



# NATO Parliamentary Assembly

## DECLARATION

on

### NATO ENLARGEMENT\*

The Assembly,

1. **Underlining** that since its creation by the twelve founding states on 4 April 1949, NATO has been a pillar of stability in the Euro-Atlantic area which has continued to attract new members who share the commitment to collective defence and to common values of democracy, individual liberty and rule of law;
2. **Recalling** that the year 2014 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NATO membership for the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Albania and Croatia;
3. **Convinced** that NATO enlargement has been an unambiguous success as a crucial factor for stability and prosperity in Europe as well as a catalyst for consolidating democracy, bolstering the rule of law, promoting tolerance and human rights, and ensuring civilian control of the military;
4. **Stressing** that NATO enlargement poses no threat to any nation but rather enhances the security and stability of the entire Euro-Atlantic region;
5. **Highlighting** the positive contribution of new member states of NATO to the Alliance's defence capabilities;
6. **Recalling** its historic contribution to past NATO enlargements and its continued support for the Open door policy;
7. **CONGRATULATES** the people of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia on the anniversaries of their countries' membership in the North Atlantic Alliance;

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\* Presented by the Standing Committee and adopted by the Plenary Assembly on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Vilnius, Lithuania

8. **URGES** the governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
- a. to reaffirm their strong political commitment to the Open door policy and the Euro-Atlantic perspective of the countries aspiring for NATO membership;
  - b. to pursue the establishment of policies to promote partnerships and co-operation with partner countries;
  - c. to recognise the progress achieved by aspirant countries and to consider taking the next steps in the process of NATO enlargement at the NATO Summit in Wales based on the results of the comprehensive review due to be completed in June 2014; and in particular,
    - i. to follow through on the decision taken at the Bucharest Summit in 2008 that Georgia will become a member of NATO, and move Georgia closer to membership by granting it a Membership Action Plan;
    - ii. to adopt a renewed set of concrete measures to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in fulfilling the conditions for activating its Membership Action Plan;
    - iii. to open the way for Montenegro's membership in the Alliance;
    - iv. to encourage Skopje and Athens to redouble their efforts to solve the 'name issue', thus opening the way for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's\*\* membership in the Alliance;
9. **PLEDGES**, as it has done in the past, to render aspirant countries all possible assistance in achieving their goal of NATO membership.
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\*\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.