



9th MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPEAN SENATES
Bucharest, October 11 - 13, 2007



FINAL DECLARATION

Bucharest, October 12, 2007

Present in Bucharest on the occasion of the 9th Meeting of the Association of European Senates on “**Ensuring a transparent and accountable governance – the contribution of the Senates**”, the Heads of Delegations of the member Senates,

Expressing their satisfaction at being together again, in Bucharest, in 2007, the year in which Romania and Bulgaria have joined the European Union, thus furthering the reunification of Europe,

Affirming that the Association of European Senates represents a generous framework for dialogue and cooperation, beneficial to the mutual knowledge, the comprehension of the specificity and values of each constitutional system and the permanent enhancement of the Upper Chambers’ activity, thus contributing to the strengthening of bicameralism on the European continent,

Emphasizing that within relations between Legislative and the Executive parliamentary oversight is an expression of the rule of law and a prerequisite for a transparent and accountable governance,

Reasserting that bicameral parliaments allow for a thorough exercise of parliamentary control on the Government’s activity, provide for a high level of civic representation, and enable local communities to promote their interests effectively,

Underscoring the importance of the mandate entrusted by citizens, as original holders of the political power, and the Senates’ contribution to ensuring the transparency of internal political life,

- **Express** their determination to develop the dialogue and exchanges of experience and good practices within the Association of European Senates, as a means to identify the most appropriate ways to exercise the mandate entrusted to the Senates;
- **Emphasize** that only a transparent and accountable governance can enjoy the citizens' trust and support and provide them with stability, security and welfare;
- **Reassert** in this respect the important role incumbent upon the Senates and commit themselves to act towards enhancing democratic control over the Executive, while seeing to it that the corresponding parliamentary procedures are constantly improved;
- **Acknowledge** the role of parliamentary cooperation at European level in institutional capacity building, and **express** their willingness to make further use of the potentiality of the European Senates Association for this purpose.

At the same time:

- **Underline** that the democratic legitimacy of the decision making process in the European Union can be reinforced by a significant involvement of national parliaments and welcome the provisions included in this regard in the draft Reform Treaty.

The participants to the 9th Meeting of the Association of European Senates express their thanks to the Federal Council of Austria and the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the invitations to the 10th ordinary session and the extraordinary session of the Association respectively, in 2008.

12 October 2007