



## CORTES GENERALES

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### FINAL STATEMENT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF CHAIRPERSONS OF SOUTH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS

**Riga, 1 February 2015**

1. The Third Meeting of Chairpersons of EU Affairs Committees of the Parliaments of the South was held in Riga on 1 February 2015. In attendance were the parliaments of Croatia, Cyprus, France, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. The parliaments of Montenegro and Serbia attended in their capacity as candidate countries.
2. Following up to the inaugural meeting held in Nicosia on 24-25 January 2014, and the Second Meeting held in Rome on 17 July 2014, the Third Meeting focused on the discussion of topics of common concern for southern Member States, namely border control, asylum and immigration, the financial and economic situation and the new security challenges faced by the EU.
3. As agreed in Rome, the Chairpersons restate that the new European actions in the field of border control, asylum and immigration should be inspired by the global approach concept and effectively implement the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities amongst Member States.
4. The Chairpersons **welcome all measures leading towards growth and job creation in Europe**, particularly the Commission's "investment plan for Europe" which will mobilise at least €315 billion in private and public investment across the EU, and more specifically the European fund for strategic investments (EFSI). Therefore, they welcome the outcome of the 18 December 2014 European Council, stressing the importance of reaching an agreement that allows the new investments to be activated as early as March 2015.
5. **The Chairpersons acknowledge the determination and the solidarity deployed by the Union in helping the Member States who endured special difficulties due to the economic and financial crisis. At the same time, they recognize the efforts those Governments and citizens underwent to face the structural reforms needed. In the framework of the loyalty principle that rules all cooperation amongst Member**



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***States, the Chairpersons recall the need to responsibly comply with the commitments assumed in the bilateral aid programs agreed with the EU.***

6. The Chairpersons strongly condemn the terrorist attacks in Paris in January 2015, and recall the existence of EU mechanisms in the fight against terrorism ***and the defence of fundamental rights and freedom of expression already developed by Member States, as well as the possibility of reinforcing those measures through a European Security Act.***
7. The Chairpersons consider that EU action should support the efforts of Member States in their fight against international terrorism in the fields of prevention of radicalization, including that of the foreign fighters, the criminal justice response and cooperation with third countries. In this respect, the EU shall deploy all necessary instruments foreseen within the CFSP to achieve a proper response. ***Given the importance of this issue, the Chairpersons propose security challenges in the EU to be included as a topic in the agenda of the forthcoming plenary meeting COSAC to be held in Riga on 31 May and 1-2 June 2015.***
8. The Chairpersons welcome the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council and its policy priorities for the next six months, and recommend that such priorities should aim at greater integration, solidarity and security in the European Union.