

**Political Declaration 1/2021. (II. 15.) OGY of the National Assembly**  
**On the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrád Cooperation \***

The Hungarian National Assembly expresses its appreciation and deep gratitude for the fundamental political act, which marked the beginning of the Visegrad Group cooperation on 15 February 1991. The Presidents of Poland and Czechoslovakia, Lech Wałęsa and Václav Havel, and the Prime Minister of Hungary, József Antall, held a historic meeting in Visegrad 30 years ago, launching regional cooperation between Central European countries for security, development and European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Our joint efforts came to fruition when Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 1999 with Slovakia following them in 2004. In the same year of 2004, our countries' efforts to join the European Union were successful. The achievement of these strategic objectives confirmed the effectiveness of the joint efforts, convincing us that the Visegrad Group countries should act within the framework of the EU and NATO as a regional community of close neighbours and friends.

Soon, we were able to prove that our membership in these structures also involved actively shaping them. Our participation in the discussion on security issues led to the decision to create the Eastern flank of NATO, and our activity at EU fora on issues such as the future of the EU, neighbourhood and enlargement policy, migration policy or discussions on the shape of the cohesion policy under the multiannual financial framework, allowed us to protect the interests of Central Europe.

The parliamentary dimension of the Visegrad Group is particularly important for deepening regional cooperation. The role of the meetings of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the V4 countries, in which partners from other EU states often participate, is undeniable. Cooperation in sectoral committees and the parliamentary rapid response team in matters of monitoring the principle of subsidiarity are both important.

Looking back on these three decades, we appreciate the strength of our community, which has offered us the protection of regional interests and international recognition. Our cooperation is a combination of the efforts of historically close, like-minded nations that have had similarly difficult experiences in the past and have similar visions and programmes for their own development.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Visegrad cooperation, we pay our deepest respect for the achievements of our countries, societies and parliaments and pledge to continue our efforts to integrate and develop our community.

**KÖVÉR László**  
Speaker of the National Assembly

**SZABÓ Sándor**  
Notary of the National Assembly

**Dr. VINNAI Győző**  
Notary of the National Assembly

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\* *The political declaration was adopted by the National Assembly at its sitting on 15 February 2021.*