

LVIV COMMUNIQUE

of the Secretaries General of Parliamentary Administrations of the Eastern Partnership Countries participating in the Third Working Meeting in Lviv, Ukraine, on 22-23 May, 2019

The Participants

Taking into account the Tbilisi Memorandum signed on September 25, 2018 in Tbilisi (Georgia) by the Apparatus of the Parliament of Georgia, the Staff of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Secretariat of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Secretariat of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, establishing a regional Network of Secretaries General and relevant practitioners at the parliaments of the Eastern Partnership countries, and the Yerevan Annex to the Tbilisi Memorandum, signed by Member Parties on December 7, 2018 in Yerevan (Republic of Armenia), resulting in creation of the Eastern Partnership Parliaments Research Network (hereinafter, the EPPRN),

Given the crucial importance of deepening relations among the parliaments of the Eastern Partnership countries for enhancing future cooperation in various areas of common interest,

Recognizing the necessity of creation of new unique formats for further promoting of regional and international cooperation among the Parties to the Memorandum and international partners,

Acknowledging the success of the operation of similar networks, in particular the European Center for Parliamentary Research and Documentation,

Realizing the importance of the parliaments' administrations for deepening inter-parliamentary relations and addressing the common challenges facing our parliaments today,

have agreed to interact for:

creating and developing a sustainable and effective collaboration among the administrations of the parliaments of the Eastern Partnership countries in order to enhance regional cooperation, exchange best practices and strengthen professional ties among the participating countries;

involving and intensifying cooperation of the participating parliaments in all the initiatives and activities of the Tbilisi Memorandum Network to achieve the set goals;

strengthening the engagement of the Parties in thematic regional collaboration and interaction in areas related to the promotion of successful regional cooperation;

supporting the network of practitioners by facilitating active exchange of experience, implementing joint initiatives/activities and supporting the development of the professional capacity of parliamentary administrations;

strengthening regional cooperation and developing new partnerships.

We determine that the purpose of the EPPRN is to conduct joint research and analytical work, as well as to facilitate the exchange of information among the parliamentary administrations of the respective Eastern Partnership countries.

During the Third Working Meeting of Secretaries General of Parliamentary Administrations of the Eastern Partnership Countries we approved the Regulation on Operation of the Eastern Partnership Parliaments Research Network and discussed the draft Guidelines for Facilitating Cooperation under the Tbilisi Memorandum. We also agreed on the concept of the website for the Network of Secretaries General of Parliaments of the Eastern Partnership countries.

We stand ready to explore any opportunities for cooperation with relevant networks/formats that could contribute to sharing expertise and knowledge in various fields of common interests.

This Communiqué does not create rights and obligations of the Parties within the meaning of the international law.

This document remains open for further signatures by the other Secretaries General of the Network.

This Communiqué was signed in Lviv on 23 May, 2019.

for the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Petro BODNAR, First Deputy Head– Chief Manager

**for the Staff of the National Assembly
of the Republic of Armenia**

Tigran GALSTYAN, Chief of Staff - Secretary General

for the Apparatus of the Parliament of Georgia

Givi MIKANADZE, Secretary General