

*Concluding remarks at the Joint Parliamentary Meeting "Building a citizens Europe" 16-17 November 2009 by Speaker of the Riksdag Per Westerberg*

Mr. President  
Members of Parliament,  
Minister Ask,  
Commissioner Barrot,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Members have called for action during the discussions these two days. Important issues such as discrimination, exchange of evidence and combating cross border crime has been highlighted.

The Swedish Minister of Justice, Ms Beatrice ASK, described what lies ahead of us the coming weeks. And the interventions from all of you indicate the beginning of the formation of the future area of freedom, security and justice.

I have noted the complexity of the issues that have to be considered in the implementation of the Stockholm Programme and the importance of having open discussions about such issues, as we have had during the JPM.

As I mentioned yesterday, national parliaments are active and constructive partners in helping to ensure that the measures taken by the EU are the best possible.

We all need to find pragmatic solutions in order facilitate the future procedure of the Programme.

This is why the Swedish Presidency of the EU Speakers' Conference has called for an extra meeting of the EU Speakers in Stockholm on 11-12 December. Our ambition is to conclude, at the ordinary Speakers' Conference on 14-15 May 2010, on how to adapt interparliamentary cooperation in order to make best use of the provisions in the Lisbon Treaty.

We need to identify means and procedures for intensified exchange of information and best practises for an effective scrutiny of EU matters, especially in the monitoring of the principle of subsidiarity. We also need to find means and procedures for effective coordination of Interparliamentary meetings. Moreover, as mentioned yesterday, national parliaments need to find out how to monitor the area of freedom, security and justice.

Members of Parliament, during these two days we have identified some of the questions that certainly will be scrutinised by the specialised committees of all our Parliaments. For an effective scrutiny we need to cooperate between parliaments. I hope you all the best in scrutinizing the coming proposals during this multi-annual Stockholm Programme.

Let me finish by thanking President Buzek for co-chairing this meeting. And I wish President Buzek and our Speaker Colleagues of the Spanish Parliament the best of luck in organizing the next Joint Parliamentary Meeting.