



■ IPRE Summer School, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

# „Youth Eastern Partnership Summit 2017”



2-4 August 2017



Republic of Moldova, Sky Land Camping & Resort

## DECLARATION

„Youth Eastern Partnership Summit 2017”

IPRE Summer School 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

*Republic of Moldova, 2 - 4 August 2017*

*Disclaimer: The document was prepared and adopted in a simulation exercise of the EaP Summit by the participants of the Summer School „Youth Eastern Partnership Summit 2017”, organized by the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) in partnership with the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum with the support of Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS). The opinions expressed in the Document are of the participants only and does not necessarily represent the views of IPRE or KAS.*



The participants from Georgia, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova that took part in the Summer School „Youth Eastern Partnership Summit” held in Republic of Moldova during August 2-4, 2017, representing in a simulation exercise the Heads of States or Governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, the Heads of States or Governments of the EU member states and the President of the European Council have adopted the current Declaration.

1. Appreciate the cooperation in the framework of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) that is based on the principles of shared ownership, responsibility, differentiation and mutual accountability.
2. Reaffirm their shared vision of this strategic and ambitious Partnership as one based on mutual interests and commitments and supporting sustained reform processes in the Eastern European partner countries.
3. Recommit to the objectives for strengthening democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the principles and norms of international law, which are at the heart of the EaP since it was launched as a common endeavour of the Member States of the European Union and their Eastern European partners.
4. The illegal acts against Ukraine have demonstrated that the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders cannot be taken for granted in the 21st century on the European continent. The EU remains committed in its support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of all its partners. Full adherence to all the principles and commitments enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and 1990 Charter of Paris by all OSCE Participating States, as well as full respect for the principles and provisions of the UN Charter, is critical to our vision of a free, democratic, peaceful and undivided Europe.
5. The Eastern Partnership aims at building a common area of shared democracy, prosperity, stability and increased cooperation and is not directed against anyone. In this context, the Summit participants express their willingness to help rebuild trust and confidence on our continent.
6. Strongly support all efforts aimed at the de-escalation and a political solution based on respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Call on all parties to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk Agreements of September 2014 and the package of measures for their implementation of February 2015, supported by the quadrilateral Declaration of Heads of State and Government, and endorsed by UNSC Resolution 2202 of 17 February 2015. Expect all parties to honor their commitments in this



framework. Express their full support for the OSCE and its efforts through the Special Monitoring Mission and the Trilateral Contact Group.

7. Continue to support all diplomatic efforts within the Normandy format and appreciate the contribution of Belarus in facilitating negotiations. The Summit participants call upon all parties to fully cooperate with the international investigations and criminal proceedings to hold to account those who are responsible for the downing of MH17. The EU reaffirms its positions taken in the Joint Statement made at the EU-Ukraine Summit on 27 April, including on the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. Reaffirm their positions in relation to 'UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine'.
8. Emphasize the need for the earliest peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the region on the basis of the principles and norms of international law. The resolution of conflicts, building trust and good neighbourly relations are essential to economic and social development and cooperation.
9. Welcome the EU's contribution to further promoting stability and confidence building, and underline the need for stronger EU engagement in this regard. Welcome the EU's strengthened role in conflict resolution and confidence building efforts in the framework or in support of existing agreed formats and processes, including through field presence when appropriate.
10. Highlight the importance of advancing the negotiations in the 5+2 format on a comprehensive political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and welcome intensified Chisinau-Tiraspol dialogue in all formats.
11. Reiterate their full support to the mediation efforts by the co-chairs of the Minsk Group on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, including at the level of Presidents and their statements since 2009.
12. Recall the need to fully implement the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, Summit participants reiterate their commitment to conflict resolution efforts in Georgia, including through the co-chairmanship of the Geneva International Discussions by the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia and the full implementation of the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia. Stress the specific role of the OSCE, as an inclusive organization, in conflict resolution in the region.
13. Reconfirm elements and principles embodied in the previous Eastern Partnership Summit Declarations and underline their firm intention to carry forward the commitments tak-



en at previous Summits and in bilateral agreements. Recognize that democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law lie at the heart of political association and economic integration as envisaged in the Association Agreements.

14. Recognize and support the commitment of the Associated EaP partners to implementing Association Agreements and promoting fundamental democratic values. Acknowledge the European aspirations and European choice of the Associated EaP partners concerned, as stated in the Association Agreements and recall that the any future political perspectives as provided by the Article 49 of the Treaty of the European Union depend on the implementation of the Association Agreements.
15. Welcome the entry into force of the Association Agreements with Moldova and Georgia and looking forward for the entry into force of the Association Agreement with Ukraine as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.
16. Welcome the initialling of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the EU and Armenia and looking forward to its signature by November 2017. Welcome the start in early 2017 of the negotiations on a New Agreement with Azerbaijan.
17. Underline that the EaP continues to serve as the inclusive framework for cooperation and dialogue aimed at long-term, comprehensive modernization reforms. Remain committed to ensuring that the full potential of this partnership is reached, building on achievements to date. Encourage all sections of their societies to contribute to this review.
18. Welcome the activity of the EU's East StratCom Task Force and agree on the need to further strengthen strategic communication efforts both the EU and EaP partner countries by further enhancing StratCom capacities in the EaP countries. The EU and EaP countries should further improve the communication and visibility about the EU's EaP Policy in the EU and EaP countries, and also about the EaP countries in the EU member states.
19. Underline the significance to foster the implementation of Association Agreements through all the formal and informal policy dialogues including EaP Multilateral Institutional Formats.
20. Strongly support all efforts to strengthen the cooperation in 4 priority areas: economic development and better market opportunities; strengthening the institutions and good governance; enhancing inter-connections, particularly in the areas of transport and en-



ergy; and increasing mobility and people to people contact. Welcome the European Commission and EEAS EaP deliverables by 2020 and beyond and call the EU and EaP governments to advance the implementation of the respective deliverables, which will be used to assess the progress achieved in this region ahead of the next EaP Summit.

**Economic development and better market opportunities:**

21. Welcome closer cooperation within the Eastern Partnership in the areas supporting business and enterprise. Agree to further strengthen the business dimension of the Eastern Partnership including through improving the business environment and legal framework in Eastern European partners to the benefit of local, regional and European SMEs and businesses. A common economic area between the EU and the countries, which have signed the Association Agreements should be created and become operational by 2019.
22. Reaffirm the need for further EU support for the AA/DCFTA implementation, legal approximation process. The Association EaP partners commit to speeding up the reform process as required by of Association Agreements.
23. Call upon the European Commission to start reflection on granting access for the Associated EaP partners to the Single European Payment Area (SEPA) and liberalise the Roaming tariffs with the goal of bringing additional tangible results for the citizens and create new opportunities for an improved trade and investment.
24. Emphasize the importance of improving EU's communication strategy in order to inform local producers on new opportunities that AA/DCFTA brings; helping local producers build their capacity in order to enter EU market; putting in place training mechanism to build necessary skills for a digital economy in EaP countries; endorsing programs aimed at diversification of energy sources with a focus on alternative energy initiatives.

**Strengthening the institutions and good governance:**

25. Reaffirm that progress in the fields of strengthening the independence of the judiciary, effectively preventing and tackling corruption and implementing public administration reform is essential for good governance, building citizens' trust and strengthening relations between the EU and its partners. Improved rule of law and legal certainty will enable partners to provide better public services, attract investment and in turn improve the lives of their citizens. The EU and its Eastern European partners will continue to cooperate in these fields, underpinned by EU support.

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26. Agree on the importance of strengthening the resilience of Eastern European partners faced with new external and internal challenges for their stability as provided by the ENP review and the new EU Global Security Strategy. Support the strengthening of democratic structures, notably through enhanced cooperation in state building including, where appropriate, civilian security sector reform and cyber security and encourage efforts to identify key projects in these fields in the coming period.
  27. Underline the necessity to further engage the civil society organizations from the EaP countries in monitoring and implementation of the internal reform agenda, including as provided by AA/DCFTA; enable environment for proper operation of civil society organizations in all EaP countries; release human rights defenders who are kept in prison; continue to include NGOs in formal and informal policy dialogues with the Governments of EaP countries.

**Enhancing inter-connections particularly in the areas of transport and energy:**

28. Reaffirm their common interest in strengthening energy security, sustainability and competitiveness and in enhancing the diversification of supply. Reiterate the intention to deepen further bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the energy sector.
29. Emphasise the need for well-functioning energy markets with a stable, transparent and investor-friendly regulatory framework, rule of law and a gradual liberalisation of the market, when appropriate, to provide a basis for investments. Promote an inclusive and open policy on energy security, transportation and supply.
30. Underline the contribution that energy efficiency and renewable energy can make to increased security of supply, and encourage practical cooperation between the EU and Eastern European partners in this respect. Acknowledge the progress made on major energy infrastructure projects and interconnectivity enhancements put in place since the last summit. Encourage and support the continuation of gas and electricity interconnections both inside the EU and between the EU and its Eastern European partners. Welcome the progress in the negotiations for Georgia's accession to the Energy Community.
31. Welcome the work towards the inclusion of Energy Community members in the Central and South Eastern Gas Connectivity Steering Group and the interest of Azerbaijan to participate as an observer in this Group.
32. Stress the importance of making transport links between the EU and Eastern European partners safer and more efficient, and of supporting the improvement of logistics systems, including motorways of the sea, and fostering cooperation between rail corridors.



Look forward to further work on updating and streamlining the list of priority projects and removing infrastructure and non-infrastructure bottlenecks to enhance transport inter-connections between the EU and partners on the EaP transport network thanks to further investments and to improved cross-border transport cooperation by the time of the next Summit. Welcome the progress with the TEN-T network.

33. Appreciate the positive impact of the accession of Moldova and Georgia to EU's Common Aviation Area, look forward the accession of Ukraine to the Common Avian Area and stress the importance of opening negotiations in this regard with remaining EaP countries.

**Increasing mobility and people to people contact:**

34. Reconfirm that enhanced mobility of citizens in a secure and well managed environment remains a core objective of the Eastern Partnership. Appreciate the positive results of the EU visa free travel for Moldovan citizens and welcome the adoption of the EU decisions on visa liberalisation for Georgia and Ukraine and encourage EU to open Visa Dialogues with the other EaP countries.
35. Stress the importance for the EU to further develop the Visa Dialogue with the remaining EaP countries; consider enlargement and deepening of the Mobility Partnerships with all EaP countries; further promote intra-regional cooperation in the field of education to increase people to people contact experience sharing activities among young people.