

Recommendations
for National Parliaments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelorussia,
Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
about Possible Participation in Parliamentary Assembly
EU – EURONEAST

(Adopted at the joint meeting of profile committees in Kiev on May 18)

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

1. Welcome the Eastern Partnership Initiative and after the Prague Summit anticipate for an immediate launch of a practical implementation of projects the countries-participants are interested in, within the framework of the above-mentioned initiative;
2. Emphasize that Eastern Partnership Initiative in a perspective might act as a bridge between the policy of enlargement and neighborhood policy of the European Union;
3. Consider that Eastern Partnership might not pose an obstacle to a possible membership of the European Union for the countries-participants that express willingness to approach the EU with a relevant request in accordance with the Article 49 of the Agreement on EU;
4. Take into account Communication of the European Commission on Eastern Partnership of December 3, 2008; Decision and Declaration of the European Council of March 19-20, 2009; and Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit of May 7, 2009;
5. Deem that the prime goal of the Eastern Partnership has to be gradual development of political association and economic integration between the European Union and countries-participants;
6. Underline that continuing conflicts on the territory of countries-participants of the Eastern Partnership endanger security and stability of Europe and appear to be the main impediment on the way towards political stability, economic development and all-inclusive regional cooperation; in the aforementioned context, appeal to all concerned parties to intensify efforts to resolve existing conflicts on the basis of international law, as it is declared in the UN Charter (the Charter of the United Nations) and Helsinki Final Act;
7. Admit with an interest the formation of the parliamentary dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the part of which ought to become the establishment of Parliamentary Assembly of the Eastern European Neighborhood - EURONEAST;

8. Take into account the recommendations of the Conference on Eastern Dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy held at the European Parliament on July 5, 2008, express readiness to endorse the initiative EURONEAST;
9. Are convinced that fundamentally EURONEAST, as well as Eastern Partnership by and large to be understood as the recognition of the European identity of the countries-participants;
10. Are convinced that precise definition of the status of participants as the Eastern European countries, to whom the Article 49 of the Agreement on the European Union is applicable, in the founding document of the Assembly will give necessary “additional value” to the initiative EURONEAST;
11. Consider inter-parliamentary format of multilateral cooperation EURONEAST as additional platform for cooperation both between the parliaments of the countries-participants of EURONEAST and the parliaments of the countries-participants with the European Parliament and other EU institutions; underline the significance of the intensification of bilateral relations between countries-participants and the European Union;
12. Regard that EURONEAST ought to ensure stable and effective parliamentary monitoring with a view to support and develop initiatives within the Eastern Partnership;
13. Are convinced that in its practical activities EURONEAST ought to apply principles agreed within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, namely principles of differentiation, joint property and joint responsibility;
14. Thereupon underline that the principle of differentiation means not impairment of the rights of countries-participants of the EURONEAST, but a differentiation between the interests and goals of the countries-participants in relation to the European Union, based on the assumption that each parliament will define its level of participation in EURONEAST depending on concrete tasks and objectives;
15. Suggest following institutional structure of the Assembly:
 - a) Annual session of the Assembly will be held in turn in the places, where sessions of the European Parliament and the parliaments of countries-participants are held; Head of the Parliament, who hosts an annual session of the Assembly will also act as the Chairman of EURONEAST;
 - b) Four committees of the Assembly, whose spheres of activities coincide with four thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership, namely: “democracy, good governance and stability”, “economic integration and convergence with EU

- sectoral policies”, “Energy security” and “contacts between people”; committee meetings will be held twice a year;
- c) Secretariat of the Assembly will be formed on the account of the staff of the European Parliament and the Parliaments of countries-participants; the task of the Secretariat will be the coordination and organization of the work of the Assembly;
16. Consider to ascribe to main duties and tasks of the Assembly of EURONEAST:
- a) To monitor the cooperation within the framework of the Eastern Partnership and prepare recommendations on its development both on Assembly and Committee levels;
- b) To ensure the exchange of information, traineeships, trainings and study visits to contribute to the promotion of the effectiveness of the parliamentary activities, introduction of standards and practices of the European Union in the activities of the parliaments of the countries-participants of EURONEAST;
- c) To provide assistance to national legislators of the countries-participants to harmonize with the EU legislation by implementation of corresponding projects both on bilateral and multilateral bases;
17. Deem necessary to establish cooperation between the Assembly of EURONEAST and COSAC (Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union) by regular participation of representatives of the Assembly of EURONEAST in COSAC sessions with the status of an observer; in its turn consider expedient the participation of representatives of the COSAC in the sessions of the Assembly of EURONEAST with the same status;
18. Respecting highly joint meeting held on May 18, 2009, consider necessary to form a permanent acting forum of cooperation of the profile committees of the countries-participants of the Eastern Partnership in order to ensure the exchange of ideas on the relations with the EU, falling under the common interest;
19. Consider essential for the parliaments of the countries-participants to follow these recommendations while deciding to participate in the Assembly of EURONEAST;
20. Also, regard necessary to address to the European Parliament with an agreed position about the formation of the Assembly on the basis of the above-mentioned recommendations.

Adopted:

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Rovshan Rzayev

For the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Georgia David Darchiashvili
MP, Chairman

For the Committee on European Integration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Borys Tarasiuk
MP, Chairman

(Open for the adoption of profile committees of the national parliaments of the Republic of
Armenia, Republic of Byelorussia and Republic of Moldova)