



PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON “THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTS IN THE BERLIN PROCESS”

Tirana, 13 October 2023

DECLARATION

The Parliamentary Conference on “The role of the Parliaments in the Berlin Process”, was held in Tirana on 13 October 2023, co-organised by the Assembly of the Republic of Albania and the project “*Parliamentary diplomacy: Regional cooperation through enhanced parliamentary dialogue*” project implemented by a Consortium led by the Institute for Democracy, supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, and also with the support of Regional Cooperation Council.

Members of Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the Parliaments from the Western Balkan Region participated in the meeting.

Members of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the conference as direct invitees of the Project.

Members of the German Bundestag participated in the Conference as special guests.

Representatives of the Albanian Government, the European Union Delegation based in Tirana, the Diplomatic Corps, and Regional Cooperation Council, also, participated in this regional event.

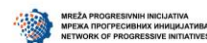
At the conclusion of the conference, having discussed upon the role of the parliament in the Berlin Process and the challenges ahead,

Taking into consideration the 2019 Western Balkans Poznań Summit Chair’s conclusions at which the importance of the engagement of the Parliaments was acknowledged, the joint statement of the COSAP Meeting held in Tirana on January 2020, in which participants reiterated the importance of establishing the Parliamentary dimension of the Berlin Process, which would contribute to the improvement of inter-parliamentary cooperation in the region, and raise it to a higher institutional level, will recognize the need for establishing the parliamentary cooperation within the framework of the Berlin Process;

Welcoming the engagements taken in the Berlin Process to strengthen the cooperation in the Western Balkan Region through concrete steps such as various agreements between the participants;

Considering that further engagements are in process in the framework of the Berlin Process;

Considering the importance of the information of the population on decision making especially on all activities within the regional cooperation;





Following the Tirana Summit of the Berlin Process that recalled the Support of the European Union for a stronger region in economic, political and social terms;

Moreover, considering the importance of the Parliaments in a democratic society, being aware, and fully sharing the guiding principles of the Berlin process;

We, members of the Parliaments present in this Conference and in the presence of regional and international stakeholders, declare that:

We believe that the parliaments, as the representatives of our citizens, should be integral part of the Berlin Process, in order to push forward the commitments undertaken in this process but also to constructively contribute to the ones that are going to be taken in the future;

We are committed to support any initiative taken in the framework of the Berlin Process and presented in the parliament, to push forward all the necessary actions for their implementation;

We are committed to strongly support any legal initiative which aims the approximation with the Acquis and which is in the framework of the Berlin process;

We encourage future Berlin Process Presidencies to include the Parliaments in the Berlin Process in a sustainable and effective manner considering its role in decision-making;

We call on the Government to inform constantly the Parliament on the commitments taken between the Participants in the Berlin Process;

We commend the key role of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in facilitating the implementation of the Common Regional Market and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and for its efforts in supporting and facilitating a stronger role of the Parliaments in the Berlin Process and other regional integration agenda, and invite the RCC Secretariat to continue such support, also through effective communication with the Parliaments of the region on the progress related to regional integration agenda;

We appreciate the contribution and support for the series of events happening in Skopje, Tirana and elsewhere in the Western Balkans by the project “*Parliamentary Diplomacy: Regional Cooperation through Enhanced Parliamentary Dialogue*” implemented by a Consortium led by the Institute for Democracy, supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, as well as the contribution and support by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

This Declaration will be sent to the Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Montenegro for information and further deliberation.

Tirana, October 13th, 2023

