

11 January 2010

Dear Minister,

We have the honour to address you in your capacity as President of the EU Council on behalf of the six EU partner states in order to share with you our views with regard to the EURONEST parliamentary assembly of the Eastern Partnership.

In our opinion, the cooperation in the EURONEST framework should contribute in particular to the strengthening of the role of the legislature in democratic transformations that are under way in our countries, further increase the democratic experience of our parliaments and their capacity to promote regulatory reform and approximation with European standards, and enable them to borrow and implement the best parliamentary practices of the EU.

For the partner states to fully benefit from these advantages, and the EURONEST as a part of the Eastern Partnership to be able to contribute to its goals, the EURONEST should operate as an inclusive forum in full compliance with the same principles of the Prague Declaration, which guide the Eastern Partnership.

In line with these principles, the EURONEST should be a common endeavor of the EU and its Eastern partners founded on mutual interests as well as shared ownership and responsibility, to be developed jointly in a fully transparent manner and operate on the basis of joint decisions of the European Union and the partner countries.

As you well know, the heads of all European Union main institutions including the President of the European Parliament, subscribed to these guidelines in Prague on 7 May 2009.

The Declaration also invited the parliamentarians from the European Union and the partner countries to come forward with ideas regarding the European Parliament's proposal to establish the EURONEST Assembly.

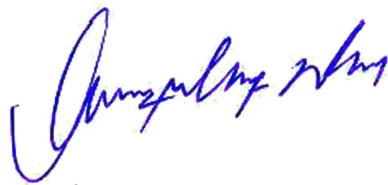
H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
of the Kingdom of Spain
Madrid

We regard therefore, as a *conditio sine qua non* for the success of the EURONEST and the overall EaP cooperation that the parliaments of all partner states be able to contribute on the same equal terms to the shaping and functioning of the EURONEST and enjoy the same status in it from the very outset.

We would like to invite you, dear Minister, to take note of our common position in the course of relevant discussions with the European Parliament.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,



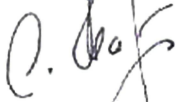
Edward Nalbandian
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Armenia



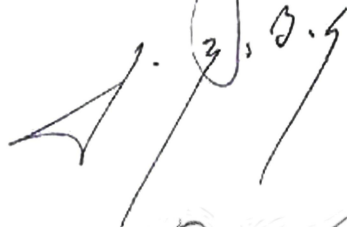
Elmar Mammadyarov
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



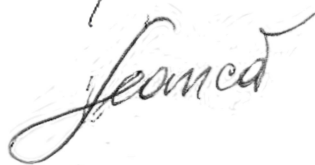
Sergei Martynov
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus



Grigol Vashadze
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Georgia



Iurie Leanca
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration
of the Republic of Moldova



Petro Poroshenko
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine