

MEETING OF THE DEFENCE COMMITTEES
OF THE V4 STATES PARLIAMENTS

23 JANUARY 2019, BRATISLAVA

Conclusions

1. We, the Heads of the Defence Committees of the Visegrad Group (V4) Countries having met in Bratislava on 22-23 January 2019 under the Slovak V4 Presidency, taking into account unstable and changing security environment in European neighbourhood, being aware that the ongoing conflict in and around Ukraine is a major challenge to the European security, recognize that strengthening of international cooperation on regional level gains significant importance when facing global challenges. We support further development of V4 cooperation in defence dimension and deepening of the existing partnerships in V4+ formats. We recognize the role of the Visegrad Group cooperation in creating and preserving peaceful, secure and prosperous environment, which can serve as a positive example for other states.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to implement the priorities of the Slovak V4 Presidency program: we will contribute to strengthen European security and defence – in synergy with NATO activities - by participating in projects of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) or by preparing the EU Visegrad Battle Group and by intensified cooperation in the field of common foreign and security policy.
3. We welcome the unity and cooperation of the Visegrad Group Countries. The V4 represents a platform for pragmatic cooperation when advocating and promoting our common interests including preserving and strengthening the rules-based international order. We recognize regular dialogue of V4 Countries' legislative bodies to be an added value to a predominantly inter-governmental nature of V4 cooperation.
4. We will continue to promote common positions of the Visegrad Group Countries on agenda of the European Union wherever it is possible, such as common foreign and security policy, maintaining the unity of the EU or restoring of the normally functioning Schengen, while respecting differences of V4 Countries. The

voice of V4 will continue to be heard clearly in discussions and decisions in key European policies.

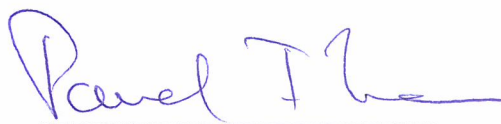
5. We will contribute to the development of PESCO projects with the emphasis on those projects, in which the V4 members are participants or observers, including a project under the Slovak leadership called Euro Artillery – Indirect Fire Support and also a project under the Czech leadership called Electronic Warfare Capability and Interoperability Programme for Future JISR Cooperation, as well as to other projects like Military mobility under the leadership of the Netherlands.
6. We recognize that functioning protection of external borders is an important pillar for the effective avoiding of illegal migration and a key element to the proper functioning of the Schengen Area, we advocate the restoration of the normally functioning Schengen without internal borders, as one of the most successful and most comprehensible European integration projects for our citizens.
7. We maintain that current migration problems should be addressed mainly in the countries of origin and transit and solution of the root causes of migration can be achieved by mutual cooperation in the field of supporting the peaceful development of third countries, especially in Africa and Middle East.
8. We welcome the Slovak Presidency and its priorities in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and opportunities it provides to create more stable and secure environment in Europe. We will closely cooperate with our partners in the European Union to identify common programme goals related to regional security.



Anton Hrnko



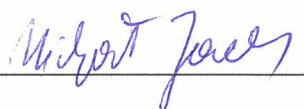
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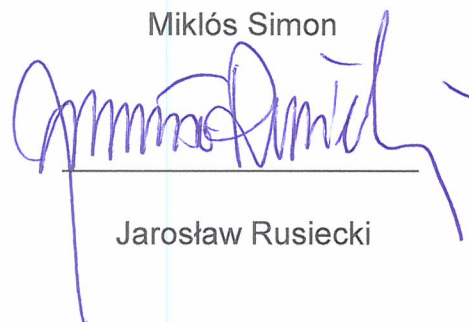
Pavel Fischer



Miklós Simon



Michał Jach



Jarosław Rusiecki