

The Parliamentary Forum arranged its second meeting in Krakow

The Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies, which was launched in Vilnius by the members of parliament from 18 CoD countries in March 2010, has held its second meeting during the 10th anniversary of the CoD in Krakow, Poland.

The Forum was welcomed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Audronius Ažubalis, currently chairing the Community of Democracies. The keynote speech of the meeting was delivered by the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek.

A number of well-known politicians, including Gombojan Zandanshata, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, who will take over the chairmanship of the CoD in 2011, long-time member of the U.S. House of Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration of Ukraine Borys Tarasiuk as well as one of the most prominent Canada's human rights activists David Kilgour have also participated at the meeting.

Arranging their encounter on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of CoD parliamentarians have discussed the possible common answer by the democratic community to the global democracy downturn and radicalization of society in weak and even long-standing democracies. The parliamentarians have encouraged the governments and parliaments to develop an articulate global policy as a response to the effects of the world economic crisis.

The Forum asked for greater respect for human rights and civil liberties in all CoD countries even at difficult times of terrorist threats, economic crisis, ecological disasters, and mass migration. It also urged the governments and parliaments to support the democratic opposition that is still fighting for democracy and human rights in the totalitarian and authoritarian regimes.

The Forum has called for support to the NGOs engagement with the vulnerable groups: discriminated and oppressed people, political prisoners and the internally displaced people. Parliamentarians have also urged the CoD governments and parliaments to pursue policies against xenophobia and aggressive nationalism and employ more effective measures to combat these phenomena as well as to resist rewriting and embellishing the past that stops the full democratization of the countries that have experienced the brutality of these regimes.

The parliamentarians have discussed the state of democracy in specific countries and their common actions of advocacy or parliamentary support for these countries. The Forum reconfirmed its united stance and its adherence to the *Resolution on the Situation in Georgia* adopted at the convening meeting in Vilnius on March 12, 2010 and passed the *Resolutions on the situation in Belarus, Ukraine and Cuba*. The first of them calls for improvements in the conduct of elections in Belarus in time for the 2010-2011 presidential elections. After discussion on the situation in Ukraine, the Forum expressed its concern regarding the political harassment against representatives of the opposition and urged the CoD governments to constantly monitor the status of democracy processes in Ukraine. The Forum has also reconfirmed its united stance on situation in Cuba and condemned the brutality of the regime against Cuban political prisoners as well as called on the CoD and its member governments to pressure the Cuban regime to allow inspections of its prisons by the United Nations and other members of the international human rights community.

The members of parliaments participating at the Forum meeting for the first time were invited to sign the Vilnius Declaration thus joining the activities of the Forum. At its Krakow meeting, the Parliamentary Forum has grown in numbers and now it consists of 50 active members and represents 23 parliaments of the CoD countries from the U.S.A., European, Latin American and Asian countries.

The outcomes of the Krakow meeting were summed up in the *Final Resolution of Parliamentary Forum Krakow Meeting* and the proposed *9 Points of the Recommendations by the Parliamentarians for the Global Democracy Work Plan*.

Next Forum's meeting is scheduled in Washington D.C. in September. Parliamentarians will meet again to analyze development of democracy around the world and to share their experience of parliamentary work with transition countries and pro-democratic groups in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

To see all the documents adopted during the Krakow meeting please click on the links below:

[*Final Resolution of Parliamentary Forum Krakow Meeting*](#)

[*Resolution Calling for support of Cuba's pro-democracy movement*](#)

[*Resolution Calling for improvement of the political situation in Ukraine*](#)

[*Resolution Calling for improvement of the political and civil society situation in Belarus*](#)

9 POINTS OFFERED BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON GLOBAL DEMOCRACY WORK PLAN