

**Declaration of Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic
of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic
on cooperation of the Visegrád Group countries
after their accession to the European Union**

The Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic, assembled on 12 May 2004 in Kroměříž, state with full satisfaction that the key objectives set in the 1991 Visegrád Declaration have been achieved and declare their determination to continue developing the cooperation of the Visegrád Group countries as Member States of the European Union and NATO.

The Visegrád Group countries regard their accession to the European Union and NATO as a significant step towards the reunification of Europe and as a historic milestone on the path of their democratic transformation, integration efforts and mutual cooperation. The integration of the Visegrád Group countries into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures opens up new opportunities and poses new challenges for their further cooperation on the issues of common interest.

The cooperation of the Visegrád Group countries will continue to focus on regional activities and initiatives aimed at strengthening the identity of the Central European region. In this context, their cooperation will be based on concrete projects and will maintain its flexible and open character.

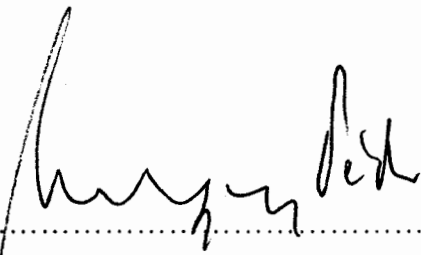
The Visegrád Group countries are strongly determined to jointly contributing to the fulfilment of the European Union's common goals and objectives and to the successful continuation of the European integration. They reiterate their commitment to the enlargement process of the European Union. They are ready to assist countries aspiring for EU membership by sharing and transmitting their knowledge and experience. The Visegrád Group countries are also ready to use their unique regional and historical experience and to contribute to shaping and implementing the European Union's policies towards the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

The Visegrád Group countries are committed to closely cooperating with their nearest partners in the Central European region. They are also ready to cooperate in specific areas of common interest with countries within the wider region, with other regional groupings in Europe as well as with third countries and international organizations.

The Prime Ministers of the Visegrád Group countries express their deep conviction that further cooperation between their countries, rooted in centuries of interlinked history and based on similar political, economic and social developments in the past decades, will enrich the community of European nations and contribute to the building of a reunited, democratic and prosperous Europe.



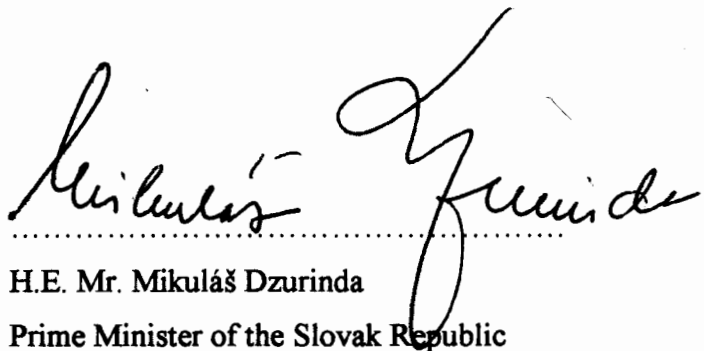
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H.E. Mr. Vladimír Špidla
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic



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H.E. Mr. Péter Medgyessy
Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary



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H.E. Mr. Marek Belka
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland



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H.E. Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda
Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

Guidelines on the future areas of Visegrad co-operation

Having in mind the common interest of all participating countries presented in the Declaration in Kroměříž on 12 May 2004, future cooperation will be developed particularly in the following areas:

Co-operation within the V4 area

- Culture,
- Education, youth exchange, science,
- Continuation of the strengthening of the civic dimension of the Visegrad co-operation within the International Visegrad Fund and its structures,
- Cross-border co-operation,
- Infrastructure,
- Environment,
- Fight against terrorism, organised crime and illegal migration,
- Schengen co-operation,
- Disaster management,
- Exchange of views on possible co-operation in the field of labour and social policy,
- Exchange of experiences on foreign development assistance policy,
- Defence and arms industries.

Co-operation within the EU

- Consultations and co-operation on current issues of common interest,
- Active contribution to the development of the CFSP, including the “Wider Europe – New Neighbourhood” policy and the EU strategy towards Western Balkans,
- Consultations, co-operation and exchange of experience in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, Schengen co-operation, including protection and management of the EU external borders, visa policy,
- Creating new possibilities and forms of economic co-operation within the European Economic Area,
- Consultations on national preparations for joining the EMU,
- Active participation in the development of the ESDP, as a contribution to the strengthening of relations between the EU and NATO and deepening of substantive dialogue between both organisations.

Co-operation with other partners

- Co-operation with interested Central European countries,
- Co-operation with EU and NATO candidate and aspiring countries in support of reforms essential for their European and Euroatlantic perspective,
- Collaboration in effective implementation of programmes of co-operation of these countries with the EU and NATO,
- Co-operation with other regional structures,
- Collaboration with other interested countries and organisations.

Co-operation within NATO and other international organisations

- Consultations and co-operation in the framework of NATO and on its defence capabilities,
- Commitment to strengthening of transatlantic solidarity and cohesion,
- Co-operation on the basis of the V4 experience to promote a common understanding of security among the countries aspiring to European and Euroatlantic institutions,
- Enhanced co-operation within the international community in the fields of new security challenges, with a special emphasis on combating international terrorism,
- Consultation and co-operation within the OSCE on issues of common concern for V4 countries; possible joint initiatives,
- Consultation, co-operation and exchange of information in international organisations (UN, Council of Europe, OECD, etc.); consideration of possible joint initiatives,
- Possible mutual support of candidacies in international organisations and bodies.

Mechanisms of co-operation

- Governmental co-operation:
 - Rotating one-year presidency, each chairmanship prepares its own presidency programme ensuring, among others, continuity of a long-term V4 co-operation,
 - One official Prime Ministers summit a year at the end of each presidency,
 - Occasional informal meetings of Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers before international events,
 - Deputy foreign ministers meetings preceding the PM official summits,
 - Meetings of other ministers in V4 and V4+ format,
 - Intensified communication of V4 national co-ordinators and their key role in internal and inter-state co-ordination,
 - Consultation and co-operation of Permanent Representations to the EU and NATO in Brussels, as well as in all relevant fora (OSCE, UN, CoE, OECD, WTO, etc.),
 - International Visegrad Fund and its structures,
- Meetings of Presidents of V4 countries,
- Co-operation of Parliaments of V4 countries.