

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS

SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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Mr Tuur Elzinga

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Chair of the Committee on European Affairs

Senate of the Netherlands

Mr Malik Azmani

Chair of the Committee on European Affairs

House of Representatives of the Netherlands

Dear Colleagues,

Following the tradition, informal consultations of the Chairs of the Committees on European Affairs of the national Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland were held in Vilnius on 24–25 January. The meeting was convened in order to exchange views on the draft programme of the up-coming COSAC meeting and other relevant matters on the European Union agenda.

The Chairs of the Committees on European Affairs of the national Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland adopted a joint statement calling for support to the processes of building security, further democratisation and EU integration of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Please find enclosed the statement for your notice and consideration. I kindly ask you to distribute it to COSAC delegations.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC in The Hague.

Sincerely,

Gediminas Kirkilas

Chair of the Committee

Statement

SUPPORT FOR FURTHER EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF GEORGIA, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

Chairpersons of the Committees on European Affairs

of the National Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

Expressing unwavering support for Georgia's, Moldova's, and Ukraine's chosen European path,

Firmly *supporting* their sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders,

emphasising that the long-term stability and security of these countries and the whole of Europe will be guaranteed only by strengthening democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, the market economy and good governance in the region.

In the meantime

being fully aware of the fact that Russia continues its pressure using various forms of illegal and aggressive political, economic and military policies seeking to preclude these states from making an independent choice of their further European integration;

Encourage Georgia, **Moldova**, and Ukraine to continue establishing a deeper relationship with the European Union by rigorously implementing the necessary reforms that will create a favourable environment and will bring tangible benefits to their citizens;

Are of the opinion that the Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are a significant step in the process of realizing European aspirations of these countries and the most effective instrument of strengthening their political and economic stability, enhancing resilience to external threats; therefore welcome the advancement in this regard, which testify the determination of the Associated Partner States for a closer integration with the European Union;

Welcome Georgia's and Ukraine's achieved progress regarding the Visa Liberalisation and **encourage** the European Commission to immediately present a legislative proposal to pave the way for full visa liberalisation with Georgia and Ukraine;

Express sincere hope that Moldova and its new government regains society's trust and successfully ensures the continuous political stability in the country that is based on the European values, and **call on** Moldova to accelerate with the implementation of the necessary reforms in a constructive and efficient way with a long-term vision;

Underline that a tailor-made approach should remain a crucial foundation of the European Union's enlargement policy and that each of the partner countries should proceed with further European Integration based on their own merits and achieved progress.