



17TH CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENT OF SMALL EUROPEAN STATES

FINAL DECLARATION

ADOPTED ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2024
BY THE PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENT OF SMALL EUROPEAN STATES
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 17TH CONFERENCE HELD IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

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

Meeting in Malta from 25 to 27 September 2024 at the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, Hon. Angelo Farrugia, on the occasion of the 17th Conference of Presidents of Parliament of Small European States;

Observing the common values of freedom, respect for human rights, equality, rule of law and democracy that are shared by their countries;

Acknowledging the importance of maintaining ongoing relations between their Parliaments and reiterating the need for interparliamentary cooperation, dialogue and collaboration;

Noting the value of the annual conference of Presidents of Parliament of Small European States, which allows the exchange of views, the sharing of best practices and discussion on matters of common interest;

Emphasising the importance of the issues discussed, namely climate change as an economic opportunity for small states, the role of small states in multilateralism, and understanding migration, and recalling the fruitful debates that took place;

Appreciating the hospitality extended by the Republic of Malta in hosting the 17th Conference of Presidents of Parliament of Small European States in 2024; and

Welcoming the offer of the Parliament of Cyprus to host the 18th Conference of the Presidents of Parliament of Small European States in 2025;

The Presidents of Parliament of Small European States, taking note of the discussions that took place during the course of the conference:

Climate change – an economic opportunity for small states?

1. Acknowledge that climate change is posing unprecedented challenges at a global level and that small states may be more vulnerable due to their size and geographical position;
2. Applaud the ongoing commitment by the small European States to ensure adaptability, sustainability and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
3. Note the resilience of small European States in finding ways to combat climate change effects and to benefit from the inevitable changes; and
4. Stress the role of Parliaments to hold the executive to account in the implementation of measures to counter the effects of climate change;
5. Underscore the importance to share the best practises on renewable energies, energy efficiency of public sector, use of water resource and hydrogeological instability.

Multilateralism – the role of small states

6. Recognise that small European States form an integral part of the international community and that their size does not determine the value of their contribution;
7. Acknowledge that smaller parliaments have limited resources and that this can translate into additional burdens in their multilateral efforts;
8. Acknowledge at the same time the importance of multilateralism as the only effective way to address complex international challenges, including climate change, migration, to ensure a rule-based global order and to safeguard shared principles and values, such as the respect of international law, human rights and gender equality;
9. Underscore the importance of participating in multilateral events and of discussing issues at a global level;
10. Appreciate that multilateralism is putting small European States on a level playing field with the rest of the world and increasing their visibility and contribution on a global level; and
11. Emphasise the important role that small European States have in preserving peace and stability, and in helping resolve ongoing conflicts, in line with their commitment and interest to uphold international law and human rights.

People on the move – understanding migration

12. Note that both legal and illegal migration impact destination countries and that the resulting burden is disproportionately heavier for small states, due to their limited resources and infrastructure and services;
13. Express particular concern over the growing migratory flows in the mediterranean, mostly resulting from ongoing conflicts, climate change and poverty in the area and its vicinity;
14. Understand that migration is a complex phenomenon and that the reasons for which people leave their countries can be numerous;
15. Acknowledge the loss and hardship that many migrants may encounter in order to reach their destination country, and the barriers that they might have to face in their eventual country of residence;
16. Underline the need to jointly and urgently tackle the root causes of migration;
17. Agree that inclusivity and integration are an integral part of migration policies; and
18. Accept that while migration has numerous challenges, it can also benefit the host countries by enriching their societies.

The Presidents of the Parliaments of the Small European States hereby agree to meet again for the 18th Conference in Cyprus, in 2025.

Signed in Malta, _____