



V4 CONNECTS



**ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
2017/18 HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY
OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP**

#EuropeanVisegrad



European Visegrad included: representing regional interests in EU decision-making (key areas: ensuring the functioning of the four freedoms, post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, cohesion and agricultural policy, digitalisation, interior affairs), contribution to the 'future of the EU' debate; political & sectoral cooperation with EU Member States; responsible handling of the migration crisis; justice cooperation.

Main achievements:

- **joint V4 & V4+ positions** issued to shape EU legislation related to MFF, cohesion, agriculture, energy, transport, social issues, digitalisation, etc.
- V4 Prime Ministers' input to the debate on **Europe's future**
- strong **cooperation with EU Member States** (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, Baltic states, United Kingdom, Italy etc.)
- vitalising **V4+British** relations in preparation for a post-Brexit period
- refocusing the **migration**-related EU discourse on security & border control
- EUR 35 million V4 contribution to **border protection efforts in Libya**



#RegionalVisegrad



Regional Visegrad included: strengthening cohesion between V4 societies (social events, culture, sport. Visegrad Fund); parliamentary relations; supporting the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership; security and defence cooperation; energy, climate and transport infrastructure.

Main achievements:

- official talks on developing **high-speed railway** connections launched
- strong support to **EU enlargement** & dialogue with Balkans partners
- **Western Balkans Fund's** functioning started with V4 assistance
- active V4 **Parliamentary** dimension
- further deepening **defence** cooperation; joint **military exercises**
- V4 **energy think tank platform** launched, supported by the Visegrad Fund
- international conferences on **energy security** and **gas supply**



#DigitalVisegrad



Digital Visegrad included: shaping EU policies based on the principle of raising competitiveness; coordination in economy, labour and finance issues; advancing the digitalisation of economy; fostering V4 and V4+ science, technology and innovation cooperation; developing the regional startup ecosystem; cooperation in agriculture, environment, tax and customs.

Main achievements:

- **V4+Israel** innovation training program launched
- 'V4 Startup Force' mentoring & mobility program launched
- enhanced dialogue on **industry 4.0** and **automotive cars**
- **V4 Smart Platform** (aimed at regionally interoperable services) launched
- **V4 Startup** and **Innovation Days** & **V4+Google** Innovation Forum held
- cooperation of **development banks**, **export promotion institutions**, **post offices** (e-commerce) & **statistical offices** launched



#GlobalVisegrad



Global Visegrad included: building V4+ partnerships with non-European partners; joint V4 responses to global challenges; external promotion of the Visegrad region; cooperation in international development and humanitarian aid with special regard to tackling the root causes of migration.

Main achievements:

- global **visibility** of the V4 significantly raised
- involving **new global partners** in V4+ consultations (Australia, Central Asia, Pacific Alliance, African Union)
- first-ever **V4+Israel** and **V4+Egypt** summit meetings held
- first-ever **V4 international development project** launched in Kenya
- enhancing **V4+USA** dialogue
- working closely with **Japan** and **South-Korea**
- joint **tourism and economic** promotion



V4HUPRES FACTS & FIGURES

12 months

300 political V4/V4+
meetings & events

13 Prime Ministerial consultations

250+ V4 events at embassies
worldwide

50+ joint statements,
declarations, non-papers

873.000+ Twitter impressions

60% increase in @V4_PRES
Twitter account followers

100.000s of people
reached via culture, sport,
gastronomy and other
public V4PRES events

WISEGRAD SPIRIT – INVOLVING SOCIETIES

V4 **bicycle** race

Danube **regatta** V4 races

Visegrad **high school** quiz

V4 promotional **videos**

Visegrad **Opera** tour

V4 **running** weekend

Visegrad **youth quartet**

V4 **concert & dance** series

Academic **events** on V4

V4 **fashion** show

V4 **wine** festival

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE HUNGARIAN V4 PRESIDENCY

HEADS OF STATE AND SPEAKERS OF THE PARLIAMENT

- ✓ **13-14 October** • Meeting of the Heads of State of the V4
- ✓ **30 November-1 December** • informal V4 meeting of the Speakers of Parliament
- ✓ **1-2 March** • Formal Meeting of V4+ Speakers of Parliament
- ✓ **21-23 June** • informal V4+ Austria Meeting of Speakers of Parliament

PRIME MINISTERS

- ✓ **4 July** • V4 and V4+Egypt Summit
- ✓ **19 July** • V4 and V4+Israel Summit
- ✓ **29 September** • V4 Prime Ministers' consultation before the Digital Summit (Tallinn)
- ✓ **13 October** • Participation of V4 Prime Ministers & informal V4 summit with the President of the European Council at the 'Summit for Equal Quality of Products for All' event (Bratislava)
- ✓ **18 October** • V4 Prime Ministers' meeting with the EC President (Brussels)
- ✓ **19 October** • V4 Prime Ministers' Consultation before the European Council (Brussels)
- ✓ **14 December** • V4+Italy consultations with the EC President (Brussels)
- ✓ **26 January** • V4 Prime Ministers' Budapest Summit & panel discussion on the future of Europe
- ✓ **23 February** • V4 PM Consultations before the European Council (Brussels)
- ✓ **22 March** • V4 PM Consultations before the European Council (Brussels)
- ✓ **17 May** • Coordination meeting of the V4 Prime Ministers (Sofia)
- ✓ **21 June** • V4+ Austria PM Summit
- ✓ **28 June** • V4 PMs' consultation with the President of France (Brussels)

MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

- ✓ **10 July** • V4+ Austria, Slovenia, Croatia meeting of Foreign Ministers
- ✓ **31 August** • V4+ Eastern Partnership meeting of Foreign Ministers with the participation of Estonia and the European Commission
- ✓ **14 September** • V4+ United Kingdom meeting of Ministers for External Economic Relations
- ✓ **21 September** • V4 Foreign Ministers' panel discussion at the CEPA Forum (Washington D.C.)
- ✓ **11 October** • V4+ Western Balkans meeting of Foreign Ministers
- ✓ **4 December** • Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the V4 and Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Slovenia and Serbia
- ✓ **19 January** • V4+ Australia meeting of Ministers for Foreign Trade
- ✓ **22 February** • V4+ Australia meeting of Foreign Ministers
- ✓ **27 February** • V4+ Central Asia meeting of Foreign Ministers
- ✓ **27 April** • V4+ United Kingdom consultation of foreign ministers on the margins of the NATO MFA meeting (Brussels)
- ✓ **11 May** • Visegrad Group+ Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Cyprus+ Western Balkans meeting of foreign ministers (Sounio)
- ✓ **19 June** • V4+ Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) meeting of Foreign Ministers (Stockholm)

OTHER MINISTERS

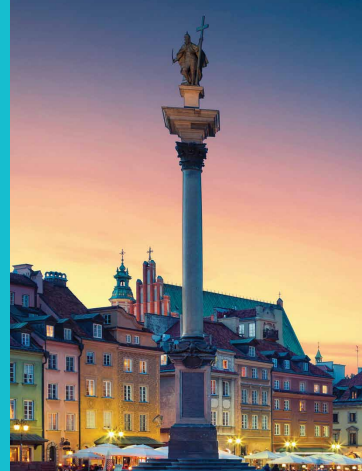
- ✓ **17 July** • Meeting of Agricultural Ministers (Brussels)
- ✓ **19-20 September** • Meeting of the V4 Energy Ministers (Tallinn)
- ✓ **20-21 September** • V4+4 meeting of Agricultural Ministers (Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria)
- ✓ **25 September** • Conference of V4+ Benelux Ministers of Justice in the field of victim protection and legal aid
- ✓ **5 October** • Meeting of the V4 Ministers of Interior
- ✓ **11 October** • V4 + 4 meeting of Environmental Ministers (Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria) followed by the Fifth Meeting at the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
- ✓ **13 November** • Meeting of the Ministers of Defence (Brussels)
- ✓ **30 November** • Meeting of V4 Ministers of Health
- ✓ **18 December** • Meeting of V4 Energy Ministers
- ✓ **25 January** • V4+4 meeting of Agricultural Ministers (Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria) + Baltic States + EU Commissioner P. Hogan
- ✓ **1-2 February** • V4+BG+HR+SI+RO meeting of the Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy + EU Commissioners Oettinger and Thyssen
- ✓ **22-23 February** • Meeting of V4 Ministers of Health
- ✓ **6 March** • Future competitiveness of the road transport sector – V4+like-minded countries Ministerial Summit
- ✓ **22 March** • V4 Meeting of Ministers of Labour and Employment
- ✓ **23 March** • V4 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Talent Management on the margins of Budapest Talent Summit
- ✓ **27-28 March** • V4 and V4+CEDC Defence Ministerial Meeting
- ✓ **28 March** • V4 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Family Affairs on the margins of the V4 Conference on Family Affairs
- ✓ **17-18 April** • Meeting of the V4 Energy Ministers before Informal Meeting of Energy Ministers
- ✓ **19 April** • V4 Meeting of Ministers of Economy
- ✓ **12-13 June** • V4 + 4 meeting of Agricultural Ministers (Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria)
- ✓ **21 June** • V4 + 4 meeting of Environmental Ministers (Slovenia, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria)



CZECH REPUBLIC • PRAHA



HUNGARY • BUDAPEST



POLAND • WARSZAWA



SLOVAKIA • BRATISLAVA

ABOUT THE VISEGRAD GROUP & ITS HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY 2017/18

The **Visegrad Group**, named after a Hungarian town that hosted a summit of Hungarian, Czech and Polish kings in 1335, is a contemporary regional cooperation of the **Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia**. Since 1991, the Visegrad countries worked together on their transition to democracy and market economy, as well as a swift EU and NATO integration. After the V4 states' accession to both organisations being completed by 2004, Visegrad became an essential framework of representing joint interests in the EU, launching joint projects, and bringing closer the four societies.

Hungary held the **Presidency of the V4 between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018**, with the motto **#V4Connects**. In a historically important period, Hungary's intensive presidency reached its ambitious goals – and sometimes even more.

