

APROBAT

în ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei DeputațilorParlamentul României
Camera Deputaților

B.P. Nr. 768 din 10.06.2013



București, 4 iunie 2013

Parlamentul României Camera Deputaților

INFORMARE

**privind participarea la Conferința Președinților de Parlamente din statele
participante la Procesul de Cooperare din Europa de Sud-Est
- Ohrid, Republica Macedonia, 26-28 mai 2013 -**

În perioada 26-28 mai 2013 a avut loc, la Ohrid, Republica Macedonia, în organizarea Parlamentului Republicii Macedonia, cu sprijinul Fundației Friedrich Ebert, cea de-a zecea Conferință a Președinților de Parlamente din statele participante la Procesul de Cooperare din Europa de Sud-Est (**SEEC**P), precedată de o reuniune a Grupului de lucru (**GL**) privind instituționalizarea dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP.

Principalele **elemente de context**:

- GL are ca principal obiectiv elaborarea și înaintarea către Conferința de la Ohrid a Raportului privind liniile directoare și modalitățile pentru dezvoltarea dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP care să conducă la constituirea unei adunări parlamentare;
- precedentele reuniuni ale GL au luat în dezbatere cu precădere cele două modele de instituționalizare propuse de Parlamentele de la Sofia și Ankara. Elementele consensuale au fost reunite în documentul „*Posibile propuneri de compromis privind Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP”. GL nu a reușit să ajungă la un consens cu privire la capitolele privind secretariatul și bugetul și condiționarea clarificării acestora de convocarea Adunării Parlamentare, precum și la unele aspecte legate de Regulament;*
- în baza principiului rotației, **în perioada iunie 2013 – iunie 2014 Președinția-în-exercițiu (PiE) pentru dimensiunea parlamentară a SEEC**P revine Parlamentului României care preia acest mandat de la actuala PiE macedoneană;
- mandatul reprezentanților Parlamentului României, prevede susținerea demersurilor care facilitează finalizarea instituționalizării dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP și care pot conduce la întrunirea primei sesiuni a Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP în anul 2014, la București, pe mandatul PiE române, precum și susținerea variantelor de secretariat și de buget aferent care implică costuri cât mai moderate;
- la ultima reuniune a GL unii participanți au afirmat că sunt împotriva unei adunări parlamentare fără a avea un secretariat și, implicit, un buget agreeate anterior, formularea „reuniune constitutivă” fiind indirect asociată cu preexistența unui secretariat permanent internațional funcțional care presupune și dobândirea personalității juridice de către organizație sau de către secretariatul acesteia;

- pentru a debloca această situație, amendamentele Camerei Deputaților la documentele supuse dezbaterii Conferinței au utilizat formula „sesiune inaugurală” care permite tehnic convocarea primei sesiuni a Adunării Parlamentare la București.

Cea de-a zecea reuniune a GL (Ohrid, 26 mai 2013) a urmărit cu precădere pregătirea și finalizarea documentelor complexe supuse dezbaterii Conferinței și medierea între numeroasele propuneri de amendamente la aceste documente.

La reuniunea GL au participat: membri ai GL reprezentând parlamente din nouă state: Albania, Bosnia și Herțegovina, Bulgaria, Croația, Republica Macedonia, România, Serbia, Slovenia și Turcia (Grecia, și Muntenegru au fost reprezentați doar la nivel de coordonatori naționali sau oficiali, iar Republica Moldova nu a participat); dna Mariana Vitanova, șefa Secretariatului Regional pentru Cooperare Parlamentară în Europa de Sud-Est de la Sofia (**RSPC SEE**), dl Gjergj Murra, expert pe probleme de cooperare parlamentară din cadrul Consiliului Cooperării Regionale (**RCC**) de la Sarajevo și, din partea Fundației Friedrich Ebert, dnele Petra Bläss-Rafajlovski, consultant, și Nena Trajkovska, coordonator de proiect.

Din partea Parlamentului României au participat: dna deputat Gabriela-Maria Podașcă și dl senator Ben-Oni Ardelean, reprezentanți în GL, precum și dnii Mario Ruse (Camera Deputaților) și Răzvan Tănase (Senat), coordonatori naționali.

În preambulul reuniunii GL, au avut loc discuții informale bilaterale angajate de delegația română cu reprezentanți ai altor delegații în efortul de a debloca împasul existent și de a orienta decizia în favoarea convocării sesiunii inaugurale a Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP în anul 2014, la București, pe mandatul PiE române. Câteva din aceste discuții informale (cele cu delegațiile turcă și sârbă) au fost conduse de Președintele Camerei Deputaților, dl Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea.

Reuniunea GL, care a fost prezidată de dna Ermira Mehmeti-Devaja, Președinta GL în calitate sa de membră a Parlamentului Republicii Macedonia, s-a prelungit mult peste programul preconizat, GL reușind pentru prima oară de la înființarea sa din luna mai 2011, să finalizeze câteva importante documente supuse atenției Conferinței.

Principalele elemente legate de reuniunea GL:

- Agenda reuniunii GL a fost adoptată în forma inițială;
- a fost adoptat Procesul verbal al celei de-a noua reuniuni a GL prin operarea consensuală a unor ajustări pe draftul inițial;
- urmare a criticilor reprezentanților croați și turci legate de punctul 4 din proiectul de Agendă al Conferinței (privind proiectul de Program parlamentar anual 2013-2014 avansat de RSCP SEE), s-a convenit ca Programul, care are un caracter deschis, să fie valabil doar până la întrunirea sesiunii inaugurale a Adunării Parlamentare. Cu această precizare proiectul de Agendă al Conferinței a fost adoptat;
- partea română a făcut o prezentare a amendamentelor generale pe care le-a propus, prin care se solicită:
 - abordarea documentelor complexe supuse dezbaterii Conferinței de o manieră care să nu împiedice convocarea sesiunii inaugurale a Adunării Parlamentare la București în cazul unei decizii politice favorabile;
 - concentrarea discuțiilor pe principii și nu pe probleme de formulare, precum și includerea elementelor minimale tehnice deja agreeate necesare convocării primei sesiuni (privind dimensionarea delegațiilor naționale și procedura de vot în Adunarea Parlamentară) în documentele care sunt supuse atenției Președinților;
- acest punct de vedere, care a fost susținut de reprezentanții sârbi, croați și turci, a influențat pozitiv modul de abordare al lucrărilor GL, care a reușit

finalizarea următoarelor proiecte de documente înaintate spre atenția Conferinței: Declarația Finală, Raportul GL, Declarația Comună și o formă consolidată a documentului „*Posibile propuneri de compromis privind Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP*”.

- principalele elemente care au fost astfel, după caz, clarificate sau modificate în raport cu proiectele de documente supuse dezbaterii GL, sunt următoarele:
 - cu referire la numele viitoarei organizații, s-a adoptat formularea unitară „Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP”;
 - s-au adoptat prevederi clare pentru convocarea sesiunii inaugurale a Adunării Parlamentare la București, pe mandatul PiE române, iar elementele tehnice agreeate necesare convocării au fost incluse în documentele supuse atenției Președinților și, totodată, s-au eliminat prevederi anterioare care blocau tehnic această posibilitate; s-a mai stipulat ca prevederile celorlalte documente nefinalizate să fie aliniate cu cele din documentele care vor fi adoptate de Conferință;
 - GL își va continua activitatea de pregătire a documentelor necesare pentru finalizarea instituționalizării Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP;
 - s-a decis că Președinții de parlamente nu sunt incluși în cadrul cotei de 3-5 membri alocate unei delegații naționale; numele acestor membri urmează să fie transmise PiE române până la data de 1 noiembrie 2013;
 - la propunerea părții bulgare, a fost eliminată posibilitatea adoptării unei decizii cu regula „consens minus unu”;
 - după o lungă polemică cu reprezentantul Albaniei, s-a decis reșezarea și reformularea actualului punct 9 din Declarația Comună privind principiul includerii complete asociat cooperării în cadrul constituit de procesul de integrare europeană.

Lucrările celei de-a zecea Conferințe a Președinților de Parlamente din statele participante la SEECP au început în dimineața zilei de 27 mai 2013.

La aceste lucrări delegația Camerei Deputaților a fost condusă de Președintele Camerei Deputaților, dl deputat Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea (delegația Senatului României fiind condusă de Vicepreședintele Senatului României, dl senator Florin Constantinescu).

Au fost reprezentate la nivel de Președinte sau Vicepreședinte de Cameră / Parlament următoarele nouă state: Bosnia și Herțegovina, Bulgaria, Croația, Republica Macedonia, Muntenegru, România, Serbia, Slovenia și Turcia (Albania a fost reprezentată la nivel de președinte de comisie parlamentară, Grecia la nivel de coordonator național, iar Republica Moldova nu a participat).

La lucrări au mai participat: reprezentanți ai unor misiuni diplomatice la Skopje ale statelor participante la SEECP (România fiind prezentă cu o delegație condusă de dl Ambasador Iustinian Focșa); o delegație din partea Parlamentului European condusă de dl László Surján, Vicepreședinte; o delegație a Adunării Parlamentare a OSCE condusă de dl Wolfgang Grossruck, Președinte; o delegație a RCC condusă de dl Goran Svilanović, Secretar general; dna Mariana Vitanova, șefa RSPC SEE; o delegație din partea Fundației Friedrich Ebert condusă de dl Heinz Bongartz, reprezentantul pentru Republica Macedonia.

În ziua de 27 mai 2013, înaintea și în timpul lucrărilor Conferinței, au avut loc patru reuniuni bilaterale ale delegației române, sub conducerea dlui Președinte Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea, cu delegațiile sârbă, bulgară, turcă și macedoneană. În toate aceste reuniuni au fost abordate aspecte privind atât cooperarea bilaterală, cât și cooperarea din cadrul dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP, cu precădere în perspectiva viitoarei PiE române.

Pe lângă acestea, pe parcursul Conferinței au avut loc și alte întâlniri informale în format bilateral sau multilateral, după caz, care au necesitat implicarea determinantă a Președintelui Camerei Deputaților. Aceste întâlniri au urmărit negocierea unor aspecte sensibile în raport cu documentele supuse atenției Conferinței, fiind astfel cazul propunerilor reprezentanților Albaniei și Bulgariei care au vizat modificarea unor prevederi din documentele finalizate de GL.

Prin negocieri acestea s-au materializat, între altele, cu modificarea părții finale a punctului 8 al Declarației Finale, prin asocierea finalizării cu succes a procesului de extindere la întreaga regiune și la toate stagiile sale, și cu adăugarea prevederii din Declarația Comună potrivit căreia după înființare Adunarea Parlamentară își stabilește propriile proceduri decizionale.

Lucrările Conferinței au fost deschise de dl Trajko Veljanoski, Președintele Adunării Republicii Macedonia și Președintele-în-exercițiu al dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP, care a adus în atenție: specificitatea SEECP, Agenda lucrărilor, importanța temei primei Sesiuni, contextul specific din regiune dat de procesul de extindere al UE și rolul parlamentelor naționale. Vorbitorul a continuat prezentând aspecte relevante privind realitățile și evoluțiile economice și sociale din țara sa.

În cadrul Sesiunii I dedicată temei „*Criza economică și noile provocări – rolul parlamentelor naționale și al cooperării interparlamentare regionale*”, au luat cuvântul următorii: dl Mitja Bervar - Președintele Consiliului Național al Republicii Slovenia, dl Fatos Beja - Președintele Comisiei de politică externă din Parlamentul Albaniei, dna Renata Brunskole - Vicepreședinte al Adunării Naționale a Republicii Slovenia, dl Florin Constantinescu - Vicepreședinte al Senatului României, dl Cemil Çiçek - Președintele Marii Adunări Naționale a Republicii Turce, dl Josip Leko - Președintele Parlamentului din Croația, dl Mihail Mikov - Președintele Adunării Naționale a Bulgariei, dl Suljo Mustafić - Vicepreședinte al Parlamentului din Muntenegru, dl Nebojša Stefanović - Președintele Adunării Naționale a Republicii Serbia, dl Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea - Președintele Camerei Deputaților, dl Milorad Živković - Vicepreședinte al Camerei Reprezentanților din Bosnia și Herțegovina, precum și, din partea invitaților, dl Wolfgang Grossruck - Președintele Adunării Parlamentare a OSCE, dl László Surján - Vicepreședinte al Parlamentului European și Goran Svilanović - Secretar general al RCC.

În a doua parte a alocuțiunii sale, reprezentantul Albaniei a insistat pe necesitatea ca Kosovo să fie reprezentat la reuniunile dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP.

În intervenția sa, dl Președinte Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea a urat succes Croației pe calea europeană și Președintelui parlamentului bulgar pentru mandatul tocmai obținut și a salutat parcursul ales de Serbia. Dl Zgonea a abordat apoi tema Sesiunii punând accentul pe potențialul existent la nivelul parlamentelor și al cooperării parlamentare, manifestat inclusiv prin formate de cooperare regională, precum SEECP care poate fi utilizat în contracararea efectelor crizei cu efecte benefice cetățenilor din regiune. Vorbitorul a reiterat în final propunerea României de a face un pas important pe linia instituționalizării dimensiunii parlamentare prin convocarea sesiunii inaugurale a viitoarei adunări parlamentare la București în 2014.

Cea de-a doua Sesiune a fost consacrată prezentării și dezbaterii Raportului GL și a documentelor asociate acestuia. În cadrul acestei sesiuni au luat cuvântul următorii: dna Ermira Mehmeti-Devaja, Președinta GL în calitate sa de membră a Parlamentului Republicii Macedonia; dl Ben-Oni Ardelean, Senatul României; dna Renata Brunskole, Vicepreședinte al Adunării Naționale a Republicii Slovenia; dl Abdullah Çalişkan, Turcia; dna Gordana Čomić, vicepreședintă a Parlamentului

Republicii Serbia; dna Marija Lugarić, Croația; dna Gabriela-Maria Podașcă, Camera Deputaților; dna Mariana Vitanova, RSPC SEE.

În intervența sa dna deputat Podașcă a mulțumit participanților la lucrările GL pentru cooperarea prin care s-a reușit depășirea unor obstacole importante și a evidențiat importanța deciziei de a extinde pe mai departe mandatul GL. Dna Podașcă a afirmat că, dacă va fi adoptată, decizia convocării primei sesiuni a Adunării Parlamentare la București ar reprezenta un semn al determinării în atingerea obiectivelor fixate pentru cooperarea interparlamentară.

O a treia Sesiune desfășurată în ziua de 28 mai 2013 a fost consacrată dezbaterii și adoptării documentelor Conferinței.

În final au fost adoptate următoarele documente:

- Declarația Finală, documentul care exprimă voința politică a participanților și care, în sinteză:
 - reiterează determinarea participanților pentru întărirea și dezvoltarea pe mai departe a SEECp, subliniind principiile care stau la baza acestui format de cooperare și specificitatea sa;
 - luând act de impactul crizei globale și financiare în regiune, evidențiază abordările menite să contracareze efectele negative;
 - punctează rolul special al RCC, subliniază rolul pozitiv al conceptului de extindere europeană și susține principiul includerii complete asociat cooperării în cadrul constituit de procesul de integrare europeană, ca element de stabilitate regională și dezvoltare pe termen lung;
 - trece în revistă evoluțiile politice ale statelor din regiune, cu accent pe progresele înregistrate în parcursul european al acestora;
 - subliniază rolul fundamental al parlamentelor naționale în consolidarea democrației în regiune;
 - reafirmă determinarea pentru instituționalizarea și transformarea dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECp într-o Adunare Parlamentară și aprobă organizarea sesiunii inaugurale la București, în mandatul următoarei PiE române.
- Raportul GL care descrie: mandatul GL, activitățile derulate perioada PiE macedonene cu evidențierea celor care au ținut de GL, documentele abordate de acesta, precum și faptul că GL a reușit adoptarea prin consens a Declarației Comune și a Declarației Finale supuse dezbaterii Conferinței de la Ohrid.
- forma consolidată a documentului „*Posibile propuneri de compromis privind Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECp*” care iterează elementele consensuale decise în GL în următoarele capitole: scop și obiective; linii directoare; membri și compoziție; președinție; adoptarea de decizii; structura organizațională; secretariat; buget.
- Declarația Comună care, pe scurt, din perspectiva finalizării procesului de instituționalizare, transpune principalele elemente consensuale convenite în cadrul GL și care privesc viitoarea Adunare Parlamentară, sub forma unei declarații. Sunt astfel stipulate: principii și obiective, aspecte procedurale tehnice privind membrii și dimensionarea delegațiilor parlamentare naționale, procedurile privind adoptarea deciziilor și structura organizațională, iar în final se prevede continuarea activității GL, finalizarea documentelor necesare pentru sesiunea inaugurală a Adunării Parlamentare pe mandatul PiE române și transmiterea către PiE română, până la 1 noiembrie 2013, a nominalizărilor pentru membrii delegațiilor parlamentare naționale și a distribuției acestora în cadrul viitoarelor comisii.
- Programul parlamentar anual 2013-2014.

La finalul Conferinței dl Cemil Çiçek, Președintele Marii Adunări Naționale a Turciei, a mulțumit gazdelor pentru ospitalitate și a exprimat așteptările sale potrivit cărora sub PIE română se va continua pe un alt nivel procesul de instituționalizare.

Lucrările Conferinței au fost închise de Președintele Adunării Republicii Macedonia, dl Trajko Veljanoski.

Conferința Președinților de Parlamente din statele participante la SEECP a fost urmată de o **Conferință de presă** susținută de reprezentanții Troicai parlamentare a SEECP (Serbia, România și Republica Macedonia).

Dl Trajko Veljanoski, Președintele-în-exercițiu al dimensiunii parlamentare a SEECP, a apreciat că a avut loc o reuniune a continuității dintre fosta, actuala și viitoarea Președinție, adăugând că există loc pentru o mai bună cooperare reciprocă, pentru înțelegere, sprijin reciproc și solidaritate, pe modelul altor adunări parlamentare cu tradiție.

Vorbitorul a mai subliniat următoarele:

- s-a reușit armonizarea unor documente importante;
- așteptările sale ca Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP - călăuzită de principiul „regional ownership” și de parcursul țărilor din sud-estul Europei către UE - să:
 - contribuie la stabilitate, pace, solidaritate și stabilirea unor relații de bună vecinătate în beneficiul cetățenilor din regiune;
 - fie o umbrelă pentru cooperarea regională;
 - inițieze forme de schimburi de experiență în diverse domenii;
 - urmărească realizarea obiectivelor și priorităților definite de Președinția rotativă a SEECP și de RCC;
 - întărească activitățile de diplomatie parlamentară și legăturile cu organizațiile regionale, europene și internaționale.
- prin decizia de a ține prima sesiune a Adunării Parlamentare pe mandatul PIE române se intră într-o nouă fază a cooperării reciproce.

Dl Nebojša Stefanović, Președintele Adunării Naționale a Republicii Serbia:

- a felicitat gazdele pentru eforturile depuse;
- a remarcat că:
 - documentele adoptate de către Conferință reprezintă dovada unei voințe politice istorice;
 - este nevoie de un impuls care să ofere mai multă putere acestei forme de cooperare;
 - acest format instituționalizat va fi important în diverse domenii pentru economiile statelor participante la SEECP și va contribui la sporirea competitivității acestora;
- și-a manifestat sprijinul pentru proiectul de instituționalizare și a urat succes Președintelui Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea și Președinției române a SEECP.

În cuvântul său, dl Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea a adus mulțumiri gazdelor pentru condițiile asigurate, Președintelui Parlamentului macedonean pentru activitățile din GL și Președintelui Parlamentului sârb pentru sprijinul în negocieri și a subliniat necesitatea lucrului în comun în sud-estul Europei.

Președintele Camerei Deputaților a opinat că pașii făcuți recent vor demonstra o voință Europei și altor organisme internaționale, precum și că proiectul Adunării Parlamentare va contribui la o mai bună viață pentru cetățenii din regiune.

Vorbitorul a mai afirmat că în România, după alegerile parlamentare din decembrie 2012, a apărut orientarea spre ideea de a organiza sesiunea inaugurală a Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP, pas prin care se va ajunge la un nou nivel de încredere în regiune deoarece reprezintă un instrument prin care se arată că țările participante la SEECP au o viziune comună.

Propunerea României fiind pe masă, a invitat toate statele să ia parte la viitoarea Adunare Parlamentară care reprezintă un pas util pentru a fi respectați în Europa și pentru a face cetățenii noștri să simtă că sunt parte a UE.

DI Florin Constantinescu, Vicepreședinte al Senatului României, a remarcat în cuvântul domniei sale, importanța prezentării de propuneri sectoriale concrete pentru dezvoltarea sud-stului Europei.

Anexe:

- *Programul și Agenda Conferinței;*
- *Agenda GL;*
- *Lista participanților la Conferință;*
- *Alocuțiunea dlui deputat Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea, Președintele Camerei Deputaților, în cadrul Sesiunii I;*
- *Intervenția dnei deputat Gabriela-Maria Podașcă în cadrul Sesiunii II;*
- *Documentele adoptate de Conferință:*
 - *Declarația Finală;*
 - *Raportul GL;*
 - *Declarația Comună;*
 - *Programul parlamentar anual 2013-2014;*
 - *Posibile propuneri de compromis privind Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP.*

Președintele Deputaților,

Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea



Reprezentanta Camerei Deputaților în Grupul de lucru,

deputat Gabriela-Maria Podașcă





Draft

10TH CONFERENCE OF THE SEECP PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENT

26-28 May 2013

Ohrid

P R O G R A M M E

Sunday, 26 May 2013

Arrival of the Delegations

Registration of the participants

15.00-19.00 Meeting of the SEECP PD Working group
- preparation of the draft documents of the Conference
(*Golden Hall, Hotel Inex Gorica*)

20.00-22.00 Reception for the participants of the Conference
(*Hotel Inex Gorica*)

Monday, 27 May 2013

09.30-10.00 Registration of the participants

10.15-10.45 Opening of the Conference and welcoming addresses

-  **H.E. Mr. Trajko Veljanoski**, President of the Assembly;
(*Diamond Hall, Hotel Inex Gorica*)

10.45-11.45 **Session I: The economic crisis and the new challenges - role of the national parliaments and the regional inter-parliamentary cooperation**

- Address by the Heads of Delegation

11.45-12.00 Family photo
(*Diamond Hall, Hotel Inex Gorica*)

12.00-12.15 Coffee brake

12.15-13.15 Continuation of Session I
- Address by the Heads of Delegation

13.15-15.00 Lunch
(*Hotel Inex Gorica*)

15.00-16.30 **Session II: Presentation of the Report of the Working Group on the guidelines and modalities for further development of the Parliamentary Dimension that should lead to establishment of a SEECP Parliamentary Assembly**

- Rapporteur: **Ms. Ermira Mehmeti Devaja**, Chair of the Working Group
- Discussion

18.00 **Departure from Hotel**

18.15 Tour of Ohrid

20.00 Dinner in Ohrid
(*Restaurant "Belvedere", Ohrid*)

Tuesday, 28 May 2013

10.00-11.00 **Session III: Coordination of the Final Declaration and the other documents of the 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament**

Concluding remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference

11.00-11.30 Press conference of the SEECP PD Troika
(*Diamond Hall, Hotel Inex Gorica*)

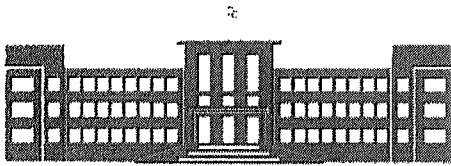
Departure of the Delegations

Draft

**10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliaments
26-28 May 2013, Ohrid**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. The economic crisis and the new challenges - role of the national parliaments and regional interparliamentary cooperation
 3. Report on the guidelines and modalities for further development of SEECP Parliamentary dimension and leading to setting up a Parliamentary Assembly
 4. Adoption of the Annual South East Europe Parliamentary Programme
 5. Adoption of the Final Declaration and the other documents of the 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliaments
 6. Miscellaneous
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Собрание на Република Македонија
Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia



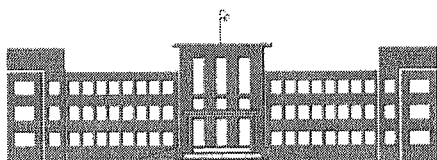
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X MEETING OF THE SEECP PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION WORKING GROUP

**26 May, 2013
Ohrid**

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda of the WG
 2. Adoption of the IX Meeting Working Group Minutes
 3. Draft Agenda of the 10th Conference of Presidents
 4. Draft documents for the 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament
 5. Miscellaneous
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Собрание на Република Македонија
Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

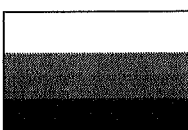


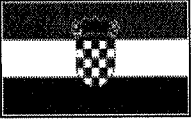
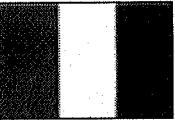
Draft 23.05.2013

10TH CONFERENCE OF THE SEECP PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENT

26-28 May 2013
Ohrid

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY	NAME	TITLE
	Mr. Fatos BEJA	Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
	Mr. Milorad ŽIVKOVIĆ Mr. Dejan VANJEK Mr. Igor BUNIĆ	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives National SEECP Coordinator Advisor
	Mr. Mihail MIKOV Mr. Ivan PETKOV Mr. Dimcho MIHALEVSKI Ms. Vesela STOITZEV Ms. Veronica ANTOVA Mr. Hristo KRAEVSKI Ms. Mariela SIMOVA	President of the National Assembly Ambassador Member of National Assembly National Coordinator Director of International relations and Protocol Directorate Director of Press Centre and PR Directorate Interpreter

	Mr. Josip LEKO Mr. Zlatko KRAMARIĆ Ms. Marija LUGARIĆ Ms. Đurđica PRALAS Mr. Ilija JANDRIĆ Mr. Zdeslav PERKOVIĆ Ms. Marina OCTENJAK Ms. Dubravka GROZDANOVIĆ	Speaker of the Parliament Ambassador Member of the Parliament Head of the Office of the Speaker Personal Advisor of the Speaker of the Parliament Head of the Protocol Office Adviser to the speaker, interpreter Adviser, Office of the International and European Affairs
	Mr. Miltiadis MAKRIYANNIS	Head of the Department for Regional Cooperation and Partnerships (Member of the WG)
	Mr. Suljo MUSTAFIĆ Mr. Dušan MRDOVIĆ Mr. Jasmin BOJADŽIĆ	Vice-President of the Parliament Ambassador Official
	Mr. Valeriu Stefan ZGONEA Ms. Gabriela-Maria PODASCA Mr. Mario RUSE Mr. Florin CONSTANTINESCU Mr. Ben-Oni ARDELEAN Mr. Răzvan TĂNASE	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Member of Parliament and Member of the WG National Coordinator Vice-President of the Senate Member of the WG on SEECF PD National Coordinator on SEECF PD

	Mr. Nebojša STEFANOVIĆ Ms. Gordana ČOMIĆ Ms. Tanja SANTRAĆ Ms. Marija UROŠEVIĆ Ms. Maja DRAŠKOVIĆ Ms. Dušanka Divljak TOMIĆ	Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly and Member of the SEECP PD WG Adviser, Cabinet of Speaker Adviser in EU Department and Member of the SEECP PD WG Protocol Department Deputy Ambassador
	Mr. Mitja BERVAR Mr. Branko RAKOVEC Ms. Lilijana ŽURMAN Ms. Petra CELIN Mr. Uroš PETERC Ms. Renata BRUNSKOLE Ms. Tanja PANDEV Mr. Franc PUKŠIČ	President of the National Council Ambassador Secretary of the Commission for International Relations and European Affairs Senior Adviser in the Protocol of the Republic Interpreter Vice-President of the National Assembly Secretary of Delegation Alternate Member of the SEECP WG
	Mr. Cemil ÇIÇEK Mr. Halil Gürol SÖKMENSÜER Mr. Lütfi ELVAN Mr. Abdullah ÇALIŞKAN Mr. Mehmet ÇAKIR Ms. Derya BAYKAL	Speaker of the Grand National Assembly Ambassador Member of Parliament Member of Parliament Advisor to the Speaker Foreign Relations and Protocol Officer Foreign Relations and Protocol Officer

	Mr. Hakan ARIBURUN Mr. Bahadır YAKUT Mr. Ali YILDIZ Mr. Mehmet Ali ŞANLI	Head of Foreign Relations and Protocol Department Official Interpreter
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GUEST INVITEES

ORGANIZATION	NAME	POSITION
	Mr. Laszlo SURJAN Mr. Nikos SALLIARELIS Mr. Robert LIDDELL Ms. Marina KURTE	Vice-President of the European Parliament Administrator, European Parliament Minister Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union, Skopje Advisor, Delegation of the European Union, Skopje
	Mr. Wolfgang GROSSRUCK Mr. Roberto BATTELLI Mr. Andreas NOTHELLE Ms. Brigitte BRENNER Mr. Lukas MUSSI	President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on South East Europe; OSCE PA Ambassador, Special Representative Head of the EU & International Services (Austrian Parliament) Deputy Head of the Protocol Directorate (Austrian Parliament)
	Mr. Goran SVILANOVIĆ Mr. Gjergj MURRA	Secretary General Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation

 Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in SEE	Ms. Mariana VITANOVA	Head - RSPC SEE
	Mr. Heinz BONGARTZ Ms. Nena TRAJKOVSKA	Resident Representative Project Coordinator
	Ms. Petra BLÄSS RAFAJLOVSKI	Former Vice - President of the Bundestag
	Mr. Georgi PIRINSKI	Former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

SEECF CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE		
	Mr. Trajko VELJANOSKI Ms. Ermira MEHMETI-DEVAJA Mr. Žarko DENKOVSKI Mr. Marjan MADZOVSKI Ms. Sanja UGRINOVSKA SPASENOVSKA Ms. Elena DOCEVSKA -BOZINOVSKA Mr. Svetlana ANGJELOVSKA Mr. Ivan CVETANOVSKI Ms. Vjolca BAJRAMI Ms. Vlado KRALEVSKI Mr. Ivan PETRUSHEVSKI Mr. Nikola TODOROVSKI	President of the Assembly Chairperson of the WG Secretary General Head to the Cabinet of the President Adviser to the President Adviser to the President Associate/Interpreter Associate Associate Head of the Protocol Unit National Coordinator on SEECF PD Former State Adviser

***Speech by Mr. Valeriu ZGONEA
President of the Chamber of Deputies
Parliament of Romania***

***The economic crisis and the new challenges - role of the national parliaments
and regional inter-parliamentary cooperation***

*Dear Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

I want to start by saluting this regional cooperation which brings together the states from Southern Eastern Europe and share with you some of my ideas and thoughts concerning a very debated issue, namely the economic crisis.

The financial crisis turned into a global financial one spreading over both developed western countries and countries in transition.

The consequences of the crisis have also manifested in the SEE countries and has translated into reduced exports and production, decreased economic liquidity and higher unemployment rates.

The Western Balkans countries witnessed strong economic growth in the pre-crisis period, but the growth was based on high domestic consumption linked to fast credit growth, and was accompanied by a widening current account deficit and increasing private sector debt.

Like most of the other economies, Romania felt the consequences of the global financial crisis, which dramatically reduced the capital inflows to the SEE region and limited the capacity of the banking sector to finance the commercial activity and private consumption.

Within these developments the role of the parliaments in the SEE countries has grown, and parliamentary committees have become a more important component of the legislative decision and policy-making process. Parliamentary committees enable legislatures to monitor the activities of the government, and check the quality of governance. Within this context, committees for economy and finance are becoming increasingly important factors in the process of reviewing key economic and financial legislation, which provides the legal framework of economic activities in the countries of the region.

Tackling all these economic issues, I believe that Parliaments should play an important role in facing the economic crisis and in adopting necessary

measures to overcome it. In these difficult times it is important to promote regulations that are favorable for development of entrepreneurship and private sector. Promotion of a business friendly environment is not just the responsibility of the governments, but to the same extent, of the parliaments.

I believe that the establishment of the Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy and Finance of the Western Balkan countries (following the adoption of Declaration of Regional Conference *on The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Competitiveness and Economic Growth by Improving the Business Environment in Western Balkan Economies*, in Belgrade, on March 7th, 2009) is a good example of successful regional inter-parliamentary cooperation, that could be extended to parliaments from all countries participating in the SEECP.

Also, I believe that we could use this Network as a regional platform for fighting against the impacts of the crisis in the region through the joint work of its specialized committees. Also we must find optimal solutions in the process of creating a favorable investment and legal environment in the countries of the region.

Last but not least, if managed effectively, the tremendous cultural diversity we benefit of in the SEE region can offer the flexibility and creativity we need to recover from the economic crisis and confront our challenges: economic and social upheavals, major demographic shifts, globalization, an urgent need to innovate and promote economic growth, increasing demands for diversity from our partners, clients, customers and other stakeholders.

Therefore we, parliamentarians from all SEECP member states, should make every effort to support creative economy as a source for sustainable growth and development by: enhancing the cost-effectiveness of research through regional cooperation, environment-friendly technologies, private sector involvement, sharing of success stories and best practices.

I want to underline that modern and constructive to the current reality legislatures are an essential component of democracy in the 21st century. Although the executive may enjoy some natural advantages in setting the policy agenda, including better access to information and resources, Parliaments have a legitimate and substantial role in meaningfully deliberating and passing legislation and performing oversight of the executive.

I strongly believe that, the mission of the Parliaments should ideally not be limited to a narrow interpretation or understanding of its legal or constitutional duties (oversight, lawmaking and representation) but also extended to a broader approach which could show that these core functions are also development tools that enable parliaments to play crucial roles as strong, constructive and dynamic democratic institutions.

In the same time if we want to overcome together the effect of the economic crises we can work together in the benefit of our citizens making use of the opportunities offered to us by these formats of regional cooperation and in particular that of the SEECP.

Also we should find a solution for finalizing the institutional steps of this process, and in this respect, we are proposing a concrete one, namely to convene the Inaugural Session of the future Assembly of the SEECP next year.

Thank you for your kind attention and allow me to reassure you of my complete support for our good cooperation.

Intervention by Mrs Gabriela-Maria Podasă, Chamber of Deputies, Romania
at Session II, 27 May 2013, Ohrid

Honourable Speakers,
Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciations for the efforts made by our hosts in preparing this Conference and to also thank all our colleagues from the Working Group that cooperated in our strive of getting much closer to the purpose of this Group.

We all know it was not easy but we managed to overcome so many obstacles and find the common path towards organizing the first SEEC PA session in Bucharest next year. What seemed impossible unreachable becomes today reality. That is why we should be proud of us and our achievements. If we come to think about it, we are coming in line with the guiding moto “Solidarity in action” of the 10th SECP Conference of Presidents of Parliaments.

As we appreciate all efforts made by current Presidency of SEEC, we reaffirm our common commitment towards deepening interparliamentary relations as a fundamental condition in reaching our common goals and overcoming future challenges, for the benefit of our citizens.

Romania will soon take over the Chairmanship of SEEC for one year, and the Report of SEEC Working Group and its approach are directly affecting the decisions to be taken in order to further consolidate the Parliamentary Dimension of SEEC.

I would like to point out the need for extending the mandate of the Working Group, who’s activity and results are of great importance in coming closer to a common position.

There are still many decisions to be taken and many aspects that need clarification, so, until having the inaugural Session, the activity of the Working Group is be beneficial for the works of the future Parliamentary Assembly.

We are also waiting with interest on the decisions that would come the next days from the governmental dimension. Among others, we will know the Chairmanship-in-Office for the period 2014-2015, so that we can all further built on the benefits of consultations within the Troika.

The proposal to make a step forward by hosting the first inaugural session in Bucharest in the first half of 2014 represents a sign of our commitment of reaching the goals set for our interparliamentary cooperation.

We count on a positive decision of the Speakers in this respect, because an important part of our force emerges from the regional cooperation concept. We appreciate that organizing the inaugural session of the Assembly in Bucharest, Romania, would mean a sound signal in the region that we are committed to our initial goals.

I would like to conclude my intervention by inviting you to Bucharest to celebrate not a happy-ending but the beginning of a beautiful friendship under the first SEEC PA.

10th CONFERENCE OF THE SEECP PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENT
Ohrid, 26-28 May 2013

FINAL DECLARATION

We, the Presidents of the Parliaments of the South East European Cooperation Process Participating States: Mr. Trajko VELJANOSKI, Mr. Mitja BERVAR, Mr. Cemil ÇIÇEK, Mr. Josip LEKO, Mr. Mihail MIKOV, Mr. Nebojša STEFANOVIĆ, Mr. Valeriu Stefan ZGONEA, Vice Presidents of Parliaments: Ms. Renata BRUNSKOLE, Mr. Florin CONSTANTINESCU, Mr. Suljo MUSTAFIĆ, Mr. Milorad ŽIVKOVIĆ, and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Mr. Fatos BEJA met in Ohrid on 27 and 28 May 2013,

together with the Special Invitees: Mr. Wolfgang GROSSRUCK, Mr. László SURJÁN, Mr. Goran SVILANOVIĆ.

Expressing our readiness to contribute to the strengthening and further development of SEECP, an authentic voice of the region that in European context is seen as a dynamic and perspective political forum for dialogue and cooperation, in which special place and role has its parliamentary dimension,

Emphasizing the importance of the multilateral and bilateral cooperation of the parliaments of the participating countries for transformation of the region in an area of peace, security, stability, solidarity and good-neighbourly cooperation in the interest of the citizens, nations and states, as well as of Europe in general,

Guided by the principle of regional ownership and having regard to the need for synergy of the activities in the field of economic and social development, overcoming the economic crisis, as well as challenges regarding climate change, energy, transport, security and other issues facing the participating states,

Expressing understanding and support of the efforts for resolving the structural problems of the European economic and monetary union at a time of global economic and financial crisis, and at the same time **reiterating** that the EU membership has been and still is a strategic commitment and priority for the South East European countries,

Having regard to the final declarations of the previous nine conferences of Presidents of Parliament, as well as the expressed common will for continuous realization, development and promotion of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension, and **recalling** the conclusions from the final declarations of the Conferences in Antalya and Podgorica and **expressing readiness** to contribute actively to the full implementation of the joint commitment for further institutionalization and strengthening of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension, leading to the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly,

Have declared as follows:

1. **We note** that the global economic and financial crisis has a serious impact on our region and requires implementation of profound and comprehensive changes and reforms on national, regional and global level. Having in mind the general connection and interdependence, it is necessary to address the challenges regarding the economy, energy and climate change jointly, and not individually, and the countries in the region should give their contribution;
2. **We emphasize** the need for identifying urgent and long-term measures for mitigation of the consequences of the crisis, especially on the vulnerable groups, for increasing energy efficiency, and addressing climate change and the other challenges;
3. **We agree** that only with strict austerity measures we can not resolve the problems that the participating states are facing; we need to find balance between fiscal consolidation, sustainable development and social cohesion in the context of increased competition and limited resources in the region. In order to achieve this, our parliaments should improve the conditions for attracting foreign investments; one of the precondition for this is harmonization of the legislative prerequisites in accordance with the *acquis communautaire* and the established good practices of the EU;
4. **We note** with concern that the most obvious consequences of the economic crisis are deterioration of the conditions for doing business, increased poverty, and high level of unemployment, especially among the young. Restoring sustainable development continues to be major challenge for most of the governments in the region, and the national parliaments have the task of securing it and further promoting rule of law and fight against corruption and organized crime.
5. **We stress** that in the region there are countries that are highly placed in the Doing Business reports of the World Bank, some are even ranked among the emerging economies. This creates additional room for overcoming the negative consequences of the global economic and financial crisis, with increased investments in the region and improvement of the communication in the field of energy, transport and other areas of common concern. Special emphasis should be placed on increasing the cross-border cooperation and effectively combining the use of the local financial funds and the available EU funds for strengthening of the economic development and protection of the environment and cultural heritage;
6. **We welcome** the Europe 2020 Strategy and the correspondent Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) SEE 2020 Job-creating growth and EU Integration Strategy as its central pillar that is aimed at achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive development through joint actions in the areas of economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and domestic affairs, security cooperation and human resources development. With respect to this, we expect the role of the parliaments to be stepped up in this process, thus strengthening the governance of these strategies and reinforcing the control and oversight functions of the parliaments regarding the regional and national activities.
7. **We point out** the special role of the Regional Cooperation Council in strengthening the regional cooperation in SEE, and express full support to the

priorities of parliamentary cooperation foreseen in its new Strategy and Work Programme for the period 2014-2016.

II

8. **We reiterate** that the enlargement as a long-term strategic concept gave positive results in Europe and the region, and the open doors policy proved encouraging for fulfillment of the required standards and criteria for the EU membership. The efforts of both the EU and the accession, candidate and aspirant countries are necessary in order to successfully complete the enlargement process all over the region and in all of its stages.
9. **We express** our commitment to the principle of “all inclusiveness” regarding the cooperation in the framework of the Euro-integration process, as an important element of regional stability and long-term development.
10. **We note** with satisfaction that the SEECP Participating States are making progress in the Euro-integration process, and in this context:
 - we welcome the fact that one participating country will become the 28th EU member state and that parliamentarians from this country will have the possibility to participate in the work of the European Parliament on an equal basis, which is especially important for better understanding and support of the European perspectives of the region and can serve as encouragement for the other countries to continue on their path towards European integration;
 - we welcome the progress in the accession negotiations with the EU of the participating country with the longest candidate status that is also one of the key partners of the EU, having in mind its dynamic and emerging economy, strategic location and significant regional role for the European foreign policy and energy security;
 - we express satisfaction from the new approach regarding the chapters on judiciary and fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security in the negotiations that one participating country started with the EU, which enables to strengthen the focus on the rule of law in the country, and to encourage the irreversible reforms that are being undertaken in all the countries in the region;
 - we reiterate that, guided by the progress achieved in the fulfillment of the criteria for EU membership, the European Commission and the European Parliament have in the last several years continuously and repeatedly recommended opening the accession negotiations with one SEECP Participating State. While the High Level Accession Dialogue moves forward the European integration process, it should not be seen as a substitute but rather as a bridge towards the beginning of accession negotiations, as recommended by the European Commission and the European Parliament since 2009; we take note of the latest Spring Report of the European Commission and of the European Parliament Resolution of 23 May 2013 and express our hope that the European Council in June could reach a decision on accession negotiations.
 - we note with satisfaction that historic agreement has been reached between Belgrade and Pristina, which is in the interest of the European perspective of their citizens and of exceptional importance for the stability and development of the region and Europe. Having in mind the fact that the candidate country for EU

membership has achieved the required progress and has fulfilled the necessary political and economic criteria, we welcome the European Commission recommendation for giving the date for opening accession negotiations, and we call on the European Council to determine date for opening negotiations;

- we believe that, depending on the progress in the reforms and after successfully organizing and carrying out the parliamentary elections in accordance with the European and international standards, one SEECP participating country will make additional efforts for getting closer to the EU and achieving candidate status;

- we hope that the continuation of the High Level Dialogue on the Accession Process (HLDAP) between the EC and one SEECP participating country will contribute to the speeding up of the submission of the application for EU membership of the country. In this respect we point out that the international community, and especially the EU, continues to play an important role in the further democratization and functioning of the institutions of the two entities and the three constitutive peoples, as well as in the preservation and inviolability of the territorial integrity of the country;

- we welcome the progress achieved in the process of visa liberalization with the EU and in the negotiations for the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), and support the European perspective of the SEECP participating country, which is a “success story” in the European Partnership and the European Neighbourhood Policy; and

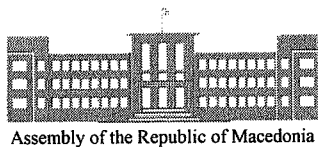
11. **We encourage** the national parliaments of some SEECP Participating States to make, with support of the European Parliament, consistent efforts and to adopt innovative approaches necessary for maintaining the momentum of the reforms and the momentum of enlargement, which is important for addressing the key challenges of enlargement;

III

12. **We underline** that the parliaments, as true representatives of the will of the citizens, are the fundamental democratic institution that promote the reforms and exercise oversight over the government in the modern society. Consequently, we call on the parliaments of the countries in the region to have a pro-active role of a key institution in the political system that should be respected by all the participants in the political process;
13. **We stress** that the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension has in the last 15 years consistently contributed, with the Conferences of the Presidents of Parliament in the region, for the strengthening of the joint commitment for promotion of the regional cooperation and European integration;
14. **We welcome** the efforts of the country holding the Chairmanship-in-Office to continue with all the already established forms of inter-parliamentary relations and cooperation, especially the holding of the international conference on the topic “15 years of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension, the present, the future and the European perspective of the region” and the international conference on the topic “European integration through cooperation of the parliaments, the civil society and the independent regulatory bodies in South East Europe”;

15. **We express** satisfaction that the host country chaired and organized successfully four meetings of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group, with active participation of representatives of the parliaments of the participating states, which demonstrates our joint readiness to contribute to the development and further promotion of the regional parliamentary cooperation;
16. **We commend** the efforts of the country holding the Chairmanship-in-Office to contribute, with relevant publications and special section on the parliamentary web page, for increasing the transparency and visibility of the SEECP parliamentary dimension, and in this context we support the continuation of the documentation, publication and research activities in this field;
17. With the adoption of the Joint Statement, **we reaffirm** our commitment for institutionalization and transformation of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension into SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. The Parliamentary Assembly should function as a permanent parliamentary forum for exchange of experiences, dialogue and cooperation on issues of special interest for the SEE countries and its citizens, in synergy with the regional and international partners, as well as in effective cooperation with other existing regional inter-parliamentary cooperation forums and initiatives, focused on issues of common interest and priority such as human rights and the rule of law, economic growth and creation of jobs, but also on projects regarding the trans-European energy and communication network;
18. **We express** appreciation to the host Parliament and its President for the successful chairmanship with the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension and we agree that the inaugural session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly be held in Bucharest, in the framework of the next SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office.

Adopted in Ohrid on 28 May 2013.



Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia



REPORT

of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Dimension Working Group for the 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament

The host country took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) during the Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 15 July 2012. The 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament was not held as scheduled because of the parliamentary elections and the constitution of the National Assembly in Belgrade. On 30 July 2012 the President of the Assembly Mr. Trajko Veljanoski sent a letter to the Presidents of Parliament of the participating states, the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as to the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, informing them about the commitments, priorities and planned activities during the one-year Chairmanship of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Interparliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe from Sofia 2008, he informed them about the intention to continue with all the already established forms of regional parliamentary cooperation, including organization of international conferences and working meetings, direct cooperation with other regional parliamentary assemblies and initiatives, cooperation with the civil society organizations on national and regional level, and holding of the 10th Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the SEECP Participating States.

The Assembly started its second one-year Chairmanship with the marking of the 15 years since the first conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament. On that occasion, on 15 and 16 October 2012 the Assembly organized the International Conference: "15 years of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Parliamentary dimension - the past, the

present and the European future of the region". Representatives of the parliaments included in the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension took part at the Conference and made an important contribution to the debate that covered the beginning, achievements, challenges, and perspectives of the regional parliamentary cooperation in the context of the European integration process. It was emphasized that during the last 15 years the SEECP has developed into an authentic voice of the region that in European context is seen as a genuine and dynamic forum for dialogue and cooperation, in which special place and role has its parliamentary dimension,

The International Conference on the topic: "European integration through cooperation of the parliaments, civil society and the independent regulatory bodies in South East Europe" was held on 15 and 16 April 2013 in Skopje, with participation of parliamentarians, representatives of the National Councils of the European Movement and the independent regulatory bodies from SEE. The debate was divided into three parts: European Integration and Enlargement through the Cooperation of the Parliaments, the Civil Society and the Independent Regulatory Bodies in SEE; Democracy and Human Rights between Legislation and Reality; and The Economic Crisis - A Challenge for Solidarity of Parliaments, the Civil Society and the Independent Regulatory Bodies. The participants adopted a Joint Statement emphasizing the need for continuous regional cooperation that contributes to the increased interaction between the parliaments, independent regulatory bodies and civil society organizations in the interest of the rule of law and protection and promotion of human rights.

Having in mind the initiative from the Final Declaration of the 8th Conference held in 2010 in Antalya that was repeated in the Final Declaration of the 9th Conference held in 2011 in Bečići, as well as in the adopted Report on the activities of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group during the Chairmanship-of-Office in Belgrade, special emphasis has been given to the realization of the commitment for further institutionalization of the parliamentary dimension of the regional cooperation leading to establishing of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. After its constitution in Podgorica and the opening of the debate on the Draft Comprehensive Report on the development of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension, the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group held four meetings in Belgrade and, based on the two institutional models, prepared the Draft Consolidated Version-Possible Compromise Proposal of (the Parliamentary Assembly - SEECP PA).

Following the previous discussions and documents, during the current Chairmanship the Working Group held four meetings headed by the Member of Parliament Ms. Ermira Mehmeti Devaja. The meetings confirmed the joint readiness to continue with the constructive and comprehensive debate on the goals, aims, organizational structure, rules of procedure, secretariat and

financing of the future parliamentary assembly. The Draft Rules of Procedures were prepared and discussed, as well as the Draft Comprehensive Report on the possible compromise model of the - SEECP Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat, and the draft documents for the 10th SEECP Conference.

The Working Group prepared and adopted by consensus the draft Joint Statement and draft Final Declaration of the 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament. All other Working Group documents shall be aligned with the aforementioned documents, once they are adopted by the Presidents.

Guided by the need for transparency and for better informing the experts and the public about the ideas, messages and commitments from the adopted documents in the past 15 years and during the current Chairmanship of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension, the Assembly initiated the preparation of specialized publications. The publication of the documents and research papers in this field is important for increasing the visibility of SEECP and raising the awareness and support of the general public about the mutual understanding, solidarity and good-neighbourly cooperation in the region.

JOINT STATEMENT

At the 10th Conference of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament, we, as representatives of the parliaments of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Participating States,

Reaffirming our commitment to the continuous contribution for fulfilling the letter and spirit of the Bucharest Charter of Good Neighborly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South East Europe, as well as of the other relevant international documents ratified by our parliaments;

Having in mind that the future of all the SEE countries, nations and citizens lies in the European Union and in full implementation of the European values and standards;

Guided by the principle of regional ownership and reiterating the identity and authentic character of SEECP as the "genuine voice" and the key actor in the region;

Having adhered to the aim of developing more regionally owned and led cooperation and enhancing the role of SEECP in the regional cooperation architecture;

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding on Interparliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe and the Final Declarations from the previous nine Conferences of the SEECP Presidents of Parliament which have repeatedly expressed the will for continuous realization, development and promotion of the SEECP parliamentary dimension;

Having regard to the consensually adopted guidelines and proposals of the Working Group established with the aim of elaborating and proposing the further development of the SEECP parliamentary dimension that would lead to the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly;

Have declared as follows:

We fully support the transformation and institutionalization of the SEECP parliamentary dimension into SEECP Parliamentary Assembly as a regular parliamentary forum for exchange of experiences, dialogue and cooperation on issues of special interest for the SEE countries and their citizens, that would act in synergy with the regional and international partners;

Members of the Assembly are the parliaments of the SEECP participating states. The delegations of the parliaments are headed by the speakers of parliament/parliamentary chamber and have 3 to 5 representatives. Each delegation has a single vote.

The resolutions, recommendations, decisions, opinions, statements and other documents on realization of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly aims and goals shall

be adopted by consensus in the presence of at least two thirds of the national delegations.

Once the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly is established, the decision procedures of the Assembly shall be decided by the PA.

The decisions on the organizational, technical, procedural matters related to the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly functioning shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of the present delegations.

It shall be considered that the consensus is reached if there are no objections from any of the national delegations.

The parliamentary session shall be the highest body of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. It will be regularly convened once a year, while the Standing Committee shall be responsible for the activities between the parliamentary sessions;

The SEECP Parliamentary Assembly shall be headed by the president of the parliament of the country holding the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office, in accordance with the principle of annual rotation, while the Vice Presidents shall be determined in accordance with the principle of the Troika;

The SEECP Parliamentary Assembly shall have three permanent committees, on 1) Economy, Infrastructure and Energy, 2) Justice, Internal Affairs and Security Cooperation and 3) Social Development, Education, Research and Science. Ad-hoc working groups shall be established when needed;

The Working Group will continue its work on the preparation of the documents necessary for finalizing the institutionalization of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly.

The documents necessary for the inaugural session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly shall be finalized during the next Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP parliamentary dimension.

Until 1st November 2013 each SEECP national parliament shall send to the next Chairmanship-in-Office the names of the 3 to 5 members of their delegation to the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and their distribution to the three committees.

Adopted in Ohrid on 28 May 2013

ANNUAL SEE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME 2013-2014

GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTNERS
1. Institutional building and strengthening of coordination and communication activities of the SEEC PD			
1.1 Transformation and institutionalization of SEEC PD into The Parliamentary Assembly (SEEC PA).	1. Preparing the documents necessary for the convening of the Inaugural session of the SEEC PA	July 2013- June 2014	CiO, RSPC SEE, National Parliaments
	2. Strengthening coordination and exchange of information through the network of national coordinators	July 2013- June 2014	RSPC SEE, National Parliaments
	3 Organizing the Inaugural session of the SEEC PA	May-June 2014	CiO, RSPCSEE
1.2. Promotion of the mission, vision and basic guidelines of the SEEC PA.	1. Preparing media and public events and distributing press-materials	May-June 2014	CiO, Troika
2. Developing interaction of SEEC parliaments on important regional issues			
2.1 Defining and promoting priority areas for cooperation at parliamentary level	1. Support the CiO priorities through active participation in organized events	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, RSPC SEE, National Parliaments
	2. Carrying out research on possible fields of cooperation in a long-term perspective	July 2013 – December 2013	RSPC SEE, National Parliaments
	3. Identifying regional and international partners and donors	December 2013 – June 2014	RSPC SEE
2.2 Introducing sustainable mechanisms for exchange of information and legislative experience	1. Continuing exchange of experiences and good practices of the Parliaments, Independent Regulatory Bodies and CSOs of the SEEC countries. Establishment of networks of Independent Regulatory Bodies in SEEC countries	July 2013 – June 2014	RSPC SEE, National parliaments, Independent Regulatory Bodies, CSOs
	2. Establishing cooperation with Cetinje Parliamentary Forum and COSAP	July 2013 – December 2013	RSPC SEE, Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, COSAP

GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTNERS
3. Enhancing coordination between Parliamentary and Governmental Dimensions of the SEECP			
3.1 Deepening cooperation with RCC	1. Support the implementation of RCC Strategy and Work Program 2014-2016	July 2013 – June 2014	RSPC SEE, RCC Secretariat, National parliaments
	2. Organizing joint events	July 2013 – June 2014	RSPC SEE, RCC Secretariat
3.2 Involving the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension in SEE 2020 Strategy drafting and implementation	1. Participation in the development of SEE 2020 Strategy and outlining the role of SEECP Parliamentary Dimension	July 2013 – June 2014	RCC Secretariat, RSPCSEE, SEE Regional Initiatives, National parliaments,
	2. Developing working relations with SEE Regional Initiatives responsible for SEE 2020 drafting and implementation	July 2013 – June 2014	RCC Secretariat, RSPCSEE, SEE Regional Initiatives, National parliaments
4. Strengthening relations with EU institutions and promotion of the European perspective of the region			
4.1 Strengthening cooperation with European Parliament	1. Visit of SEECP parliamentary delegation to EP and other EU institutions.	February/March 2014	RSPC SEE, RCC Liaison office in Brussels, Directorate-General for External Policies of the EP
	2. Organizing joint events	July 2013 – June 2014	RSPC SEE, Directorate-General for External Policies of the EP and Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments
	3. Contributing to the agenda and organization of the seminars for Western Balkan Parliaments.	July 2013 – June 2014	RSPC SEE, Directorate-General for External Policies of the EP
4.2 Active presentation of Europe 2020 and SEE 2020 Strategies values and agenda	1. Organizing Youth Essay Writing Contest "See SEE in 2020"	October 2013 – May 2014	RSPC SEE, National Parliaments, partner organizations
5. Improving cooperation and setting up of joint initiatives with regional and international parliamentary organizations			
5.1 Strengthening cooperation with regional and international parliamentary organizations	1. Continuing cooperation with the Baltic Assembly	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, National parliaments
	2. Applying for observer status at the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, national parliaments

GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	PARTNERS
	3. Maintaining exchange of information with the Benelux parliament	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, National parliaments
	4. Continuing cooperation with GUAM PA	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, National parliaments
5.2. Creating new partnerships and prospects for joint activities	1. Starting cooperation with PACE	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, National parliaments
	2. Organizing study visit to PABSEC	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, National parliaments
	3. Establishing working contacts with Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean	July 2013 – June 2014	CiO, Troika, RSPC SEE, National parliaments

This Programme will be in force until the Inaugural Session of the SEECF PA

CONSOLIDATED VERSION

Compromise Proposal of the SEECP PA

Aims and Objectives

The primary objective of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly is to strengthen the cooperation and coordinate the efforts among the Parliaments of all Participating States, with an aim to promote further the region as an area of peace, security, stability and cooperation and to develop a more regionally owned cooperation architecture.

The SEECP Parliamentary Assembly offers a broad platform for debating topics of significance for the region and promoting regional reconciliation and tolerance, a vehicle for prompt response to current issues of particular importance for SEE countries and their citizens, as well as various forms of interaction with regional and international partners.

The Assembly draws up opinions, resolutions, recommendations, reports and other advisory instruments in order to realize its aims and objectives.

Basic Guidelines

The first and most important guideline in compliance with the principle of regional ownership is the political will of SEECP parliaments to initiate various forms of exchange of legislative experience, harmonization of legislation, coordination of policies and positions vis-à-vis the government dimension and more active dialogue with civil society.

The second guideline involves the objectives and priorities defined by the rotational Chairmanships-in-Office of the Process focusing on annual basis the efforts of SEE countries on topical issues of regional importance.

The third guideline pertains to the Memorandum of Understanding on Interparliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe, which emphasizes the great importance of parliamentary involvement, as an overarching theme, for the successful development of the Regional Cooperation Council and in support of the SEECP;

The South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Parliamentary Dimension is hereby transformed into SEECP Parliamentary Assembly.

The SEECP Parliamentary Assembly continues its collaboration and coordination with the SEECP political/operational formats (the Summit of Heads of State and Governments, Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Political Directors, and RCC) promoting a stronger partnership.

SEECP Parliamentary Assembly is one of the focal points for regional representation of the respective national parliaments in parliamentary diplomacy as well as in regional and international cooperation activities.

Membership and Composition

Members of SEECP Parliamentary Assembly are the Parliaments of the SEECP Participating States.

Every parliament shall be represented by the speaker or deputy speaker of the parliament/parliamentary chamber and 3-5 member of the parliament/parliamentary chamber.

Each delegation should be composed of at least 30% of less represented gender, and should reflect the fair political representation of the respective parliament.

To be deemed valid, a session requires the presence of no less than two-thirds of its Member Parliaments. The session is chaired by the Speaker of the host-parliament.

Observer status shall be granted to any other Parliament or organization with the approval in the plenary session by all Member Parliaments present and voting in the Plenary, provided the application is presented at least two months prior to plenary and the absence of any written objection of a Member Parliament to the respective application.

Chairmanship

The principle of one-year rotational SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office is to be applied following the established practice.

The representatives of the SEECP Troika constitute the leadership of the Standing Committee consisting of a Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons. When designating official delegations of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly to take part in the work of various inter-parliamentary organizations, the parliaments of the SEECP Troika are represented on a priority basis.

Decision Making

The resolutions, recommendations, decisions, opinions, statements and other documents on realization of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly aims and goals shall be adopted by consensus. Each delegation has a single vote.

The decisions on the organizational, technical, procedural matters related to the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly functioning shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of the present delegations.

It shall be considered that the consensus is reached if there are no objections from any of the national delegations.

Organizational Structure

- Plenary Session
- 3 Committees
 1. Economy, Infrastructure and Energy
 2. Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation
 3. Social Development, Education, Research and Science

- Ad hoc Working Groups

Standing Committee

- Presidency-according to SEECP-Troika

Secretariat

SEECP Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat.

The current CiO prepared Comprehensive Report on a possible compromise model of the SEECP PA Secretariat.

Budget

The Budget of the SEECP PA Secretariat should be prepared during the next SEECP CiO.

NOTE: The SEECP PD Working Group was established based on the Final Declaration of the 8th Conference of the SEECP Speakers of Parliament (Article 16), held in Antalya (June 2010). The constitutive meeting of the WG was held in Podgorica (5-6 May 2011), and at that meeting the WG started to discuss the Comprehensive Report on the Development of the Parliamentary Dimension of SEECP. Four meetings were held during the SEECP PD Chairmanship-in-Office of the National Assembly, Belgrade, and the Consolidated Version of the Possible Compromise Proposal of the (Parliamentary Assembly - SEECP PA) was prepared based on 2 institutional models. The latest version of the document came out of the 10th Meeting of the WG, held in Ohrid (26 May 2013) in the framework of the SEECP PD Chairmanship-in-Office of the Assembly, Skopje.