

# Chisinau Declaration

3rd European People's Party Eastern Partnership Leaders' Summit  
11 July 2013

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Chisinau/Moldova, 11 July 2013



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**The European People's Party Eastern Partnership Leaders assembled in Chisinau,**

1. Whereas the EPP highlights its supports for the Eastern Partnership as the main platform for the cooperation between the European Union and the EaP partners.
2. Whereas recalling both the Batumi and Yerevan Declarations asking for more content for the Eastern Partnership and stating the need to entrench in its scope the offer of a clear European perspective to the Eastern Partners who are willing and acting accordingly
3. Whereas the Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit has to provide further strategic guidance and set a timetable for concrete steps to be subsequently taken, by those Eastern partners aiming towards a progressive development of their relations with the European Union beyond the scope of the Eastern Partnership
4. Acknowledge the European fundamental values and principles, to which they are strongly committed, and their importance for promoting peace, stability, prosperity and security throughout the entire European continent.
5. Emphasise the preeminent role played by the fundamental freedoms and mobility of citizens as a driving force for the sustainable development of Europe, as well as the strategic objective of extending internal market principles and rules, while facilitating people-to-people contacts, which underpins the Eastern Partnership philosophy
6. Highlight the significant role to be played by the DCFTA in providing better conditions for economic growth, job creation, increased investment flows and contact between businesses, so that citizens could share the benefits of higher standards of products, better quality of services and new business opportunities.
7. Share the view on the importance of transport connections for facilitating the safer travel of people.
8. Call on the relevant stakeholders to strive to develop the better interconnection of transport and communication infrastructure, responding thus to the liberalisation of market access for goods and services as provided by the future Association Agreements.
9. Welcome the recent agreement on the regional transport networks of the EaP countries connecting them to the TEN-T and undertake to contribute to the adoption during the EaP Transport Ministerial meeting, to be organised under the Lithuanian EU Presidency, of a list of priority infrastructure development projects.
10. Emphasise the paramount role of the enhanced mobility of citizens in taking full advantage of the benefits of the free movement of goods, services and capital.
11. Bearing in mind the interconnection between mobility and security-related issues, ensure the necessary conditions for secure mobility so that the citizens of the European Union, but also of partner countries, are reassured and can truly benefit from a visa-free regime in a secure and well-managed environment.
12. Welcome the good progress achieved by the Republic of Moldova in fulfilling the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan benchmarks paving the way towards establishing visa-free travel for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova in due course.
13. Note with satisfaction the signature of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements between Armenia and the European Union, as well as the launch of the EU-Georgia Visa Dialogue and underline the importance of the launch of the EU-Armenia visa dialogue as soon as possible.

14. Stress the increased role of mobility in facilitating people-to-people contacts, including learning mobility, cultural exchanges, research activities, youth networking and volunteering.

15. Reaffirm the determination to continue to build upon the positive momentum reached in their cooperation with the European Union with a view to maximising the benefits of the enhanced mobility of citizens, based on a shared vital interest in a prosperous, strong and united Europe.

16. Emphasise the need for a more targeted approach to increase the visibility of the EaP for the citizens.

17. Reaffirm the importance of regional stability and security for a full realisation of the Eastern Partnership's potential.

18. Stress that the practice of closed borders and isolation policies are inconsistent with the aims and purposes of the Eastern Partnership and the European aspirations.

19. Stress the importance of finding peaceful and negotiated settlements to the conflicts in the region and call for a strong commitment by all the concerned parties in this regard.

#### **Towards the 2013 Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit**

20. Express the strong political commitment to effectively pursue the track record of reforms ensuring sustainability and ownership of the process while ensuring compliance with the democratic standards, consolidation of the rule of law and a functioning market economy.

21. Take note that Armenia and Georgia have come closer to the finalisation of the Association Agreement negotiations, while the Republic of Moldova has completed the negotiations on the Association Agreement, including DCFTA.

22. Reiterate that fair conditionality based on the merits-based approach should mainstream the advancement of the Eastern partners towards the objectives set in relation to the European Union based on their respective level of ambition and commitment.

23. Share the view on the symbolic importance of initialling by the time of the Vilnius Summit the Association Agreements with those Eastern partners that completed the negotiations.

24. Underline that the signing of the Association Agreements will then depend on the full respect of European values and principles by the EaP countries.

25. Call on the need to speed up the work on the preparation of the Association Agendas as a tool to streamline the implementation of the Association Agreements based on agreed priorities.

26. Invite the participants to the EaP Vilnius Summit to jointly agree on a calendar to sequence the steps to be taken for the entry into force of the Association Agreements, including the DCFTA.

27. Stress the significant importance of the 2013 Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit, acknowledging in this context the need for the recognition of the European perspective for the Eastern partners who are willing and acting accordingly.

**EPP activities**

28. Concur that the established EPP institutionalised platforms for dialogue and cooperation within the Eastern Partnership dimension such as the Euronest EPP Group are valuable opportunities for fostering a strategic vision and consolidating the meaningful political support for its subsequent realisation.

29. Agree to hold the 4th European People's Party Eastern Partnership Leaders' Summit in Vilnius in November 2013.

30. Confirm that an EPP Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting (EU and non-EU) will be organised to prepare the 2013 Eastern Partnership Vilnius Summit.

**Wilfried MARTENS**

*President of the European People's Party  
Former Prime Minister of Belgium*

**Serzh SARGSYAN**

*President of the Republican Party of Armenia  
President of Armenia*

**Mikheil SAKASHVILI**

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**If you have any question  
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