

PŘÍLOHOVÁ ČÁST

1. DOKUMENTY (DEKLARACE, VÝROČNÍ ZPRÁVY, SPOLEČNÁ PROHLÁŠENÍ, OSTATNÍ)

(řazeno dle abecedy)

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Příloha č.2 - *Annual Report on the Activities of the Visegrad Group (Krakow, 1 June 2001) - Hungarian Presidency (2001-2002);*

Příloha č.3 - *Annual Report of the Slovak Presidency in the Visegrad Group (2002-2003);*

Příloha č.4 - *Contents of Visegrád Cooperation approved by the Prime Minister's summit Bratislava, 14th May, 1999;*

Příloha č.5 - *Declaration on Cooperation between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Hungary striving for Europe (Visegrad Declaration 1991);*

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Příloha č.15 - Role of Presidency of the Visegrad Group (Annex to the Contents of Visegrád Cooperation approved by the Prime Minister's summit Bratislava, 14th May, 1999);

Příloha č.16 - Summit Meeting between Benelux and the Visegrad Group Luxembourg (5th December 2001) - Press Statement;

Příloha č.17 - TATRA Statement from the Meeting of the Presidents of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Poland, Gerlachov in the High Tatras, Slovakia, on December 3, 1999.

PŘÍLOHA Č.1

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP BRATISLAVA – BUDAPEST – PRAGUE – WARSAW, 2000 (CZECH PRESIDENCY 1999-2000)

1. Introduction

1.1 Visegrad Group

The Visegrad Group was formed in 1991. The leaders of three Central European countries met on 15 February 1991 in the ancient town of Visegrad, Hungary, to sign the "Declaration on the cooperation between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Hungary on the road to European integration". Four summits were held in the V3 format: in April 1990 (Bratislava), February 1991 (Visegrad), October 1991 (Krakow) and in May 1992 (Prague).

In October 1998, the Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland declared their interest in revitalizing Visegrad cooperation. The Visegrad summit in Bratislava on 14 May 1999 was held for the first time in the new V4 format, with former Czechoslovakia divided into two independent states. The Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia issued a joint statement and approved the programme document "Content of Visegrad Cooperation" outlining the political framework for cooperation in the fields of foreign and security policy, internal security, education, culture, youth and sports, science and technology, environmental protection, infrastructure and cross-border cooperation. The Visegrad Group was finally getting down to business.

The Czech Republic coordinated V4 activities in the Visegrad Year between the May 1999 summit in Bratislava and the June 2000 summit in Prague. The primary achievement of this period is the full utilization of the political framework for contacts on all levels, from the Presidents and Prime Ministers to parliamentarians and experts. A genuine spontaneous cooperation has been set in motion, with potential for further development in all useful areas.

Key priorities of the Czech Republic's term as V4 coordinator included the promotion of understanding of Visegrad cooperation among the general public. The new Website (<http://www.visegradgroup.org>) provides updates on the Visegrad Group, its current activities, meetings and statements. Information about the International Visegrad Fund and its grant

allocations will be available shortly. The members of the Editorial Board of the Website come from all Visegrad countries.

Great numbers of articles dealing with the Visegrad cooperation appeared in press of V4 countries. Thanks to public activities of the politicians of V4 countries and other promoters the Visegrad cooperation became an integral part of political vocabulary.

1.2 Structure of Visegrad cooperation

The Bratislava Summit agreed that no institutional structures should be set up for the Visegrad Group, with the sole exception of the secretariat of the International Visegrad Fund in Bratislava. Visegrad cooperation is based on regular meetings of representatives of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia at various levels.

The Visegrad Year is structured as follows:

The Prime Ministers hold an annual official meeting in the coordinating country. They may also meet unofficially between the official summits.

The Ministers may meet their respective counterparts as needed.

The Secretaries of State of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs hold biannual meetings.

The Ambassadors of the V4 countries meet regularly in individual countries.

The Visegrad coordinators (National Coordinators in each V4 country) hold biannual consultations at the level of directors of department at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The coordinator for the 1999/2000 Visegrad Year has been Director of the Central European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The coordinator of the 2000/2001 Visegrad Year will be Director of the Central and South European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

Beside contacts at the government level, the Content of Visegrad Cooperation envisages meetings of Presidents, parliamentarians and representatives of the civil society.

2. Fields of cooperation

2.1 European integration

Like in the initial period (1991-1992) the entry of the V4 member countries into the EU remains a priority of the Visegrad Group. The Group does in no way regard itself as an alternative to the EU. On the contrary, it wants to be perceived as a contribution to the all-

European integration efforts just like other regional groupings (Benelux, Nordic Council). The four Central European countries are convinced that they can well help each other on their road to the European Union. By this they do not mean merely taking joint positions towards the EU or closer coordination of attitudes in the negotiation process. They rather have in mind the exchange of information related to the process of negotiations with the EU and the state of preparation of the V4 member countries for EU membership. To this end, consultations of negotiators with the EU have been agreed and are regularly held. An example of assistance of technical nature was a meeting of representatives of border police forces of the V4 countries to discuss the building and technical support of border guards with respect to the Schengen standards.

An informal meeting of V4 Prime Ministers (October 1999) and a meeting of Presidents (December 1999) focused among other topics on European integration issues. Both meetings, held in the High Tatra Mountains, stressed the will of the four Central European countries to provide support to one another on their road towards the European Union.

The first meeting of high-level representatives of the candidate countries responsible for the field of European integration was held in Bratislava from 4 to 5 November 1999.

Its agenda included cooperation between the V4 countries in the European integration processes. The negotiators agreed that their aim was not to create an institutional framework but rather to define the contents of cooperation between the V4 and the EU. Their talks then focused on questions of the Third Pillar with particular attention paid to the Schengen system.

An informal meeting between the V4 Deputy Foreign Ministers and the British Minister of State for Europe Keith Vaz in London from 31 March to 1 April 2000.

The meeting, confirming that the UK perceives the V4 as a clearly defined group, focused on public opinion in the EU and candidate countries and on communication with the media. The Minister of State, Mr. Vaz, appreciated the V4 efforts to achieve EU membership in the foreseeable future.

A meeting of V4 chief negotiators in Brussels on 6 April 2000

The working meeting of the chief negotiators was held at the beginning of the Inter-governmental Accession Conferences at the level of deputies between the EU and the

"Luxembourg Six" countries and shortly after the beginning of the IGCs also between the EU and the Slovak Republic and other countries of the so-called Helsinki Six (28 March 2000). The meeting was therefore a good opportunity for exchanging information and views on the results of the IGCs and other questions of common interest of the V4 countries, including Schengen agreement. Apart from specific questions of the integration process, the negotiators discussed also how the public in their countries perceive negotiations with the EU.

Meeting of Prime Ministers of the V4 countries with FRG Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in Gniezno on 28 April 2000

The Prime Ministers discussed European solidarity in the process of integration and the situation in Central Europe. They signed a joint declaration in which they committed themselves to working together in their efforts to materialize the aspirations of nations and communities to live in a unified Europe and to cooperation in building a European future, while respecting the diversity of cultures, national traditions and regional differences.

Meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Four with French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in Budapest on 4 May 2000

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin met in Budapest the Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Countries, Miloš Zeman of the Czech Republic, Viktor Orbán of Hungary, Jerzy Buzek of Poland and Mikulas Dzurinda of Slovakia. The meeting took place upon the initiative of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. The Prime Ministers of France and of the Visegrad Four discussed the internal developments in the European Union and reviewed the progress of accession negotiations of their countries to the EU. The special importance of the Budapest meeting was emphasised by the fact that France will fill the rotating post of the EU Presidency in the second half of 2000. The period of the French presidency is of crucial importance for completing the EU's Inter-governmental Conference on institutional reforms, and continuing the enlargement process successfully.

2.2 Security issues

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland joined the North Atlantic Alliance on 12 March 1999. All three countries expressed support for the admission of Slovakia to NATO. Accordingly, they welcomed the decision taken at the NATO summit in Washington to include their partner from the Visegrad Group among the candidate countries. The process of trilateral consultations which gained momentum following the NATO summit

in Madrid helped increase the efficiency of overall preparations of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland for NATO membership. The three new Allies are now sharing their experience with Slovakia.

The chairmen of foreign affairs and defence and security committees of the Parliaments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia met in Budapest on 5 October 1999.

The statement issued by the committee chairmen underlines the importance of continued NATO enlargement and their interest in the open door policy. Together they called upon the Alliance to admit another V4 country, Slovakia, as soon as possible. The admission of Slovakia would comply with the conclusions of the Washington Summit and express NATO's appreciation for the political changes in the country. They expressed deep concern over the Kosovo crisis caused by the undemocratic policy of Slobodan Milošević, and support for the international action to halt ethnic cleansing. The committee chairmen also supported the enhancement of the European Security and Defence Identity and at the same time expressed their conviction that transatlantic cooperation has an irreplaceable role in preserving peace on the continent. Issues of collective defence should in their opinion remain within the competence of NATO.

The Ministers of Defence met for the first time in the V4 format in Poland on 4 November 1999.

The Ministers discussed regional security, defence cooperation and Euro-Atlantic integration. They emphasized the commitment to contribute to the international efforts to resolve the crisis in the Balkans and discussed their experience concerning SFOR and KFOR missions. The Defence Ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland reaffirmed their preparedness to support Slovakia in its efforts to integrate into Euro-Atlantic structures and pledged to continue their cooperation namely in areas enumerated in the Membership Action Plan. An example of very concrete cooperation were the V4 consultations in the process of preparation for the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) the significant contribution of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to the quality of the Slovak National Membership action plan.

Meeting of the Chairmen of the Foreign Affairs, European Integration and Defence Committees in Bratislava from 26 to 28 April 2000

Security issues among other topics were on the agenda of the meeting. In their joint statement representatives of V4 parliaments expressed support for the endeavours of the Slovak Republic to join NATO. They expressed their conviction that the Alliance's policy of open doors is a key factor for the strengthening of security in the Euro-Atlantic area as well as their readiness to take part in the effort leading to the development of Common Defence and Security Policy. In this context representatives of V4 parliaments are convinced that a wider cooperation of the V4 in the field of defence industry and procurement would be a positive contribution of V4 governments.

2.3 Justice and home affairs

During the Visegrad Year, Ministers of the Interior met once in the V4+Austria format, Secretaries of State/Deputy Ministers of the Ministries of the Interior met twice in V4 format. Representatives of border police forces of V4 countries met once. Expert Groups of the Ministries of the Interior of V4 countries have started their work.

The Border Police Directors met in Budapest from 21 to 22 September 1999. Representatives of border police forces discussed the tasks connected with the building of border guards according to the Schengen principles on the protection of the prospective Schengen external border. Representatives of the border police agreed to hold regular meetings, to actively participate in the International Border Police Conference (IBPC), to exchange experience and technical experts. They agreed to increase their cooperation in combatting organized crime and illegal migration.

The meeting of Secretaries of State/Deputy Ministers of the Interior of V4 countries held at Donovaly, Slovak Republic, on 22 September 1999.

The Joint Statement adopted at the conclusion of the meeting contains an agreement concerning continued exchange of information on the progress of public administration reform in V4 countries. The information exchange should take place at two levels, namely at the level of Secretaries of State/Deputy Ministers who should meet annually, and at the level of expert groups on specific areas of public administration.

Expert groups were set up for the following areas:

Working Group No. 1 - Distribution of competences between the government and local self-government;

Working Group No. 2 - Possibilities for utilization of information systems in public administration;

Working Group No. 3 - Preparation and training of public servants and local self-government staff.

Working Group No. 1 - Distribution of competences between the government and local self-government - met in Bratislava from 6 to 7 March 2000. The agenda included exchange of experience and debate on the decentralization of competences, on models of public administration, territorial units, competences of the State and self-government bodies at different levels, public administration financing and supervision.

Working Group No. 2 - Possibilities for utilization of information systems in public administration - met during the European Information Society Workshop held in Hradec Králové from 27 to 28 March 2000, and the meeting continued in Prague on 29 March. The agenda included the integration of government authorities into social processes and the legislation governing the role of government authorities in the computerization of public administration (Czech Republic - Government Council on State Information Policy, Hungary - Interministerial Committee on Reform, Slovakia - Government Office, Poland - Government). The experts noted significant progress achieved in all V4 countries in the utilization of IT in public administration, although the development is not fully comparable in all respects due to different policies applied in the past. The meeting focused on the financing of public administration computerization projects, the questions of basic registers (namely the register of inhabitants), transfer of certain functions from the police to civil authorities, production and distribution of basic personal documents such as identity cards, passports, driving licences.

Working Group No. 3 - Preparation and training of public servants and local self-government staff - met in Warsaw from 28 to 29 February 2000. The agenda included questions relating to competent and trained public servants, the need for continuous training of public servants, the status of local self-government staff.

All expert group meetings issued joint communiqués summarizing the conclusions and outlining further possibilities and areas for cooperation. Expert group proposals for future cooperation were submitted and recommended for adoption at the meeting of Secretaries of State/Deputy Ministers of the Interior of the V4 countries held in Prague from 12 to 13 April 2000.

The Ministers of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Austria met on 15 October.

The Ministers appreciated the work of the expert groups established for combating corruption, car thefts, sport event's violence, nuclear arms and material trafficking and agreed to create an additional expert group for action against computer crime. They also agreed to explore possibilities for setting up joint posts at the borders on the basis of bilateral agreements. The responsibilities of such posts would include readmission of foreigners, coordination of border guards, joint operations involving specific thorough checks, and the addressing of any other problems that may arise in the border area. The Ministers paid special attention to the harmonization of visa policies with EU standards. They agreed on the importance of cooperation and exchange of information on legislation, regulations and other measures adopted in connection with EU entry.

The Ministers of Justice met informally from 5 to 6 November 1999.

Ministers of Justice have expressed their full support and they will create the conditions for further development of the mutual cooperation in area for law; for this purpose they have exchanged the informative materials accepted in their countries with the aim to strengthening the independence of the judiciary.

Ministers of Justice consider, having in mind the historical experience, as the most appropriate to use the natural law as the ideological ground of the prepared Charter of Fundamental Rights. Ministers of Justice have accepted the proposal of the Minister of Justice for the Slovak Republic to initiate in cooperation with the Council of Europe the common Slovak-Czech-Hungarian-Polish seminar in Trenčianske Teplice on the implementation of the Recommendation No. R(93)1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council for Europe an effective access to the law and justice for the very poor.

2.4 Transport and communications

The State secretaries for transport of the V4 countries met in Bratislava on 14 October 1999. The key issues discussed were the development of transport corridors connecting Northern and Southern Europe and the cooperation in the field of transport related to European and North-Atlantic integration. The four officials expressed their willingness to have further consultations in year 2000, possibly on the level of ministers.

Cooperation between the Czech Post, Hungarian Post, Polish Post and Slovak Post
Closer cooperation between the four Posts has been developing since the beginning of 1993. Originally, cooperation began to develop in this field after the proclamation of independence of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic when there was a need to agree transitional measures to introduce a normal regime of international relations between the two countries in this area. Later on, the Polish Republic and the Republic of Hungary also joined in. Cooperation has been developing through consultations of representatives of the four countries' posts, twice a year as a rule, and focuses on the following fields:

- increasing the quality of postal services between the participating countries in order to achieve EU standards. Bilateral agreements on the quality of mail services concluded between the four posts form the basis for achieving this aim. Special bilateral quality tests are made to provide information on the real levels achieved;
- introduction of new products on both national and international scale, particularly within the exchange of experience;
- coordination of activities in relation to the Association of European Mail Operators PostEurop.

2.5 Culture, science and education

The dominating V4 activity in the field of culture, science and education in the "Visegrad Year" were preparations for the establishment of the International Visegrad Fund. Other events included meetings of representatives of the Ministries of Culture, Academies of Sciences and a Theatre Festival.

International Visegrad Fund

In the document entitled "Contents of Visegrad Cooperation", adopted in Bratislava on 14 May 1999, the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries undertook to "take steps aimed at the establishment of a fund to finance activities in the field of education, culture and sports". An Agreement on the Establishment of the International Visegrad Fund will be signed at the summit of the V4 Prime Ministers on 9 June 2000.

The main purpose of the International Visegrad Fund will be above all to promote and develop cultural cooperation, exchanges in the field of science, research, cooperation in education, youth exchanges and regional cooperation. The intention of the founders of the Fund is to promote activities outside the framework of projects funded by individual

Ministries. Preference will be given to projects involving the greatest number of member countries and contributing to greater awareness of the jointly shared Central European area. Thanks to the joint efforts of the V4 Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the first grants will be awarded in the second half of 2000. Immediately after the summit of the Prime Ministers, the Fund Secretariat will start gathering and processing grant applications. The V4 Governments are already now examining joint projects that will be eligible for grants from the Fund and informing potential applicants of this opportunity.

An International Theatre Festival was held from 8 to 9 October 1999.

It was the 10th theatre festival held under the title "Na hranici" held alternatively in Eeský Tišín, Czech Republic, and in Cieszyn, Poland. In 1999, the festival was for the first time attended by all four V4 member countries which sent 19 ensembles to take part. The festival was organized by the civic society "_lov_k na hranici" in Eeský Tišín, The Theatre in Eeský Tišín, Dom Narodowy Cieszyn, "Stoelnice" Eeský Tišín and Stowarzyszenie Solidarnosc Polsko - Czesko - Slowacka, odzial Regionalny Cieszyn. The festival was held under the honorary patronage of the Council of Europe Secretary-General and the V4 Ministers of Culture.

The V4 Ministries of Culture have set up a system of cooperation, agreed regular meetings four times a year held in their countries by rotation.

In this "Visegrad Year", the meetings discussed above all the Visegrad Fund, funding in the field of culture, promotion of joint projects taking into account the objectives of the European Community related to Euroregions and economic aspects of the protection of cultural heritage.

A communique from The meeting of the Ministers of Culture in Krakow (February 15 - 18, 2000) noted such issues as is the commercialization of culture, problems of European integration and of cultural policy and funding of cinematography. The agenda of the meeting focused further on the following subjects: 1. Model of funding cultural institutions; 2. Sponsoring of artists; 3. Economic aspects of protection of cultural heritage.

Delegations of Academies of Sciences from the V4 countries met in Bratislava on 22 March 2000

The participants in the meeting agreed to set up a Central European academic forum to meet once or twice a year and to discuss topical issues in the field of science. The forum will hold its first meeting in Budapest in October 2000 to discuss brain drain issues. The forum is

expected to welcome also participants from Slovenia and Austria. The Bratislava meeting further dealt with the significance of science as an integrating factor, the coordination of activities of the Academies of Sciences in various fields, including publication of journals, status of the Academies of Sciences and their cooperation with universities, implementation of projects of the 5th EU Framework Programme and reflections on priorities of the future 6th Framework Programme.

2.6 Environment

In 1999, the Visegrad Group paid intensified attention to environmental issues. Cooperation in the field of environment became one of the key issues of the Visegrad Cooperation. The first meeting of the V4 Ministers for the Environment held in Banská Štiavnica, Slovak Republic, from 7 to 8 May 1999. Ministers discussed concrete forms of further cooperation in the context of efforts of the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Republic of Poland and Republic of Hungary in speeding up the process of their entry into the European Union. This meeting restarted the process of intensification of contacts between the four countries. A joint statement adopted at the conclusion of the Banská Štiavnica talks specified the most important fields of cooperation. These include the solution of environmental issues related to the transboundary environmental impact assessment, transboundary air pollution, transboundary waste management, contamination of surface and subsoil water resources, overall regional development and landscape policy and ecosystems. The Ministers also agreed on cooperation in environmental education and awareness as well as in promoting the exchange of information on the basis of harmonized environment information systems in keeping with international standards and close cooperation in implementing international programmes aimed at reducing risks of climate change. The Ministers further encouraged the integration of environmental factors, including all basic issues, in all sectoral policies, in particular those concerning economy. The second meeting of the Ministers for the Environment of the V4 countries took place in Český Krumlov from 8 to 9 October 1999.

The meeting focused on four specific areas:

Climate change - The V4 countries will regularly exchange information on the preparation of their delegations for the 5th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change with a view to coordinating their positions. They will try to move forward the negotiations concerning compliance with the ultimate objectives of Article

3 of the Kyoto Protocol. They will cooperate in the formulation of national strategies on climate change issues as one of the priorities of their respective countries in the field of the environment. The Environment Ministries of the V4 countries will support AIJ/JI projects for GHG emission reductions under Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol as the most effective tool of the Kyoto mechanism. They will cooperate in formulating national rules for the development and assessment of such projects, in line with the envisaged international rules. In negotiations on GHG trading, the V4 countries will bear in mind the high degree of inaccuracy in their GHG emission projections for the period 2008-2012. They will also intensify cooperation in the field of science and research, education and public awareness. In order to contribute to the international negotiations on cooperation with developing countries and on possible incentives for their increased commitment, the V4 countries will seek options enabling the developing countries to commit themselves to GHG stabilization or reduction on a voluntary basis. These commitments should be based on economic factors. The V4 countries will intensify cooperation in the field of climate change research. A very effective tool for increasing the efficiency of such cooperation are the national climate programmes supported by the 13th Congress of the World Meteorological Organization.

Accession to the European Union - The Ministers agreed, inter alia, that their countries will exchange information on the formulation of financial strategies and their successes and failures. The Ministers also agreed that their countries should, whenever possible, file joint applications for funding from different international sources. The primary tools for integrating environmental issues into other sectors are the National Environmental Policies adopted in all V4 countries, and the strategic environmental impact assessment enabling the evaluation of economic and development policies from the perspective of environmental impact. The V4 governments have adopted strategies for informing the general public about the implications of EU membership. The Ministers agreed that the environment will be among the crucial concerns in this process and are prepared to cooperate and exchange experience in this respect. The Ministers are aware that all candidates for accession to the EU, and namely the V4 countries, are faced with similar problems in the accession process. The current relatively good information exchange should be further improved e.g. within the AC-Impel framework or through expert meetings on specific topics. The Ministers support more extensive exchange of experience among all candidate countries. The Ministers would welcome an opportunity to take part in the process of formulation EU environment policies already before their entry into the EU. For this reason, they call upon the EU to involve the candidate countries in the preparation of the 6th Action Programme on the Environment.

The Ministers also agreed to strengthen the cooperation between the Cleaner Industrial Production Centres in their respective countries and to regularly exchange information and experience concerning the transposition and implementation of the IPPC directive (integrated pollution prevention and control) in individual V4 countries.

Sustainable development - The Ministers are aware of the urgent need to work for more friendly attitudes of the general public to the environment; the urgency is due to the impacts of globalization on the environment as well as to the growth of the world population and its needs. A factor of overriding importance is the involvement of the entrepreneurial sector which at present plays a crucial role in environmental protection. The Environment Ministries of V4 countries will work together to identify and address priority problems, incorporate them in the National Environmental Policies and to intensify the activities promoting the change of consumption and production patterns. Cooperation in this field will focus on Ecolabelling, namely exchange of information in the context of accession to the EU. Another area of concern are the environmental management and audit schemes (EMAS) which should, inter alia, improve the competitive potential of producers from the V4 countries.

The process of environmental impact assessment - With regard to the fact that most bilateral agreements on environmental protection concluded between the V4 countries do not consistently and sufficiently emphasize cooperation in the field of EIA, the Ministers agreed to work together for the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). The Ministers appreciate the ratification of the Espoo Convention by Poland (12 June 1997) and Hungary (11 July 1997). Slovakia signed the Espoo Convention on 28 May 1993 and the proposed ratification was approved by the Slovak Parliament on 30 September 1999. The Czech Republic succeeded into the signature of the Espoo Convention on 30 September 1993. The ratification proposal is presently going through the Government and Parliament and the whole process should be completed in the first half of 2000. The above facts indicate that in the year 2000, all V4 countries will be Parties to the Espoo Convention. The Ministers are aware of the need to conclude bilateral agreements. Agreements on EIA cooperation in a transboundary context will comply with the provisions of Article 8 of the Espoo Convention concerning further enhancement of cooperation between neighbouring countries. To this end, the Ministers intend to set up bilateral working groups of neighbouring countries for the formulation of agreements in the field of international EIA. In the context of implementation of these agreements, the V4 countries will exchange information and experience.

The meeting in Český Krumlov was concluded by the signature of a joint statement based on the results of the expert negotiations, containing four joint statements including proposals for future cooperation between the V4 countries in the field of the environment. The meeting in Český Krumlov was held on the occasion of the 25th international festival of films and videos on the environment - EKOFILM. The Ministers attended the events organized during the festival and the closing ceremony.

The third meeting of the Ministers for the Environment of the V4 countries took place in Budapest from 11 to 12 May 2000. The meeting focused on four specific areas:

- preparation for EU accession
- prevention and mitigation of climate change
- nature conservation
- environmental aspects of privatisation

First officials of the state geological surveys of the V4 countries met for the first time in Visegrad from 10 to 12 January 2000. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed, aiming to promote the joint actions of the V4 countries in geology and geophysics, to set up a V4 forum of this expertise along the European Union admission procedure, and to define this agency-level forum as a prescribed organisation of geosciences in the Visegrad Co-operative procedures. The meeting and the Memorandum talked about few regional co-operative actions, for example: working out joint meta-databases of the region using the EU standards; transboundary and transregional data exchange, joint map compiling, regional modelling; and harmonised activity in paneuropean scientific projects. The Memorandum prescribes harmonised steps in EU admission, for example, V4 countries will jointly apply for membership of the EuroGeoSurveys, and they inform each other on FP5 project proposals.

3. Conclusion

The primary task set for the first year after Bratislava summit was to prepare for signature the Agreement on the Establishment of the Visegrad Fund to support activities in the fields of science, education, culture and sport. The task has been completed successfully, opening new avenues for cooperation and closer contacts between the citizens of the V4 countries.

A major political task has been to assist Slovakia in catching up with the integration processes. Again, the Visegrad cooperation is bearing fruit. Over the past year, Slovakia has made remarkable progress in its integration efforts and actively contributed to V4 activities.

The Visegrad Group is today well known in member countries and carries weight far beyond their borders. The "V4 format " joint positions presented on many occasions by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia are accepted and respected by international fora. The Group's significance is further underlined by the interest of other countries who seek to participate in its activities. Although the Visegrad Group decided in Bratislava not to admit any new members, it is interested in seeking suitable forms of cooperation leading to an expansion of the zone of stability and mutually beneficial cooperation. And this, together with the need to develop V4 activities at the regional level, is the challenge for the upcoming year after Prague summit.

The report on the "Visegrad Year" 1999/2000 (period from Bratislava Prime Ministers summit in May 1999 to Prague Prime Ministers summit in June 2000) was drafted by the Central European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The Ministry was responsible for the coordination of the Visegrad cooperation in the year under review.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.2

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP (KRAKOW, 1 JUNE 2001) - HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY (2001-2002)

The Annual Report covering the Visegrad Group's activities in the period since the summit meeting of Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic held on 9 June 2000 in Prague was prepared by the Polish presidency. It is the second annual report on Visegrad co-operation following that published a year ago under the Czech presidency.

Over the twelve months under review contacts and co-operation among the member countries of the Visegrad Group have been developing very well in all dimensions and at all levels. This happened along the guidelines and within the **political framework** for co-operation established by the Heads of Government at the 1999 and 2000 summit meetings.

The year under the Polish Visegrad presidency was marked by intensive contacts and debates at high political level. **Prime Ministers** Jerzy Buzek, Mikulas Dzurinda, Viktor Orban and Milos Zeman met in this period several times in different settings to discuss European and regional issues remaining in the focus of the Group. Since the Prague summit they have met in October in Warsaw with the British Prime Minister, in the same month in Karlovy Vary in the Visegrad Group format, and twice in December in Bratislava with Prime Ministers of Slovenia and the Netherlands. The Heads of Government of the European Union member countries supported the objectives and efforts of the Visegrad countries undertaken with regard to an early EU accession.

Presidents Vaclav Havel, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Ferenc Madl and Rudolf Schuster commemorated in January in the Polish town of Pszczyna the 10th anniversary of the Visegrad Declaration of 15 February 1991 marking the start of co-operation by the four nations meant to strengthen the integration processes in Europe. The Heads of State issued a joint declaration referring to the priorities of the Visegrad Group after a decade of transition in Europe.

Political **objectives** of the co-operation focused over the past year on promotion of the Visegrad countries' readiness for and contribution to European and Euroatlantic integration. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia worked together and assisted each other

in preparations for European Union membership. The Visegrad member states of NATO supported the Slovak Republic's efforts with regard to her membership in the Alliance. In the external dimension Visegrad states expressed their openness towards and preparedness to develop co-operation with third countries in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe. The image of the Visegrad area as of one characterized by political and economic stability was attempted to be reinforced through several forms of state-level, regional and trans-frontier co-operation reaching a number of local communities and several civil society segments.

The **means** of Visegrad co-operation over the last year encompassed manifold intergovernmental, parliamentary and NGO level contacts. In addition to high-level meetings, they included expert consultations on European security and integration, regional issues and policy planning. In October 2000 a meeting of directors from the ministries of foreign affairs of the Visegrad countries responsible for non-European countries took place in Warsaw. In April 2001 the Visegrad Co-ordinators of the foreign ministries met in Warsaw and the European correspondents gathered in Prague.

Exchange of information and co-operation projects covered several dimensions reaching from justice and home affairs to culture, science and education. Diplomatic and consular representatives of the Visegrad countries in third countries met and held consultations regularly. Ministries of foreign affairs and representatives of the four states to international organizations like OSCE, Council of Europe, United Nations met to consult and to elaborate common views and positions on political issues, including on European security affairs, whereas most of the EU statements and declarations were supported. Joint statements were issued by the foreign ministries of Visegrad countries on issues like the detention of Czech nationals in Cuba and the escalation of violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The **priorities** for Visegrad co-operation among competent ministries and institutions over the past year reflected primarily the need to get prepared for membership in the European Union. Thus, the common interest focused, inter alia, on so called third pillar issues, Schengen agreement requirements, organized crime prevention, transport infrastructure and border crossings, economic and environmental issues. The complementary dimensions of cultural co-operation, research and education, sports and youth exchange as well as local

government and NGO networking have been strengthened significantly by the establishment of the International Visegrad Fund in June 2000.

At the informal meeting of Prime Ministers in Karlovy Vary in October 2000 discussions on EU enlargement scenarios took place. The “big-bang” concept was criticized as contradicting the individual approach towards candidate countries, and emphasis was put on Visegrad solidarity in the negotiation process. The Heads of Government informed each other about accession strategies of their countries in light of the expected Nice summit of the EU. They also have reached agreement on developing certain **areas** of Visegrad co-operation. It was considered to establish new forms of co-operation in military industry (equipment modernization) and military training (Poland offered air force facilities). Upon Czech initiative ministers of transportation were requested to examine plans for improving transport infrastructure, and Hungary offered to companies from Visegrad countries easier access to road construction projects. Slovakia informed about the adoption by government of a strategy towards application of the Schengen regime which was supported by the other countries. Respective institutions were instructed to increase joint efforts in combating organized crime in the Visegrad area. Regional gas and oil supply strategies were discussed.

As mentioned above the Visegrad Group remains open for partnership relations and co-operation with **external partners**. The Visegrad countries welcomed the interest of Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Ukraine, and most recently Austria in co-operation on different projects of common sense and good prospects in the context of EU enlargement. The Visegrad Group supports different forms of regional co-operation and good-neighbourly partnership as a helpful means in the process of European integration. Therefore, also the suggestion of the Prime Minister of Belgium regarding the examination of opportunities for co-operation between Visegrad and Benelux was taken up with interest. One more example of this kind of approach towards European integration was the proposal made at the December Netherlands–Visegrad Prime Ministers’ meeting by Mr. Buzek to consider the elaboration by the Visegrad four, the Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom and Sweden of a joint economic development programme until 2010. This initiative has been developed under the heading of “knowledge-based economy”.

Upon Polish initiative consultations were held in Warsaw in autumn 2000 between the Visegrad and Ukrainian foreign ministries on policy planning, and between Visegrad and

Slovenia on South-Eastern European issues. The Swedish presidency of the European Union invited the Visegrad countries in March 2001 to consultations at the foreign ministry in Stockholm on the EU's Strategy for Ukraine. The meeting was followed by another one in Brussels. Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs met in April to discuss European integration and Visegrad co-operation issues and held jointly consultations on European security affairs at the State Department in Washington, D.C. Consultations of chief negotiators with the EU were held regularly in different formats.

In the **parliamentary dimension** meetings of the Chairpersons of the Committees for Foreign Affairs, Defence and European Integration of the national parliaments take place regularly. The 6th and most recent was held in Warsaw in December 2000. The parliamentarians discussed and welcomed the EU Nice Summit decisions and called upon the North Atlantic Council to issue invitations, not later than at the Prague NATO summit in 2002, to Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania and any other candidate country meeting the membership criteria.

At the October 2000 meeting of the Visegrad and Austrian Ministers of **Interior** in Papernicka (Slovakia) discussions focused on new mechanisms for co-operation in combating organized crime, information exchange on judicial reforms, forms of legal assistance to citizens, and the European Charter of Basic Rights. The Visegrad Group's Ministers of **Justice** met, too, in November in Poland (Szczyrk) to discuss their co-operation on EU's third pillar issues.

Over the last year co-operation among border police, consular departments and ministries of interior of the Visegrad Group was developed, including on matters related to the requirements of the Schengen regime.

In October 2000 (in Prague) and April 2001 (in Warsaw) two major conferences were held in the format of Visegrad and Romania upon invitations of Deputy Prime Ministers, with participation of departments of justice and interior at ministerial level and representatives of international organizations, devoted to human rights and national minorities' protection in legal and administrative terms.

The Visegrad Group developed **economic** links and co-operation among the member states and with third countries. It remained to be the stimulating core of the Central European Free Trade Agreement. The only barrier in the turnover of industrial products within CEFTA continued to be the quality certification. Methods of further liberalization of agricultural trade were discussed and gradually agreed within the CEFTA framework with a view to comply with EU standards.

In October 2000 the 4th meeting of Ministers of the **Environment** of the Visegrad countries took place in Warsaw with the participation of Sweden that put environment on the top of its EU presidency's agenda. In May 2001 the 5th ministerial meeting was held in the Slovak Republic. Environmental protection continued to remain in the forefront of Visegrad co-operation also because of its transboundary character and immediate mutual impact on the member countries, and the decline in this area over the past decades. Ministers agreed upon a joint position on intensified activities towards ensuring environmental safety, sustainable development and climate protection, based on exchange of experience on technologies at bilateral, European and global levels as well as on governmental support for environmental initiatives and programmes. In October 2000 another meeting of Directors of Geological Surveys of the Visegrad countries took place in Zdiar (Slovakia) and a common Letter of interest signed on joining the EuroGeoSurveys organization.

Co-operation on **transportation** and communication issues focused over the past year on methods of liberalizing road transports, information exchange on infrastructure investment projects of transregional character (like TINA, European corridor no. 6, European Commission's concept of freeways). In October 2000 the 6th meeting of the Visegrad countries' General Directors of Railways took place in Budapest.

Transfrontier co-operation among the Visegrad four developed well over the last year. Several bilateral and multilateral euroregions gained strength and worked on new mechanisms of co-operation. Great attention was paid to the access and effective use of EU's financial assistance (including instruments like PHARE CBC, ISPA, SAPARD). In December 2000 a new agreement on local level co-operation was signed by representatives of the Czech district of Zdar nad Sazavou, the Hungarian district of Bukki Szlovak Telepulesek Szovetsege, the Polish district of Sanok, and the Slovak district of Vranov nad Toplou. The objectives of co-operation include economic development through cross-boundary goods

exchange, development of the sector of small and medium size enterprises, organization of trade fairs and exhibitions, cultural and educational activities, sports and tourism, exchange of experience in local self-government, modernization of roads, natural disaster rescue.

In October 2000 a meeting of Ministers of **Culture** of the Visegrad countries took place in Bratislava. The ministers decided to introduce the Visegrad Group to European cultural organizations as a consistent platform, starting with the submission to the Council of Cultural Co-operation in the Council of Europe (CDCC) of an address on the activities of the Visegrad Group. They agreed to present jointly the Visegrad Group in the area of culture in countries of the EU, making use of the existing projects and the network of cultural institutes of individual countries. Another meeting of the Ministers of Culture was held in the Czech Republic in May 2001 on the themes of media policy and cultural heritage.

Co-operation in the fields of **education** and science developed very well over the past twelve months, mostly through exchanges of scholars within the framework of the Central European Programme for University Studies. Bilateral governmental commissions for transfrontier co-operation assisted the exchange of primary and secondary school students in the Visegrad area. A number of expert meetings involving ministries for education took place.

Special priority is given by the Visegrad countries to the promotion of information on European integration among **young people** – the future leaders. Upon the initiative of the Prime Minister of Poland a number of high-school students including editors of local youth media participated in recent months in visits of the Head of Government to foreign countries, inter alia in the Visegrad format. In April 2001 a Visegrad conference was organized in Warsaw by academic youth under the auspices of the Foreign Ministers of the four countries. It is hoped that these initiatives may result in future in the creation of a Visegrad Youth Parliament.

The first year of the activities of the International **Visegrad Fund** established by the governments of the four countries with the aim of supporting closer co-operation, strengthening mutual ties and integrating them with the European Union proved this institution to be a successful one. Projects under implementation reached from EU enlargement and human rights seminars, over handicapped people sport games, youth leadership symposia and think-tanks co-operation, the establishment of agricultural webs and ecological networks, to journalism and literary evenings, concerts and theatre performances.

The interest of applicants from across the Visegrad region in IVF co-sponsorship of projects encouraged the governments to reconsider the amount of annual contributions to the fund (current budget of one million euro). Since its establishment in June 2000 the Czech Republic followed by Poland presided over the IVF's decision making-bodies well supported by the fund's Slovak Executive Director. As of 1 January the Slovak Republic took over the IVF chairmanship.

The Visegrad Group is a well-identifiable structure both in member countries and in the international environment. The interest of other countries who seek to participate in Visegrad activities seems to prove this statement. The underlying principle for the Visegrad co-operation is solidarity. The added value of Visegrad is bringing regional co-operation down to the civil society level. The Visegrad Group has become a symbol for successful political and economic transition in the central part of Europe. Judging upon the number of high-level meetings in the so called 4+1 format it is perceived by European Union member states as an important forum for discussion of the challenges of European integration. The voice of Visegrad is heard in Europe.

The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic pledge their readiness to continue and to deepen the Visegrad co-operation in recognition of the convergence of their strategic goals and common challenges ahead of them.

At the meeting of the Heads of Government of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic taking place in Cracow on 1 June 2001 Hungary takes over the presidency of the Visegrad Group for the year 2001/2002.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.3

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SLOVAK PRESIDENCY IN THE VISEGRAD GROUP (2002-2003)

The Slovak Republic, as the president country of the Visegrad Four group (July 2002-June 2003), intended to follow up its activities upon the previous results of this co-operation. The Slovak presidency programme of Visegrad co-operation consists of the pending activities, which begun during the previous presidency of V4 countries. The new activities proposed by all Visegrad countries was also elaborated to the Slovak presidency programme and continually implemented during the previous presidency year.

The Slovak Republic chaired the V4 in a very important period of the European integration. Results of the Copenhagen summit have given not only the V4 countries, but also all candidate countries the chance to become full-fledged members of the EU. Therefore, the entire work of the Visegrad Four countries during the presidency of the Slovak Republic was focused on fulfilment of the presidency priorities "Integration, Security and Prosperity". The program of the Slovak presidency emphasised especially the issue of the European integration as a main objective of V4 countries common efforts. During the Slovak presidency numerous activities within V4 framework took place.

POLITICAL COOPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Co-operation in the area of European integration

- V4 Presidents met in Častolovice on 22 August 2002.
- Meeting of experts to discuss the action program of the Slovak presidency. The meeting was held on 17 September 2002 in Bratislava.
- Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries running the International Visegrad Fund approved the creation of the Visegrad Scholarship Programme on 22 October 2002 in Prague. The programme will give an opportunity to scholars from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in the study branches covering the extension of Visegrad. The other option for the countries joined in the programme will be the possibility to offer scholarships to limited number of students for a study stay in the universities/institutes abroad.

- V4 contribution to the Working meeting of Representatives of Regional Mechanism in Strasbourg (Council of Europe) on 24-25 October 2002.
- Meeting of the V4 Chief Negotiators on November 11 2002, Brussels - discussion about co-ordination of joint advancement in the final phases of negotiation at the entry of the V4 countries to EU.
- Consultation of the Directors of the Analytical and Planning Departments of the V4 MFA's plus Israel on 26-27 November 2002, Bratislava.
- Meeting of the Prime Ministers during the 2nd anti-flood summit on 1 December 2002 in Budapest.
- Unofficial (autumn) Prime Ministers summit on 6-7 December 2002 in Slovakia (Červený Kameň, Smolenice). The Prime Ministers discussed the program of the Slovak presidency and issues related to the process of European integration. A discussion on perspectives of the Visegrad co-operation after the EU enlargement was initiated as well.
- Meeting of chairmen of the Committees for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security and European Integration of the Parliaments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia was held in Bratislava on 12 - 13 January 2003.
- Meeting of Speakers of the V4 countries Parliaments was held in Budapest on 13 January 2003.
- Experts from Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad countries on the level of General Directors held talks about the institutional reform of the EU on 31 January 2003 in Bratislava. As a follow-up to this discussion Slovakia tried to organise a working meeting of government representatives of the V4 in the European Convention in Brussels in March, but did not succeed and the meeting could not have been realised.
- Numerous informal meetings of the Visegrad countries representatives were held during plenary sessions of the European Convention in Brussels.
- Time co-ordination of the referenda on the EU accession was set up within the V4 countries.
- Discussion of the V4 National co-ordinators on the prospective of the Visegrad co-operation started (10 February Prague; 31 March Bratislava; 28 April Budapest; 20 May Warsaw). Their discussion reflected the fact of the V4 countries' accession into the EU.

- Seminar on the future of Visegrad co-operation after the EU enlargement, exchange of views among different experts and MFA representatives, 19 May Warsaw).

2. Developing co-operation of V4 with third countries and regional groupings.

- Slovakia organised a meeting of State Secretaries of the V4 countries and Ukraine on 8-9 July 2002 in Košice. The main subject of the discussion was the co-operation between the V4 and Ukraine in a wider context of European integration. The State Secretaries exchanged their views on co-operation in the format of V4 and Ukraine, on the Schengen border issues, including visa regime and cross-border co-operation.
- November 4 2002 Prague - meeting of the Directors General of the European Sections of the MFA's of the V4 and Benelux concerning the European Convention agenda (discussion about a structure of the future Constitutional Treaty of the EU, institutional reform of the EU and timing of next intergovernmental conference).
- During the negotiation process following meetings of the V4 Chief Negotiators with partners from decisive EU member states took place:
 - June 2002, Brussels - the 12th Accession Conference on the Deputy level
 - 29 July 2002, Brussels - the 13th Accession Conference on the Deputy level
 - 18 October 2002, Brussels - the 14th Accession Conference on the Deputy level
 - 4 November 2002, Brussels - the 1st Informal meeting of Chief Negotiators with the Danish Presidency
 - 11 November 2002, Brussels - the 2nd Informal meeting of Chief Negotiators with the Danish Presidency
 - 26 November 2002, Brussels - the 3rd Informal meeting of Chief Negotiators with the Danish Presidency
 - 10 December 2002, Brussels - the 4th Informal meeting of Chief Negotiators with the Danish Presidency.
- Co-operation of the V4 with Canada in the field of the development aid providing to third countries is proceeding gradually (implementation of the ODACE program /Official Development Assistance for Central Europe /with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA/).
 - Co-ordination meeting of the V4 MFA representatives in Ottawa, February 2003.
 - 2 nd session of the ODACE steering committee in Budapest, May 2003.
 - Preparation of development education strategy, (a Canadian consultant to Bratislava June 2003).

- Preparation of development aid communication strategy (a Canadian Consultant to Bratislava June 2003).
- Working visit of V4 parliamentary deputies and state representatives to Ottawa (June 2003).
- Regarding the endeavour to extend the co-operation dimension with the Nordic-Baltic countries, Slovakia initiated a dialogue with representatives of the Swedish MFA.
- One out of goals of the Slovak presidency was the intention to invite the British Prime Minister T. Blair to participate in a V4 summit during our presidency period. The idea stems from an initiative of Mr Blair himself, articulated during the official visit of the Prime Minister of Slovakia M. Dzurinda to the UK on 14 May 2002. Consecutively, a letter of invitation from Mr Dzurinda has been sent to Mr Blair. The British Prime Minister opted out due to some internal problems, as well as once again deteriorating situation in Northern Ireland.
- Realising the then harsh circumstances, the Slovak diplomacy eased its efforts. Despite the invitation still pending and bearing in mind the importance of the internal V4 harmony, Slovak Republic left off its active endeavour and awaited the further development. However, It would be delighted to welcome Mr Blair in Slovak Republic.

SECTORAL CO-OPERATION, ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

1. Market surveillance

- The responsible institutions will continue to develop the transformation preparation of the rapid exchange system of information on dangerous products on market in candidate countries under the financial support of the PHARE project SR0104.01. The implementation of the project should start in October 2003 (Transformation of TRAPEX to RAPEX system).
- The meeting of respective agencies was held on September 2002. Its main topic was the co-operation of non - governmental consumer organisations established for protection of consumers.
- During the Slovak presidency, also the process of harmonisation of international agreements and treaties of economic nature with the EU legal contractual bases has begun.

- The expert meeting concerning the market surveillance questions of V4 countries, Slovenia, Croatia and Bulgaria was held in High Tatras on 8 - 9 April 2003).

2. Economic issues

- During the years 2002 and 2003 meetings with Czech Republic (April 2003) and Poland were organised by the Slovak Republic, concerning expert consultations on V4 countries NDP's and their possible co-ordination according to individual Sector Operational Program (SOP) and Regional Operational Program (ROP).

3. Energy

- Points concerning the co-operation in the field of energy supply are gradually implemented by the relevant authorities of Visegrad countries:
 - expert consultation and eventual preparations for co-operation in the field of maintaining stocks of crude oil and petroleum products,
 - expert consultation about the possibility for co-ordinating energy policies,
 - exchange of information on the actual issues of the energy sector especially on experiences of the market opening process and on the implementation of the acquis communautaire in this field.

4. Tourism

- During the expert meeting held in Prague in March 2003, it was agreed that below - mentioned goals would be implemented step by step in the near future. The meeting in Prague was a follow-up meeting of the Budapest session, where a working group on this matters has been established.
- Working group will discuss:
- Specific forms of co-operation, the formulation of cross-border programs involving the regional organisations of the tourism branch.
- Possibilities for common TV broadcasting focusing on tourism related topics.
- Possibilities for increasing the number of existing web site links of the Visegrad countries.
- Promotion of the cross-border tourism co-operation with a special emphasis on Euroregions, involving the regional tourism organisations, and encountering the accessible financial funds.
- Co-operation to increase the tourism flow between the Visegrad countries, by organising study-tours, presentations, participating at fairs in the four countries.

- Co-operation to enhance the tourism flow from third, especially overseas-countries to the Visegrad countries, by elaborating joint tourism products, joint marketing plans, organising joint marketing activities in these markets.
- Promotion of the tourism co-operation through the media by producing joint television programs and using the World Wide Web.
- Setting up a working group to facilitate the co-operation between the Visegrad countries.
- Sharing of experience, knowledge on the tourism development in their countries and creating of common tourism products according to the possibilities.
- Organising the regular meetings to maintain the co-operation.

ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- The expert meeting on the management of EU pre-accession and structural funds took place on 28-29 November 2002 in Budapest. The discussion focused on mutual providing of information on progress of individual countries in the area of preparation for Structural Funds and Cohesion Funds after the accession of the V4 countries into the European Union. Information on implementation of the Phare, ISPA and Sapard programs and the progress of the EDIS system introduction were also points of discussion.
- The Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic informally cultivates the co-operation in the field of indirect taxes with experts of Ministries of Finance of the V4 countries. The main purpose of the co-operation is the approximation of law in the field of indirect taxes related to the V4 countries accession into the EU.
- The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic organised an expert meeting of representatives of National Funds from the V4 countries on April 2003.

DEFENSE ISSUES

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- Ministers of Defence met on 10 February 2003 in Tatranské Zruby.
- Besides the already originated areas of co-operation /co-operation in the field of peace-keeping operations, high-level meetings and expert consultations on bilateral, trilateral or quadrilateral basis/, within the framework of running consultation mechanisms, the co-operation will be extended into following areas:

- Co-operation in the field of defence industry.
- Co-ordination in the fields of military procurement and research and development (R+D).
- Harmonisation of activities related to current questions of military upgrading.
- The Hungarian side organised the first working meeting of experts of the V4 countries Ministries of Defence on 27 - 28 April 2003, Budapest. Resulting of the negotiations of the V4 ministers in Tatranské Zruby on 10 February 2003, and on the basis of suggestion submitted by the Slovak side, ministers agreed on active co-operation in the areas mentioned in the NATO Defence Capabilities Initiative (DCI).
- General Directors for the defence policy and international relations met in Bratislava on 30 January 2003 to discuss the content of negotiations of Ministers of Defence (10 February 2003), as well as topical issues of the security policy and PCC.
- The co-operation in the area of personal policy continues. On autumn 2002 the meeting of General Directors took place in Hungary.
- On 26 - 30 May 2003 17th. meeting of General Directors for human resources was held (Tatranské Zruby, Slovak Republic).
- During 2002 the negotiation of the heads of personal management staffs of V4 countries took place. This meeting was organised by the Slovak side in Tatranské Zruby with the aim to exchange information on personal issues regarding the reform of the armed forces in V4 countries.

CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- The 8th meeting of Ministers of Culture was held in Budapest on 5 and 6 September 2002.
- Consultations and exchange of skills have been held on the ongoing basis, fitting the current needs and preparation or adoption of new and/or amended legal regulations. During the assessed period, the Slovak Republic co-operated with other V4 countries, mainly in the field of cultural heritage protection and in the audio-visual field, even though activities were not concentrated on preparation of statutes directly, but particularly on the inclusion of monuments and historic sites into the UNESCO World Heritage List and on the initiation of certain standards aimed at the legal harmonisation with the European Union. The Ministers of Culture also discussed these issues at their meeting in Levoča in February 2003.

- The 9th. meeting of Ministers of Culture was held in Levoča on 6 and 7 February 2003. The main topic of discussion was the future and opportunities for further cultural co-operation between V4 countries after their accession to the EU.
- The information on the progress of organisational arrangements for the V4 folk festival in the Slovak Republic was discussed by experts at their meeting in December 2002, as well as in February 2003. Ministers of Culture also discussed this issue at their meeting. This year the Festival will be held during the Folk Festival in Východná from 4 to 6 July 2003.
- The establishment of the Visegrad Prize and further steps were discussed on the 9th. meeting of Ministers of Culture in Levoča, where among other things the following was agreed:
- The Czech Republic will prepare a draft awarding statute for the Visegrad Prize, The Slovak Republic will prepare a proposal of formal aspects of the Prize - title of the Prize, its shape (plaquette, statuette, etc.) and its artistic design, after the commentary of other V4 countries the statute should be submitted for approval at the autumn meeting in the Czech Republic and in 2004 the Visegrad Prize should be awarded for the first time (in case that the proposal would be approved by all Prime Ministers of single countries).
- Expert meeting on joint PR projects in the EU countries (proposal of Poland).

EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

A. EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- There is an ongoing consultation between Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and relevant municipal authorities in Čadca about the future development of the education at the bilingual grammar school in Čadca. The amendments of the bilateral treaty regulating the exchange of students should be passed.
- The Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad countries established the Visegrad scholarship programme took place on 22 October 2002. The Visegrad scholarship programme started from the academic year 2003/2004.
- During the presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Visegrad Four, a strong support for co-operation of V4 universities within the running exchange program CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies) was provided by all Ministries of Education.

- The Democracy Support Research Institute in the Czech Republic organised the conference on "Systems of Education in Visegrad countries" on 29 April 2003.

B. CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- The informal meeting of Ministers of Education, Science and Technology of the V4 countries and Slovenia was held in Telč, Czech Republic on 14 - 15 November 2002.
- Expert consultations about the possible expansion of bilateral co-operation programs among the V4 countries and Slovenia were also realised in the second half of 2002.

C. CO-OPERATION IN THE AREA OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND DRUGS ISSUES

1. Youth

- Within the initiative "European children", the meeting of children of Visegrad countries was held in Visegrad, Hungary (April, 2003)

2. Sports

- The meeting of relevant representatives of V4 countries, focusing on the co-operation of young athletes of the Visegrad countries concerning the Competition of Olympic Hopes, was held in Warsaw on 24-26 November 2002.
- During the conference of the European National Paralympic Committee in September 2002, the Visegrad countries agreed to organise V4 countries' common sports events.
- In terms of the co-operation agreement between the Paralympic Committees of the V4 countries, the first Visegrad swimming contest took place in Brno on 25-27 October 2002, within the non-governmental organisations co-operation.

3. Drugs

- The National Visegrad co-ordinators of V4 countries and Slovenia negotiated with the representatives of the UNDCP in Warsaw on 10-11 July 2002.

CO-OPERATION IN HOME AFFAIRS

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

- During the presidency of the Slovak Republic the Ministries of Interior started activities within the framework of the expert working panels focusing on education, management and information systems in public administration. Following issues have

been touched during several meetings of the three working groups (as agreed and updated at the regular meetings of Interior Ministries' State Secretaries):

- In the Expert Group No. 1 - the issues regarding controlling and monitoring of self-government structures, the assessment of the process of decentralisation of public administration, modernisation of public administration with regard to the EU accession, competencies of municipalities. Last meeting was held in Warsaw, 14 -16 May 2003.
- In the Expert Group No. 2 - the issues regarding the register of population and the identity documents, including the work on new standards of the identity documents/multifunctional identity documents in the EU countries and their use in the services of e-Government standards, the standards of managing the state registers and state record systems which playing a key role in public administration. Last meeting was held in Warsaw, 14-16 May 2003.
- In the Expert Group No. 3 - the legal status of the public administration staff, the legal status of the self-government staff, training and education of the public administration staff concerning the duties resulting of the EU integration, measures taken by the governments of the Visegrad countries aimed at the development of a corruption-free operation of the public sector and public service as well as opportunities for developing the ethic system of public service.
- The last regular meeting of the Ministry of Interior State Secretaries from the V4 countries, responsible for the public administration section was held in Warsaw (21-22 November 2002). The agenda of the meeting was focused on evaluation of previous activities of the expert groups and setting out the matters of further co-operation in this field. (The next meeting of State Secretaries is planned for the 4th quarter 2003 in Bratislava.)
- Heads of Disaster Management and Civil Protection of the Visegrad countries, Austria, Slovenia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands met on 24-25 April 2003 in Bratislava at the meeting organised under the auspices of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic with the goal to enhance the co-operation on regional level in the field of protection of civilian population against the use of chemical, biological and radiological weapons.
- Meeting of the Directors of Border Polices of the V4 countries and Austria was organised by the Czech Republic, on October 2-4, 2002. Main topic: asylum procedure abuse as an impulse of illegal migration.

- The expert meeting on practical and concrete questions of co-operation between V4 and Ukraine in the area of illegal migration and asylum was organised in the Slovak Republic on 18-19 July 2002.
- The Working group on Combating Smuggling of Weapons and Nuclear Materials met in Bratislava on 25. September 2002.
- The Working group on Combating Bribery and a Working group on Fight Against Trafficking People met in Vienna on 24 September 2003.
- The Working group of the V4 Countries and Austria for Combating Extremism and Xenophobia met twice on 25 September 2002 and 25-26 February 2003 (Co-ordinator: Czech Republic).
- The Ministers of Interior of Austria, the Visegrad countries and Slovenia met on the occasion of the Salzburg Forum, organised by the Ministry of Interior of Austria in July 2002.
- The second meeting of Heads of the Police Forces from the Visegrad countries and Austria was held in Bratislava (15 November 2002, the first meeting was held also in Bratislava on March 2002).
- Heads of the Police Forces from the Visegrad countries and the Kingdom of the Netherlands met in Hague on April 9-11, 2003. The representatives discussed issues related to their closer co-operation within the framework of the EU Police Chiefs Task Force.

CO-OPERATION IN JUSTICE AFFAIRS

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- The meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the V4 group countries took place in Szirak (Hungary) on 19-21 November 2002. The Ministers of Justice spoke about effective measures intended to fight against terrorism, about the legal framework of the probation in domestic laws and about the position of experts in civil and criminal proceedings.

CO-OPERATION IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthening the co-operation on expert level has been ensured on an ongoing basis during the meetings with partner countries, sharing cross-border experiences at the

same time. That refers mainly to the initial meeting regarding the preparation for taking over the INTERREG Initiative by the Slovak Republic (cross-border partners: Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Ukraine).

- Based on the recent negotiations with Hungary and other V4 countries concerning the Structural Funds, particularly INTERREG, all touched countries expressed their support of common pursuing of interests, the Hungarian side came up with an suggestion of a meeting of the V-4 and Slovenia representatives on mutual information exchange and co-ordinated approach.
- In connection to the upcoming EU accession of the V4 countries, meeting of partners for particular cross-border programmes are organised. Upon recommendation of the European Commission ("EC") Managing and Paying Units shall be established as follows:

SR/PL - Managing and Paying Unit PL

SR/A - Managing and Paying Unit A

SR/HU/UA - Managing and Paying Unit HU

SR/CR- Managing and Paying Unit SR.

- Ministry of Economy of Poland and regional centres of relevant Polish "vojvodiny" have been added to the list of partner organisations, drafted in 2002, covering the V4 countries (CR - Centre for Regional Development, Czech Republic, Ministry for Local Development, Czech Republic; MR - Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hungarian Republic, Office of the Government of the Hungarian Republic).
- All of the Task Forces were established in April 2003 for every single case of the cross-border co-operation within the Community Initiative INTERREG, where the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the SR ("MO CARD SR") is responsible for the direction III A (INTERREG III A).
- The Management Division of INTERREG III A within the Agency for Regional Development Support, being a part of the Ministry of construction and regional development of the Slovak Republic, has been authorised to co-ordinate all activities concerning that co-operation by the means of relevant self-government counties in Slovakia and regional development agencies above all in terms of program documents preparation in the context of receiving of Structural Funds resources for this initiative. In the meantime first meetings of Task Force were held for all bilateral cross-border co-operations of the V4 countries.

- V4 countries co-operation in the field of regional development continues according to the schedule planned within the framework of the catching - up - Programme PHARE CBC/INTERREG.

CO-OPERATION IN TRANSPORT:

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, POST OFFICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- The meeting of Ministers of Transport of the V-4 Countries was held in Bratislava on April 3 2003.
- The meeting of the transport experts with the aim to facilitate forwarding of trains involved in combined transports was held during the meeting of Ministers of Transport in Bratislava on April 3. 2003. All 4 parties commended the work of the group on the elaboration of a joint declaration, since the aim is to equalise the conditions for road and rail transport, so that they become equivalent kinds of transportation with connection to the north-south axis.
- Co-operation at the border-crossing points, exchange of information on using EU funds and on implementation of *acquis communautaire* is continually provided through the expert meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

- The 8th meeting of the Visegrad Group Environment Ministers was held in the Polish city of Gdansk on October 2002. The Ministers of Environment discussed about the current environmental issues focusing on the conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, about the preparation of the 5th Environment for Europe Conference of the Ministers of Environment, prevention of floods, implementation of the NATURA 2000 ecological network, international biospheric reserves including the cross-border co-operation and flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. The Czech Republic's initiative in organising a summer school for the Visegrad Group countries orientated towards the official development assistance has been appreciated as well.
- The Republic of Hungary organised a meeting of the V4 experts on exchange of information on financing the ISPA environmental projects under the EU pre-accession assistance on November 2002.

- The Slovak Ministry of Environment organised already the 9th meeting of this kind. The 9th meeting of the Environment Ministers in Košice (April 2003) was held with respect to the preparation of the 5th Pan-European ministerial conference. The Ministers exchanged information on the national activities related to this conference known as the Environment for Europe Conference and they welcomed the accomplishment of negotiations on three protocols to the environmental conventions. The draft of the new Framework Convention on Sustainable Development of the Carpathians is ready for signature; this Convention directly concerns all the V4 countries. Its adoption will result in setting the conditions for a joint enforcement of the integrated management of the environment creation and protection, as well as rational exploitation of resources in accordance with the sustainable development principles. The ministers agreed to develop a closer co-operation in the future and to exchange experiences in integrating economic, social and environmental aspects into the policy of relevant ministries in order to achieve a sustainable development and to protect the biological diversity. Moreover, they emphasised the importance of a continual endeavour in the ecological network maps aimed at establishing a pan-European ecological network. On behalf of the V4 countries the Slovak Minister of Environment will communicate a statement on this matter at the Kiev ministerial conference.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

- The meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the V-4 countries was held in Budapest on 24. April 2003.

1. Veterinary field

- The meeting of the negotiation group members called in upon the expertise in the veterinary field was held on October 11, 2002 in Svidník (animals' health, food safety and food control, animal protection, laboratory diagnostics, border veterinary stations for purposes of experience exchange in the field of transposition and implementation of EU veterinary standards into the national legislation, main problems, solving proposals).
- The meeting of heads of the state veterinary and food administrations of the V4 countries was held on October 11, 2002 in Svidník.

- During the presidency of Slovak Republic continual work on co-operation widening within the Carpathian region and its veterinary subcommittee was performed. The co-operation focused on the field of mutual information on development of epidemiological situation in the area of individual V4 countries, mutual co-operation in implementation of emergency veterinary measures, mutual co-operation in settlement of crisis situations in the border regions.

2. Food industry

- There is an ongoing co-operation in the field of identification methods for food falsification and authenticity.

3. Economy/policy

- There is permanent co-operation in the field of agrarian and food policy, comparison of the research results in the field of agrarian market and its EU integration problems, exchange of scientific-technological information in the field of agrarian policy tools.
- The relevant authorities were encouraged by the Slovak side to exchange information (commodity situation and view reports, green report, etc.), which should help to improve the information level on situation in agricultural resort of V4 countries.

HEALTH ISSUES

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- The meeting of the Ministers of Health of V4 + Ministers of Health of Austria, Slovenia and Ukraine has not been yet organised.

FAMILY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

COORDINATOR: MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND FAMILY

- During the presidency of the Slovak Republic, the testing pilot project of co-operation of the EU-EURES system within V4 sector of employment was realised. The main purpose of the project is the EURES system implementation in the border - crossing districts of the Slovak -, and Czech Republic, and the Republic of Poland.
- The programme management unit at the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic prepared the programme documentation EGUAL, of which the first version will be introduced in the end of June 2003.
- Slovak presidency monitored the enduring interest of relevant authorities of the V-4 countries in establishing of working groups in order to open consultations on the

unification of the methodology of the EU and V4 countries' in the social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

CONCLUSION

The Visegrad Group, with the trademark of the "V4" symbol, is a well-known structure in the enlarging Europe, as well as in the entire international community. During the last year accomplishment of the fundamental objectives of the Visegrad co-operation was met. Therefore, new principles and mechanisms of co-operation were due to imply into the Visegrad four countries collaboration in the close future. Nowadays Visegrad four is facing new challenges and opportunities in joined Europe. Visegrad countries welcomed the results of referenda concerning the will of citizens of mentioned countries to join the European Union. We hope that the historical national assets of the V4 countries and previous experience of mutual co-operation will be a significant contribution to our future in the common European home. Moreover, all Visegrad countries welcome the beginning of a discussion on the options for Visegrad co-operation in the enlarged Europe. In general, the majority of the planned co-operation activities were completed under the last presidency period of the Slovak Republic. It is fruitful to mention herein important of them, especially in the priorities "Integration" and "Security". In the priority "Integration", Visegrad Four achieved:

- common agreement on time co-ordination of the referenda on the EU accession,
- creation of Visegrad Scholarship Programme,
- common will to discuss about the future of V4 in enlarged European Union.

In the priority "Security", Visegrad Four achieved:

- support for the NATO membership of Slovak Republic before the NATO summit in Prague,
- development of defence industrial co-operation and in the field of internal security, the continual discussion of relevant authorities on the issues concerning implementation of regulation of European Union in the Home and Justice Affairs. Therefore, the member countries declared their full contentment with the chairmanship of the Slovak Republic and its work during the last period.

Finally, at the summit of the Heads of Governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic, to be organised in Tale, Low Tatras on June 24th. - 25th. 2003, the Czech Republic takes over the presidency of the Visegrad Group for the year 2003/2004.

PŘÍLOHA Č.4

CONTENTS OD VISEGRAD COOPERATION APPROVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUMMIT BRATISLAVA, 14TH MAY, 1999

I. Substantive elements of the co-operation

Foreign affairs.

1. **Towards the maintaining of the Visegrád regional profile ("image - PR"):**
consultations and issuing, as and when the need arises, of joint statements on issues of common interest, regular meetings of V4 ambassadors.

2. **Regular meetings and consultations of experts (on bi-, tri-, or quadrilateral basis):**
 - exchange of information on long-term strategies and concepts of foreign, security and defence policy, exchange of views on the stability and security of the Central and Eastern European region,
 - exchange of information and consultation on particular regional crises,
 - transfer of experience on the preparation for NATO membership and on the NATO accession process, possible areas and forms of co-operation to support Slovakia's ambitions for accession,
 - developing further the co-operation within the framework of EAPC and PfP. A problem complex to be given special emphasis is the role of PfP in the development of regional co-operation,
 - transfer of experience on the theme of the communication strategy and methods relating to NATO and EU (PR aimed at the public at large),
 - transfer, on a mutual basis, of experience on EU integration (exchange of experience and information on positions in preparing for accession negotiations and implementation of acquis, consultations on securing of the Pre-accession funds /SAPARD, ISPA, etc./).

Internal affairs.

3. **Co-operation in border and immigration affairs in the context of EU accession:**
consultations on Schengen agreement related issues.

4. **Harmonisation in combating illegal migration, illicit drugs transport and distribution, weapon smuggling, organised crime and terrorism:**

exchange of views in process of preparation of legislation in this area.

Education, culture, society, youth and sport.

5. The possibility of joint fund raising for and co-operation in:

A. Cultural programs:

- Central European arts projects: transfrontier festivals, performances and joint exhibitions by young artists, operating creative camps, support for journalism focusing on Central European themes,
- creating a list of existing national events, open for participation from other V4 member countries,
- co-operation in the field of education of diplomats and civil servants, with a perspective of creating a joint educational facility (e. g. a diplomatic academy)
- foundation of a Visegrád Prize to honour personages and all institutions who have made serious efforts to promote co-operation between the states of the Central-Eastern European region,
- the problems of human rights and co-operation with NGOs
- cultural heritage, protection of historic buildings and sites,
- offering scholarships and awarding prizes for competition essays dealing with Central Europe,
- creation of a common Visegrád home page in Internet,
- steps towards launching a foundation of a common TV program related to Visegrád issues in national TV stations,
- steps towards creating a joint fund for financing joint activities in the field of education, culture and sport.

B. Sporting and youth contacts:

- supporting youth contacts, especially among schools and settlements,
- exchange programmes for sports experts,
- supporting the participation of handicapped athletes in exchange camps, conferences, joint championship

Science, technology.

6. Promoting scientific-technological contacts, transfer of experience and preparing joint projects for participation in the EU's 5th Research and Technological Development Framework Programme and with a view to implementing regional co-operation.

Environment.

7. Opportunities for co-operation in the field of environmental protection and risks:

- exchange of information about long-term strategies and projects for sustainable development and other environment related issues,
- safety issues concerning nuclear energy,
- questions related to boundary waters and flood prevention,
- co-ordination in construction of equipment for waste recycling,
- creation of a system for monitoring and exchange of information on transfrontier movement of waste,
- co-operation in preparing and creation of protected landscape in regions near the common borders,

Infrastructure.

8. Opportunities for the alignment of infrastructure developments, telecommunications, transport, and power generation systems:

- exchange of information on long-term infrastructure strategies and projects
- co-operation in the TINA (Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment) task force, which devotes itself to appraising the transport development demands and funding needs of the Central and Eastern European countries,
- discussions on and co-operation in diversification of energy supplies
- to co-operate on common projects to develop trans-European network.

Cross-border co-operation.

9. Stimulating cross-border co-operation schemes.

Themes of the experts' consultations:

- use of Pre-Accession Funds, information and recommendations for joint participation in the EU programmes,
- participation in and creation of horizontal community programmes,
- use of PHARE projects in the case of cross-border programmes, exchange of experience, drafting of joint studies.

II. The Structure of the Visegrad Intergovernmental co-operation

Prime Ministers' meetings with a coordinating chairmanship on a rotating basis (in the order Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia), mandate for one year.
Frequency: once a year an official meeting in the chairing country, once a year an unofficial meeting (the first one in October 1999 in Slovakia)

Main topics: state of co-operation, EU accession talks, strategic questions of Central Europe

Meetings of other Government members

Venue and frequency: as and when the need arises

Main topics: particular questions in charge of corresponding ministries

Meetings of State Secretaries of Foreign Affairs

Frequency: twice a year

Main topics: preparation of prime ministers' meetings, working out draft recommendations for the tactic and strategy to be pursued in the co-operation

Ambassadors' meetings - format 4x3 + authorities of the hosting country, rotating venue

Frequency: regular, in the chairing country at least 4 times a year

Main topics: discussion on state of Visegrád co-operation

Meetings of Visegrád Co-ordinators

Frequency: twice a year, as and when the need arises, alternately in the four countries

Main topics: reviewing and co-ordinating the co-operation, preparation of the state secretaries' and prime ministers' meetings

It is foreseen that the Visegrád co-operation will not develop only between the governments, but also other forms of co-operation will be encouraged, such as the meetings of the heads of state, the regular communication between the parliaments, the intensive contacts between „intermediary bodies,, of civil society, etc.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.5

DECLARATION ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY STRIVING FOR EUROPE (VISEGRAD DECLARATION 1991)

The meeting, in Bratislava, of presidents, prime ministers, ministers of foreign affairs and members of parliaments of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Hungary began a process of creating foundations and new forms of political, economic and cultural cooperation of these countries in the altered situation in the Central Europe.

The similarity of the situation that has evolved over the past decades has determined for these three countries convergent basic objectives:

- full restitution of state independence, democracy and freedom,
- elimination of all existing social, economic and spiritual aspects of the totalitarian system,
- construction of a parliamentary democracy, a modern State of Law, respect for human rights and freedoms,
- creation of a modern free market economy,
- full involvement in the European political and economic system, as well as the system of security and legislation.

The identity of objectives, as well as similarity of ways of achieving them in many fields poses identical tasks before the three neighboring countries. Coordination of the efforts - with respect for national peculiarities - increases the chances of attaining the desired goals and brings closer the realization of their objectives.

A favorable basis for intensive development of cooperation is ensured by the similar character of the significant changes occurring in these countries, their traditional, historically shaped system of mutual contacts, cultural and spiritual heritage and common roots of religious traditions. The diverse and rich cultures of these nations also embody the fundamental values of the achievements of European thought. The mutual spiritual, cultural

and economic influences exerted over a long period of time, resulting from the fact of proximity, could support cooperation based on natural historical development.

The cooperation of nations and civil communities of the three countries is essential for joint creation of conditions that will contribute in each of the countries to the development of a democratic social system based on respect for the fundamental human rights and freedoms, liberty of economic undertakings, rule of law, tolerance, spiritual and cultural traditions and respect for moral values.

Simultaneously, the signatories of the Declaration respect the right of all other nations to express their own identity. They emphasize that national, ethnic, religious and language minorities, in accordance with traditional European values and in harmony with internationally recognized documents on human rights, must be able to enjoy all rights in political, social, economic and cultural life, not excluding education.

In unified Europe, to which the three countries wish to actively contribute, it is possible to maintain culture and national character while fully realizing the universal system of human values. A systematic fulfillment of the idea of civil society is the key question to the spiritual and material development of Central European region and an indispensable condition for establishing of a mutually beneficial cooperation with developed countries and European institutions. Drawing on universal human values as the most important element of the European heritage and own national identities should serve as the basis for developing a society of people cooperating with each other in a harmonious way, tolerant to each other, to individual families, local, regional and national communities, free of hatred, nationalism, xenophobia, and local strife.

It is the conviction of the states-signatories that in the light of the political, economic and social challenges ahead of them, and their efforts for renewal based on principles of democracy, their cooperation is a significant step on the way to general European integration.

The signatories of the Declaration shall jointly undertake the following practical steps:

- in accordance with the interests of the particular countries they shall harmonize their activities to shape cooperation and close contacts with European institutions and shall hold regular consultations on the matters of their security,

- they shall endeavor to create free contacts between citizens, institutions, churches and social organizations,
- in order to support free flow of labor force and capital, they shall develop economic cooperation, based on the principles of the free market, and mutually beneficial trade in goods and services, moreover they shall strive to create favorable conditions for direct cooperation of enterprises and foreign capital investments, aimed at improving economic effectiveness,
- they shall focus on the development of the infrastructure in communications, with regard both to links between the three countries and those with other parts of Europe, mainly in the north-south direction, and shall coordinate the development of their power systems and telecommunication networks,
- they shall increase cooperation in the field of ecology,
- they shall create favorable conditions for free flow of information, press and cultural values,
- they shall jointly develop multilateral cooperation to ensure optimum conditions for full realization of the rights of national minorities living on the territories of their countries,
- they shall support mutually beneficial cooperation of interested local self-governments of their countries and establishment of sub-regional contacts.

The signatories of the Declaration state that their cooperation in no way will interfere with or restrict their relations with other countries, and that it will not be directed against the interests of any other party.

The cooperation of the signatories will be realized through meetings and consultations held at various levels and in various forms.

Done in Visegrad on February 15th, 1991 in three identical originals in the Polish, Czech and Hungarian languages, equally valid.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č. 6

DECLARATION OF PRIME MINISTERS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY, THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND AND THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC ON COOPERATION OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES AFTER THEIR ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION – 12 MAY 2004

The Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic, assembled on 12 May 2004 in Kroměříž, state with full satisfaction that the key objectives set in the 1991 Visegrád Declaration have been achieved and declare their determination to continue developing the cooperation of the Visegrád Group countries as Member States of the European Union and NATO. The Visegrád Group countries regard their accession to the European Union and NATO as a significant step towards the reunification of Europe and as a historic milestone on the path of their democratic transformation, integration efforts and mutual cooperation. The integration of the Visegrád Group countries into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures opens up new opportunities and poses new challenges for their further cooperation on the issues of common interest.

The cooperation of the Visegrád Group countries will continue to focus on regional activities and initiatives aimed at strengthening the identity of the Central European region. In this context, their cooperation will be based on concrete projects and will maintain its flexible and open character. The Visegrád Group countries are strongly determined to jointly contributing to the fulfilment of the European Union's common goals and objectives and to the successful continuation of the European integration. They reiterate their commitment to the enlargement process of the European Union. They are ready to assist countries aspiring for EU membership by sharing and transmitting their knowledge and experience. The Visegrád Group countries are also ready to use their unique regional and historical experience and to contribute to shaping and implementing the European Union's policies towards the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

The Visegrád Group countries are committed to closely cooperating with their nearest partners in the Central European region. They are also ready to cooperate in specific areas of common interest with countries within the wider region, with other regional groupings in

Europe as well as with third countries and international organizations. The Prime Ministers of the Visegrád Group countries express their deep conviction that further cooperation between their countries, rooted in centuries of interlinked history and based on similar political, economic and social developments in the past decades, will enrich the community of European nations and contribute to the building of a reunited, democratic and prosperous Europe.

H.E. Mr. Vladimír Špidla
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

H.E. Mr. Péter Medgyessy
Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary

H.E. Mr. Marek Belka
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

H.E. Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda
Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.7

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENTS OF STATES OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP PSZCZYNA, POLAND, JANUARY 19, 2001

We, the Presidents of the Czech Republic, the Republic Of Hungary, the Republic Of Poland, the Slovak Republic, met in Pszczyna, Poland, on 19 January 2001, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the adoption in Visegrad of the declaration on co-operation between the Central European nations that we represent. Not only has this document retained its validity but has even extended it, in the face of changes sweeping the uniting Europe of today.

We give a positive assessment of the ten years' achievements of the Visegrad co-operation. We pledge our readiness to continue and to deepen this cooperation. With great satisfaction we take note of the progress made last year in this area. We warmly welcome the intensified dialogue on the level of Prime ministers, Ministers from various departments, and chief negotiators who are responsible for the accession talks of our countries with the European Union. What we consider particularly valuable and beneficial is the strengthening of contacts in the field of culture, education, science, youth exchanges and cross-border co-operation, whose progress will be increasingly assisted by the International Visegrad Fund established in the previous year.

We regard the accession of our four countries to the European Union as a matter of utmost priority. A swift entry to the EU, based on favourable and equitable conditions, will be more than a way to fulfil our national aspirations: It will also help to generate more momentum in the process of unification of Europe. Close Visegrad co-operation on the EU issues, whose significance is growing in the course of our pre-accession, will retain its worthiness also after this strategic goal has been achieved.

The time span from the entry of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to the North Atlantic Alliance has proven the rightfulness of the decision about the NATO enlargement. We unanimously advocate the alliance's continued "open door" policy, which contributes to the strengthening of security and stability in Central and Eastern Europe. We express our hope that Slovakia will soon become a NATO member. At the same time, the Visegrad states confirm their unfailing support to the development of the common European security and defence policy, while also retaining lasting transatlantic bonds, beneficial to the whole

continent. We welcome the decision of the north atlantic council of 15 December 2000 to organize the next NATO summit in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic.

Given that the strategic goals of the Visegrad states are convergent, and the ways chosen to attain them are also similar, we see a number of common challenges ahead of us. The answer to these challenges should allow the citizens of our states to enjoy more economic freedom, higher standards of living and improved internal and external security. The dynamically developing Central Europe becomes a part and parcel of the globalisation process, which afford new opportunities to all our fellow citizens, and in particular to young generations, who will shape our common destiny in the new century.

The success of the Visegrad co-operation, originating in our break-away from the totalitarian system in Central Europe, is founded on the solid ground of observation of democratic rules, market economy, rule of law, and on respect for human and minority rights and civil freedoms. This provides a model for many other states from central and eastern Europe. We pledge our readiness and willingness to develop broad contacts between the Visegrad Group that we represent, and other states and subregional groupings. This will contribute to the building of good-neighbourly relations between nations, will help to overcome divisions from the past which linger on the continent, and will pave the way to a secure, stable and prospering Europe.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č. 8

DEKLARACE O SPOLUPRÁCI ČESKÉ A SLOVENSKÉ FEDERATIVNÍ REPUBLIKY, POLSKÉ REPUBLIKY A MAĎARSKÉ REPUBLIKY NA CESTĚ EVROPSKÉ INTEGRACE (VISEGRÁDSKÁ DEKLARACE)

Bratislavské setkání prezidentů, předsedů vlád, ministrů zahraničních věcí a poslanců České a Slovenské Federativní republiky, Polské republiky a Maďarské republiky zahájilo vytváření nového základu a forem politické, ekonomické a kulturní spolupráce ve změněné situaci ve střední Evropě.

Podobnost vývoje situací v uplynulých desetiletích stimuluje tyto tři země k dosažení dohodnutých stěžejních cílů:

- v plném smyslu obnovení státní suverenity, demokracie a svobody;
- likvidace všech existujících společenských, ekonomických a hodnotových pozůstatků totalitního systému;
- vybudování parlamentní demokracie, moderního právního státu, dodržování lidských práv a základních svobod;
- vytvoření moderního tržního hospodářství;
- plné zapojení do evropského politického, hospodářského, bezpečnostního a právního systému.

Totožnost cílů a podobnost cest k jejich dosažení staví tyto tři země v mnohých oblastech před shodné úkoly. Koordinace jejich úsilí – při dodržování národních zvláštností – zvyšuje šance k dosažení žádoucích výsledků a přibližuje realizaci jejich cílů.

Základem intenzivního rozvoje spolupráce tří zemí jsou velmi významné a podobné změny, které v nich probíhají, systém tradičních vztahů vytvořený historickým vývojem, kulturní a duchovní dědictví a společné kořeny náboženských tradic. Ve všestranné, bohaté kultuře zde žijících národů je obsaženo základní bohatství evropského duchovního života. Dlouhodobé vzájemné duchovní, kulturní a ekonomické ovlivňování, založené na přirozené dějinné evoluci a vyplývající z našeho sousedství, může napomáhat této spolupráci.

Spolupráce společenství národů a občanů tří zemí je nezbytnou podmínkou společného rozvoje, která v každé z těchto zemí umožní výstavbu všestranně demokratického, společenského řádu, založeného na základních lidských svobodách, svobodě podnikání, na

právní svrchovanosti, toleranci, duchovních a kulturních tradicích a respektování morálních hodnot.

Signatáři deklarace respektují právo všech jiných národů na současné vyjádření jejich svébytnosti. Zdůrazňují, že národnostní, etnické, náboženské a jazykové menšiny musí mít možnost využívat, v souladu s tradičními evropskými hodnotami a mezinárodními dokumenty o lidských právech, všechna práva v oblasti politického, sociálního, hospodářského a kulturního života, včetně oblasti vzdělávání.

Ve sjednocené Evropě, na jejímž vytváření se chtějí všechny tři země aktivně podílet, je možné zachování národní kultury a národních zvláštností při současném rozvoji a uplatňování všeobecné lidské hierarchie hodnot. Klíčovou otázkou duchovního a materiálního rozvoje středoevropského regionu a neodmyslitelným předpokladem vytvoření vzájemně výhodné spolupráce s vyspělými evropskými zeměmi a integračními seskupeními, je důsledné uplatňování ideálů občanské společnosti. Vycházejíce z nejdůležitějšího prvku evropského dědictví – z univerzálních lidských hodnot a opírajíce se o vlastní národní identitu, je potřebné vytvořit lidské společenství vzájemně harmonicky spolupracující, tolerantní k jednotlivcům, rodinným, místním, regionálním a národnostním komunitám, které není zatíženo nenávistí, xenofobií a spory se sousedy.

Signatáři deklarace jsou přesvědčeni, že ve světle před nimi stojících politických, ekonomických a sociálních potřeb a úsilí zaměřeného na obnovu uskutečňovanou na demokratickém základě, je jejich spolupráce důležitým krokem na cestě směřující k celoevropské integraci.

Signatáři deklarace vyjadřují společnou vůli k níže uvedeným praktickým krokům:

- sladit na základě zájmu jednotlivých zemí úsilí sloužící k vytvoření spolupráce a pevných vazeb s evropskými institucemi, a provádět konzultace o otázkách týkajících se jejich bezpečnosti;
- usilovat o vytváření nerušených vztahů mezi jejich občany, institucemi, církvemi i společenskými organizacemi.
- rozvíjet hospodářskou spolupráci na tržním základě ve prospěch volného pohybu kapitálu a pracovních sil, vzájemně výhodný obchod se zbožím a službami, dále

usilovat o to, aby byly vytvořeny příznivé podmínky pro přímou spolupráci mezi podniky a pro zahraniční kapitálové investice sloužící růstu hospodářské efektivity;

- věnovat mimořádnou pozornost rozvoji dopravní infrastruktury spojující je navzájem i s jinými částmi Evropy, zvláště ve směru Sever-Jih, a dále sladit jejich energetické systémy, jakož i rozvoj telekomunikačních sítí;
- rozšířit spolupráci v oblasti ekologie;
- vytvořit odpovídající podmínky pro nerušenou výměnu informací, tiskovin, kulturních statků a hodnot;
- formovat společným úsilím mnohostrannou spolupráci v zájmu vytváření optimálních podmínek pro plné zajištění práv národnostních menšin žijících na jejich území;
- přispívat ke vzájemně výhodné spolupráci zainteresovaných územních samosprávných orgánů a k vytváření subregionálních kontaktů.

Signatáři deklarace prohlašují, že jejich spolupráce nebudou žádným způsobem narušovat nebo omezovat jejich vztahy s jinými státy a nebude namířena proti zájmům ostatních zemí.

Spolupráce signatářů bude uskutečňována prostřednictvím setkání a konzultací na různých úrovních a různými formami.

Dáno ve Visegrádu dne 15. února 1991 ve třech původních vyhotoveních, všechna v jazyce českém, polském a maďarském, přičemž všechna znění mají stejnou platnost.

.....
prezident ČSFR	prezident Polské republiky	prezident Maďarské republiky

PŘÍLOHA Č.9

GUIDELINES OF THE FUTURE AREAS OF VISEGRAD COOPERATION – 12 MAY 2004

Having in mind the common interest of all participating countries presented in the Declaration in Kroměříž on 12 May 2004, future cooperation will be developed particularly in the following areas:

Co-operation within the V4 area

- Culture,
- Education, youth exchange, science,
- Continuation of the strengthening of the civic dimension of the Visegrad co-operation within the International Visegrad Fund and its structures,
- Cross-border co-operation,
- Infrastructure,
- Environment,
- Fight against terrorism, organised crime and illegal migration,
- Schengen co-operation,
- Disaster management,
- Exchange of views on possible co-operation in the field of labour and social policy,
- Exchange of experiences on foreign development assistance policy,
- Defence and arms industries.

Co-operation within the EU

- Consultations and co-operation on current issues of common interest,
- Active contribution to the development of the CFSP, including the "Wider Europe - New Neighbourhood" policy and the EU strategy towards Western Balkans,
- Consultations, co-operation and exchange of experience in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, Schengen co-operation, including protection and management of the EU external borders, visa policy,
- Creating new possibilities and forms of economic co-operation within the European Economic Area,
- Consultations on national preparations for joining the EMU,

- Active participation in the development of the ESDP, as a contribution to the strengthening of relations between the EU and NATO and deepening of substantive dialogue between both organisations.

Co-operation with other partners

- Co-operation with interested Central European countries,
- Co-operation with EU and NATO candidate and aspiring countries in support of reforms essential for their European and Euroatlantic perspective,
- Collaboration in effective implementation of programmes of co-operation of these countries with the EU and NATO,
- Co-operation with other regional structures,
- Collaboration with other interested countries and organisations.

Co-operation within NATO and other international organisations

- Consultations and co-operation in the framework of NATO and on its defence capabilities,
- Commitment to strengthening of transatlantic solidarity and cohesion,
- Co-operation on the basis of the V4 experience to promote a common understanding of security among the countries aspiring to European and Euroatlantic institutions,
- Enhanced co-operation within the international community in the fields of new security challenges, with a special emphasis on combating international terrorism,
- Consultation and co-operation within the OSCE on issues of common concern for V4 countries; possible joint initiatives,
- Consultation, co-operation and exchange of information in international organisations (UN, Council of Europe, OECD, etc.); consideration of possible joint initiatives,
- Possible mutual support of candidacies in international organisations and bodies.

Mechanisms of co-operation

- Governmental co-operation:
 - Rotating one-year presidency, each chairmanship prepares its own presidency programme Deputy foreign ministers meetings preceding the PM official summits,
 - Meetings of other ministers in V4 and V4+ format,
 - Intensified communication of V4 national co-ordinators and their key role in internal and inter-state co-ordination,

- Consultation ensuring, among others, continuity of a long-term V4 co-operation,
 - One official Prime Ministers summit a year at the end of each presidency,
 - Occasional informal meetings of Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers before international events,
 - and co-operation of Permanent Representations to the EU and NATO in Brussels, as well as in all relevant fora (OSCE, UN, CoE, OECD, WTO, etc.),
 - International Visegrad Fund and its structures.
-
- Meetings of Presidents of V4 countries,
 - Co-operation of Parliaments of V4 countries.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č. 10

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF DEFENCE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY, THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND PRZEMYSŁ, ON NOVEMBER 4, 1999

1. Guided by the common understanding voiced on October 15, 1999 by the Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic on the co-operation among the Visegrad countries, the Ministers of Defence of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Slovak republic and the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Poland met in Przemyśl on November 4, 1999, to discuss issues related to regional security, defence co-operation within the wider framework of the Visegrad Initiative, and the process of Euro-Atlantic integration
2. The Ministers reaffirmed their further commitment to the efforts of the international community to resolve the crises of the Balkans. They underlined the full support their respective countries lend to the peace process and discussed their experiences of participation in the multinational military missions of SFOR and KFOR.
3. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction over the promising progress of the enhanced Partnership for Peace programme and the process of implementing Membership Action Plan after the Washington NATO Summit. The Ministers of Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland confirmed their readiness to assist Slovakia in her efforts aimed at the integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and committed themselves to further co-operation in general and in functional areas listed in the Membership Action Plan in particular.

Done in Przemyśl, on November 4, 1999

Vladímr Vetchý, Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic

János Szabó, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Hungary

Pavol Kanis, Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic

Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Poland

PŘÍLOHA Č. 11

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING OF PRIME MINISTERS OF THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES, BRATISLAVA, MAY 14, 1999

1. We, the Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic, welcome the opportunity of meeting in Bratislava in order to revitalise the co-operation of the Visegrad Countries in full historical dimension. We are pleased that the group will be able to act in its full capacity.

2. Taking into consideration the proximity of our States and the similarity of experiences from the process of political, economic and social development, the participants of the meeting recognise the need for closer co-operation of the Visegrad Countries and confirm their interest and readiness to participate in developing good neighbourly relations in the region of Central Europe.

3. We strongly condemn the deliberate policy of oppression, ethnic cleansing and violence pursued by Yugoslav military, police and paramilitary forces against the civilian population in Kosovo. We call upon the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to comply with all conditions set forth by NATO and other international organisations and countries to ensure a verifiable stop to all military actions and the immediate end of all forms of violence. We sympathise with all people afflicted by the Kosovo crisis and will undertake all necessary efforts to put an end to the conflict, secure lasting peace and stability in the South-East Europe and will promote democracy, human rights, freedoms and the rule of law.

4. We welcome the progress of Visegrad Countries towards full integration with the Euro-Atlantic and European structures. We are satisfied with the results of the NATO Summit in Washington, the reaffirmation of the Alliance's open door policy and the inclusion of Slovakia into the group of candidate countries. We reaffirm that it is in the interest of all Visegrad partners and the region as a whole that Slovakia became full member of NATO and started accession negotiations with the European Union as soon as possible. The transfer of expertise is of crucial importance for all partners. Visegrad states will share their experiences from the process of accession into NATO and integration with the European Union, as well as those related to informing the public about accession.

5. We are determined to deepen the co-operation in the area of preparation for meeting the EU criteria in the field of justice and home affairs, with the emphasis on the fight against illegal migration, trafficking of people, illicit drugs and weapons as well as combating international crime and terrorism. The development of cross-border co-operation on the local, regional and intergovernmental level is an effective way of strengthening our mutual relations. It is desirable to intensify the utilisation of the relevant existing and future EU programmes and funds.

6. The building of solidarity and integrity of the region should be facilitated by various activities aimed at enhancing day-to-day contacts among the citizens of Visegrad countries. We assign great significance to the activities of non-governmental organisations and shall encourage their co-operation.

7. The considerable revival of Visegrad Group should be strengthened by the annual meetings of Prime Ministers, members of Government, state secretaries of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and co-ordinators of the Visegrad co-operation. We assume that the subsequent meetings will be hosted by the partners on a rotating principle. It is with satisfaction that we accept the invitation to meet in Prague next year.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.12

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTERS OF THE VISEGRAD COUNTRIES PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, JUNE 9, 2000

1. We, the Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic have met in Prague to review Visegrad cooperation in the period since our last meeting in Bratislava and to define the further prospects of cooperation within the Visegrad Group.

2. We are pleased to state that cooperation between our four countries developed over the past Visegrad Year in an effective way in many fields and at various levels. The framework for our cooperation is provided by the Programme Document approved by the Bratislava Summit in 1999. The regular meetings of V4 representatives at various levels testify to the viability of the Visegrad Group proving to be beneficial for its members.

3. We welcome the signing of the Agreement Concerning the Establishment of the International Visegrad Fund regarding it as a crucial step towards realizing a very significant joint project to promote the development of cooperation of the Visegrad Group in the field of culture, science and research, education, youth contacts, cross-border cooperation and sports.

4. We are committed to further strengthening cooperative relations between our countries by drawing from, and building upon the experience with other regional cooperation frameworks operating successfully in other regions of Europe. Our aim is to promote regional integration, cohesion and solidarity in Central Europe, as a part of the broader European and transatlantic structures.

5. We note with satisfaction the interest of other countries, in particular Slovenia, in developing good relations and close cooperation with the Visegrad Group. Therefore we declare the readiness of the Visegrad Group to work together with other states in fields of common interest. We consider cooperation in concrete projects involving the widest possible spectrum of our common interests a particularly effective and prospective form of cooperation.

6. Enhancing public awareness of and greater civic involvement in the Visegrad cooperation remain among our future objectives. Cooperation at regional and local levels focused on intensified everyday contacts will therefore represent an important dimension of the V4 activities. In today's rapidly changing world it is important to develop and strengthen the Central European identity. Active involvement of representatives of local self-

governments and non-governmental organizations in programmes of Visegrad Cooperation could significantly promote these efforts.

7. We continue to attribute the utmost importance to the significant role played by the North-Atlantic Alliance in enhancing security in the Euro-Atlantic area. We believe that NATO membership of the three countries substantially contributes to the enhancement of security both in our region and beyond it. We are committed to maintaining NATO's open-door-policy, as an important tool of extending security and stability. In this context, Slovakia's future NATO membership is a common interest of the Visegrad Countries. Therefore they decided to continue to work together to achieve this objective.

8. We support the development of a more visible European role in the field of security and defence and are therefore ready to contribute to the European Security and Defence Policy developed by the European Union.

9. The common perspective of the Visegrad Group countries is their membership in the European Union. We share the view that it is of utmost importance to keep momentum of EU enlargement. We express our conviction that the increase in the number of the negotiating candidate countries should not lead to the slow down of the pace of negotiations. We declare our strong commitment to the common values providing the cohesive force of the European Union, and also express our firm conviction that the prospective adhesion of our countries to the EU will considerably reinforce this cohesion. We hope that the Visegrad Group will preserve its significance also after our entry into the Union.

10. We welcome the opening of accession negotiations between the European Union and Slovak Republic. This step further enhances the possibility of exchanging experience in the negotiation process both within the V4 Group and within other multilateral or bilateral contacts respecting the specific conditions and positions of individual V4 countries. One of the priorities of renewed Visegrad Cooperation, i.e. assistance to Slovakia in its integration efforts is thus being met. This situation opens new horizons for future Visegrad Cooperation.

11. We would welcome the adoption by the European Council at its Nice December session of the scenario of the further course of the accession negotiations that would also include the date of the completion of these negotiations with the most advanced candidate countries.

12. The Visegrad Countries express their interest in adopting the environmental standards of the EU as soon as possible and applying them efficiently with special regard to the preservation of their specific natural and environmental values. In order to enhance sustainable development we urge the integration of environmental perspectives into sectoral

strategies and the closer cooperation among the Visegrad Countries in the matter of preventing and treating cross-border pollution.

13. We welcome the progress the Slovak Republic has achieved in her effort to become a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and express the hope that the accession process will be completed in the near future. Visegrad Countries' Governments will continue to support the accession of the Slovak Republic to the OECD in June 2000.

14. The Visegrad Countries are ready to contribute to and be helpful in the implementation of EU strategies towards Russia and the Ukraine. In a meantime we express the hope that the results of the presidential election and the activities of the new government of the Russian Federation will give a fresh impetus to the process of reforms and democratization in the country, as well as enhancing relations with the countries of our region. We believe that this process will lead to a peaceful political solution to the Chechen conflict and will ensure the respect for human rights.

15. We underline the importance the international community attaches to the reconstruction of the Southeast-European region. It is of our vital interest to take further measures to build confidence, mutual understanding and to intensify efforts in order to strengthen regional security and stability. In this respect our countries will continue to contribute actively to ongoing peacekeeping operations in the region as well as to the implementation of the Stability Pact initiative. We are deeply disturbed by the intensification of the repressive actions of the regime on independent media, democratic opposition forces and civil society in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We reiterate firm support of our countries for the rightful struggle of the peoples of the FRY for democracy and freedom.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.13

JOINT STATEMENT SUMMIT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP, ESZTERGOM, 29 JUNE, 2002

1. The Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic met in Esztergom in order to review the results of the Visegrad cooperation, and to strengthen further its cohesion.

2. Enhancement and effectiveness of the cooperation among the V4 countries has been chosen as the main topic of this meeting. The Prime Ministers assessed the activity of the Hungarian Presidency and the activity of International Visegrad Fund, discussed the program of the Slovak Presidency, and exchanged views on the EU accession process, the foundation of Visegrad Prize, establishing Visegrad Scholarship Programme, and the role of the presidency of the Visegrad Group in general, on the preparations of NATO Summit in Prague, autumn 2002, especially in relation to the process of NATO enlargement.

3. The Prime Ministers reaffirm their commitment to the Visegrad Four co-operation. Time has come to consolidate the countries of Central Europe as lands of stability and prosperity. In the gate of the enlargement of the European Union and facing the second stage of the enlargement of NATO, the nations of the Visegrad Group attribute an increasing significance to their regional co-operation as well as to their joint action at international level.

4. The “Annual Report on the Activities of the Visegrad Group” summarizes the results, which were achieved by the four countries in different fields of co-operation during the Hungarian Presidency. The implementation of the Hungarian Presidency’s program contributed to developing and broadening the V4 cooperation. The Prime Ministers are committed to strengthen further the political, economic and cultural aspects of the co-operation at all levels. They lay a special emphasis on the cooperation of justice and home affairs and on the fight against terrorism. Such enhanced cooperation contributes to a large extent to the strengthening of the V4 cohesion, which would be beneficial in the process of the European integration. As an annex to the “Content of Visegrad Cooperation” the Prime Ministers approved the document defining the role of the Presidency of the Visegrad Group.

5. The Prime Ministers note with satisfaction that the development of the co-operation between the Visegrad Group and the Benelux countries is promising. They are convinced that their co-operation will give further contribution to the European construction.

6. The Prime Ministers attached great importance to the ongoing debate on the future of Europe, and confirmed their interest to actively contribute to the process, both during the forthcoming Convent and the next Intergovernmental Conference.

7. The Prime ministers reiterated their position concerning the determination of their countries to conclude accession negotiations by the end of 2002 with the objective of becoming Member States of the European Union by 1 January 2004.

8. The Prime Ministers look forward to the decision of the Prague Summit to invite further countries to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as well as to the continuation of the NATO enlargement process. The Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary express their full support for the efforts and membership aspiration of Slovakia as well as other aspirant countries. They expressed their appreciation for the progress made so far by the Slovak Republic in the integration process, and shared a joint position that Slovakia with a stable democracy and continuous commitment to Euro/Atlantic integration should be invited at the Prague summit.

9. The Prime Ministers initiate a Visegrad Group meeting at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in order to exchange views on relevant foreign policy issues such as the enlargement process of the European Union, and the development of cooperation between the Visegrad Group and third countries and other initiatives of regional cooperation.

10. The Prime Ministers express their common support to the idea of establishing a Visegrad Prize for outstanding cultural and scientific achievements, and call upon their Ministers of Culture to elaborate a proposal on the details of the matter.

11. The Prime Ministers exchanged views on cooperation between the Visegrad Group and third countries. They noted with satisfaction the progress of working out the framework of cooperation with Ukraine. They look forward to the finalisation of the Joint Initiative for

cooperation between the Visegrad Group countries, Ukraine and the European Union in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

12. The Prime Ministers highly appreciate the results of the work of the International Visegrad Fund. The great public interest in projects financed from the International Visegrad Fund proves the preparedness for cooperation in the Visegrad format also at levels other than the political one. The Prime Ministers fully support the idea of establishing a Visegrad Scholarship Programme and call upon their Ministers of Education to elaborate a proposal on the details of the matter. In this connection they also decided to increase annual contributions of each member country to the International Visegrad Fund by 20 per cent to EURO 600,000 as of the beginning of 2003.

13. The Prime Ministers expressed their support to the regional security projects and military cooperation. They took note of the progress in building the Joint Rapid Reaction Brigade developed by Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic.

14. The Prime Ministers welcome the cooperation at the level of Ministers of Environment and encourage the Ministers to broaden the scope of their cooperation. The Prime Ministers support the initiative of the Czech Republic to prepare a harmonized position of the Visegrad Group for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

15. Hungary handed over the V4 Presidency to the Slovak Republic. The next official meeting of the Prime Ministers will be held according to the program of the Slovak Presidency.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.14

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECH PRESIDENCY OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP (2003-2004)

This year's accession of the Czech Republic, Hungarian Republic, Polish Republic and Slovak Republic to the EU and NATO crowned with success their integration ambitions. It fulfilled for the great part the intentions that led in 1991 the highest representatives of the former Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland to sign the Visegrád Declaration, which bound these countries to cooperation in overcoming their common problems of the past.

The fulfilment of the intentions set out in the Visegrád Declaration put the participating countries before the question of how to go on. Since the discussions of the future of the Visegrád Group clearly showed that all its members had an interest in preserving cooperation, they proceeded to address the issue of the future direction of the Visegrád Group in the new conditions, influenced the first of all by their membership of the European Union.

The Czech Presidency therefore concentrated on defining new fields for cooperation and on reviewing the benefits of existing cooperation. "*Continuity*" and "*Future*" became two key concepts determining the character of the Czech Presidency. "*Continuity*" was seen as the intention to continue the use and development of the existing network of contacts as well as putting into practice concrete projects, both in the individual sectors of state administration and at the civic level. "*Future*" expressed the intent to finish the ongoing debate on the future form of Visegrád cooperation and to prepare a new Visegrád document defining new goals for the V4 within the European Union before the end of the Czech Presidency.

We succeeded in fulfilling both key mottos of our Presidency. Practical inter-ministerial activities continued in various areas, ranging from culture, education and youth exchange to the environment, internal security, transport and regional (cross-border) cooperation.

We also succeeded in promoting cooperation in the area designated by the Prime Minister Vladimír Špidla at last summit in Tále, Slovakia (24-25/06 2003), as one of the top priorities of the Czech Presidency - Schengen cooperation. The Ministries of the Interior set up several expert groups, which regularly discuss relevant issues and we expect their activities to continue under the forthcoming Polish Presidency.

The activities of the International Visegrád Fund in support of contacts between citizens of our countries were also successful. In autumn 2003 the first Visegrád scholarships to postgraduate students from V4 countries were granted and a programme for granting Visegrád scholarships to students from countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe was completed. The Fund began to adapt to the new conditions of functioning in the EU, and the process should be completed by the end of this year.

As regards the future, during the Czech Presidency, the V4 countries worked hard on the final phase of preparations for their accession to the EU and actively participated in discussions about the future of the EU. The period of the Czech Presidency was in this context fulfilled by a number of consultations and exchange of opinions on various levels. The discussion on the future of the V4 in the new conditions of membership of the Visegrád countries in NATO and in the EU was also successful. The outcome of this discussion is a new programme document, a new Visegrád Declaration, which was prepared for the official summit of the V4 Prime Ministers.

POLITICAL COOPERATION

- A number of important political meetings of executive and legislative bodies took place in the Visegrád format.
- Prime Ministers of the V4 countries defined at their last official summit in Tále in June 2003 as one of the main tasks of Visegrád cooperation for the forthcoming period an intensive exchange of opinions in the last phase of preparations for accession of the Visegrád countries to the European Union. This agenda became the main focus of a number of meetings, on the level of Prime Ministers, State Secretaries and relevant experts. Although a consensus was not always reached, these meetings contributed to an open exchange of opinions at important moments of negotiations with the European Union. Several consultative meetings took place also in the extended format V4+.

- Major events

19/09/2003	Prague	Meeting of the V4 State Secretaries
1/10/2003	Dobříš	Special summit of the V4 Prime Ministers
16/10/2003	Brussels	Meeting of State Secretaries of the V4 and Benelux
20/10/2003	London	Consultations of State Secretaries of the V4 and United

Kingdom

21/11/2003	Warsaw	Meeting of Prime Ministers of the V4 in the margin of the CEI summit
9/01/2004	Dublin	Meeting of heads of EU Sections of Foreign Ministries of the V4 countries
15-16/01/2004	Prague	Consultations of State Secretaries of the V4
8/03/2004	Koloděje	Special summit of Prime Ministers of the V4
25/03/2004	Brussels	Summit of Prime Ministers of the V4 and Benelux countries before the session of the European Council
28/04/2004	Prague	Meeting of heads of EU Sections of Foreign Ministries of the V4 countries.

- European topics were also on the agenda of traditional meetings of the presidents of the Visegrád countries. The presidents agreed in their more general discussions that if Visegrád cooperation is to preserve its importance, it must be supported by concrete projects of real importance to all the participating countries.

Major events

3/11/2003	Budapest	Summit of the V4 presidents
11-12/03/2004	Košice	Summit of the V4 presidents.

- Representatives of parliaments continued their regular meetings too. The meetings of parliament speakers and representatives of some parliamentary committees were dominated by the issue of accession of the Visegrád countries to the European Union.

Major events

9-10/10/2003	Prague	Meeting of chairmen of foreign, integration and security committees
1-2/01/2004	Bratislava	Meeting of chairmen of foreign and integration committees.

- Concerning other foreign policy questions, regular meetings of experts from Foreign Ministries continued under the Czech Presidency. Heads of analytical and planning departments discussed the future of regional cooperation in Central Europe, political directors possibilities of Visegrád cooperation in Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union (New Neighbourhood Policy).

- Informal consultations of representatives of V4 countries to OSCE also continued. Very intensive are contacts of experts on OECD questions. On the regular basis are by the experts of V4 countries discussed also consular matters, such as visa requirements.

Major events

16/01/2004	Bratislava	Meeting of directors of consular departments
22/01/2004	Štířín	Consultations of national Visegrád coordinators and directors of departments for analyses and planning
18/03/2004	Prague	Meeting of the OECD coordinators from the V4 countries
18/03/2004	Vienna	Consultations of CEI national coordinators from the V4 countries
28/04/2004	Luxembourg	Meeting of political directors on the issue of CFSP (in the margin of GAERC)

- The Visegrád countries are still interested in promoting cooperation with other regional groupings or countries that express their interest in this. During the discussions of the future of the V4 working contacts were established with the structures of the Nordic Council of Ministers and Benelux, from whom the Visegrád countries drew inspiration in questions concerning the functioning of regional cooperation within the European Union. An interesting discussion was developed about the possibilities of cooperation between the Visegrád countries and Japan. The Visegrád Group also welcomed the declared interest of the Ukraine in cooperation, but for the moment it has not yet achieved in relation to the Ukraine a practical level of cooperation.

Major events

10/12/2003	Copenhagen	Meeting of the national Visegrád coordinators with the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Per Unckel
23/01/2004	Prague	Meeting of the national Visegrád coordinators with the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Per Unckel
23/03/2004	Brussels	Meeting of the national Visegrád coordinators with the

Secretary General of Benelux, B.M.J. Hennekam

26/03/2004 Bratislava Meeting of the national Visegrád coordinators with a representative of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, A. Imamura

SECTORAL CO-OPERATION

- Apart from political meetings, the core of Visegrád cooperation currently consists in joint projects in the area of culture, the environment, internal security, defence, science and education. Cooperation is also being promoted in the area of justice, transport, tourism and energetics. These projects are carried out through inter-ministerial cooperation (meetings of ministers and ministerial experts) and also with support from the International Visegrád Fund.

Major events

27/06/2003	Krakow	Meeting of Ministers of Defence (another meeting of ministers is being prepared for 24.5.2004 at Komorní Hrádek)
11/09/2003	Prague	Meeting of Ministers of the Interior
22-24/09/2003	Bakonybel	Meeting of experts from Ministries of Justice
28-30/09/2003	Hungary	Meeting of directors of border guards
16-18/09 2003	Chicago	Joint presentation of the V4 countries at the IMTE (tourism fair)
2-3/10/2003	Čejkovice	Meeting of Ministers of the Environment
29-30/10/2003	Mojmírovce	Meeting of Ministers of Justice
13-14/11/2003	Olomouc	Meeting of Ministers of Culture
4 - 5/12/2003	Tatranská Lomnica	Meeting of experts from Ministries of Finance to discuss the national funds
4 - 5/12/2003	Bratislava	Meeting of Deputy Ministers of the Interior (public administration)
12-13/01/2004	Budapest'	Meeting of working group for internal and external borders (Ministries of the Interior, police)
January 2004	Budapest'	Meeting of working group for energy (Ministries of Industry)

February 2004	Brno	Preparation of Project EDS - Visegrád: Exchange of Experiences and Development in Special Needs in the V4" (Ministries of Education)
5-6/02/2004	Čejkovice	Meeting of Ministers of Transport
25/02/2004	Prague	Working group of border services (Ministries of the Interior, police)
25-26/02/2004	Prague	Meeting of working group for combating extremism (Ministries of the Interior of the V4 countries and Austria)
2/03/2004	Brno	Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture
5/03/2004	Marianské Lázně	Meeting of Ministers for Regional Development
8-10/03/2004	Prague	Meeting of Expert group for educational systems in public administration (Ministries of the Interior)
18-19/03/2004	Prague	Meeting of Expert Group for modernization of public administration (Ministries of the Interior)
25/03/2004	Měříň	Meeting of political directors of Defence Ministries
31/03/2004	Prague	Meeting of Expert group for computerization of public administration (Ministries of the Interior)
14-16/04/2004	Krakow	Meeting of Ministers of Culture
15-16/04/2004	Prague	Meetings of experts of Ministries of Finance to discuss the national funds
22-23/04/2004	Budapest'	Meeting of Ministers for Regional Development.

- Within the framework of sectorial cooperation, the Czech Republic put much emphasis on Schengen cooperation. Experts from the V4 countries began to deal with this issue with much intensity. In September 2003 ministers of the interior V4 agreed on deeper cooperation within the framework of the V4, a V4 working group for Schengen cooperation began its activities. It comprises two subgroups: Expert Group for SIS II and Expert Group for implementation of the Dublin acquis.

Major events

11/09/2003 Prague Meeting of Ministers of the Interior

- 21/10/2003 Prague Meeting of Deputy Ministers of the Interior (Working Group for Schengen cooperation)
- 3/02/2004 Prague Meeting of Deputy Ministers of the Interior (Working Group for Schengen cooperation)
- 12-13/02/2004 Prague Meeting of Expert Group for SIS II
- 2/04/2004 Prague Meeting of Expert Group for implementation of the Dublin acquis
- 14/04/2004 Prague Meeting of Deputy Ministers of the Interior (Working Group for Schengen cooperation).

THE CIVIC DIMENSION

- Another long-term task that the Visegrád countries continued actively to fulfil is strengthening of personal links between citizens, by supporting inter alia cross-border cooperation and the activities of the International Visegrád Fund. Seeing the big interest in the grants provided by this Fund the Czech Republic proposed within the framework of its Presidency an increase in the resources available to the Fund to the sum of EUR 3,000,000.
- An expert meeting was held to discuss changes necessary in the Statute of the IVF and its adaptation to the new conditions in the EU. We hope this process will be completed as soon as possible.
- The International Visegrád Fund, apart from supporting selected projects, extended since the academic year 2003/2004 its activities with the grant of Visegrád scholarships. Scholarships are granted to postgraduate students in Visegrád countries (intra-Visegrád scholarships for study at universities in V4 countries, out-going scholarships for study at universities outside the region, especially in western Europe).

From the next academic year (2004/2005) university graduates from countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe will receive postgraduate Visegrád scholarships too. These so called in-coming scholarships should allow young people, for example from the Ukraine or Belarus, to study in V4 countries and later bring their experiences back home to resolve problems of the sort that the V4 countries were forced to resolve in the last few years.

- An expert meeting was held to discuss changes necessary in the Statute of the IVF and its adaptation to the new conditions in the EU. We hope this process will be completed as soon as possible.

THE FUTURE OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP

- During the Czech Presidency work on the new programme document, which reflects the changed situation of the Visegrád countries after their accession to the European Union, was crowned with success. It develops the favourite themes of the cooperation to date and offers new perspective topics.
- All the participating countries declared in 2002 their political will to follow up on the positive results of the hitherto cooperation and to define objectives and mechanisms reflecting the new conditions. The premiers of the V4 countries decided at an informal summit in Slovakia (Červený Kameň, Smolenice, 06-07/12 2002) to launch an expert discussion of the new form of the V4.
- The outcome of the expert discussions supplemented with political consultations, were Guidelines on the Future of Visegrád Cooperation. This working document, approved by the premiers of the V4 countries at the summit in Tále describes briefly the possible future focus of Visegrád cooperation and its mechanisms.
- Based on the Prime Ministers' instructions, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs prepared during the Czech Presidency of the V4 a general political declaration which follows up on the original Visegrád Declaration of 1991 and whose main goal is to determine the future directions for Visegrád cooperation in the conditions of membership of the V4 countries in the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance. This new Visegrád Declaration was prepared for approval by the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries at the official summit in Kroměříž on 12 May 2004.
- The new Visegrád Declaration states in the preamble that all the intents set out in the original Declaration of 1991 were achieved and all the V4 countries are ready to continue their cooperation after their accession to NATO and the EU, which poses new challenges and at the same time opens new opportunities for their cooperation.

The following text of the Declaration in the spirit of the working document "*Guidelines on the Future of Visegrád Cooperation*", approved by the Prime Ministers at last official summit in Tále, reflects the basic areas of Visegrád cooperation:

- Practical regional cooperation within the V4 area;
- Cooperation in the fulfilment of the objectives of the EU and continuation of the integration process, readiness to share with the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe experience of the integration process;

- Cooperation with other partners, regional groupings and international organizations.

In conclusion the Visegrád countries declare their readiness to participate in the building of a reunited, democratic and prosperous Europe.

The updated *Guidelines* describing in more detail the individual areas of future Visegrád cooperation should be annexed to the new declaration. The *Guidelines* define the mechanisms of the V4. The foundation is still intergovernmental cooperation, both on the level of premiers and ministries. The rotating one-year Presidency with regular summits of Prime Ministers at the end of each Presidency will be preserved. Contacts between the ministries on all levels will also play a key role. Intensive communication should continue between the national Visegrád coordinators, and active cooperation of Permanent Missions to the EU is expected too.

The regular contacts between presidents of the V4 countries will continue, and meetings of representatives of parliaments of the V4 countries will continue to be indispensable.

In the future emphasis should be placed on further development of the civic dimension of Visegrád cooperation, as well as contacts between citizens of our countries. In this context we attach much importance to the activities of the International Visegrád Fund.

Major events in the preparation of the new Visegrád Declaration

18/09/2003	Prague	Meeting of national Visegrád coordinators
16/10/2003	Nyiregyhaza	Meeting of national Visegrád coordinators
24/11/2003	Warsaw	Meeting of national Visegrád coordinators
22/01/2004	Štířín	Meeting of national Visegrád coordinators
26/03/2004	Bratislava	Meeting of national Visegrád coordinators
26/04/2004	Luxembourg	Meeting of political directors of the V4 Foreign Ministries
28/04/2004	Prague	Meeting of directors of EU Sections of the V4 Foreign Ministries.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č.15

ROLE OF PRESIDENCY OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP (ANNEX TO THE CONTENTS OF VISEGRAD COOPERATION APPROVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUMMIT BRATISLAVA, 14TH MAY, 1999)

In accordance with the “Content of Visegrád co-operation” approved by the Prime Ministers summit at Bratislava, the respective Visegrad countries hold a presidency on a rotating basis (in the order Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia) with mandate for one year.

The role of the Presidency is based on following principles:

Within the external dimension:

- If a proposal is made for a top-level meeting in the V4+1 format, such initiative will first be discussed among the Visegrad countries and only then presented to a third country by the V4 presiding country;
- The same mechanism will apply to meetings at lower levels or expert talks held in the V4+1 format.

Within the internal dimension:

- Expert talks (e.g. at the level of departments of individual ministries) can any time be called by any V4 country. Expert talks need not take place in the presiding country;

The ministries themselves organize cooperation between individual ministries. The presiding country at the beginning of its mandate, works out a document summing up the priorities of its Presidency and call expert consultations on this document. The document will include a part devoted to planned inter-ministerial cooperation in the drafting of which all parties will participate. The Prime Ministers at their summit assess results of the implementation of the document and take relevant political decisions in those cases where needed. The fulfillment of such decisions is a subject of assessment of the next Summit.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č. 16

SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN BENELUX AND THE VISEGRAD GROUP LUXEMBOURG (5TH DECEMBER 2001) - PRESS STATEMENT

The Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Benelux and the Visegrad Group held their first informal meeting between the two fora of cooperation in Luxembourg on December 5th. This event paves the way for a promising collaboration destined to bring participating countries closer. Thus, this cooperation fits harmoniously into the historical progress of unification of the European continent whose cornerstone is the enlargement of the European Union and NATO.

The future of Europe has been chosen as the main topic of this first meeting between Benelux and the Visegrad Group. Participants have presented their visions and ideas on the following subjects: the development of the common foreign, security and defense policy of the European Union, the process of constitutionalisation of the Union, the future role of national parliaments in Community affairs, the question whether it is advisable to make the Charter of fundamental rights legally binding, as well as the dialogue between Governments and citizens on European issues. The discussion on these different points has shown much common ground among participants' views.

Participants confirmed the need to fully involve the Visegrad countries in the discussion on the future of Europe and in the work of the Convention that will draw up options on different subjects on the agenda of the next intergovernmental conference of the Union.

Participants have vowed their attachment to those values that underlie European construction and shape European identity. They have expressed their support for a gradual constitutionalisation of the Union as well as the emergence of a Union establishing itself more distinctly as an entity in international relations in the fields of politics, economics and security.

Participants recognized that inspiring a greater interest of their citizens in the European effort represents an important challenge to be taken up by Governments. They undertook to reflect together on the ways and means to improve this situation. While acknowledging the usefulness of explaining to people the *raison d'être* and the functioning of the Union, participants are convinced that Governments have to demonstrate that the current and the enlarged European Union takes into account the expectations of citizens. In this

context, the achievement of the European social model as well as of the area of freedom, security and justice is especially important.

Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Benelux and the Visegrad Group agreed to continue an informal and regular exchange of views on subjects of common interest and to deepen political dialogue on the level of Ministers and civil servants, with the aim of bringing positions closer on foreign policy and security issues and on questions related to the future of Europe.

The first Summit between Benelux and the Visegrad Group has convened an expert meeting in the course of 2002 in order to identify those fields in which closer collaboration between the countries of Benelux and those of the Visegrad Group could be initiated. The two fora of cooperation will in particular work together on the way to associate the countries of the Visegrad Group with the implementation of decisions taken in the framework of the Lisbon process. Another potential field of cooperation is fight against terrorism: the question is how the countries of the Visegrad Group can participate in the implementation of certain elements of the action plan on the fight against terrorism that was adopted during the extraordinary European Council meeting of September 21st.

Participants have also agreed to cooperate in implementing initiatives undertaken on other European fora with respect to the fight against terrorism.

Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Benelux and the Visegrad Group countries have agreed that bringing about a successful conclusion of the process of EU enlargement is a vital ingredient of designing a future European Union. They pledged their support to the Gothenborg “road map”, to the objective of completing accession negotiations by the end of 2002 and to the principles of differentiation and own merits. In line with the conclusions of the European Council of Gothenborg, they confirm the objective that those candidates that are ready will participate in the European Parliament elections of 2004 as members. Moreover, according to what has been agreed in the Declaration on the future of the Union at the European Council of Nice, participants reiterate that those candidate countries which have concluded accession negotiations with the Union will be invited to participate in the next Intergovernmental Conference.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

PŘÍLOHA Č. 17

TATRA STATEMENT FROM THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY, THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, GERLACHOV IN THE HIGH TATRAS, SLOVAKIA, ON DECEMBER 3, 1999

The President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel, the President of the Republic of Hungary Árpád Goncz, the President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwaoniewski, and the President of the Slovak Republic Rudolf Schuster, met for a short working meeting on Friday, 3 December 1999 at the invitation of the President of the Slovak Republic Rudolf Schuster at Gerlachov in the High Tatras, Slovakia.

Presidents of the participating countries recognize that the Visegrad co-operation is a political, economic and cultural co-operation of four countries in Central Europe striving for Euro-Atlantic integration. It is a clear demonstration of the Visegrad countries' ability to live and co-operate in genuine friendship that has not always been the case in their history. Historic traditions and common Central European cultural roots provide for a firm foundation of this co-operation.

The Presidents confirm that the current goals linking up with the results achieved under Visegrad co-operation include: promotion of Euro-Atlantic integration of all Visegrad countries, strengthening the structures of the Central European region, development of its cohesion and internal integration, commitment to strategic partnership, strengthening the Central European identity of the four countries, protection of their common historic and cultural values in a way which would enrich united Europe and provide joint answers to the challenges of the 21st century affecting our region.

Presidents of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland - NATO members-states and countries engaged in accession negotiations with the European Union - take a strong view that Slovakia has made considerable progress in its preparations for membership in the North Atlantic Alliance as well as in the European Union. They furthermore believe that an accession of Slovakia to NATO in its next enlargement and its inclusion in negotiations with the EU - as a result of the expected decision of the European Council in Helsinki - would be

of great benefit to the prosperity and stability of Central Europe and Europe as a whole. It would also lie in the most profound interest of all the four countries of the Visegrad Group.

The Presidents of the Visegrad countries have highly appreciated the recent results achieved by their respective Governments in regional co-operation. The document adopted by the Heads of the Governments of all Visegrad countries in Bratislava this May has provided for a framework for developing their co-operation in foreign and security policy, internal security, education, culture, youth and sports, science and technology, protection of the environment, infrastructure and cross-border co-operation. The creation of the Visegrad Fund may become one of the important tools integrating the four countries.

Acknowledging the indivisibility of European security the countries of the Visegrad Group are ready to play an active and a positive role in the stabilisation and reconstruction of South-East Europe. It is their common interest to achieve political and economic stability in this region and to integrate it with European structures. The Presidents welcome the results of recent presidential elections in Ukraine and support its pro-European orientation. They observe with fear and care the situation in Chechenya. They do not want that the fight against terrorism would outgrow into the fight against unarmed population and it would not lead to the violence of the human rights of the nations and the minorities.

The Presidents are deeply convinced that in the future close co-operation of their countries in all areas can become one of the firm building stones of European stability and one of the guarantees for a successful Europe as a continent built on the principle of unity in diversity.

Zdroj: <http://www.visegradgroup.org>

2. TABULKY, GRAFICKÉ PŘÍLOHY, OSTATNÍ

Příloha č.1 - *Geografická lokalizace Visegrádské skupiny;*

Příloha č.2 - *Základní údaje o zemích Visegrádské skupiny;*

Příloha č.3 - *Srovnání vybraných ekonomických ukazatelů zemí Visegrádské skupiny k 31.12.2001 a 31.12.2004;*

Příloha č.4 - *Statistika projektů Mezinárodního visegrádského fondu;*

Příloha č.5 - *Chronologie vybraných setkání vrcholných představitelů zemí Visegrádské skupiny v letech 1993-2004;*

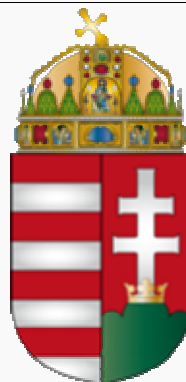
PŘÍLOHA Č. 1
GEOGRAFICKÁ LOKALIZACE VISEGRÁDSKÉ SKUPINY



PŘÍLOHA Č. 2
ZÁKLADNÍ ÚDAJE O ZEMÍCH VISEGRÁDSKÉ SKUPINY

Česká republika	
 	
Rozloha	78 886 km ²
Počet obyvatel	10 287 189
Hustota zalidnění	130 / km ²
Jazyk	čeština
Náboženství	bez vyznání 59 %, římsko-katolické 27 %
Hlavní město	Praha
Státní zřízení	parlamentní republika
Vznik	1. ledna 1993
Měna	koruna česká (CZK)
Členství ve významných mezinárodních organizacích	CEI, EBRD, EIB, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCt (signatář), ICFTU, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, MIGA, MONUC, NAM (host), NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (pozorovatel), OECD, OIF (pozorovatel), OPCW, OSCE, PCA, UN, UNAMSIL, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNMEE, UNMIL, UNOMIG, UPU, WCL, WCO, WEU (partner), WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTO, ZC a mnoho dalších.

Magyar Köztársaság
Maďarská republika



<i>Rozloha</i>	93 030 km ²
<i>Počet obyvatel</i>	10 077 000
<i>Hustota zalidnění</i>	109 / km ²
<i>Jazyk</i>	maďarština, jazyky nepočetných menšin
<i>Náboženství</i>	římsko- a řecko-katolické (50%), kalvínské (30%), luteránské (5%)
<i>Hlavní město</i>	Budapešť
<i>Státní zřízení</i>	parlamentní republika
<i>Vznik</i>	16. listopadu 1918 (nezávislost na Rakousku-Uhersku)
<i>Měna</i>	forint (=100 fillérů) (HUF)
<i>Členství ve významných mezinárodních organizacích</i>	CEI, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, NATO, OAS (pozorovatel), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, PCA, SECI, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOMIG, UPU, WCL, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, a v mnoha dalších.

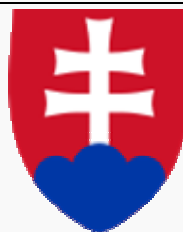
**Rzeczpospolita Polska
Polská republika**



<i>Rozloha</i>	312 685 km ²
<i>Počet obyvatel</i>	38 622 660
<i>Hustota zalidnění</i>	122 / km ²
<i>Jazyk</i>	polština
<i>Náboženství</i>	katolické
<i>Hlavní město</i>	Varšava (<i>Warszawa</i>)
<i>Státní zřízení</i>	parlamentní republika
<i>Vznik</i>	11. listopadu 1918 (obnovení) (sjednocením částí území zabraných Ruskem, Německem a Rakouskem koncem 18. století)
<i>Měna</i>	złoty (PLN)
<i>Členství ve významných mezinárodních organizacích</i>	CEI, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, NATO, OAS (pozorovatel), OECD, OSCE, UN, UNCTAD, UNDOF, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNMEE, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNOCI, UNOMIG, UPU, WCL, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTO a v mnoha dalších

Slovensko

Slovenská republika



<i>Rozloha</i>	48 845 km ²
<i>Počet obyvatel</i>	5 422 366
<i>Hustota zalidnění</i>	103 / km ²
<i>Jazyk</i>	slovenština, maďarština, rusínština, čeština
<i>Náboženství</i>	Katolíci (60,3 %), Protestanti (7,9%)
<i>Hlavní město</i>	Bratislava
<i>Státní zřízení</i>	parlamentní republika
<i>Vznik</i>	1. ledna 1993 (rozdělením Československa)
<i>Měna</i>	Slovenská koruna (SKK)
<i>Členství ve významných mezinárodních organizacích</i>	CEI, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, EU, FAO, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICCT, IDA, IEA, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITU, NATO, OAS (pozorovatel), OECD, OSCE, UN, UNAMSIL, UNCTAD, UNDOF, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNIDO, UNTSO, WCL, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO a v mnoha dalších

Zdroj: www.wikipedia.com
www.visegradgroup.eu

PŘÍLOHA Č. 3**SROVNÁNÍ VYBRANÝCH EKONOMICKÝCH UKAZATELŮ ZEMÍ
VISEGRÁDSKÉ SKUPINY K 31.12.2001 A 31.12.2004**

	ČR		MR		PR		SR	
	2001	2004	2001	2004	2001	2004	2001	2004
HDP (v mld. USD)	161.415	198.284	139.001	166.963	422.369	499.727	62.769	78.856
HDP <i>NA OSOBU</i> (v USD)	15.788	19.426	13.644	16.519	11.042	13.089	11.618	14.651
Růst HDP (v %)	2,46	4,21	4,09	4,87	1,12	5,27	3,23	5,42
Deficit státního rozpočtu (v % HDP)	5,74	2,88	3,46	5,28	3,68	3,89	6,51	3,00
Deficit veřejných rozpočtů (v % HDP)	-	37,5	58,11	62,06	37,44	49,81	58,80	41,95
SOCIÁLNÍ VÝDAJE (v % HDP)	20,41	-	20,72	-	22,41	-	17,82	-

Zdroj: www.visegradgroup.eu
www.oecd.org

PŘÍLOHA Č. 4**STATISTIKA PROJEKTŮ MEZINÁRODNÍHO VISEGRÁDSKÉHO FONDU**

(vždy k 31. 12. příslušného kalendářního roku - v tis. EUR)

<i>Rok</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>Počet žadatelů</i>	236	469	475	639	645
<i>Požadovaná suma</i>	8 677 583	12 122 811	7 746 000	9 699 942	9 463 955
<i>Přidělená suma</i>	406 317	1 523 019	1 924 594	2 081 917	2 090 168
<i>Počet grantů</i>	26	89	144	203	272
<i>Žádosti o stipendia</i>	-	-	-	61	100
<i>Přidělená stipendia</i>	-	-	-	27	35

Zdroj: www.visegradfound.eu

PŘÍLOHA Č. 5

CHRONOLOGIE VYBRANÝCH SETKÁNÍ VRCHOLNÝCH PŘEDSTAVITELŮ VISEGRÁDSKÉ SKUPINY V LETECH 1993-2004

1993

- 11/2 Setkání ministrů školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy v Olomouci;
12/11 Uzavřené setkání ministrů financí a generálního ředitele GATT v Budapešti.

1994

- 7/1 Schůzka ministrů obrany ve Varšavě;
11-12/1 Summit prezidentů, předsedů vlád a ministrů zahraničních věcí s americkým prezidentem Billem Clintonem v Praze;
5/8 Jednání ministrů zemědělství v Českých Budějovicích;
5/9 Jednání ministrů obrany v Bratislavě.

1996

- 27-28/10 Setkání ministrů obrany – Gdyně (Polsko).

1997

- 14-16/2 Jednání vedoucích národních poboček Mezinárodního červeného kříže ve Varšavě.

1998

- 21/10 Summit prezidentů České republiky, Polska a Maďarska v Budapešti.

1999

- 8/5 Jednání ministrů životního prostředí v Banské Štiavnici (Slovensko);
14/5 Summit předsedů vlád v Bratislavě;
7/9 Setkání státních tajemníků ministrů zahraničních věcí v Praze;
22/9 Jednání státních tajemníků ministrů vnitra v Donovalech (Slovensko);
24-26/9 Jednání ministrů kultury v Nitře (Slovensko);
4-5/10 Jednání předsedů parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční záležitosti a bezpečnostní problematiku v Budapešti;
7-8/10 Setkání ministrů zdravotnictví ve Vysokých Tatrách;

8-9/10 Jednání ministrů životního prostředí v Českém Krumlově;
15-16/10 Jednání předsedů vlád ve Vysokých Tatrách;
4/11 Jednání ministrů obrany – Przemysl (Polsko);
4-5/11 Setkání evropských vyjednavců v Bratislavě;
5-6/11 Neformální setkání ministrů spravedlnosti ve Vysokých Tatrách;
3/12 Summit prezidentů ve Vysokých Tatrách.

2000

15-18/2 Setkání ministrů kultury v Krakově;
6/4 Setkání evropských vyjednavců v Bruselu;
12-13/4 Jednání státních tajemníků ministrů vnitra v Praze
28/4 Setkání předsedů vlád s německým kancléřem Gerhardem Schrödem v Hnězdně (Polsko);
26-28/4 Jednání předsedů parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční záležitosti, evropskou integraci a bezpečnostní problematiku v Bratislavě;
4/5 Jednání předsedů vlád s francouzským premiérem Lionelem Jospinem v Budapešti;
11-12/5 Setkání ministrů životního prostředí v Budapešti;
30/5 Jednání náměstků ministrů zahraničních věcí v Praze;
1-3/6 Jednání ministrů kultury v Budapešti;
9/6 Summit premiérů v Praze;
9-10/10 Jednání ministrů kultury v Bratislavě;
12-13/10 Neformální summit předsedů vlád v Karlových Varech;
19-20/10 Jednání ministrů životního prostředí ve Varšavě (na jednání také přizván švédský ministr životního prostředí);
20/10 Setkání ministrů vnitra v Bratislavě;
26-27/10 Jednání ministrů spravedlnosti v Praze;
13/11 Konzultace ministrů zahraničních věcí V-4 a Slovinska ve Varšavě;
23-25/11 Pracovní setkání ministrů spravedlnosti – Szczyrk (Polsko);
17-18/12 Jednání předsedů parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční záležitosti, evropskou integraci a bezpečnostní problematiku ve Varšavě.

2001

19/1 Summit prezidentů zemí V-4 v polské Pszcyně;
3/4/01 Jednání hlavních vyjednavců vstupu do Evropské unie zemí V-4;

4-5/5 5. setkání ministrů životního prostředí zemí Visegrádské skupiny (Bojnice-Slovensko);
10-11/5 6. jednání ministrů kultury – Český Krumlov;
31/5-1/6 Summit předsedů vlád zemí V-4 – Krakov;
22-23/6 7. setkání ministrů kultury – Vratislav (Polsko);
24-25/6 7. setkání zástupců parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční věci, obranu a evropskou integraci – Praha;
24-25/8 Neformální summit předsedů vlád zemí V-4 – Balaton (Maďarsko);
30-31/8 6. setkání ministrů životního prostředí zemí Visegrádské skupiny – Olomouc;
16-17/9 Setkání ministrů školství, mládeže a sportu zemí V-4 a Slovinska;
10/10 Jednání ministrů vnitra zemí Visegrádské skupiny a Rakouska – Budapešť;
18-20/10 Jednání ministrů spravedlnosti zemí V-4 – Český Krumlov;
19/10 Jednání ministrů dopravy – Visegrád (Maďarsko);
21-22/10 Jednání náčelníků generálních štábů zemí V-4 v Praze;
3/12 Setkání ministrů zahraničních věcí zemí V-4 v Budapešti;
5/12 Summit předsedů vlád a ministrů zahraničních věcí zemí V-4 a Beneluxu v Lucemburku (Lucembursko).

2002

23/1 Jednání ministrů obrany v Budapešti;
31/1-1/2 – 8. setkání zástupců parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční věci, obranu a evropskou integraci – Budapešť;
7-9/2 Konference ministrů zdravotnictví zemí V-4, Rakouska, Slovinska a Ukrajiny v Praze;
9/3 založení Visegrad Youth Confederation – Visegrad (Maďarsko);
20-21/3 7. setkání ministrů životního prostředí zemí Visegrádské skupiny – Visegrad;
24-25/5 Summit předsedů vlád zemí Visegrádské skupiny a Beneluxu – Trenčín (Slovensko);
30/5 Jednání ministrů obrany zemí V-4 v Topolčanech (Slovensko);
29/6 Summit předsedů vlád zemí V-4 – Esztergom (Maďarsko);
22/8 Summit prezidentů zemí V-4 na zámku v Častolovicích (Česká republika);
5-6/9 8. setkání ministrů kultury – Budapešť;
11/10 Jednání ředitelů Státní veterinární správy zemí V-4 a Ukrajiny – Svidník (Slovensko);
14-15/11 Jednání ministrů zodpovědných za vědu a výzkum zemí V-4 a Slovinska – Telč (Česká republika);
6-7/12 Neformální summit předsedů vlád zemí Visegrádské skupiny-Smolenice (Slovensko).

2003

- 12-13/1 Jednání předsedů Parlamentů zemí V-4 v Budapešti;
- 12-13/1 9. setkání zástupců parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční věci, obranu a evropskou integraci zemí V-4 – Bratislava;
- 6-7/2 setkání ministrů kultury zemí V-4 – Levoča (Slovensko);
- 3-4/4 Jednání ministrů dopravy zemí Visegrádské skupiny – Bratislava;
- 10-11/4 Jednání zástupců ministerstev pro místní rozvoj zemí V-4 – Krakov;
- 10/6 Jednání ministrů zahraničních věcí zemí Visegrádské skupiny – Bratislava;
- 24-25/6 Summit předsedů vlád zemí Visegrádské skupiny – Tále (Slovensko);
- 13-26/7 Visegrádská letní škola - Krakov;
- 31/7-1/8 2. forum zemí MERCOSUR a Visegrádské skupiny – Buenos Aires (Argentina);
- 8-11/9 Setkání ministrů zdravotnictví zemí V-4 během 53. plenárního zasedání Světové zdravotnické organizace – Vídeň;
- 11/9 Jednání ministrů vnitra zemí V-4 – Praha;
- 29/9 Společná prezentace zemí Visegrádské skupiny v Bruselu (Téma: „Současná hospodářská situace a očekávaný ekonomický vývoj v zemích Visegrádu na pozadí jejich vstupu do Evropské unie);
- 1/10 Summit předsedů vlád zemí V-4 v Dobříši (Česká republika);
- 2-3/10 10. setkání ministrů životního prostředí zemí V-4 v Čejkovicích (Česká republika);
- 9-10/10 setkání zástupců parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční věci, obranu a evropskou integraci zemí V-4 – Praha;
- 21/10 Jednání pracovní skupiny (na úrovni náměstků ministrů vnitra) v rámci Schengenské spolupráce zemí V-4;
- 28-30/10 Jednání ministrů spravedlnosti zemí V-4 v Mojžírovicích (Česká republika);
- 3/11 Summit prezidentů zemí V-4 v Budapešti;
- 13-14/11 10. setkání ministrů kultury zemí Visegrádské skupiny v Olomouci;
- 21/11 Setkání předsedů vlád zemí V-4 v rámci summitu zemí Středoevropské iniciativy ve Varšavě.

2004

- 1-2/2 setkání předsedů parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční věci, obranu a evropskou integraci zemí V-4 – Bratislava;
- 5-6/2 Jednání ministrů dopravy zemí V-4 v Čejkovicích (Česká republika);
- 2/3 Jednání ministrů zemědělství zemí V-4 v Brně;

11-12/3 Summit prezidentů zemí V-4 v Košicích (Slovensko);

25/3 Summit předsedů vlád zemí Visegrádské skupiny a Beneluxu před jednáním Evropské rady v Bruselu;

14-16/4 Setkání ministrů kultury zemí V-4 v Krakově;

22-23/4 Jednání ministrů pro místní rozvoj zemí V-4 v Budapešti;

12/5 Summit předsedů vlád zemí V-4 v Kroměříži (Česká republika);

20-21/5 11. setkání ministrů životního prostředí zemí V-4 v Siofoku (Maďarsko);

24/5 Jednání ministrů obrany zemí Visegrádské skupin-Komorní Hrádek (Česká republika);

21-22/6 11. setkání předsedů parlamentních výborů pro zahraniční věci, obranu a evropskou integraci zemí V-4 – Varšava;

4/9 Jednání ministrů zahraničních věcí zemí V-4 – St. Gerlach (Valkenburg);

13-15/10 Jednání ministrů spravedlnosti zemí Visegrádské skupiny v Krakově;

10-11/11 Jednání ministrů kultury zemí V-4 – Sárospatak (Maďarsko);

18/11 Jednání ministrů financí zemí V-4 a USA ve Varšavě;

7/12 Jednání ministrů zahraničních věcí zemí V-4 v Krakově (hlavním tématem společný postoj Visegrádu k situaci na Ukrajině v souvislosti s prezidentskými volbami);

8/12 Summit předsedů vlád zemí Visegrádské skupiny ve Varšavě.