



**16<sup>ème</sup> CONFÉRENCE  
DES PRÉSIDENTS DE PARLEMENT  
DES PETITS ÉTATS D'EUROPE**

**AMENDED DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION**

**Adopted on 20 June 2023, by the Presidents of Parliament of the Small European States at the end of the XVI<sup>th</sup> Conference, held in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

The Presidents, or representatives, of the Parliaments of the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, the Principality of Monaco, Montenegro and the Republic of San Marino;

Gathered in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023, at the invitation of the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, Mr Fernand Etgen, on the occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents of Parliament of Small European States;

Reaffirming their gratitude for the opportunity to meet on the occasion of a conference bringing together countries sharing the same values;

Acknowledging their commitment and continuing efforts to protect democracy, ensure the rule of law, promote human rights and respect and uphold international law;

Recognizing the importance of maintaining relations between the parliaments of the Small European States within the framework of interparliamentary cooperation and collaboration;

Reiterating the need to come together, to share experiences and perspectives, on matters of particular concern to small states, in order to achieve their common goals through solidarity;

Praising the success of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States, the results of the discussions and fruitful exchanges and the new ideas and initiatives benefiting all participating countries;

Thanking the initiative of the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to invite the representatives of the tourist offices of their nations to the Conference in order to exchange views on subjects of common interest, such as ethical and sustainable tourism;

Stressing the importance of maintaining their annual meeting;

Welcoming the Parliament of Malta's initiative to host the Speakers of the Parliaments of Small European States on the occasion of their 17<sup>th</sup> Conference;

Proclaiming, following the in-depth and productive discussions and exchanges over the course of the conference programme, the scope of the subjects debated and summarizing the conclusions reached;

**- Considering the Russian aggression against Ukraine**

1. The Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States express their solidarity and support for Ukraine;
2. They strongly condemn the violations of international humanitarian law committed by Russia and welcome the investigations by the International Criminal Court into possible war crimes or crimes against humanity, as well as, in general, every violation of international law around the globe without exceptions or double standards;
3. They pledge to use all parliamentary means at their disposal to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the full-scale Russian military invasion of Ukraine;
4. They affirm their determination to anchor Ukraine in the democratic Europe whose values and principles they defend.
5. They resolve to continue to show support and solidarity to the people of Ukraine, especially to women and children, who are the most vulnerable victims of the conflict;

**- Considering the new threats to democratic institutions**

1. The Presidents note the existence of new threats to democratic institutions and reaffirm the need to act in accordance with the democratic values that unite the Small European States;
2. They undertake to defend transparency and respect for the rule of law in parliaments in order to maintain the confidence of citizens in our democratic systems;
3. They note in particular the need to engage with youth, by opening Parliaments to youth, both through offering civic education activities and space for young people to express their opinions and concerns and by serving as amplifiers of the voice of youth,
4. Aware that parliaments are increasingly facing multiple challenges, they stress the need to share their resources and knowledge;
5. They support cooperation between democratic countries, enabling the development of solutions that strengthen democracy;
6. They promote the establishment of a common front against disinformation together with governments, the media and civil society, with a focus on maintaining the stability of democratic institutions.
7. They acknowledge the urgent need for a collective and unified response to the toxic environment in social media against politicians and members of parliament in particular, which discourages women and young people from actively participating in political life.

**- Considering cybersecurity in the parliaments of the Small European States**

1. The Presidents recognize the scope and importance of cybersecurity for parliamentary work, particularly with regard to the institutional and political stability of parliaments;
2. They commit to protect parliamentary data and activities from cyberattacks, to pay increased attention to cybersecurity and to adopt national cybersecurity policies while strengthening international cooperation aimed at preventing such attacks;
3. They recognize their responsibility to carry out in-depth analyses of the risks associated with computer security, to put in place security protocols and to train their staff in computer security;
4. They wish to see close collaboration and cooperation between the parliaments of small States to guarantee the security of their data and activities;
5. They invite parliaments to share their experiences and best practices in the field of cybersecurity, and to ensure the inclusion of all competent authorities in the detection and prevention of attacks;

6. They agree to explore the possibility to establish an informal forum between the Information Technology Services of their Parliaments, which would initiate meetings as soon as possible, online or in person;
  7. 6. They recognize the unprecedented threat and the importance of setting up computer security awareness programmes in parliaments;
  8. They acknowledge the positive contribution that a unified and common European legislative framework would have on the protection of citizens, minority groups, women and youth in particular, from the negative use of social media;
1. **Considering sustainability in tourism**, the Presidents, aware of the crucial role that tourism plays in their respective countries, and committed to supporting sustainability in the tourism industry, which has been heavily affected by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic;
    1. They recognize the economic value of tourism and its socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits;
    2. They seek to develop and promote sustainable tourism strategies while combating environmental degradation;
    3. They recall that travel and exchanges in and through the Small European States can strengthen links and understanding between peoples, guarantee intercultural understanding and safeguard solidarity and, thereby, peace;
    4. They agree to explore the possibility to develop common initiatives in the sector of tourism, including to jointly participate in international exhibitions, so as to promote the Small European States' tourism and local products, as well as their ability to adapt their tourism model to the new reality.

The Presidents of the Parliaments of the Small States of Europe agree to meet again in 2024, for the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference, in Malta, whom they thank for its offer to host their annual meeting and look forward to this forthcoming exchange.

Adopted in Luxembourg on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2023