



**Declaration
of the delegations of the Foreign Affairs Committees
of the Parliament of Georgia, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,
the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
on the Eastern Partnership**

December 13, 2021

We, the Representatives of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of Georgia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, on the eve of the 6th Eastern Partnership Summit, recognize the importance of this key instrument of the European Neighborhood Policy established on the initiative of Poland and Sweden after the Russian invasion of Georgia. It was an expression of the European Union's solidarity with the Georgian nation, then facing the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against its country. Today, when the Ukrainian nation is facing a similar threat, we declare the following:

The Eastern Partnership, encompassing six European states - Eastern neighbors of the European Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, remains the leading platform for deepening relations between the Union and these nations and should be further developed and strengthened. The time that has passed since the launching of this initiative, however, makes it necessary for us to adapt the Eastern Partnership to new and emerging challenges, so that it can continue to fulfill its tasks efficiently.

We support the principle of the open door policy regarding the membership perspective in the Union. Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, remains a fundamental law of the European Union and fully applies to the countries of the Eastern Partnership, wishing to do so and that meets the criteria, including the Associated Trio. This principle should be reflected in concrete steps towards the launching of the accession process.

We recognise the principle of conditionality as expressed through the "more for more" formula as an important instrument to support implementation of reforms which are key in the European integration process of partner countries. We welcome the principle of differentiation and creation of the Associated Trio, as the most advanced group in the European integration process across the Eastern Partnership countries: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. We appeal to the European Union to fill the above-mentioned formula with content by admitting these countries to EU programs and policies, including specific areas of security and sectoral cooperation, like for instance through creating a common roaming area, and further integration with the EU internal market.

We call for the establishment of a structured dialogue between the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Human Rights Committee of the democratically elected Parliaments of the Eastern Partnership States and the particularly interested European Union Member States. Representatives of the democratic Belarusian forces should also find an appropriate place in this dialogue. The dialogue should consist of a regular rhythm of meetings, with the task of developing and presenting by the Commission at the beginning of each EU presidency joint

reports on the state of relations between the European Union and the Eastern Partnership Countries, and reports on human rights violations in the occupied and/or Russian-controlled territories of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well in Belarus. These reports, together with recommendations for action, should be presented to the Presidency of the EU Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and in the field of human rights, also to the UN, the parliamentary assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

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