

MEETING STATEMENT

OF THE DELEGATIONS OF COMMITTEES ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND POLAND

Riga, 26 March 2012

Representatives of the Committees on European Affairs of Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, who met in Riga, 25.-26. March 2012 to exchange views on European Union policy issues of common interest, have arrived at the following conclusions:

On the Single Market

- Welcome the Danish Presidency proposal to highlight once again the cornerstone of the EU economy – the Single Market. The 20th anniversary is the right moment to make evaluation and estimations needed for future development of the Single Market;*
- Stress that there is a common understanding for the need to remove the existing restrictions that hinder access and competition in the Single Market and to raise standards of implementation and enforcement to achieve mutual recognition across the Single Market;*
- Emphasize that the core role of the EU Single Market is to boost growth and strengthen confidence, especially while overcoming the economic and financial crisis;*
- Call for full implementation of the services directive, strong support for SMEs and equal rights and possibilities for all costumers in Europe, especially in the EU digital market;*
- Call for common commitment to establish a genuine, efficient and effective internal market for energy by 2014, according to the European Council conclusions of 4 February 2011. Thus the energy security and efficient interconnection should be one of the top priorities in the next Multiannual Financial Framework;*
- Emphasize the importance of the investments into Trans-European Networks, and adequate funding of the European Union's contractual obligations for ensuring growth and creation of new jobs;*
- Call for solution and agreement finding for the establishment of the common European Patent system. The unitary patent system will significantly increase competitiveness and boost Europe's innovative businesses sector, both within the internal market and globally;*
- Consider that common action for improvement of the EU Single Market is crucial to growth and job creation, with a main focus on promoting the well-functioning and integration of all markets, as well as enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU;*

On Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in Europe

- *Welcome the initiative of Danish Presidency, emphasising the attention to the EU growth elements;*
- *Acknowledge the direct link between responsible and strong fiscal discipline and sustainable growth and economical development;*
- *Consider that appropriate investments from the EU cohesion policy are one of the key instruments for strong and lasting economic recovery of the European Union and priority should be given to the investments for reaching the goals of the strategy Europe 2020, with the special attention to the high added projects of the industrial potential and value, SMEs, youth employment and tackling the demographic challenges;*
- *Call for adequate cohesion policy investments, thus ensuring the convergence of the regions and countries in the European Union;*
- *Urge EU Member States and national Parliaments to express strong will and political action, with the use of adequate instruments to help Europe deliver strong and sustainable growth.*