FOLKETINGET

CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENTS

3 – 5 May 2026
Copenhagen, Denmark

CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY

I. Introductory remarks

The annual Conference of Speakers of the European Union Parliaments was held in Copenhagen on 3–5 May 2026 as part of the parliamentary dimension of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Conference brought together Speakers, or their designated representatives, from 35 Parliaments/Chambers of 25 EU Member States and from the European Parliament. In addition, Speakers from the parliaments of 6 EU Candidate countries and a number of guest countries with a special partnership with the EU participated. The proceedings were chaired by the Speaker of the Danish Parliament, Mr Søren Gade.

Speakers took an active part in the various working sessions of the Conference and demonstrated great interest in the matters under discussion.

Recalling paragraph 5.1 of the Stockholm Guidelines, it is recognised that, due to their constitutional arrangements, some Parliaments cannot directly associate themselves with substantive political statements. Consequently, their participation should not be interpreted as explicit support for all sections of these Conference Conclusions, which, as customary, are adopted as Presidency Conclusions.

The Conference was structured around three thematic sessions

- Europe in a Changing World Order: Security, Enlargement and the Role of Parliamentary Cooperation
- Democratic Resilience in Time of Change
- Ensuring Continuity and Security in Times of Hybrid Threats

The Speaker also sought to renew the format of the EUSC by organising an on-site visit to Copenhagen Port to exchange views on preparedness in a

changing world marked by unprecedented threats arising from geopolitical tensions and conflicts.

II. Europe in a Changing World Order: Security, Enlargement and the Role of Parliaments

THE SPEAKERS:

1. Noted with concern the growing global uncertainty and the rising geopolitical tensions, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, and broader regional instabilities affecting global security, energy markets and migration flows, and they exchanged views on the future course of EU enlargement, acknowledging its pivotal role in strengthening Europe's overall security.

2. Stress the need for the European Union (EU) to function as a credible actor in the global scene, promoting its common interests and the values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

3. Welcome the European Council's call on Europe to take greater responsibility for its own security and support its determination to decisively ramp up Europe's defence readiness by 2030, reduce strategic dependencies and address critical capability gaps, in full coherence with NATO, strengthen the European Defence Industrial and Technological Base and contribute to European strategic defence autonomy.

4. Welcome the European Council's continued firm and unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and stress the imperative of securing sustained military, financial, economic, political, and humanitarian support for Ukraine.

5. Underscore the role of national parliaments and the European Parliament in supporting Ukraine's integration into the EU by helping the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to navigate the accession process, adapting to EU standards and embracing EU values.

6. Recall that the provision of military assistance shall fully respect the specific character of the security and defence policies of certain Member States in line with the provisions of TEU art. 42(2).

7. Stress that the geopolitical situation has highlighted the importance of strengthening Europe's security of energy supply and that the energy transition remains the most effective strategy for achieving Europe's strategic autonomy, strengthening resilience, structurally lowering energy prices, and delivering the clean, abundant and homegrown energy needed to power the economy of the future.

8. Acknowledge that national parliaments and the European Parliament play a pivotal role in fostering a shared security identity and strengthening democratic resilience in the face of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the current geopolitical situation.

9. Welcome the European Council's previous conclusions on enlargement, recognising that enlargement constitutes a strategic investment in peace, security, stability, and prosperity. Underscore that advancing EU enlargement agenda is essential to safeguarding Europe's long-term geopolitical resilience and security.

10. Underline that EU enlargement needs to be based on merit and welcome the progress achieved by several Candidate countries, which have taken important steps towards closer alignment with the EU, including on Common Foreign and Security Policy), and call on EU Member States to reaffirm their political support for these countries' reform and integration efforts and to explore additional avenues for accelerating progress where possible.

11. Invite the European Commission to further explore possible avenues for gradual integration, in a merit-based and reversable manner towards EU membership by granting certain benefits to Candidate countries, conditional on their reform progress, respecting the existing decision-making process of the EU. EU Member States also need to advance the necessary internal preparations and reforms.

12. Call on both the Candidate countries and the EU to ensure full preparedness at the time of accession. Candidate countries must continue to advance their reform efforts - particularly in the area of the rule of law - supported by sustained EU assistance and in full alignment with the merit-based accession approach. The core requirements of the Copenhagen criteria - democracy, the rule of law, a functioning market economy, and the capacity to adopt and implement the EU's acquis - remain essential and protect the EU's credibility and ensure that new members live up to the high standards set in the Lisbon Treaty. At the same time, the European Union itself must pursue the necessary internal reforms in order to welcome new members and to guarantee its effectiveness in an enlarged Union.

13. Underscore that future enlargement highlights the fact that the EU's strength and democratic legitimacy rest on its democratic institutions. National parliaments and the European Parliament together play a central role in anchoring the Union's political decisions in democratic accountability.

14. Encourage therefore parliaments of EU Member States and the European Parliament to engage in structured and continuous dialogue with the parliaments of EU enlargement countries and to support them in their preparations for EU accession. Such dialogue, together with strengthened interparliamentary engagement are considered essential contributions to the political support underpinning the EU enlargement process.

15. Welcome the conclusions of the European Council on Iran that calls for de-escalation and maximum restraint, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure and full respect of international law by all parties, including the principles of the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law.

16. Express deep concern at the worsening crisis in the Middle East, condemn in the strongest possible terms the attacks and destabilising actions carried out by Iran and its regional proxies, call on all actors to do everything possible to avoid regional escalation, reaffirm their full support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability of Lebanon, in full implementation of UN Security Council resolution

1701, call for the protection of civilian populations and respect for international humanitarian law, stress the need to extend the ceasefire and to engage in negotiations for a lasting peace agreement.

17. Express, in line with the European Council, grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Gaza and the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem and reaffirm its support for the EU's commitment to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on a negotiated two-state solution, in line with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, whereby two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, co-exist peacefully within secure and recognised borders.

18. Recall the conclusions of the EU Speakers Conference on 21-23 April 2024 in Palma that condemned all terrorist actions, including the Hamas brutal and indiscriminate attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, and recognise the right of the State of Israel to defend itself in line and in compliance with international law and international humanitarian law.

III. Democratic resilience in Time of change

THE SPEAKERS:

19. Underscore that Parliaments are fundamental pillars of representative democracy and the rule of law. They stand at the core of democracy and must be fully engaged in decision-making processes, while providing scrutiny and ensuring that governments remain accountable. Stress that Parliaments must embody and safeguard political pluralism, underpinning public trust and the democratic legitimacy of state institutions.

20. Highlight that at a time marked by rising political confrontation, ongoing regional and international conflicts, and rapid technological change, European democracies are under mounting internal and external pressures from disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference by state and non-state actors. Call for a strengthening of the European framework for combating foreign interference in democratic processes.

21. Acknowledge that these pressures pose widespread, complex and serious societal challenges, which must be addressed.

22. Underline that strengthening democratic resilience is crucial for protecting Europe's security, cohesion, and integrity. Emphasise that democratic resilience must rest on the rule of law, fundamental rights, and the values upon which the European Union is founded.

23. Stress the importance of safeguarding free and fair elections and underline the importance of deepening citizen engagement, strengthening democratic discourse and protecting free and pluralistic media and civil society.

24. Underscore that democracy cannot thrive without an open and inclusive debate and that access to reliable news is a fundamental prerequisite for the proper functioning of democracies, and that safeguarding freedom of expression, media freedom and media pluralism is essential to both democracy and the rule of law.

25. Emphasise, in line with the European Council and in accordance with the Digital Services Act (DSA), the responsibility of very large online platforms to mitigate systemic risks associated with the dissemination of illegal content and the ones, which have foreseeable negative effects on civic discourse and electoral processes.

26. Call for a rigorous application in EU Member States of the DSA, and in particular its obligations for very large online platforms.

27. Emphasise the importance of the initiative of the European Commission and the High Representative to launch the European Democracy Shield aimed to preserve fairness and integrity of elections, counter foreign information manipulation and interference, support independent media and journalists as well as protect civil society.

28. Welcome the decision of the European Parliament to establish a Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield and looks forward to the Committee's findings and recommendations.

IV. Ensuring Continuity and Security in Times of Hybrid Threats

THE SPEAKERS:

29. Underscore that hybrid threats constitute a persistent and evolving challenge to democratic institutions, deliberately operating below the threshold of traditional conflict while seeking to erode trust, disrupt decision-making and weaken democratic legitimacy. Stress that parliaments, as highly visible and open institutions, are particularly exposed and therefore central actors in strengthening Europe's overall resilience.

30. Emphasise that ensuring continuity of parliamentary work in times of hybrid pressure is not solely a technical or security task, but a core democratic responsibility. Highlight the need for integrated approaches combining cyber resilience, civil protection, crisis preparedness and institutional awareness, while preserving and balancing parliamentary openness, transparency and public accessibility.

31. Highlight the importance of investing in skills, training and institutional preparedness for both members of parliament and parliamentary administrations, including awareness of influence campaigns, cyber risks and hybrid tactics.

32. Stress that addressing hybrid threats requires sustained European and interparliamentary cooperation, in line with existing EU frameworks and initiatives. Reaffirm that strengthening democratic resilience, safeguarding the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights remain one of the most effective and enduring response to hybrid challenges facing Europe.

33. Strongly support, the conclusions of the European Council condemning hybrid threats aimed at undermining the security of the European Union and its Member States and welcome the determination to make continued efforts to strengthen resilience, enhance preparedness, protect critical infrastructure, and prevent, deter and respond to hybrid attacks, with particular attention to drone and counter-drone security.

V. Interparliamentary cooperation and the role of IPEX

THE SPEAKERS:

34. Welcome the fact that this Conference marks the 20th anniversary of the launch of the IPEX website, inaugurated at the Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Copenhagen in June 2006.

35. Welcome the Conclusions on IPEX, adopted at the Meeting of the Secretaries General of the European Union Parliaments held in Copenhagen on 2 February 2026, and express their appreciation to the Hungarian National Assembly for its dedicated work during its Chairmanship of the IPEX Board, including the preparation of the next Rolling Work Programme for 2027–2029, the new functionalities of IPEX regarding education and information programmes on democracy in European dimension and for bringing IPEX back to the capitals by hosting the Board and Correspondents' Meetings in Budapest on 26–27 June 2025.

36. Express their gratitude towards the Belgian Senate for its continued availability to employ the IPEX Information Officer, as well as the European Parliament for providing the necessary financial and human resources for the ongoing development of the IPEX website. They also express their gratitude to the Italian Parliament for organising the fourth IPEX Users Conference in Rome on 28 March 2025.

37. Encourage the parliaments of candidate countries to make active use of IPEX as an integral tool in the EU integration process and recall that the IPEX platform is intended to serve as a one-stop shop for interparliamentary EU-related information exchange within the European Union.

38. Call on the incoming Danish Chairmanship of the IPEX Board to bring the work on the next Rolling Work Programme for 2027–2029 to its conclusion and to continue strengthening IPEX as a comprehensive platform for transparent, timely and reliable interparliamentary EU related information exchange.