

Prague, 26 May 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for organizing the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments and for your effort to reach a compromise text of the Presidency conclusions. As I said in my statement during the process of approving the conclusions, I could not unequivocally support some of the points that are substantively inconsistent with the resolution of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic dated 22 March 2016. In its resolution, the Chamber of Deputies rejected the introduction of compulsory refugee redistribution mechanism as well as the agreement of governments of EU Member States, which concerns the abolition of the visa regime for Turkish citizens by the end of June 2016.

As the Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, I feel bound by the resolution. For this reason, in accordance with Article 5.1 of the Stockholm guidelines governing the deliberations of the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments, I declared that as a representative of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic at this conference, I cannot unequivocally support some of the points of the Presidency conclusions.

However, the resolution of the Chamber of Deputies also contains parts that are compatible with the proposed Presidency conclusions. In particular the need to protect the external borders of the Schengen area and to ensure the safety of EU member states, while creating adequate humanitarian capacity for aid to refugees outside the European Union.

Dear Mr. Speaker, I understand the importance of the topics discussed and the motivation of the various conference participants for their opinions, and therefore I do not contradict the conclusions as a whole. At the same time I would like to ask you to distribute my statement and the above mentioned resolution of the Chamber of Deputies to the conference participants.

Respectfully,

H.E. Mr. Mars Di Bartolomeo
Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg