

**VISEGRÁD GROUP. JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE  
COMMITTEES OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OF THE DEFENCE AND OF  
THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE CZECH  
REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA AND POLAND ADOPTED AT THEIR  
6TH MEETING  
(WARSAW, DECEMBER 17-18, 2000)**

1. We, the representatives of the Parliaments of the Central European countries, re-confirm our belief that the co-operation in the field of European integration and common responsibility for building stability and security on our continent constitutes our common interest. We believe that our co-operation within the Visegrád group brings us closer to the membership in the European Union.
2. Recognising the importance of practical implementation of the Schengen acquis we declare our will to exchange experience and to co-operate in the field of preparing our borders to fulfil the tasks of administering external borders of the European Union.
3. We support the development of co-operation between our states concerning consular matters, including in the third countries, and devoting particular attention to combating illegal migration, and to visa-related matters.
4. We expect that clear standards of border protection will be determined, as well as the criteria of the Schengen acquis implementation and the timetable of inclusion of the new member states into the Schengen Information System.
5. Our objective is to secure effective border controls while enabling our neighbours in the East to have ever better contacts with the European standards of freedom, democracy, and market economy.
6. We welcome the agreement reached at the EU Summit in Nice. We believe that the results of the Nice Summit, particularly in the field of institutional reforms and decision making process, created the necessary preconditions for inviting those candidate countries, which successfully complete the EU membership negotiations in time for their representatives to assume their seats in the European Parliament as the result of the elections in 2004.
7. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia stress the importance of a quality change in the accession negotiations during the Swedish presidency so that the negotiations may focus on the resolution of the core issues.
8. As candidate countries of the EU and current or aspiring members of NATO we support the development of the common European Security and Defence Policy and wish to participate already now in its building, including decision-shaping and decision-making.
9. We express hope that the new American administration will help to maintain and deepen the trans-atlantic link between Europe and the United States.
10. We appreciate the continuation of the open-door policy of NATO. We firmly believe that the building of Europe, whole and free, is not possible without further enlargement of

NATO. Therefore, we call upon the North Atlantic Council to issue invitations, not later than at the Prague NATO summit in 2002, to Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania and any other candidate country which meets the criteria of membership as defined in the 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement.

11. We hope that a framework agreement between the EU and NATO will be signed soon, to prevent any duplication of structures and decision-making mechanisms.

12. We agree to continue to discuss issues related to the enlargement of the EU, the future shape of Europe and its institutions, and European security and defence at our next meeting in Prague in the first half of the next year.

Jaroslava Moserová, Michael Žantovský, Vladimír Laštůvka, Peter Weiss, František Šebej, László Kocsi, Mihály Pápai, István Füle, Czesław Bielecki, Stanisław Głowacki, Wojciech Arkuszewski, Krzysztof Majka, Stefan Jurczak

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