



CONSIGLIO GRANDE E GENERALE

**11TH CONFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENT
OF SMALL EUROPEAN STATES
San Marino, 21-22-23 March 2017**

Joint Declaration adopted by the Presidents of Parliament of Small European States at the end of the Conference held in San Marino on 22 March 2017

The Presidents or representatives of the Parliaments of the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, the Principality of Monaco, Montenegro and the Republic of San Marino;

Gathered in San Marino from 21 to 23 March 2017 at the invitation of Their Excellencies the Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino;

Thank the Captains Regent for having hosted the 11th Conference of the Presidents of Parliament of Small European States;

Confirm the importance of this initiative which strengthens parliamentary contacts and consequently allows an increasingly deeper mutual knowledge of the specificities of Small European States;

Reiterate the need to carry on this discussion and the efforts to reach common positions, so that these characteristics, which represent a unique example in the community of States, may be protected while seeking a greater international integration;

Finally, highlight the importance of the topics discussed and of the conclusions briefly summarized here below:

Session 1 - Geopolitical situation and humanitarian crises: role and policies of Small States

1. They take note that the phenomenon of migration across European borders is not going to end quickly;
2. They express great concern about the apparently uncoordinated approach of the European countries in facing this problem, especially on account of the nationalist tensions, populism and loss of confidence in the European Union arising from this approach. They are even more concerned because there is the risk that people reaching our Continent may not be guaranteed the basic human rights that Europe has advocated for decades;



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3. They consider their small dimensions an added value in the pursuit of an advanced integration process, able to overcome segregation and develop feelings of affection, thus countering radicalisation of migrants in our Countries;
4. They deem it useful to establish partnerships among Small States, also within the international contexts to which they belong, in order to promote greater awareness of the migration problem as a structural phenomenon, also in relation to climate change, and to work against the root causes of migration, namely poverty, inequality and conflicts and design structural interventions to address it, in a more balanced and equitable way while respecting Europe's cultural identity and the protection of human rights of people composing these flows;
5. They underline the importance of preventing gender based violence towards migrants and stress the importance of safeguarding the rights of migrant unaccompanied minors.
6. They reiterate, at a time of identity crisis of the EU, the need to make choices, at European level, capable of protecting the needs of the different realities forming it.

Session 2 - Europe and the Mediterranean: powers and limits of Small States in international fora

1. They note that, today as in the past, the great world powers play a much more influential role than Small States. The reason lies in the strengths of Sovereign States: economy, wealth, natural resources and, last but not least, the military apparatus. But one might wonder whether these criteria are still compatible with the current function of international law; Today, the international society is based on dialogue among democratic States. And democracy itself is - or rather should be - a guarantee against armed conflicts. However, the democratic ideal can not automatically guarantee perpetual peace;
2. They acknowledge that sustainable peace cannot be achieved if women are excluded from the dialogue and the decision-making table;
3. They also note that there are many situations showing a crisis of those democratic values discouraging armed conflicts. The use of force is still the most popular means for the assertion of national power, so that the principles of democracy - boasted by some great world powers - remain in practice dead letter. We are witnessing an intensification of nationalist populism, which is used by some leaders of world powers as an excuse to justify policies of exclusion and rejection of dialogue among peoples, in stark contrast with today's irreversible globalization process;
4. They take note of the different cultural and institutional experiences and the different legal systems of participating States, without identifying in such diversity - determined by historical and geopolitical reasons - a discriminating factor. On the contrary, they consider the different paths undertaken by individual States towards the affirmation of the principles of democracy and respect, protection and guarantee of fundamental human rights as an opportunity for discussion and growth, as well as an enrichment for all members of this conference;



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5. They share the awareness of the importance of the highest values common to all States observing the rule of law, with a view to an interstate dialogue, not only among the Small States participating in this conference, but also within the international organizations of which they are part. Indeed, they believe that the contribution of each country in these fora is not determined by relations of economic, commercial and military power, but rather by elements of a virtuous path undertaken at a national and international level in the affirmation and promotion of the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;
6. They acknowledge the importance of gender sensitive policy making; realizing the clear link between gender equality and well-functioning democracy, valuing the importance of equal and active participation in modern democracies – whether in politics, the economy and/or public life;
7. They commit to designing, on the occasion of future meetings among the members of this conference, a common approach based on the different national experiences through a dialogue enhancing diversity. In particular, the intention is to strengthen the incisiveness of the Small States in international bodies, by speaking with one voice with other countries, in order to obtain greater authority and weight vis-a-vis today's greatest world powers.

Session 3: Tourism and culture through history, sovereignty, art and landscape: cooperation among Small States

1. They observe that Small States, despite their limited human and material resources, look at the world relying on their traditions and a sovereignty maintained with pride and tenacity and reinforced by century-long efforts to free themselves from the big neighbouring nations. Likewise, the world looks at them with a mixture of admiration and curiosity, since they function like other States on a much smaller scale. Such specificity still represents a fascinating feature of their communities;
2. They also note that every moment of their history reveals the importance of preserving the sovereignty of their governments and safeguarding their institutions. Similarly, they stress the importance of small strongholds of neutrality in the world to guarantee objectivity and impartiality;
3. To this end, they consider it useful to promote diplomatic initiatives suitable to host dialogue and discussions on issues that are causing conflicts among States, with the involvement of all Small States;
4. They deem it fundamental, in the efforts made by all Small Countries for economic advancement, to enhance their unique and unattainable beauties. In this regard, a greater tourist cooperation could bring together small-sized entities in a great single attraction pole, in consideration of the cultural and landscape variety of Small States;
5. They also commit to making these routes accessible to the people with disabilities in order to add a "quality mark" to their cooperation in the name of culture, religious tradition, sports and unique landscape.



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6. They condemn the destruction and the attempt of destruction of the history, culture, identity and values of countries and peoples, including through the devastation of their cultural heritage. These acts should therefore be treated as crimes against humanity.