



BUDAPEST PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT

ON THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

(27 February 2026)

We, the Speakers, as well as the Heads of Delegation of Parliaments from South-East Europe and the Visegrád Group, hereby express our support for enlargement of the European Union and to accelerating the European integration process of South-East Europe. During the Budapest meeting organized by the Hungarian National Assembly, we all agreed on the following.

We welcome the recent progress of our South-East European partners in the European Union accession process, which is a result of their successful efforts and commendable achievements.

We acknowledge that in the current geopolitical situation we must remain united in the face of threats aiming to destabilize our security and values, and we must support efforts to promote EU enlargement not only as a policy objective but a strategic imperative for peace, stability and prosperity across our entire continent. In this regard, we consider strengthening the EU's defence capabilities and competitiveness to be absolutely crucial.

We consider the role of the parliaments of our South-East European partner countries **to be of paramount importance** in the process of EU accession. The active participation of parliaments and the strengthening of democratic institutions are crucial for the credibility of the implementation of reforms and the successful progress of accession. In this respect we also attach considerable importance to parliamentary cooperation and to EU-funded parliamentary capacity building programmes.

We emphasize the importance of the European Union's openness to accession negotiations and the maintenance of a credible accession perspective for South-East Europe.

We urge all European Union Member States to strive to accelerate EU enlargement in South-East Europe. Slowing down the process in the region will have serious geopolitical, security and economic consequences for the European Union and its global role.

We believe that the progress of partners wishing to join the EU can only be merit-based. Those partners who have successfully implemented the necessary reforms should be given the opportunity to move forward on the path of European integration, as the enlargement is a driver for improving the economic and social conditions of European citizens, reducing disparities in the region.

We emphasize that in the enlargement process, in accordance with the enlargement methodology, all partners wishing to join the European Union should be treated equally.

In order to maintain the credibility of the enlargement process, **we consider it important** to draw up an accession timetable for the most advanced South-East European partners and to reflect the support in the next Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union.

We emphasize the importance of maintaining the commitment of the citizens of South-East Europe to the EU, and **we draw the attention** of all governance in the region to the paramount importance of communicating clearly and regularly to citizens the benefits and obligations arising from their EU path.

We will inform our parliaments and governments of this Statement with a view to coordinating governmental and parliamentary cooperation in the countries of the Visegrád Group and in South-East Europe.

We invite the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, currently presiding the parliamentary cooperation of the Visegrád Group, to send this Statement to the national parliaments of the European Union and to the leaders of the European Union institutions.

Partners

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Honorary guests

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