ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 1971 (2011)[1]
Final version

The impact of the Eastern Partnership of the European Union on governance and economic development in eastern Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly refers to its Resolution 1812 (2011) on the impact of the Eastern Partnership of the European Union on governance and economic development in eastern Europe and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

2. The Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to:

2.1. prepare a set of proposals regarding the Council of Europe's contribution towards the realisation of the Eastern Partnership with a view to presenting them to the Second Eastern Partnership Summit of Heads of State and Government which will be held in Autumn 2011;

2.2. seek to involve the Council of Europe in the work of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee and to add the Council of Europe to the list of international organisations eligible to receive ODA (Official Development Assistance) in the form of unearmarked voluntary contributions that could be channelled to Council of Europe country assistance programmes, including in favour of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as Belarus whenever possible;

2.3. ensure that the Council of Europe INGO Conference contributes meaningfully to the work of the Civil Society Forum and other platforms of the Eastern Partnership, where relevant, and involves a wide range of civil society organisations from the Eastern Partnership countries;

2.4. encourage Belarus to become a Party to the Criminal and Civil Law Conventions on Corruption (ETS Nos. 173 and 174) and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198), and to make greater use of its associate member status with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);

2.5. urge Azerbaijan and Georgia to sign the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism;

2.6. ask the European Union and its member states to:

2.6.1. ensure sufficient funding for the Eastern Partnership and adequate targeted assistance to the authorities of the partnership countries for the implementation of governance reforms, as well as closer co-ordination of national and multilateral assistance programmes towards eastern Europe;

2.6.2. launch dialogue aiming at full visa liberalisation between the European Union and the eastern European partners concerned;

2.6.3. enhance their field presence in the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular in the local media, with a view to fostering official contacts at all levels of governance, public awareness of the partnership goals and regional co-operation on issues of common concern among the partnership countries;

2.6.4. involve, whenever feasible, the Council of Europe, and through it third countries, in the realisation of the Eastern Partnership.

1. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 27 May 2011 (see Doc. 12521, report of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, rapporteur: Mr Rigoni).