

Written Commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Agreed by the BiH Presidency on 29 January 2015,

Signed by the leaders of the 14 parties represented in Parliament, and

Endorsed by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 23 February 2015.

Aware of the complexity of the social and economic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Committed to respect the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Dedicated to the principles, values, and goals on which the European Union is established;

Affirming membership of the European Union as a strategic goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Welcoming the renewed approach of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to the conclusions of the European Union Foreign Affairs Council dated 15 December 2014;

We, the undersigned, declare that we agree and we irrevocably commit to the following:

- 1.** The institutions of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina will conduct all the necessary reforms in order to establish institutional functionality and efficiency at all levels of government and enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to prepare itself for future membership of the European Union as a sovereign state which fulfils the prerequisites and obligations needed for membership of the European Union. The agenda of the institutions of government at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in accordance with respective constitutional competencies, will include the necessary reforms for advancing Bosnia and Herzegovina's process of accession to the European Union and prioritise timely implementation of the reforms. An efficient and effective Mechanism for the coordination of institutions at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of accession to the European Union will be established as soon as possible.
- 2.** The institutions of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina (institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, the Brcko District and ten cantons¹, in agreement with the European Union and pursuant to the Copenhagen Criteria and the *acquis communautaire* of the European Union, will develop and implement, in accordance with respective constitutional competences, a programme of measurable initial reform measures, to include:

¹ Unsko-sanski kanton, Posavski kanton, Tuzlanski kanton, Zeničko-dobojski kanton, Bosansko-podrinjski kanton, Srednjobosanski kanton, Hercegovačko-neretvanski kanton, Zapadnohercegovački kanton, Kanton Sarajevo, Kanton 10.

- a) Economic and social measures, in the framework of the *Compact for Growth and Jobs in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, with the aim of stopping negative economic trends, initiating a process of rehabilitating and modernising the economy, fostering sustainable, efficient, socially just and steady economic growth, creating new jobs, increasing and more appropriately targeting social assistance, and creating a favourable and just social environment. Specific measures will aim at reforming fiscal policy, indirect taxation policy and foreign trade policy, reducing taxes on jobs, eliminating barriers to jobs, improving the business climate, better investor protection, stronger adherence to the rule of law, public administration reform, increasing the transparency of regulations and procedures, cutting opportunities for corruption, improving the targeting of social assistance and more effective, efficient and equitable social protection policies. Specific measures will be developed and implemented in agreement and in cooperation with economic and social partners, civil society, the European Union and International Financial Institutions;
- b) Measures for building a functional market economy;
- c) Measures for strengthening the rule of law, particularly the efficiency of institutions of the rule of law in the fight against corruption, organised crime and terrorism and ensuring full legal certainty for any natural or legal person;
- d) Measures to accelerate the reconciliation process;
- e) Measures to strengthen administrative capabilities enhance functionality and increase the efficiency of institutions at all levels of government for accepting and implementing the *acquis communautaire* of the European Union and other obligations for accession to the European Union.
3. The institutions of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina will, at a later stage (consequent to the initial reform measures), make progress regarding implementation of additional reforms in order to improve the functionality and efficiency of all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and direct special attention to the implementation of the ruling of the European Court for Human Rights in the case of *Sejdic and Finci vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina*.