



Final Declaration of the European Conference of the Schools of Political Studies Bucharest, 28 April 2006

The participants at the European Conference of the Schools of Political Studies “Good Governance and Political Pluralism”, taking place in Bucharest, on 27 and 28 April 2006:

Recognizing that, according to the Action Plan adopted by the Heads of State and Government gathered in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May 2005, the Council of Europe has committed to develop its network of Schools of Political Studies in order to promote fundamental European values among the young generations;

Acknowledging that the Romanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers has appreciated the role of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe in training a new generation of decision-makers in the spirit of the European values of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and tolerance and that it had the initiative to organize, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Bucharest Conference of the Schools of Political Studies, as the first meeting of such dimensions;

Declare that the Conference has allowed, for the first time, the representatives of all Schools to participate in a common event and has proved to be an occasion to reunite the young elites, thus recognizing the important contribution of the civil society to the effective promotion of democracy;

Welcome the exchange of information and experience on realities from countries with Schools of Political Studies, that lead to a better understanding of the specific situations encountered by their societies and their respective Political Schools, such as responding to challenges of the transition from totalitarian or authoritarian regimes or a post-conflict situation to a democratic system of governance, addressing minorities and vulnerable groups and deploring the lack of understanding for the role of the civil society in the decision-making process of a society, or the challenges posed by modernization and catching-up processes of integration within the European family of consolidated democracies;

Underline, particularly in the spirit of the conclusions following the Third Summit of the Council of Europe, the need to complete the reforms of public administration, in order to allow for a consolidation of democracy and to efficiently deal with the challenges of our societies, which are the fight against terrorism, organized crime and corruption;

Appreciate the contribution of the schools of political studies as effective catalysts of the democratic transformations in post-transition democracies, as well as to developing a new generation of political leaders;

Recognize that the process of networking of European Schools of Political Studies is underway, thus contributing to the expansion of the system of democratic governance, as well as to building bridges and in fostering a new political culture of dialogue and communication in modern Europe;

Support the consolidation of the network as an entity with a structured internal dialogue, a coherent approach and a national and international visibility and encourage regular meetings of the Directors of the Schools, jointly with an annual conference of the Schools of Political Studies;

Strongly believe that the network of European Schools of Political Studies could play as an important mechanism, able to provide valuable inputs to the Forum on the Future of Democracy, launched under the aegis of the Council of Europe;

Appreciate that the Conference of European Schools of Political Studies in Bucharest has brought a significant contribution to the upcoming event on 10 - 14 July 2006, the 1st Summer University for Democracy in Strasbourg which will reunite 500 participants from the network of Schools of Political Studies, as well as a delegation of representatives of civil society from Belarus;

Believe that the Schools of Political Studies have proved to be a viable project and encourage the Council of Europe to continue to give it the same consideration;

Invite the European Union to include the project of the network of European Schools of Political Studies among its targeted projects, as regards the promotion of democracy.

The Council of Europe, the Directors and the participants of the Schools of Political Studies would like to thank the Romanian Government for their invitation to participate in this conference and express their gratitude to the "Ovidiu Sincai" European School for the hospitality and excellent organization of the event.