

- Courtesy translation -

Warsaw, 4 July 2011.

Dear Mr Speaker,

As part of the parliamentary dimension of the Polish Presidency in the EU Council, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland is organising a conference entitled "Europe of the Carpathians", which will take place on 7-8 September 2011 during the Economic Forum in Krynica. The aim of the conference is to discuss European cooperation with regard to mountain regions and regional cooperation between Carpathian states, as well as to secure proper recognition of this process in EU policy and financial decisions.

Please find enclosed an invitation to attend this conference signed by Mr Marek Kuchciński, Vice-Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland. The main session of the Conference is scheduled for 8 September 2011.

I would be grateful if you could pass on the attached invitation to the Deputy Speakers of the Folketinget and Chairs of the competent committees responsible for foreign affairs, European Union, regional development and environment protection matters.

Yours sincerely,

Grzegorz Schetyna

Mr
Thor Pedersen
President of the Folketinget
of the Kingdom of Denmark

Copenhagen

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Vice-Marshal of the Sejm
of the Republic of Poland

Warsaw, 4 July 2011

Dear Sirs,

As part of the parliamentary dimension of the Polish Presidency in the EU Council, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland is organising a conference entitled "Europe of the Carpathians", which will take place on 7-8 September 2011 during the 21st Economic Forum in Krynica. Therefore, I would like to extend my cordial invitation to attend this conference.

The "Europe of the Carpathians" conference is going to serve as a platform for dialogue for all those interested in the development of mountain areas and regional cooperation, both within the EU and with its closest neighbours. For this reason I would like to ask you to pass on the invitation to participate in the Krynica conference to the Chairpersons and members of the parliamentary committees responsible for foreign affairs, European Union, regional development and environment protection matters, and to any other interested parliamentarians.

The aim of the conference is to exchange experience between European states with regard to cross-border and international cooperation in mountain areas and build partner relations in order to strengthen the position of the Carpathian area, as well as securing proper recognition of this process in EU policy and financial decisions. We would like to present the Carpathians as one of Europe's great regions; a land of rich culture and traditions, unique natural heritage and many common development problems.

Deputy Speakers
of the Folketinget
of the Kingdom of Denmark

Copenhagen

The topics discussed during the conference will include:

- advantages and challenges associated with regional and cross-border cooperation;
- experience in development policy implementation in mountain regions;
- the Carpathian Mountains in the European Neighbourhood Policy;
- Carpathian heritage as an opportunity and challenge for sustainable development;
- the Carpathian Convention as an instrument stimulating cooperation between Carpathian states;
- tourism development in the Carpathians: experience, possibilities and perspectives.

Conference participants will include parliamentarians from EU member states and from those Regional Partnership countries which are in the Carpathian region, i.e. Ukraine and Moldova, as well as representatives of governments, European Union institutions and international organisations. The event will be part of the annual Economic Forum, which is the largest gathering of political and economic leaders in this part of Europe.

Please find enclosed a draft programme of the conference. At the same time I would like to inform you that you may confirm your participation by e-mail at: barbara.wronska@sejm.gov.pl or fax +48 22 694 19 52 by 29 July 2011. In return you will receive detailed information on the organisation of the conference.

While looking forward to our meeting in Krynica please accept my kindest regards,

Marek Kuchciński

Draft programme

**EUROPE OF THE CARPATHIANS
CONFERENCE**

organised as part of the 21st Economic Forum
Krynica, 7-8 September 2011

7 September (Wednesday)

Arrival of the participants

14:00-15:30 *Opening plenary session of the 21st Economic Forum (possibility to participate)*

16:00 – 17:00 **Presentation of the Carpathian Convention**

- The Carpathian Convention as an instrument stimulating cooperation between Carpathian states;
- Scientific, cultural and artistic cooperation;
- Infrastructural cooperation;
- Problematic issues concerning water management and flood security in the Carpathian region;
- Forestry and forest protection;
- Sustainable development strategy for the Carpathian Mountains;
- Climate policy from the perspective of Carpathian regions.

17:15 – 18:15 **Panel: “Good cooperation practices in Carpathian Europe”**

Discussion topics:

- The Carpathian Macroregion – possibilities of cooperation;
- Policy of development in mountain regions (infrastructure, economy, farming, innovations);
- United in diversity: good practice examples (science, cities, wooden architecture, health resorts, shepherd heritage).

/hour to be confirmed/ Official dinner for conference participants hosted by Mr Marek Kuchciński, Vice-Marshall of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

8 September (Thursday)

9:00 *Plenary session for all guests of the Economic Forum (possibility to participate)*

10:40 – 11:45 **Opening session of the “Carpathian Europe” conference**

The main message of the conference is the need for deepened cooperation between Carpathian states and regions as well as the need for this process to be properly reflected in EU policy and financial decisions

12:00-12:20 Official signing of the Carpathian Convention protocols (Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Sport and Tourism)

12:30 - 13:30

Panel: "Cross-border and international cooperation between European regions and states in the context of the EU's new financial perspective"

Discussion topics:

- Alpine, Danube and Baltic macroregions - conclusions for the Carpathians;
- The Carpathian Mountains from a perspective from Brussels;
- The Carpathian Mountains in the European Neighbourhood Policy and in the Eastern Partnership;
- The future of the Cohesion Policy and Common Agricultural Policy in the context of the "Europe 2020" Strategy.

13:30 - 14:50 Lunch break

14:55 - 16:10 **the so-called "round table": Conference wrap-up**

"Europe of the Carpathians" conference - accompanying events /to be confirmed/

- Presentations of Carpathian states (prepared by the Embassies of Carpathian states)
- Presentations of the Carpathian, Tatras and Beskydy Mountains euroregions.

9 September (Friday)

Possibility to participate in 21st Economic Forum events

Departure of the participants