

## RESOLUTION 126

### *on the development of interparliamentary cooperation in the Balkans*

The Assembly,

- (i) Recognising the important role played by regional assemblies such as the CEI (Central European Initiative) Interparliamentary Assembly, the SEECP (south-eastern European cooperation process) and the IAO (Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy) in speeding up the process of democratisation in the Balkans;
- (ii) Aware of the interdependence of regional interests, which need to be examined in a forum in which information is gathered and common solutions can be drawn up in parallel to developments in regional cooperation conducted by governments;
- (iii) Recognising the importance of interparliamentary cooperation, which is conducive to the rapprochement and regional integration of the new democracies in south-eastern Europe;
- (iv) Hoping that the enlargement of the European Union will not weaken the interest of the new member states' parliaments in regional programmes in which they are already participants, and which should be completed,

INVITES THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS REPRESENTED IN THE WEU ASSEMBLY/THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE ASSEMBLY TO:

1. Continue to support regional parliamentary cooperation networks through the judicious participation of their members;
2. Seek factors of regional identity that may bring added value to the interparliamentary work being done within the European common institutions;
3. Become involved in initiatives for the development of meaningful exchanges among parliamentarians with an interest in the same subjects and support the "parliamentary diplomacy" activities being developed within the framework of common projects;
4. Support the process of gradual integration within the interparliamentary institutions while calling for a commitment on the part of all parliamentarians involved in this process, through their legislative and political activities, to put into practice and fully comply with the values and principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.