



EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE EURONEST
PARLAMETARISCHE VERSAMMLUNG EURONEST

A

Plenary session

26.6.2018

RESOLUTION

on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework beyond 2020 and development of the Eastern Partnership plus model

Resolution by the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework beyond 2020 and development of the Eastern Partnership plus model

The Euronest Parliamentary Assembly,

- Having regard to the Constituent Act of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly of 3 Having regard to the three Associated Agreements between the EU and Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, opening a qualitatively new chapter in relations of the associated countries with the EU and providing a solid basis for progressive development of partnerships between them;
 - having regard to the Global Strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy adopted in 2016 as well as Progress Report on its implementation (to be overviewed on Foreign Affairs Council on June 25, 2018) and the European Parliament recommendation of 15 November 2017 to the Council, the Commission and the EEAS on the Eastern Partnership, in the run-up to the November 2017 Summit;
 - having regard to the European Commission and European External Action Service (EEAS) communications on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council on the ENP and Eastern Partnership;
 - having regard to the Joint Statement of the Parliaments of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, Joint Communiqué of the Chairman's of the Committees on European integration of the Parliaments of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and the Kyiv Joint Declaration of Speaker's of the Parliaments of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine on intention to create Inter-parliamentary assembly;
- A. Whereas the EU's assistance has critical importance to the associated partners' ability to implement their ambitious reform agenda in line with respective Association Agreements;
- B. Whereas EU's solid financial and technical assistance to the associated countries has contributed to building democratic institutions, ensuring rule of law and human rights, developing market economy and competitive business environment, bringing sectoral policies in line with the European standards and developing strong political and economic linkages with the EU;
- C. Whereas being an enduring power of attraction – as stated in the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy for the European Union, the EU shall continue to function as a gravity pole for the associated countries;
- D. Whereas, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the associated countries is under threat from unresolved regional conflicts provoked by Russia;

- E. Whereas, Russian aggressive policy towards associated countries, in particular aggression, occupation, annexation and financing and arming of separatists poses a threat to the security, stability and development of the associated countries and the entire European continent;

The EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly

1. Calls for united efforts to peaceful settlement of protracted conflicts in associated countries through involvement of major international organizations such as UN, OSCE, CoE;
2. Condemns the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the occupied territories of associated countries by Russia;
3. Reiterates strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Eastern Partnership countries within its internationally recognized borders;
4. Underlines the need of urgent advocacy, legal and financial support of associated countries in resolving the situation with internally displaced persons;
5. Calls to enhance, where appropriate, security dialogue of EU and Eastern Partners and the cooperation in the area of Common Security and Defense Policy;]
6. Welcomes the 20 deliverables for 2020 and the key priority areas such as: economic development and market opportunities; strengthening institutions and good governance; connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change; mobility and people-to-people contacts;
7. Welcomes further development of the “Eastern Partnership+” concept which is based on strengthening sectoral integration between the EU and Eastern Partners;
8. Supports perspective of the association of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine with the Schengen Area, integration into EU Customs Union, EU Energy Union, EU Single Digital Market;
9. Believes that the new MFF should explicitly reflect the strategic priority of supporting Eastern European partners on their path towards EU integration. The special status of being European states neighbouring the EU is a defining factor that shall be acknowledged in the MFF;
10. Believes that the merger of the traditional European Neighbourhood Instrument with other financing instruments designed for various regions, would send a politically wrong and damaging signal to other countries, especially the associated partners, and would be interpreted as an indication of decreased political interest of the EU towards the EaP region;

11. Urges to maintain the principles of differentiation and “more for more” to incentivise reform endeavours of the partners noting that merging all external instruments into one may challenge the performance based approach and shift the focus from better-performing countries to those with more acute challenges;
12. Urges the EU institutions to maintain European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) as a separate financing instrument tailor-made for the EU Neighbourhood in order to effectively address existing priorities, needs and challenges of the associated countries, to ensure security and stability of the region and the EU and sustainability and consistency of EU assistance.