



## JOINT DECLARATION<sup>1</sup>

**as agreed by participants at the simulation exercise of the “Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting” held during the 4<sup>th</sup> ed. IPRE Spring School  
on the occasion of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership  
22 March 2019, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova**

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“The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU Member States, Commissioner for European Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Vice-President of the European Commission High Representative of the EU and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, have met in Chișinău on 22 March 2019.

1. The participants of the Meeting reconfirm the high importance they attach to the Eastern Partnership (hereinafter EaP) as a specific dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy. They reaffirm their shared commitment to this strategic and ambitious Partnership, based on

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<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer Note: This Joint Declaration is prepared by the participants of the simulation exercise of the *Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting* organised during the 4<sup>th</sup> ed. of the IPRE Spring School “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership: Outcomes and Way Forward” held in Chisinau (20-22 March 2019). The opinions expressed in the document are a result of the discussions of the participants only.

common values, mutual interests and understanding, shared ownership and responsibility, inclusive differentiation, mutual accountability, which brings the Eastern European partner countries closer to the European Union. Sustained and effective reform progress is key to the continued success of the Eastern Partnership.

2. The participants recommit themselves to strengthening democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as principles and norms of international law, which are fundamental European values that are at the core of Eastern Partnership. The European Union remains committed in its support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of all its partners. Full commitment, respect for and adherence to the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 OSCE Charter of Paris are fundamental to our shared vision for a peaceful and undivided Europe. The Meeting participants reconfirm elements and principles embodied in past EaP Summit Declarations and underline their firm intention to carry forward the commitments taken at previous Summits and in bilateral agreements.
3. The participants outline the successes of the EaP in the past 10 years and are committed to carry on the work on deepening the relationship with its eastern neighbors. Nevertheless, the EaP format went through challenges, and the EU is ready to discuss structural improvements of the EaP format with its Eastern Partners and the EU Member States. The new format includes closer economic integration with the EU, flexible framework of cooperation challenges and conditionality based on implemented bilateral agreements.
4. In this context, they underline that consolidating and promoting shared values and principles they have committed to is a key priority and contributes to developing strengthened relations between the EU and partners. Bonds forged through the EaP make the European Union and partner countries stronger together, better able to deal with common challenges. The participants agree that stronger cooperation and forward looking and comprehensive political dialogue are key to addressing common challenges and achieving common goals. Moreover, further development of intra-regional sectorial cooperation platforms for the EaP countries is of high importance for experience sharing and finding common solutions for common challenges.
5. The participants highlight the importance of strengthening state, economic and societal resilience both in the EU and the partner countries, and the role of the EaP in this respect in

the European Union's neighborhood as also outlined in the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and the review of the European Neighborhood Policy.

6. The participants remain deeply concerned about the continued violations of principles of international law in many parts of the region. The participants call for renewed efforts to promote the peaceful settlement of unresolved 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. The participants welcome collective efforts and the EU's strengthened role in conflict resolution and confidence building in the framework or in support of existing agreed negotiating formats and processes.
7. The participants stress that the EaP aims at building a common area of shared democracy, prosperity, stability and increased cooperation and is not directed against anyone. The meeting recognizes the possibility of EaP countries developing relations with third countries or blocks. However, the framework of such relations cannot infringe on agreements in place between the EaP countries and the EU. They reaffirm the sovereign right of each partner to choose the level of ambition and the goals to which it aspires in its relations with the European Union.
8. The participants welcome the achievements of the EaP to date and the strengthened differentiation in bilateral relations between the EU and each of the partner countries. The scope and depth of cooperation are determined by the EU's and partners' aspirations, political will and needs, as well as the pace and quality of reforms.
9. The participants commend the full entry into force of the Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (hereinafter AAs/DCFTAs) with Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and most recently with Ukraine and the EU Armenia comprehensive and enhanced partnership Agreement (hereinafter CEPA). Moreover, the EU stresses the importance of the full implementation of the above-mentioned documents.
10. The potential of AAs/DCFTAs and CEPA should be increased as a result of improved strategic communications aimed predominantly on awareness rising of local NGO sector and EaP citizens.
11. The ministerial representatives welcome the new Strategy of the Eastern Partnership, which gives a continuity of the Strategy of the EaP CSF for 2015-2017 period and the preceding

Concept paper “EaP CSF - An Active Partner in Democratic Transition and European Integration”.

12. In line with the agreed 20 deliverables for the 2020 Strategy of the European Partnership, the participants consider that the implementation of these 20 deliverables is not just a technical exercise, but it is also about delivering tangible results for the people as a whole. On this occasion, the ministerial representatives highly emphasize on new opportunities for the youth, energy efficiency and good governance, human rights on the rule of law.
13. The participants acknowledge the European aspirations and the European choice of the partners. The EU’s incentive-based approach ‘more for more’ will continue to benefit those partners most engaged in reforms.
14. In the upcoming years Eastern Partnership shall become a viable platform for cooperation that not consider any geopolitical reasonings behind”