

## Recommendations and Conclusions

- A. Role of parliament
- B. Capacity of Parliaments
- C. Preparation for IPA II

### **A. Parliaments role in the oversight of IPA funding:**

1. The Network members recognize the importance of IPA funding for preparing Western Balkans countries for future EU accession, and the important role that Western Balkan Parliaments should play in oversight of these funds.
2. The Network encourages Parliaments to create more awareness among their members on IPA funding and play a more prominent role in keeping their citizens informed about the objectives and benefits of IPA.
3. Parliaments should be encouraged to develop an oversight culture of regular annual oversight hearings around IPA and other EU funding.
4. Parliaments are encouraged to include civil society and other non-state actors in these oversight hearings.

### **B. Developing Parliaments oversight capabilities:**

1. The Network encourages parliaments to share and adopt best practice on financial oversight of EU and other structures funds.
2. The Network encourages governments to ensure that regular reports and access to information sources are made available to parliamentary committees especially as IPA implementation becomes more decentralized.
3. The Network and donors should support the development of parliamentary committees, research and scrutiny capabilities. We also encourage parliaments of assigned members and staff to be focal points for monitoring IPA funds.
4. The Network should undertake more training and development of parliamentary staff to equip with the knowledge and tools necessary to support the oversight of IPA funds.

### **C. Preparation for IPA II**

1. The Network encourages Parliament to engage early in discussions with their Government and EU delegations on country strategy papers, sectorial strategies, priorities, framework agreement and long term programmes.
2. Parliaments should engage more with the relevant European Parliament Committees working on the monitoring of IPA funds. The Network should consider a visit by the IPA Working Group to the EU Parliament to see how best the Western Balkan Parliaments can develop these links.
3. Parliaments should work closely with Government and State Audit Institutions to understand the challenges and lessons from implementing IPA I.
4. Parliaments should continue to positively support and encourage government administrations to improve absorption levels of IPA funding.