

JOINT STATEMENT

Adopted at the Sixth Conference of Parliamentary Committees for European Integration of the Countries participating in the Stabilization and Association Process of South-East Europe (COSAP)

Tirana, March 09th 2012

With the purpose of conducting regular exchange of opinions concerning issues relating to the Stabilization and Association Process, the Participant Countries of the 6th COSAP meeting in Tirana

Confirm the common goal of implementation of Thessaloniki Agenda – EU perspective of all Western Balkan Countries. COSAP considers EU Accession Process as the main engine for necessary reforms in the countries.

Recognize the need to strengthen the harmonization and oversight role of parliaments in general and of the respective Committees on EU Integration especially in the overall EU Integration Process.

Follow the EU Commission recommendations from the assessment in the respective EU Progress Reports for the work of the Parliament in legislative, oversight and communication areas.

Welcome launching of the Project of "Parliamentary cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey, support to Cetinje Parliamentary Forum", prepared by the RCC Secretariat in the framework of IPA Multi-Beneficiary on Public Administration and Governance, starting in 2012. We expect it will provide concrete contribution to the capacity building of National Parliaments of Western Balkans, primary European Integration Parliamentary Committees.

Put special emphasis on approximation of legislation with EU *acquis*, improving the mechanisms of parliamentary oversight over governmental activities, as well as communication about EU challenges.

Continue and further foster regional dialogue on the Stabilization and Association Process. Highlight the need for further strengthening of cooperation within COSAP process and express readiness to commit themselves to the continuation of the COSAP meeting on a regular basis in accordance with the Rules of Procedures adopted in June 2005 in Sarajevo.

Invite the Regional Secretariat for the Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe to mediate in the process of including the EU Integration Committees of South East Europe in the work of COSAC, in the capacity of observers.

We thank the Parliament of the Republic Albania for organizing and hosting the COSAP Meeting and we express our full support to the upcoming COSAP Chairmanship in Office - Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina.