

Adopted 10 June 2017, Zagreb

**General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs
and Security Cooperation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the South East European
Cooperation Process (SEECP PA)**

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Charter of good neighbourly relations, stability, security and cooperation, signed in Bucharest in 2000, as the founding document of the SEECP;

Pursuant to the Declaration on the Inauguration of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly adopted on 10 May 2014;

Guided by the Rules of Procedure of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly which establish the functioning of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly;

Having regard to the existing practices in the field of justice in the SEECP Participants;

Reaffirming the importance of the enlargement process and commitment of and reforms initiated by the SEECP Participants as a part of their efforts invested within the EU integration process;

Having in mind that the integration of Southeast Europe as a whole in the European Union represents one of the most important mechanisms for ensuring peace, stability and progress of the region;

Emphasising the relevance and importance of efficient mechanisms for the continuation of parliamentary cooperation, particularly in the field of justice;

Recognising the need for reinforcing cooperation between judges, prosecutors and other judicial authorities aimed at enhancing the regional cooperation in the field of justice;

SEECP PA General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, at its meeting held in Zagreb on 18 March 2017:

Notes that an increase in the intensity and the institutionalization of parliamentary dialogue is the key to addressing the manifold challenges facing the region and to establishing a sustainable development perspective for Southeast Europe;

Encourages the enhancement of the regional cooperation between SEECP parliaments in the exchange of best practices, adoption and harmonisation of the national legislation with the *acquis*, and in strengthening the parliamentary oversight function;

Highlights that the SEECP PA can play an important role in assisting the parliaments of the SEECP Participants to harmonize their own legislative framework with the EU *acquis* by developing a comprehensive exchange of best practices, knowledge and experience with the Parliaments of EU Member States;

Calls on SEECP members to promote institutional cooperation and enhance administrative capacities in the judiciary sector, as well as common policy measures aimed at improving institutional cooperation and best practice exchange;

Call for a more efficient implementation of reforms, particularly in the area of the rule of law, including anti-corruption policy, judicial reform, and fight against organised crime;

Recalls the Final Declaration of the Third Plenary Session of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly, 10-11 June 2016, Sofia, whereas:

Calls for a regular exchange of information and opinions between SEECP parliaments relating to current issues on the international political agenda;

Reaffirms the importance and the role of parliaments in actively contributing to the promotion of further European Union enlargement and in encouraging the exchange of expertise and experience with SEECP parliaments of non EU Member States;

Highlights the need to fight effectively against terrorism and violent extremism, and calls for action in accordance with the international law against those who sponsor or provide support to terrorist groups or harbour them;

Acknowledging that international protection should be ensured for those in need, while at the same time respecting the dignity and human rights of migrants who are not in need of international protection, **calls on** the European institutions and the SEECP PA Participants to work together to curb migration pressure in Europe through strengthening the regional dialogue and cooperation with the full involvement of the most affected countries in the region in the efforts to find a commonly acceptable solution, and in doing so, to attach a particular importance to effective border management, access to legally safe and efficient asylum procedures while promoting a fair burden-sharing system through bilateral and multilateral agreements, to the implementation of existing commitments and to the effective implementation of readmission agreements;

Calls on the EU and the SEECP PA Participants to combine their efforts in order to achieve better results and a more active communication aimed at mobilizing the political and public support for the implementation of the necessary reforms that ensure long-term stability, democracy, rule of law, prosperity, good neighbourly relations, and an inclusive regional cooperation;