**VII MEETING OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE SOUTH OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**DECLARATION OF VIENNA**

**Vienna, 11 October 2018**

On the 11th October 2018, members of the Delegations of the Southern Parliaments of the European Union to the Interparliamentary Conference for the CFSP/CSDP, held their seventh meeting in the *Erste Campus* in Vienna, where they agreed the following Declaration.

1. After the meetings held in Athens on May 2016, and Granada on May 2018, members of the Delegations of the Parliaments of Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain, meet again in Vienna to reiterate their commitment to work together to reflect on the common challenges faced by the countries of the South of the EU in the field of European Foreign Affairs and Defence.
2. We insist that migration demands a global approach, including a strengthening of dialogue and cooperation with origin, transit and destination countries for migrations, particularly Mediterranean and African countries.
3. Considering our borders as the Southern borders of the European Union, we welcome the initiative announced by President Juncker, in his State of the Union Speech delivered on the 12 September 2018, to further strengthen the European Border and Coast Guard to better protect the external borders of the EU with an additional 10,000 European border guards by 2020.
4. We believe that the EU States must share proportionately the burden of welcoming, caring and settling migrants arriving in Europe as a result of wars and tension close to our borders, as well as the persisting economic migrations, namely from Northern Africa and the Sub-Saharan region.