

# DYNAMIC VISEGRAD FOR EUROPE

SLOVAK PRESIDENCY 2018/2019 OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP

Slovakia held its fifth Presidency of the Visegrad Group (SK V4 PRES) from July 2018 until June 2019 in the spirit of the motto: „**Dynamic Visegrad for Europe**“. The goal of the Slovak Presidency was to bring tangible results that would benefit citizens of our countries in three priority areas: Strong Europe, Secure Environment and Smart Solutions.

## SUMMITS AND MEETINGS

The Slovak V4 Presidency organized more than 200 expert and political events at different levels within the “V4 scope” and continued in intensive cooperation in proven “V4+” formats with European, regional and transatlantic partners.

**1 Meeting of the V4 Presidents (11.-12.10.2018);**

**4 Meetings of the Speakers of Parliaments of V4+Germany and France (15.11.2018); V4+Benelux (24.-25.03.2019)** and two informal meetings of V4 Speakers of Parliaments (12.-13.10.2018; 27.-28.06.2019);

**12 Summits of V4 Prime Ministers (19.09.2018); (18.10.2018); (13.12.2018); (09.05.2019); V4+Japan (18.10.2018); meeting of the “Friends of Cohesion” V4+12+EC+EIB (29.11.2018); V4+Germany (07.02.2019); V4+European Commissioner for Trade C. Malmström (21.03.2019); V4+Japan (25.04.2019); V4+France on the margins of the European Council (28.05.2019); V4+President of the European Council D. Tusk (28.05.2019); V4 coordination meeting at the conclusion of the Slovak V4 Presidency (20.06.2019);**

**10 Meetings of V4 Foreign Ministers** including before the UN GA (24.09.2018) in New York, in Bratislava (19.11.2018); **6** of them in the „V4+“ format **V4+Nordic Baltic countries (NB8) (01.04.2019)** in Palanga, Lithuania, and others in Bratislava **V4+France (18.04.2019), V4+Turkey (30.04.2019), V4+Eastern Partnership countries (06.05.2019), V4+Western Balkans countries (28.05.2019)** and **V4+Republic of Korea (07.06.2019);**

**23 Ministerial meetings** including: two **V4 Agriculture Ministers** meetings, 1st in the format **V4+Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia** and 2nd in the format **V4+Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, France**; V4 Ministers of Culture meeting; two V4 Defence Ministers meetings, including **V4+France, Germany** Defence Ministers; two meetings of the V4 Economy Ministers; two V4 Environment Ministers meetings, including **V4+Bulgaria, Romania; V4+France, Germany and Austria** Finance Ministers meeting; two V4 Interior Ministers meetings; **V4+Croatia** meeting of Justice Ministers; V4 Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs; two V4 Transport Ministers meetings on the V4 High-Speed Railway Project; meeting of V4 Ministers of Health-care; meeting of the **V4+4 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia)** Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy post-2020;

**9 Events on the level of State Secretaries**, such as V4 meeting on the Joint Marketing of Tourism; V4 and international conferences “V4 - Slovakia towards Smart Cities“, V4 & WHO for Health -Fighting tuberculosis, Start-up Awards / Future now, meeting of EU V4 State Secretaries - Sherpas under the Slovak V4 presidency and others.

**26 Documents (signed or adopted)** - joint statements, declarations, memoranda and protocols of understanding and cooperation.

# RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Slovak V4 Presidency actively promoted new ideas, sharing of best practices, identifying opportunities for joint action and common efforts of the V4 partners in various specific areas:



**European Union:** future of the EU, Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 -2027, protection of the EU external borders and addressing root causes of migration, cooperation in the area of climate change, external relations (neighbourhood policy, enlargement);

**Defence:** V4 EU Battle Group, PESCO, air defence, capability development, logistic support, education, medical services;

**Transport:** project of high-speed railway network, postal services, tourism, intelligent transport systems, spatial development, TEN-T Network;

**Agriculture:** unfair trading practices in the food supply chain, common agriculture policy post 2020, promotion of the BIOEAST and FOREST EUROPE initiatives;

**Social & Labour Affairs:** cooperation in social agenda, cooperation in the field of labour inspection, generational exchange in family businesses;

**Health:** WHO Collaborating Centre for Tuberculosis in Vyšné Hágy; human resources, drug policy, tuberculosis, methamphetamine, vaccination, drinking water, e-health;

**Economy and Finances:** smart cities, cohesion policy, EU structural and investment funds; energy security and diversification, decarbonisation of economy, modern automotive industry (e-mobility), start-ups and innovations, customs, taxation of digital economy, public procurement;

**Education:** science, research and development, assessment of adult competences;

**Security:** cyber security, crisis management, fight against environmental crime, counter-terrorism cooperation;

**Culture:** cultural heritage, performing arts, audio-visual production and support for designers and artisans, library-information professionals and music institution students;

**Others:** issuing of joint publication with the title „Visegrad Group Countries – Selected Indicators of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development” Statistical Offices cooperation on selected Indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.