



**BRATISLAVA INFORMAL
PARLIAMENTARY SUMMIT**

on 6 - 7 October 2016

Let's get to know each other better



CHANCELLERY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

INFORMAL MEETING OF SPEAKERS OF EU PARLIAMENTS

BRATISLAVA PARLIAMENTARY SUMMIT

6-7 October 2016, Bratislava, Slovakia

Concept Note

The Bratislava Parliamentary Summit is initiated by the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Andrej Danko, in reaction to the most recent developments in the European Union, particularly the outcome of the British referendum on United Kingdom's membership in the EU. The British vote to "leave" the EU has indisputably demonstrated that the EU is facing unprecedented challenges. EU Heads of State and Governments have immediately reacted to this event with an informal meeting in Brussels on 29 June and consequently also with the Bratislava Summit on 16 September, which is widely seen as the beginning of the "Bratislava Process", a six-month-long period of reflection on the state and future of the European Union. National parliaments and the European Parliament, as important and irreplaceable players on the EU field directly representing the will of people, should take an active part in this wide discussion. The Bratislava Parliamentary Summit therefore serves this particular purpose.

Conduct of the Meeting

The Bratislava Parliamentary Summit will be conducted in an informal way. Heads of delegations will meet at a round table for an immediate open debate. The intent is to facilitate a true dialogue among parliamentary leaders.

The format of the meeting has also been limited to 1+2 (in the main meeting room) in order to ensure an intimate, informal setting. The meeting will be held *in camera* (with the exception of a video stream provided for additional members of national delegations outside of the main meeting room) and no video or audio recordings will be available for outside purposes.

Welcome Dinner

Discussions on Friday, 7 October, will be preceded by an evening of artistic performances mixed with fine Slovak dining under the banner "Let's get to know each other better". The "Slovakia Through All Senses" dinner served in the presence of the President of the



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Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Andrej Kiska, and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Robert Fico aims to introduce Slovakia as a country that cherishes its history, culture and personalities.

Topics

The debate will be divided into two separate but obviously interlinked sessions: I. Current Challenges: Threats to European Unity, Bridging the Gap between the EU and its citizens and II. Future Goals: Role of National Parliaments, Internal Cohesion of the EU, Globally Engaged Europe. The topics have been purposefully set as very wide. Within our established inter-parliamentary cooperation there are plenty of opportunities to discuss particular, specific topics and details of the many challenges before and ahead of us. The intention for this meeting is to give participants the opportunity to freely express themselves on the larger and strategic questions at play in the European family.

There will also be no background notes for the sessions provided in order to avoid pre-judging the substance and limiting the scope of the dialogue. Participants will thus be free to address the proposed topics from any point of view they see fit, bearing in mind the parliamentary perspective as the only guiding principle. At the end of the day, the underlining question posed should be: What parliamentarians, whether national or European, can do to help the European Union overcome present and forthcoming hurdles?

Ambitions and Goals

To provide an effective forum for parliamentary discussions on our common Union now and in the future that could feed into the larger ongoing reflection process within the EU, is naturally the primary goal. The outcome of this meeting, should be first and foremost a comprehensive and introspective debate, on which parliamentarians can draw in their future work for the joint benefit of the European community.

