**The Seventh Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating to the Stabilization and Association Process of South-East Europe**

**(COSAP)**

***Sarajevo, March 22, 2013***

**JOINT STATEMENT**

The Seventh Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating to the Stabilization and Association Process of South-East Europe (COSAP) was organized in Sarajevo on the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Members of European Integration Parliamentary Committees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monte Negro, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Macedonia and Republic of Serbia participated at the Conference.

Members of Committee for European Integration of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey and European Integrations Committee of the Parliament of Kosovo\* attended the Conference as guests.

Following the exchange of views concerning the Stabilization and Association Process, the program for joining the European Union of the countries included in the Stabilization and Association Process, as well as the process of EU enlargement, the participants of the VII COSAP meeting in Sarajevo:

1. Welcome clear and unambiguous official political decisions and statements of the European Union institutions on further enlargement, which maintain the dynamics of the enlargement process as a manner to ensure peace and stability, and show that enlargement remains a credible policy supported by the public both in the EU and in the candidate and potential candidate countries;
2. Firmly focused to the perspective of European Union membership, they express clear commitment to implementing the necessary reforms and the creation of conditions that will ensure the success of the EU accession and improving the living standards of the citizens of our countries;
3. Aware that European integration significantly contribute to the strengthening of regional and cross-border cooperation, the promoting of climate of mutual respect and good neighborly relations as a precondition for stability and way to facilitate a genuine and lasting reconciliation in the region. Reiterate full support to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in promoting and enhancing regional cooperation as an essential element o SAP.
4. Considering the experience of candidate and potential candidate countries with EU integration process transforming power, they support new EU practice that during the negotiations on enlargement, put the main accent on the issues of justice and the rule of law;
5. Express their full support and agreement with European Parliament Resolution on Enlargement (22.11.2012), which strongly supports the enlargement process, recalls the importance of fulfilling obligations and announce new kind of support for the states in their efforts to meet the criteria for EU accession;

1. Emphasize that achievement of sustainable economic recovery is the main challenge for the states which are in the enlargement process and invite European Commission to assist in solving the problems of unemployment and social issues, inter alia, through IPA programs and greater use of the Investment Framework for the Western Balkans (WBIF) for development of transport infrastructure, energy sector and SME and etc.;
2. Support a new concept of pre-accession assistance (IPA II) which eliminates the differences between the states on the basis of their candidate status and enables more countries to access funds, especially for socio-economic development;
3. Support requests to European Commission to simplify administrative procedures and reduce costs for IPA funding;
4. Emphasize the importance of cooperation between anti-corruption bodies of all our countries since the fight against corruption and organized crime is of vital importance for the process of accession;
5. Congratulate to the Republic of Croatia on its joining to the European Union on July 1, 2013, emphasizing that this success is also the success of the Stabilization and Association Process of South East Europe and to Montenegro on the opening of the negotiation process, which represents an impetus to the enlargement policy for the Western Balkans and encourages countries in the Region to continue moving forward to the full membership in the EU.
6. Once again call on the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation of the South East Europe to mediate so that the COSAP commissions are included, as guests, in the work of the COSAC.
7. Reiterate full support to the Project: “Parliamentary Cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey, support to the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum”, prepared by the RCC Secretariat in the framework of IPA Multi-Beneficiary. Expect it will provide concrete contribution to the capacity building of national parliaments and primary to the European Integration Committees.

Urge relevant structures of EU Commission to speed up the technical procedures for the Project to start as soon as possible.

1. Welcome the steps for the creation of the COSAP archive, including all the main documents created during its activities, carried out by the PA of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Regional Cooperation Council and invite the upcoming COSAP Presidencis to continue this undertaking.
2. We thank the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina for organizing and hosting the VII COSAP Meeting and we express our full support to the upcoming COSAP Chairmanship in Office – Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.