

COALITION DECLARATION

On 25 November 2010 we the undersigned non-governmental organizations launched a coalition for a European continent undivided by visa barriers. The coalition will contribute to policy processes leading as quickly as possible towards this goal.

We welcome the liberalisation of visa requirements for five Western Balkan countries, which underlines both the need for and the real possibility of extending this achievement to the rest of Europe.

We recognize the EU's manifest support for the idea of visa liberalisation between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries and understand both the aspirations of the EU's neighbours and the legitimate concerns of some member states. Nonetheless, the coalition fears that the slow progress of liberalisation is jeopardizing the broader goals of the European external policy.

We believe that for the security of our continent and for the continued democratic transformation and modernisation in Eastern Europe – a process to which people-to-people contacts are vital -- effective action is needed linking the demands for implementation of reforms with a clear perspective of visa abolition.

We call upon the upcoming Hungarian and Polish Presidencies of the Council of the European Union to remember the transformation of Central Europe and to take concrete steps towards visa-free travel within Europe.

Signed, 25 November 2010 in Warsaw by:

Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation, Armenia
Association for International Affairs (AMO), the Czech Republic
Belarus Watch, Lithuania
Center for Social Innovations, Belarus
Eastern Europe Studies Centre, Lithuania
Europe without Barriers, Ukraine
ECAS, Brussels
EUROBELARUS
Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
Hungarian Europe Society, Hungary
Institute of Public Affairs, Poland
Institute for Public Policy, Moldova
Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Ukraine
Open Society Institute Sofia, Bulgaria
Östgruppen - Swedish Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, Sweden
Office for Democratic Belarus, Belarus/Brussels
Open Society Institute, Brussels
Public Movement "Multinational Georgia" (PMMG)
Soros Foundation – Latvia

Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovakia
Stefan Batory Foundation