

Resolution on the crisis in Europe and on the relations with Armenia

Approved by the Central Council in Yerevan on June 7th 2013

The Central Council of the European League for Economic Cooperation (ELEC) met in Yerevan, Armenia, on 7 June 2013 at the invitation of the new Armenian section of ELEC (ELEC-Armenia).

The Council was briefed about and expressed support for the ongoing negotiations towards the signing of an Association Agreement (AA), including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), between the European Union and Armenia. The Council encouraged ELEC-Armenia as well as the other national sections of ELEC to sensitize their members and the private sector in general about the opportunities the AA will provide for a stronger integration between the European and Armenian economies. It expressed the hope that this AA will help Armenia overcome its difficult geo-strategic environment and pave the way for the reestablishment of trade connections over borders that are currently still closed.

With regard to the ongoing financial, economic, social and political crisis in the EU, the Council called on the national and European authorities to make a fuller use of the existing instruments available at the EU level and to adopt new ones such as those advocated in the Roadmap “Towards a genuine economic and monetary Union” prepared by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council. In particular the application also within the EU of the “more for more” principle should lead the EU to provide more support to EU countries implementing deeper structural reforms.

The Council expressed concern that the proposed EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, unless seriously revised, would not provide sufficient room to the EU institutions to implement the EU 2020 economic strategy, aimed at achieving a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. A better prioritization through a reshuffling of the proposed expenditures combined with an active promotion of the subsidiarity principle would provide ways to achieve this.

To get out of the crisis, the EU needs both more leadership and more democracy, including more participation on the part of the national parliaments and the European Parliament and more broadly a reduction of the gap between the European authorities and the civil society. An important step in this direction would be a designation of the future President of the European Commission on the basis of the majority emerging from the forthcoming European elections.

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