;
- welcome that the rights of citizens are addressed among the first dossiers with a view to achieving a comprehensive level of protection with reciprocal guarantees including the need for an adequate law enforcement mechanism at the early stage of the negotiations;
- highlight that the financial consequences of Brexit should not undermine the implementation of the current budgetary framework;
- in addition recall that Brexit will be one of the challenges that EU 27 will face during the process of shaping the next Multiannual Financial Framework to be started in 2021;
- are convinced that English language shall remain one of the official and working languages of the EU even after UK ceases to be a Member State.

**Regarding topics of the upcoming LVIII COSAC, 26-28 November 2017,
Tallinn**

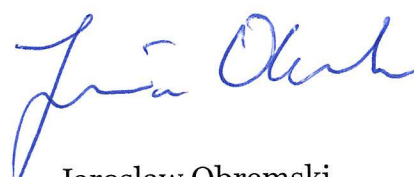
- invite the COSAC Presidencies to put the topic of Brexit negotiation regularly on the agenda in order to ensure appropriate information for the participants;
- propose a discussion of maintaining the principle of free provision of services.

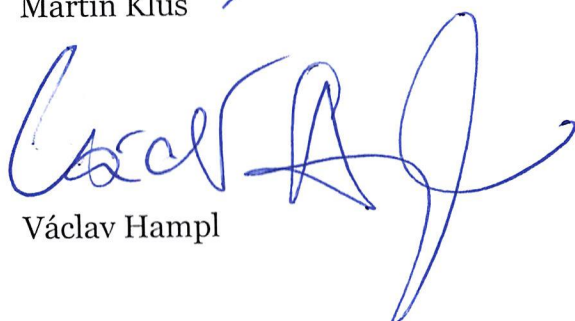
Sárospatak, 25 September 2017


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