CONSTITUENT ACT OF THE EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
as adopted by the Conference of Presidents on
10 February 2010

PREAMBLE

Meeting in Brussels on ________________, the members representing the European Parliament and members representing the Parliaments of the Eastern European partner countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Whereas, within the framework of the Eastern Partnership the European Union and the Eastern European Partners with interest took note of the proposal by the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit, held in Prague (Czech Republic) on 7 May 2009, to establish a Eastern Partnership Parliamentary Assembly, the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly;

Whereas the European Commission presented a communication on the Eastern Partnership on 3 December 2008 and the European Council welcomed the establishment of an ambitious Eastern Partnership and adopted an important Declaration on the Eastern Partnership at its meeting on 19-20 March 2009, which provides for an institutionalisation of this Partnership;

Whereas the creation of such new executive structures needs to be completed by the creation of a parliamentary assembly called to hold the executive to account and to scrutinize its activities;

Whereas the idea to establish the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly dates back to the EP resolution of 15 November 2007, in which it is proposed to set up such an assembly following the example of the multilateral parliamentary assemblies already established with the participation of the European Parliament;

Whereas in the final statement of the Parliamentary Conference European Neighbourhood East, organised on 4-5 June 2008 by the European Parliament with participation of representatives of the six Neighbourhood countries Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus;

1 The democratic opposition and civil society from Belarus will participate in the Parliamentary Assembly with 10 observers pending full participation by the Parliament of Belarus in the work of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

The membership of the Parliament of Belarus is suspended due to the non-recognition of the Parliament of Belarus by the European Parliament and the OSCE as well as the Council of Europe (European Parliament resolution of 9 October 2008 on the situation in Belarus after the parliamentary elections of 28 September 2008, Texts adopted (P6_TA(2008)0470)). As soon as elections to the parliament of Belarus are free, fair, democratic and recognised as legitimate by the European Parliament, the Members of the Belarusian Parliament will be invited to participate in the activities of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly as members thereof.
Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus a reference to the creation of a Euronest Parliamentary Assembly was adopted;

HAVE AGREED:

ARTICLE 1

The Euronest Parliamentary Assembly is by this Act constituted, as an authority designed to be the parliamentary institution of the Eastern Partnership between the European Union and its Eastern partners, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus, founded on mutual interests and commitments as well as on shared ownership and responsibility. Participation in the Assembly shall be voluntary and shall maintain a spirit of integration and openness.

ARTICLE 2

Objectives

The Euronest Parliamentary Assembly shall help to support, promote and consolidate in practical terms the Eastern Partnership by covering its four main concerns, namely

(a) questions relating to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as to market economy, sustainable development, and good governance;

(b) the creation of the necessary conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration between the EU and its Eastern partners through the development of a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy, supporting the political and socio-economic-reforms of the partner countries, facilitating approximation towards the European Union;

(c) the Association Agreements between the EU and those partner countries who will comply with the resulting commitments, which will provide for positive effects to mutual energy support and security mechanisms and the harmonisation of partner's energy policies and legislation as well as to trade, investment liberalization, leading to convergence with EU laws and standards and the objective of establishing a network of deep and comprehensive free trade areas;

(d) the promotion of the interaction between EU and the Eastern Partners' citizens, in particular young people, the cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue as well as the support of education, research, the development of the information and media society.

ARTICLE 3

The Assembly shall be a joint Assembly and shall be comprised of equal numbers of Members from:
(a) the European Parliament, on the one hand;
(b) the Eastern European partners' parliaments, on the other

ARTICLE 4

Structure

The Euronest Parliamentary Assembly shall have the following structure:

(a) Plenary of the Parliamentary Assembly;
(b) Bureau;
(c) Committees;
(d) Secretariat.

The Plenary of the Parliamentary Assembly shall be the supreme body and shall adopt its Rules of Procedure, in which it shall make full provision for its composition and powers and for the functioning of its bodies.

ARTICLE 5

Powers

The powers of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly shall be

(a) to establish itself as a forum for parliamentary debate, control and review of all questions relating to the Eastern Partnership, as the parliamentary institution of that Partnership;

(b) to ensure compliance with the objectives of Article 2 of this Constituent Act;

(c) to adopt by a majority vote decision-making acts, resolutions and recommendations addressed to the Eastern Partnership Summit and the institutions, bodies and ministerial groups and conferences devoted to the development of the Partnership, in matters relating to the various aspects of the Partnership;

(d) to deliver opinions on questions put to it by the Eastern Partnership Summit itself and by the ministerial conferences associated with the Eastern Partnership, for which it may call upon the former and the latter to consult the Assembly on major issues and the basic options relating to any of the concerns of the Eastern Partnership;

(e) to establish appropriate relations between the Assembly, on the one hand, and the Summit and the various ministerial conferences and institutions associated with the Eastern Partnership, on the other.

ARTICLE 6

Funding

The operating expenditure of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly shall be borne by the European Parliament and the national parliaments of the Eastern partner countries that form part of the Assembly, in proportions to be laid down in the Rules of Procedure.
ARTICLE 7

Meetings

The Plenary of the Parliamentary Assembly shall in principle meet once a year, alternately in an Eastern partner country and on the premises of the European Parliament in one of its places of work, at the invitation of the European Parliament or of the Speaker of the assembly of the country hosting the meeting, by agreement with the relevant competent authorities.

The Bureau of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and the committees shall meet in accordance with the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure.

FINAL PROVISIONS

This Constituent Act is signed in Brussels _____________, without prejudice to its compliance with the internal provisions of each of the participant parliaments. After constitution of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly this Act shall remain open to accession by any entitled party that has not subscribed to it. Any of the participating parliaments taking part in the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly may decide not to continue to be part of Euronest Parliamentary Assembly by serving formal notice on the Bureau of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly one year in advance.