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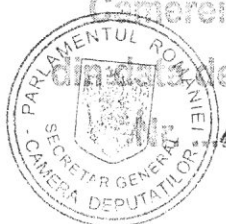
In sedinta Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputatilor



ROMANIA

Parlamentul României

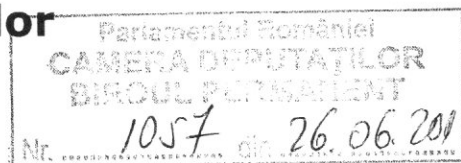
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INFORMARE

privind participarea la reuniunea Comisiei permanente a Adunării
Parlamentare a SEECP

Opatija, Croația, 20 mai 2017

În data de 20 mai 2017, a avut loc la Opatija, Croația, reuniunea Comisiei permanente a Adunării Parlamentare a SEECP, în organizarea Președinției-în-exercițiu croate a organizației.

Evenimentul a reunit reprezentanți ai delegațiilor participante la AP SEECP din Belgrad, București, Ljubljana, Sarajevo, Sofia și Zagreb, în timp ce Podgorica, Skopje și Tirana au fost reprezentate la nivel de coordonatori naționali.

Potrivit prevederilor Regulamentului Adunării, Președintele Camerei Deputaților a desemnat-o pe doamna deputat **Mariana-Venera Popescu** (Minorități naționale), Președintele Delegației Parlamentului României la Adunarea Parlamentară a SEECP, ca reprezentant al Delegației române la această reuniune.

Reuniunea a avut ca obiectiv general pregătirea lucrărilor Sesiunii plenare a AP SEECP, care va avea loc la Zagreb, în perioada 8-10 iunie 2017.

Proiectul de agendă al reuniunii a inclus, între altele, discutarea și aprobarea proiectului Declarației Finale a AP SEECP, proiectul de Agendă al Sesiunii plenare și proiectul de program al activităților AP SEECP pentru perioada 2017-2018, amendamentele propuse de Delegația României la Regulamentul de Procedură al AP SEECP, precum și discutarea diverselor probleme ale organizației (schimbul de opinii privind punctele deschise în proiectul de raport al Comisiei generale pentru economie, infrastructură și energie și informații privind termenul limită, în vederea stabilirii președințiilor Comisiilor generale ale AP SEECP).

Lucrările reuniunii au fost deschise și prezidate de către domnul Predrag Matić, președintele Delegației Parlamentului Croației la AP SEECP.

În deschiderea lucrărilor, președintele Predrag Matić, a supus aprobării Agenda reuniunii propusă de PiE croată, care a fost adoptată cu o singură modificare propusă de Delegația din Belgrad, respectiv, amânarea discutării punctului 3 (amendamentele propuse de Delegația României la Regulamentul de Procedură al AP SEECP) inclus pe agenda reuniunii, pentru una dintre viitoarele reuniuni. Astfel, cel de-al 3-lea punct a fost retras de pe ordinea de zi, iar Agenda a fost adoptată fără acest punct.

În continuare, domnul Predrag Matić a subliniat faptul că, deși Delegația din Atena a depus amendamente la Proiectul de Declarație după expirarea termenului prevăzut în Regulament, niciunul dintre participanți nu a avut obiecții cu privire la includerea amendamentelor Atenei după acest termen.

În cadrul lucrărilor Comisiei permanente, doamna deputat **Mariana-Venera Popescu** a participat la sesiunea de dezbateri privind amendamentele propuse de Delegațiile parlamentare la AP SEECP privind Proiectul Declarației Finale formulat de PiE croată.

În cadrul dezbaterilor reuniunii participanții au avut oportunitatea de a susține amendamentele propuse de Delegațiile la AP SEECP la Proiectul Declarației Finale formulat de PiE croată.

În acest context, doamna deputat **Mariana-Venera Popescu** a susținut amendamentele propuse de Delegația română la Proiectul Declarației Finale.

Au fost respinse amendamentele care reflectau situații și exemple care se regăsesc în preambulul Declarației și **au fost adoptate toate amendamentele care au contribuit la:**

- **îmbunătățirea terminologiei specifice acestor documente, propuse de delegațiile din Belgrad și din București;**
- **acceptarea unei soluții de compromis cu privire la amendamentul propus de Belgrad în ceea ce privește formularea în acord cu Delegația croată, privind sprijinirea eforturilor participanților la SEECP, de a încuraja educația antreprenorială și obiectivele prezentate în Carta de la Zagreb cu privire la această educație pe întreaga perioadă a vieții;**
- **modalitățile de creștere a competitivității, a creșterii inteligente și crearea de locuri de muncă în rândul participanților la SEECP, în special prin promovarea cooperării regionale și a educației.**

Astfel, toate amendamentele la Proiectul de Declarație, cu excepția paragrafului 14 referitoare la aspecte privind Secretariatul Regional, au fost convenite și, ca atare, au devenit parte a Proiectului de Declarație.

În sinteză, principalele aspecte asupra cărora s-a concentrat atât dezbaterile, cât și controversele din partea Delegațiilor din Ljubljana, Podgorica privind textul paragrafului 14 al secțiunii operative al Declarației formulat de Delegația croată și amendat de Delegația bulgară referitoare la contribuția Secretariatului Regional au vizat următoarele:

- Delegația croată a subliniat faptul că a respectat amendamentul propus de Delegația bulgară și a dorit să includă referința privind Secretariatul Regional, cu o singură modificare – începutul paragrafului să cuprindă cuvântul "*Confirm*" în loc de cuvântul "*Decide*";
- Delegația din Sofia a acceptat această propunere – inserând astfel o secțiune referitoare la activitatea Secretariatului Regional, având în vedere ca începutul paragrafului să cuprindă cuvântul "*Confirm*";
- Reprezentantul din Ljubljana a subliniat faptul că amendamentul propus de Sofia prevede ca discuția referitoare la Secretariatul permanent al AP SEECP trebuie să continue, însă nu consideră necesar repetarea aceluiași articol în fiecare declarație, în consecință, reprezentantul din Ljubljana sprijină propunerea inițială formulată de Zagreb. În acest context, reprezentantul din Ljubljana a sugerat ca discuția pe această temă să continue în luna iunie, în cadrul Comisiei permanente;
- Reprezentanții Delegației bulgare au reiterat faptul că, Parlamentul din Sofia a înființat Secretariatul Regional în conformitate cu o soluție adoptată de către toți Președinții de Parlamente din Spațiul Economic European (SEE), în 2008 și de atunci, Parlamentul din Sofia a dezvoltat, finanțat și asigurat potențialul său profesional;
- Reprezentantul din Sarajevo a subliniat faptul că, în domeniul asistenței din partea Secretariatului Regional, situația este clară, în sensul că, asistența a fost primită atunci când a fost solicitată și dacă nu a fost solicitată, nu a existat asistență. Astfel, formulările din Declarație propuse de Zagreb și Sofia care se referă la Secretariatul Regional, au sens;
- Reprezentanții Delegațiilor din Ljubljana și Podgorica și-au exprimat dezacordul privind promovarea noilor formulări propuse de Sofia și Zagreb, în cadrul dezbaterilor, precizând că aceste noi formulări nu pot fi acceptate, deoarece nu au fost prezentate în conformitate cu prevederile art.10 din Regulamentul de Procedură al AP SEECP. Astfel, atât textul paragrafului 14 formulat de Zagreb, cât și amendamentul propus de Sofia, la acest paragraf, vor rămâne pe masă, având în vedere că cele două nu se sprijină reciproc și nu există consens.

În acest context, și, pentru a se ajunge la un consens, președintele Predrag Matić, a propus ca Sofia să aducă o nouă formulare de compromis pentru paragraful 14, cu termen limită, până la data de 29 mai 2017.

Astfel, președintele Predrag Matić a confirmat că, datorită dezacordului creat, textul paragrafului 14 al Declarației a fost eliminat, la fel ca amendamentul propus de Sofia, iar când noua propunere a Sofiei va fi promovată, aceasta va fi distribuită tuturor parlamentelor și dezbaterile asupra paragrafului va continua. Astfel, Declarația va fi apoi adoptată cu sau fără paragraful 14 sau nu va fi adoptată deloc.

În încheierea reuniunii s-a convenit asupra unei alte reuniuni extraordinare a Comisiei permanente, în data de 8 iunie a.c., în marja Sesiunii plenare a AP SEECP, când va fi definitivat textul Declarației Finale în ceea ce privește paragraful 14.

De asemenea, în marja Sesiunii plenare a AP SEECP, reprezentantul din Ljubljana a sugerat organizarea unei reuniuni a Troicii.

Cu unanimitatea celor prezenți au fost adoptate următoarele concluzii ale reuniunii Comisiei permanente de la Opatija:

- Sofia va propune o nouă formulare pentru paragraful 14 al Proiectului de Declarație, până la data de 29 mai a.c., care va fi apoi distribuită tuturor parlamentelor pentru examinare și răspuns
- Termenul de depunere a candidaturilor pentru preluarea președințiilor Comisiilor generale ale AP SEECP, data de 2 iunie 2017
- O reuniune extraordinară a Comisiei permanente, ce va avea loc în data de 8 iunie 2017, organizată în marja Sesiunii plenare
- O reuniune a Troicii a AP SEECP, ce va avea loc în data de 9 iunie 2017, organizată în marja Sesiunii plenare
- Tema Sesiunii plenare ce va fi prezentată în scris, tuturor țărilor participante, în cel mai scurt timp.

Propunem ca prezenta Informare să fie distribuită către:

- Direcția Balcanii de Vest și Cooperare Regională din cadrul Ministerului Afacerilor Externe.

Anexe:

Proiectul de Agenda al reuniunii Comisiei permanente

Proiectul de Agendă al Sesiunii plenare

Proiectul de program al activităților AP SEECP pentru perioada 2017/2018

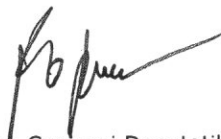
Minuta reuniunii Comisiei permanente a AP SEECP, Opatija, Croația, 20 mai 2017

Proiectul Declarației Finale

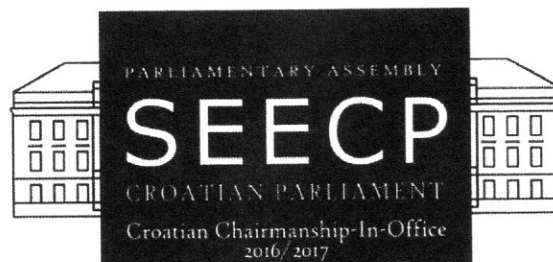
Lista participanților

Deputat Mariana-Venera Popescu

Președintele Delegației Parlamentului României la AP SEECP



Red: Daniela Georgian, coordonator național la AP SEECP din partea Camerei Deputaților
Direcția generală afaceri externe
Direcția pentru cooperare cu organizațiile internaționale și UE



- *draft of 3 May 2017 –*

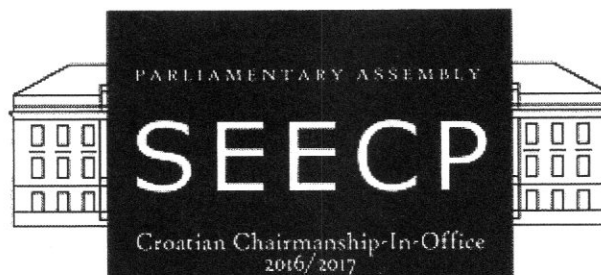
MEETING OF THE SEECp PA STANDING COMMITTEE

***20 May 2017
Opatija, Hotel Milenij***

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1.** Adoption of the Agenda;
- 2.** Preparation of the Plenary Session of the SEECp PA. Discussion and adoption of the draft SEECp PA Final Declaration, draft Agenda of the Plenary Session and draft Work Programme 2017/2018;
- 3.** Proposed amendments on the Rules of Procedure by Parliament, Bucharest;
- 4.** Any other business,

including:
 - Exchange of views on the open elements in draft Report of General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy;
 - Information on a dead-line for proposing the future chairmanships of the General Committees.

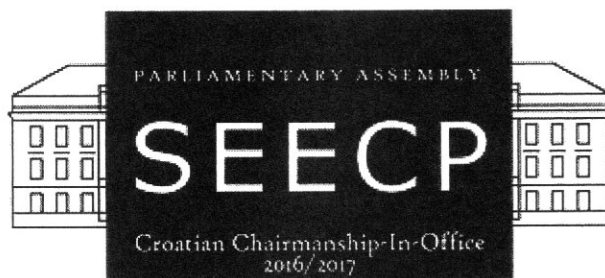


**PLENARY SESSION
OF THE SEECp PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
8-10 JUNE 2017
ZAGREB**

AGENDA

Draft 3 May 2017

1. Adopting of the Agenda;
2. Opening speeches; Interventions from international and regional organizations;
3. Presentation and adoption of the Reports and Resolutions of the General Committees;
4. Adoption of the Final Declaration;
5. Miscellaneous.



SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

WORK PROGRAMME 2017/2018

*The Chairmanship-in-Office from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2018 is held by the
National Parliament, Ljubljana*

During the Presidency the following meetings will be held:

- 1. Plenary Session to be organized in May/June 2018 by the SEEC participant holding the Chairmanship;*
- 2. At least two meetings of the SEEC PA Standing Committee in the SEEC participant holding the Chairmanship. The first of the Standing Committee meetings to be held in autumn 2017;*
- 3. Two meetings of the SEEC PA General Committees – the first one to be organized at least two months prior to the Plenary Session in order to provide all delegations with adopted documents in due time.*

MINUTES
from the meeting of the SEECP PA
Standing Committee
Opatija, 20 May 2017

On May 20, 2017, in the framework of the Croatian Presidency of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, a meeting of the SEECP PA Standing Committee was held in Opatija, the fourth in a series of meetings organized by the Croatian Parliament. The Meeting was primarily aimed at aligning the text of the Final Declaration, which should be adopted at the 4th Plenary Session of the SEECP PA, which will be held on 8-10 June 2017 in Zagreb.

The Meeting was attended by delegations from Belgrade, Bucharest, Ljubljana, Sarajevo, Sofia and Zagreb, while Podgorica, Skopje and Tirana were presented at the level of National Coordinators. The delegations from Ankara, Athens, Chisinau and Pristina were not present at the Meeting. The Meeting was chaired by the Head of the Delegation of the Croatian Parliament to the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, Predrag Matić, MP.

Participants were introduced with the Agenda of the Meeting:

1. Adopting of the Agenda;
2. Discussion and adoption of the Draft SEECP PA Final Declaration, Draft Agenda of the Plenary Session and draft Work Program 2017/2018;
3. Proposed amendments on the Rules of Procedure by Parliament, Bucharest
4. Any other business (exchange of views on the open elements in draft Report of General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy and information on a dead-line for proposing the future chairmanships of the General Committees.

AD 1.

When adopting the Agenda, the representative from Assembly, Belgrade, proposed that item 3 of the Agenda should not be discussed at that meeting, but to postpone it for one of the following meetings. Thus, the 3rd item was withdrawn from the Agenda, and the Agenda was adopted without that item.

AD 2.

The Chair of the Meeting, Mr. Matic stressed that Athens submitted amendments to the draft Declaration on Thursday, May 18, 2017, after the deadline envisaged by the Rules of Procedure, but none of the participants had any objections to the inclusion of Athens' amendments.

The following amendments to the draft Declaration were adopted:

- in the preamble of the Declaration the Bucharest amendment (paragraph 3);
- in the operative part the Belgrade amendment (paragraph 2), Bucharest amendment (paragraphs 3, 4, 7);

The following amendments to the draft Declaration were rejected:

- Since in paragraph 3 of the operative part the Bucharest amendment was adopted, the Athens amendment was rejected;
- Athens amendment in paragraph 6 of the operative part was not adopted because two SEECP PA participants (Belgrade, Bucharest) did not agree with the wording „*Good neighborly relations*“;
- Bucharest amendment on paragraph 8 of the operative part was not adopted (Zagreb and Ljubljana were against it, explaining that since being the EU Member States they had already adopted “efficient legislative measures “ – wording proposed by Bucharest);
- Bucharest asked for the explanation of the operative paragraph 10 and after it was explained by the Chair, it agreed on the proposed text;

Compromise on the paragraph 11 in the operative part:

- After Belgrade submitted in written an amendment to the text, a compromise solution was reached on the wording in agreement with Zagreb which was accepted by everybody present (*„Support the efforts of the SEECP Participants to foster entrepreneurial learning and aims presented in the Zagreb Charter on Lifelong Entrepreneurial Learning, addressing the ways to increase competitiveness, smart and inclusive growth and jobs creation amongst SEECP Participants, especially through promoting education and regional cooperation“*).

All amendments related to the Draft text of the Declaration, except paragraph 14, were agreed and as such have become part of the Draft text of the Declaration.

PARAGRAPH 14 OF THE OPERATIVE PART TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION

The above mentioned paragraph was amended by one paragraph only, from Sofia.

At the beginning of the discussion on this amendment, Zagreb noted that it respected the Bulgarian amendment and was willing to include the reference to the Regional Secretariat, with one change - that the paragraph began with the word "Confirm" instead of "Decide".

The Sofia delegation accepted this proposal - inserting a section on the Regional Secretariat and beginning the paragraph with the word "Confirm".

The deputy from Ljubljana said that Sofia's amendment presumed that the discussion about the permanent secretariat of the Assembly should continue and that there was no need to repeat the same article in every declaration and support the original proposal of Zagreb. He suggested the discussion on that topic to be continued in June at the meeting of the Standing Committee.

Sofia's representative said that in their opinion, Zagreb initially had proposed a solution revising the institutional framework of the Assembly, which had been established at the inaugural session of the Assembly. She said that it was envisaged that that framework would apply until the establishment of the permanent secretariat and the adoption of the operational budget of the Assembly, and since these two last issues were still open, the political documents from the subsequent sessions in Tirana and Sofia confirmed the validity of the solutions adopted at the inaugural session. She added that Parliament, Sofia, had established the Regional Secretariat in accordance with a solution adopted by all SEE presidents of the Parliaments in 2008, and ever since then Parliament, Sofia had been developing, financing and securing its professional potential. She repeated on several occasions that if Zagreb abandoned its proposal, according to the rules, the Sofia amendment would be accepted.

The representative of Podgorica supported the proposal of Ljubljana and on several occasions asked the Chair whether the ad hoc Secretariat of the Croatian Presidency had received any assistance from the Regional Secretariat. Zagreb reiterated that it accepted the inclusion of the item on the Regional Secretariat in the text of the Declaration and asked the representative of the Regional Secretariat to clarify in what form the Regional Secretariat assisted the ad hoc Secretariat stressing that the Regional Secretariat was not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

The Head of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe said that during the Croatian Presidency the Secretariat had assisted in the participation of PA delegations at various international events and in the participation of PA representatives at an interparliamentary conference in Pristina organized by the Parliament, Pristina and the European Parliament. She emphasized that the Regional Secretariat had participated in the drafting of documents that led to the creation of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and that the Secretariat's web site served to store relevant information and documents on the PA.

The Sarajevo representative said that in the area of assistance from the Regional Secretariat, the issue was clear: if the assistance was requested, it was received, if not requested, there was no assistance, and in that case the formulation involving the reference to the Regional Secretariat in the Declaration made sense. He added that Sarajevo agreed with both wordings, Zagreb and Sofia's, and that Sarajevo would not undermine consensus.

The Sofia delegation referred to the Zagreb statement that the Regional Secretariat was not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure adding that the "Ad-hoc Secretariat" was not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure either while it was mentioned in the declarations. They added that the Rules of Procedure did not mention the final declaration either and that there was no need to follow the Rules of Procedure to the letter and to invoke them. The MP from Ljubljana emphasized that the status of the Regional Secretariat after the Inaugural Session was to be that of a temporary body until the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, and that at the same time an ad hoc working group had been established that had failed to solve this problem in a one-year period, as expected, and that the purpose of the Regional Secretariat had been to provide assistance to the ad hoc secretariat for that specific period of one year. He said that at that time the Regional Secretariat had not been referred to as a body that would eventually become the Permanent Secretariat, but as a temporary body until the setting up of the Permanent Secretariat. Consequently he concluded that there was no need for the Regional Secretariat to be mentioned in the Final Declaration. He highlighted the absence of an ongoing process to resolve this problem and once again supported the wording in paragraph 14 as proposed by Zagreb.

The MP from Belgrade said that the representatives of the Assembly's Troika should find a common solution that would be acceptable to all Participants. Since the Zagreb's original text is not acceptable for Sofia and Sofia's amendment is not acceptable for Ljubljana, he proposed deleting paragraph 14, adding that by deleting it, the paragraph on the Regional Secretariat in the Declaration of 2016 would remain in force.

The MP from Sofia said that the declarations yearly reconfirmed the framework in which the Assembly performed its work, because every year, during discussions on topics of the permanent secretariat and the budget, changes might occur. She added that not accepting the text meant that the framework for the next year was not the same as it had been until now, and that there were no circumstances that would require a change. She once again repeated that according to the procedure, proposed amendments were accepted if the proponents withdrew their proposals.

Belgrade reiterated as a formal and legal fact: if there is no novelty in the declaration, the paragraphs from the previous declarations remain in force. Belgrade agreed with the chairman that in the absence of a consensus, the Assembly and the Declaration became questionable.

Podgorica agreed with Belgrade's proposal and asked the chairman to ask other parliaments to state their opinions and get involved in the debate.

All the delegations, but the one from Sofia, agreed with Belgrade's proposal.

Since it was not possible to reach an agreement, Zagreb proposed a new compromise wording for paragraph 14:

“Recall, with regard to the issue of Permanent Secretariat, the Inaugural Declaration of the SEECP PA of 2014, Bucharest, the Final Declaration of the SEECP PA of 2015, Tirana, as well as the Final Declaration of the SEECP PA of 2016, Sofia.”

Delegations from Belgrade, Bucharest and Sarajevo accepted Zagreb's proposal.

Sofia proposed the following wording:

“Confirm, until having of Permanent Secretariat and an operational budget, will follow the Inaugural Declaration of the SEECP PA of 2014, Bucharest, the Final Declaration of the SEECP PA of 2015, Tirana, as well as the Final Declaration of the SEECP PA of 2016, Sofia.”

They explained this change by saying it was not completely clear what is meant by the word “issue”.

Ljubljana disagreed with both of the two new proposals and insisted on deleting paragraph 14 as an agreement could not be reached. The MP from Ljubljana reminded of the PA's current practice whereby in the absence of a consensus, the controversial part of the text was deleted. New amendments cannot be tabled on spot, he noted, as this was not in conformity with the Rules of Procedure. The MP from Sofia refuted his statement saying that up till now, in the absence of a consensus, changes had been formulated in the course of debates.

The representative from Podgorica agreed with Ljubljana, adding that he had personally attended the meetings of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension since 2010 and that controversial parts of texts had always been removed.

The MP from Sarajevo said: “This organization has no future unless we manage to set up the Permanent Secretariat within a year”. He asked the Sofia Delegation to come to an agreement as “our failure to adopt a declaration would send a bad message”.

Sofia's representative repeated that the Rules of Procedure did not mention final declarations. She said that the Rules of Procedure “were not written in stone”, and added that the practice of adopting declarations was a matter of willingness and consensus, despite the fact that they were not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, she noted that the Bulgarian Delegation was not authorized by the Bulgarian Parliament and Government to accept

Belgrade's proposal to delete paragraph 14 and that this was becoming a political question of the Bulgarian Government.

The delegations from Ljubljana and Podgorica concluded that the wordings newly proposed by Zagreb and Sofia were not accepted because they had not met with approval and had not been submitted in conformity with Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure. Therefore, only paragraph 14 in Zagreb's Draft Declaration and Sofia's amendment thereto remain on the table. These two are not mutually supportive, there is a lack of consensus, which makes Belgrade's technical proposal to delete paragraph 14 in its entirety the only acceptable solution. They believe that this proposal does not need to be discussed or voted on because the controversial paragraph should automatically be deleted from the Draft Declaration.

For the sake of trying to reach a consensus, Chairman Predrag Matić proposed that Sofia came up with a new, compromise wording for paragraph 14 by 29 May 2017. Ljubljana's representative protested against this proposal saying it was more than obvious that the proposal to include paragraph 14 in the Declaration was abandoned (since everybody except Sofia accepted the proposal to delete it). In his opinion, Sofia has been given extra time only to consider whether or not they accept the declaration (without paragraph 14). He suggested proceeding to the adoption of the Draft Declaration in its entirety. Sofia asked to be given the possibility to propose a new wording of the text in an additional deadline, although she referred to the chairman's act as "a step backwards to which they accepted in a sign of good will".

The MP from Ljubljana asked for a confirmation of the following conclusions: the original Zagreb's draft text and Sofia's amendment have been removed, the newly proposed compromise wordings by Zagreb and Sofia have not been accepted and Sofia will submit by 29 May 2017 its proposal for a reworded paragraph 14 and if there is no consensus, the Draft Declaration will be confirmed at the Standing Committee's next meeting without the controversial paragraph 14. Chairman Matić confirmed that due to disagreement the text in paragraph 14 was removed, as was Sofia's amendment. When the new proposal of the text arrives from Sofia, it will be distributed to all parliaments and the debate on the paragraph will continue. The Declaration will then be adopted with or without paragraph 14 or it will not be adopted at all.

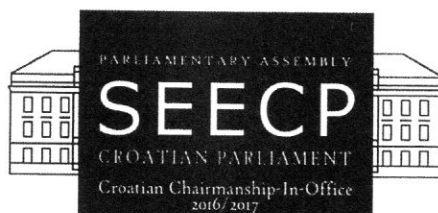
At the end of the meeting it was agreed to have another extraordinary meeting of the Standing Committee within the framework of the Assembly's Plenary Session on 8 June 2017 when the text of the final declaration – with regard to paragraph 14 – will be defined.

The MP from Ljubljana suggested organizing a Troika meeting within the framework of the Plenary Session.

The following conclusions were adopted at the meeting:

- Sofia will propose a new wording for paragraph 14 of the Draft Declaration by 29 May 2017, which will then be distributed to all parliaments for consideration and response;
- The deadline for submitting candidacies for the chairmanships of the General Committees is June 2, 2017;
- One other additional meeting of the Standing Committee will be held on Thursday, 8 June 2017, with a view to try to agree on the final draft text of the Final Declaration, regarding paragraph 14;
- The meeting of the SEECP PA Troika will be held on Friday, 9 June 2017;
- The topic of the Plenary Session will be submitted in writing to the participating countries as soon as possible.

The meeting ended at 3:30 PM.



- *draft (as of 20 May 2017) -*

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
OF THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ZAGREB, 9-10 June 2017
FINAL DECLARATION

We, the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly:

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Charter of Good Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation, signed in Bucharest in 2000, as the founding document of the SEECP,

Following the Inaugural Declaration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, adopted in May 2014 in Bucharest, as well as the Final Declaration of May 2015 adopted in Tirana and the Final Declaration of June 2016 adopted in Sofia,

Committing to strengthen the work and visibility of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly as an regionally owned framework for parliamentary cooperation, dialogue and good neighbourly relations in the region,

Confirming the commitment to the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the SEECP Participants and reaffirming the importance of the EU enlargement process as a mechanism to secure peace, stability and security in the region,

Acknowledging the role of the Regional Cooperation Council, as the SEECP operational arm, in facilitating regional cooperation and supporting the European perspective of the SEE,

Committing to further explore the possibilities of enhanced cooperation of the SEECP PA with the European Parliament and other inter-parliamentary organizations,

Commending the work of the three General Committees of the SEECP PA and welcoming their reports and resolutions,

Expressing concern about the escalation of terrorism and violent extremism which continue to represent considerable risks to security and stability in Europe,

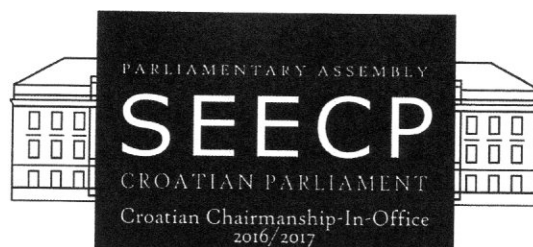
Recognising the need to enhance cooperation between the SEECP Participants in order to most effectively tackle the problem of irregular migration,

Have agreed to:

1. Reaffirm the outstanding role of the SEECP and the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly in enhancing stability and prosperity in the region of South-East Europe;
2. Increase open and direct communication between the parliaments of the participants of the SEECP PA in order to further develop positive environment for shared progress;
3. Continue strengthening of good neighbourly relations and cooperation in South-East Europe with the aim of transforming the region into an area of democratic institutional consolidation, economic growth and increased welfare;
4. Underline that the perspective of EU membership continues to be the main reform, stability and security factor in the region and that the EU enlargement process represents an irreplaceable tool to strengthen the commitment to EU integration of the SEECP Participants which are on their path towards EU membership;
5. Confirm that the enlargement policy of the EU continues to deliver results and proves to be beneficial both for the EU and the SEE region, as it significantly contributes to the European peace, security, stability and prosperity;
6. Continuously support EU candidates and potential candidates in their efforts regarding the rule of law, fundamental rights, public administration reforms, good economic governance and regional cooperation;
7. Further invest efforts in developing proactive cooperation with the European Parliament and other relevant international and inter-parliamentary organisations in order to enhance visibility and overall effectiveness of the SEECP PA;

8. Reaffirm the importance of fighting corruption and organised crime and call on SEECP parliaments to further promote efficient and unbiased investigations and independent judiciary in that area;
9. Strongly condemn terrorism in all its manifestations and decide to invest our best efforts in building a sustainable network for cooperation and information sharing in order to efficiently combat threats of terrorism and radicalisation in the region;
10. Commend RCC's activities and all its programmes aimed at achieving free flow of goods, services and investments, cross-border enforcement of rights and establishment of businesses and economic growth in the SEE region and call on RCC to engage in building deeper connections with the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, especially with its committees;
11. Support the efforts of the SEECP Participants to foster entrepreneurial learning and aims presented in the Zagreb Charter on Lifelong Entrepreneurial Learning, addressing the ways to increase competitiveness, smart and inclusive growth and jobs creation amongst SEECP Participants, especially through promoting education and regional cooperation;
12. Highly appreciate the work of the three General Committees of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and welcome their reports and resolutions as the outcome of their efforts to assist our parliaments in developing efficient exchange of best practices and promoting decisive implementation of reforms in the area of rule of law, building infrastructure and increased energy connectivity in the region, as well as promoting modernization of higher education and implementation of education reforms;
13. Welcome all efforts aimed towards the creation of a business friendly environment in the region and the development of public services necessary for economic growth, thus fully recognising the role of parliaments in promoting and facilitating such an environment;
14. Confirm that, until the establishment of a fully functional Secretariat with the operational budget, the parliament holding the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP PA shall serve as an ad hoc Secretariat for the Plenary Session, the Standing Committee, the President and the Bureau of the Assembly, while the parliament holding the Chairmanship of a General Committee or of an Ad hoc Working Group shall also fulfil the tasks of an ad hoc Secretariat for the respective body of the Assembly;

15. Recommend that the next Presidency continue to actively work towards the achievement of the priorities of the organization, especially through promoting European integration of the whole region, as well as fostering connection, cooperation and communication for our shared progress.



MEETING OF THE SEECP PA STANDING COMMITTEE

Opatija, 20 May 2017

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