

The First B9 Parliamentary Summit, Bucharest, 18 April 2018

Co-chairs' Communiqué

The First Parliamentary Summit of the Bucharest Format (B9) was hosted today, 18 April 2018 at the Parliament of Romania, at the joint initiative of the Senate of Romania and the Senate of the Republic of Poland. It was attended by delegations representing Parliaments of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, gathered in Bucharest to discuss defence and security issues, as part of the preparations for the upcoming NATO Summit to be held this year in Brussels.

Parliaments have the duty to act timely and effectively for shaping a long term vision on topics of national interest. Focusing on the aspirations of the citizens, and having as key objectives the security, the democracy and the development of our countries, we are called to cooperate closely in order to prepare coordinated answers to the challenges with regional impact. Therefore, the main themes of the discussions were: Contributions of NATO's Eastern Flank countries, NATO's forward presence, fair burden sharing, defense and deterrence posture, projecting stability, combating terrorism, and military mobility.

The aim of our meeting was to launch the parliamentary dimension of the B9 format. It is important for our governments and it is important for us parliamentarians. One of the most important aims we share in parliamentary diplomacy is to advance the culture of effective parliamentary control beyond our Eastern borders. Our discussions have proved that people and nations achieve genuine unity by dialogue rather than standing by the infamous principle of *one country, one nation, one leader*.

Delegations expressed support for the contributions their countries bring to the Alliance, in terms of increased defence budgets towards 2% of GDP, as well as to NATO missions and capabilities, with the aim to ensure a fair burden sharing across the Alliance. All participants agreed that maintaining a strong transatlantic bond and solidarity is essential to Euro-Atlantic security, in the spirit of the decisions made at the Allied Summit in Warsaw, in July 2016, and the guidelines set out at the 63rd Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Bucharest, in October 2017.

It was emphasised that, through-adequate and convergent legislative measures and the use of their oversight and budgetary functions, the Parliaments of the participating countries support and monitor the national advancement towards the consolidation of NATO's forward presence from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea and the mobility of Allied forces across national borders.

The discussions confirmed, once more, the value of exchanging views on regional security topics among our parliaments as well, in complementarity with the B9 dialogue at the level of the executive branches. We hope that future meetings, of which next one will be hosted by the Polish Senate prior to the NATO Summit in 2020, will continue to deepen the discussion we started today, in order to increase our common understanding of threats and appropriate responses.

We undertake to bring the results of this first meeting of the parliamentary dimension of the B9 Format to the attention of the Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Ministers of Defence of the participating countries, as well as to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu
President of the Senate of Romania

Stanisław Karczewski
Marshal of the Senate of Poland