



Declaration Trilateral Meeting Austria, Croatia, Slovenia

Schladming / March 28, 2015

1. The Heads of Government of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia – Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann, Prime Minister Miro Cerar and Prime Minister Zoran Milanović – met in Schladming on 28 March 2015. The Vice President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, also participated in the meeting.
2. The Heads of Government continued their exchange of views on issues of common interest and important developments at the European level and on possible common approaches to some topics in the context of the agenda of the European Council. They agreed to continue to meet once a year.
3. The Vice President of the Commission underlined the importance of the work towards a European Energy Union and presented the priorities of the European Commission. In light of the European Council Conclusions of 20 March 2015, the Heads of Government supported the aim for affordable, secure and sustainable energy. The importance of the role of renewable energy and of energy efficiency to also reduce import dependency and hence to increase energy security was emphasised.
4. The Heads of Government outlined opportunities for regional co-operation in the area of energy security, gas and electricity. Having in mind that energy security and well-functioning internal energy market have to be built on operational energy infrastructure, Heads of Government put an emphasis on the timely implementation of energy projects of common interest. In this regard the Heads of Government welcomed the timely establishment of the Central East South Europe Gas Connectivity High Level Group.
5. The Heads of Government underlined the necessity to improve the economic and employment situation in the EU. Despite improved macroeconomic development, unemployment rates persist at very high levels across Europe. Therefore, all available instruments should be used to generate jobs, especially for young people.

6. Having that in mind, the Heads of Government welcome the general approach reached by the Council on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). This is an important step towards a smooth and efficient implementation of the Investment Plan for Europe to reduce considerable investment gaps in Member States, to generate jobs and to foster smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe.
7. The Heads of Government support the European perspective of the Western Balkans. In their discussion, they attached great importance to the credibility of the enlargement process, building on strict but fair conditionality, established criteria and the principle of own merits.
8. The Heads of Government exchanged views on the political and humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine. They reiterated their support for a sustainable political solution to the crisis in Ukraine and called on all parties to swiftly and fully implement the Minsk agreements and honour their commitments. The Heads of Government also reiterated their commitment to territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.