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### **Third Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**

The third annual meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (CSF) took place in Poznan on 28-30 November 2011. The event was organized by the CSF Steering Committee and financed by the EEAS/EC and the Polish Presidency. The meeting gathered over 300 representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Eastern Partnership countries, the EU Member States and invited guests.

The main goal of the meeting was to adopt a strategy for the further development of the Forum and its involvement in the EaP. Moreover, the Forum aimed to work out proposals of concrete actions which could be implemented by the CSOs in the framework of the EaP. It also served as a platform for an exchange of views and best practices among CSOs and contributed to the establishment of a network of cooperation among CSOs from EaP countries and their EU counterparts.

#### **Background:**

The EaP Civil Society Forum (CSF) was established in 2009 in response to the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit. The declaration called on the European Commission to propose modalities for the establishment of a Civil Society Forum as a manifestation of the belief that the civil society has a crucial role to play in the implementation and monitoring of the Eastern Partnership. As a result, in November 2009, the representatives of over 200 CSOs from EaP countries and EU Member States gathered to initiate the Civil Society Forum and appoint its Steering Committee.

The Assembly in Poznan was the third meeting of the Forum after Brussels (2009) and Berlin (2010).

The Eastern Partnership was launched in May 2009 with the goal to build closer relations between the EU and its neighbours to the East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus (1), Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Eastern Partnership aims to support Eastern European countries' sustainable reform process with a view to accelerating their political association and economic integration with the EU. It is based on common values and principles of democracy, liberty, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

*(1) Belarus does not participate in the bilateral track of the EaP*

#### **For more info:**

<http://www.eap-csf.eu/>

[http://eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index_en.htm)"

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