

To the President of the EU Council

To the Governments of the EU Member States and Western Balkan countries

To the President of the European Commission

To the President of the European Parliament

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned civil society organisations from the Western Balkans, strongly believe that the time has come to open a new chapter in relations between the EU and Western Balkan countries. The Sarajevo ministerial meeting is an excellent opportunity to create a **new impetus** to the process of accession of the Western Balkan countries to the EU, and define the road toward their full-fledged membership in the European Union.

During the past decade all the countries of the Western Balkans have advanced considerably in their reform agendas, and made notable progress in their pursuit of the priorities set by the Thessaloniki Agenda and the ensuing European Partnerships. The EU's commitment to the European future of the region has contributed to the fruitful development of regional cooperation, democratization and developmental processes in each of the countries concerned, as well as in bringing stability to the region.

The governments of the region have demonstrated that they can deliver if the conditions are clearly defined, transparent and measurable as in the case of visa liberalisation.

However, the Zagreb Declaration and Thessaloniki Agenda are not enough to further consolidate democracy in the Western Balkan countries, neither do they ensure implementation of reforms, enhancement of regional cooperation and preservation of the hard-won progress on peace and stability.

The Sarajevo ministerial meeting is a unique opportunity to revitalize a lagging process, by undertaking the following:

1. **Emphasize the importance of preserving stability in the region** and strengthening the prospects for its further democratic development and economic recovery; Reaffirm the commitment of the EU and countries of the Western Balkans to work together to accelerate the process of accession and condemn any further fragmentation and division along ethnic lines.

2. **Encourage the countries of the region to strive for the following goals:**

- candidate status for all the countries by the end of 2011, and
- opening of accession negotiations with Macedonia by the end of 2010 followed by other front-runners by the beginning of 2012 at the latest.

The EU should **define clear, transparent and measurable benchmarks**, which should serve a dual purpose:

- allow civil society organisations to monitor the progress their country has made and hold their governments accountable, and
- allow scrupulous in-country monitoring by the EU and CSOs which will facilitate holding the governments accountable for their progress.

3. **Reiterate that “*bilateral issues should be resolved by the parties concerned and should not hold up the accession process*”** as specified by the Commission’s Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010. Countries should undertake a binding commitment in that respect before joining the European Union.

4. **Give new impetus to the completion of the visa liberalisation process** for all Western Balkan countries, including Kosovo, and encourage national governments to enable visa-free travel in the region, so as to improve mutual communication and cooperation.

5. **Express readiness** of both the EU and Western Balkan countries **to establish and maintain regular dialogue with civil society organisations** involved in the processes of Europeanization of their respective countries and monitoring of the process of accession of the EU.

The countries of the Western Balkans will benefit from a reinvigorated and clarified policy towards EU accession. Equally, the current realities of economic instability and the internal reform prerogative for EU institutions and member states under the Lisbon Treaty will benefit from stable and committed partners in the enlargement process. We ask that the support and assistance to Western Balkan countries in preparing for their EU membership is a leading priority for the EU, just as it is integral to a stable, prosperous and cooperative future for the Western Balkan region.

cc. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy and Vice-President

Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

Sarajevo, 1 June 2010

Signatories:

Albania

1. Open Society Foundation for Albania
2. Roma Active Albania
3. Albanian Institute for International Studies
4. Children's Rights Center for Albania
5. MJAFIT! Movement
6. Agenda Institute
7. Institute for Policy and Legal Studies
8. Institute for Contemporary Studies
9. Albanian Heritage Center
10. Center for Civic Legal Initiatives
11. Institute for Development and Research Alternatives
12. Regional Center for the Prevention of Crime
13. Albanian Forum for the Alliance of Civilizations
14. Center for Democratic Education
15. Center for the Development of Rural Women
16. Co-Plan
17. Shelter for Women and Girls - Tirana
18. Center for Parliamentary Studies
19. Albanian Human Rights Group
20. Albanian Council on Foreign Relations
21. Independent Association of Local Media
22. Albanian Center for International Trade
23. European Movement in Albania
24. Center for the Development and Democratization of Institutions
25. Jona NGO
26. Counseling Line for Women and Girls
27. Partners Albania
28. Albanian Center for Human Rights
29. LGBT PRO Albania
30. National Center for Community Services
31. Human Development Promotion Center
32. Transparency International Albania
33. Forum for Free Thought
34. Gender Alliance for Development Center

35. Albanian School of Political Studies
36. Institute for Dialogue and Communication
37. Albanian Foundation for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Disputes
38. Albanian Media Institute
39. Information and Research Center for Children's Rights in Albania
40. Institute for Democracy and Mediation
41. Institute for Balkan Studies
42. Albanian Center for Economic Research

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Open Society Fund BiH
2. Foreign Policy Initiative BH
3. Centres for Civic Initiatives
4. Center for Promotion of Civil Society, Sarajevo
5. IBHI BiH
6. EDA – Development Agency Banja Luka
7. Association “Education Builds BiH” Sarajevo
8. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH, Sarajevo
9. Association “Vaša prava BiH”
10. NGO “Initiative for Rule of Law” Banja Luka
11. Transparency International BiH
12. Citizens Forum of Tuzla
13. CURE Foundation
14. Community Development Foundation – Mozaik
15. Initiative and Civic Action - ICVA
16. International Peace Center, Sarajevo
17. Association for Sustainable Development – Fondeko
18. NGO “Why Not”
19. BH Journalists
20. Association “Women B&H”, Mostar
21. Association “Local Democracy Agency” – LDA, Mostar
22. Youth Culture Center Banja Luka
23. NGO of Altruists “Svjetlo”
24. Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka
25. NGO “Vesta”
26. Organization “Izbor Plus”

27. Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Sarajevo
28. Human Rights Center, Sarajevo
29. Human Rights Center, Mostar
30. Balkan Investigative Reporting Network BiH
31. Institution for Protection of Human Rights “Independent”, Zenica
32. Nansen Dialogue Center, Sarajevo
33. Social Inclusion Foundation in BiH
34. Centre for Security Studies
35. NGO “BOSPO”
36. Agricultural association BiH
37. Economic Chamber of Canton Sarajevo
38. NGO “Medica”, Zenica
39. Center for Informative Decontamination of Youth, Banja Luka
40. Association “Don”, Prijedor
41. Youth Informative Agency – OIA, Sarajevo
42. Human Rights House, Sarajevo
43. ACIPS
44. Centre for Policy and Governance, Sarajevo
45. Public Interest Advocacy Centre – CPI, Sarajevo
46. Rights for All – Sarajevo
47. Democratic Youth Movement
48. Center for Management, Development and Planning – MDP, Doboj
49. NGO “HAMBARINE”, Prijedor
50. NGO “Initiatives of Survivors Wounded by Mines”, Tuzla
51. Center for Culture of Dialogue, Sarajevo
52. Foundation “Women’s Initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, Sarajevo
53. proMENTE, Social Research, Sarajevo
54. NGO “VOICE OF THE WOMEN”, Bihać
55. Democracy Center New Hope, Bihać
56. Association of Parents “RUKA RUCI”
57. Ecological Association “EKO PUT”, Bijeljina

58. Association of Women with Disability "Impuls", Bijeljina
 59. Women GEA, Bijeljina
 60. – 80. Roma Resource Center for region – Zenica-Doboj, Sarajevo, Middle Bosnia (24 organizations)
 81. – 100. Roma Resource Center from Tuzla Canton (20 organizations)
 101. NGO "World for the Balkan", Bijeljina
 102. NVO "BK2001", Bosanska Krupa
 103. Women Association "Maja", Bratunac
 104. Women Association "Derventa", Derventa
 105. H.O. "Merhamet", Doboj
 106. Association "Primatura", Center for Protection of the Women Rights Doboj
 107. Association of Bread Winners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Doboj Istok
 108. Agency For Local Development Initiatives – ALDI, Goražde
 109. Association "Civil Affirmation of Society (GRAD)", Goražde
 110. Youth Center Gornji Vakuf – Uskoplje
 111. Association of Persons with Disabilities, Gradačac
 112. Center for Promotion of Civil Society, Gradačac
 113. Citizens Association "Hope", Jajce
 114. Association "Bata", Jasenica
 115. NGO "Aletrnative", Kakanj
 116. Association "Key of the Future", Ključ
 117. NGC "Volunteers & Friend of Konjic", Konjic
 118. AC "Center for Youth Work and Non-Formal Education" (CORNO), Maglaj
 119. Association „Independent bureau for Development“, Modriča
 120. Association of Youth "Rosary – Los Rosales", Modriča
 121. Association for Entrepreneurship and Business "LiNK", Mostar
 122. NGO "Cupido", Center for Improvement of Human Rights and Democracy, Mostar
 123. Nautical Association BiH, Mostar
 124. Caritas of Bishop Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mostar
 125. Association of Citizens for Education, Development and Initiative, N. Goražde
 126. Association "Youth of Krivaja River", Olovo
 127. Organization "EKO-LEONARDO", Priboj
 128. Association for Economic Development and Employment "TERRA SANA", Sanski Most
 129. Association "Border's Tear", Sanski Most
 130. Center "Phoenix", Sanski Most
 131. Centre for environmentally sustainable development, Sarajevo
 132. Association of Family Physicians of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 133. Foundation for Education, Science, Culture and Sport "Spark of Knowledge"
 134. Association of Detainees "New City", Sarajevo
 135. NGO "Child Movement for Peace, Sarajevo
 136. Association "UHO Altius", Sarajevo
 137. Alliance of Organizations for Support of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities of FBiH "Sumero", Sarajevo
 138. Red Cross of Canton Sarajevo
 139. Research and Documentation Center - RDC, Sarajevo
 140. Initiative for Development and Cooperation in BiH, Sarajevo
 141. AC "NARCO-NO", Sarajevo
 142. Association of Information Professionals-Librarians, Archivists & Museologists
 143. Association XY, Sarajevo
 144. Association "Friends of Srebrenica", Srebrenica
 145. AC "Sara", Srebrenica
 146. H.O. "Amica-Prijateljice", Srebrenica
 147. NGO EU "LAKE", Šerići
 148. Spiritual-Humanitarian Association "Drop of Love", Tomislavgrad
 149. AC of RS "Stop Mobbing", Trebinje
 150. Center for Development of Herzegovina, Trebinje
 151. AC of Civic Victims of War, Tuzla
 152. Youth Resource Center (YRC), Tuzla
 153. NGO "Future Code", Tuzla
 154. Association "Eco Tourist", Vareš
 155. Citizens Forum of Visoko
 156. NGO „Be My Friend“, Sarajevo
 157. AC "Sadnice Mira - Peace Trees", Zavidovići
 158. Local Evangelist Development Center (LEDC), Zenica
 159. U MCCU of Zenica-Doboj Canton, Zenica
 160. Association for Development "LEDA", Zenica
- Kosovo**
1. Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
 2. Veton Surroi, Foreign Policy Club, Board Chairman
 3. Behlul Beqaj, European Movement in Kosovo
 4. Ramadan Ilazi, Movement FOL
 5. Dus Abdurrahmani, Urban FM
 6. Leon Malazogu, Project on Ethnic Relations
 7. Venera Hajrullahu, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation
 8. Ismet Kryeziu, Kosovo Democratic Institute
 9. Ylli Hoxha, Foreign Policy Club
 10. Albulena Sadiku, Initiative for Progress, INPO
 11. Igor Savić, Future Without Fear
 12. Raba Gjoshi, Youth Initiative for Human Rights
 13. Florent Bakija, Center for European Politics and Policy
 14. Dukagjin Pupovci, Kosovo Education Center

15. Bekim Blakaj, Humanitarian Law Center
16. Shyqri Nimani, Ars Albanica
17. Faton Bislimi, Kosovo Public Policy Center
18. Valmir Mustafa, Uni Group Junior Enterprise
19. Seb Bytyqi, Balkan Policy Institute, IPOL
20. Avni Zogjani, COHU
21. Momčilo Arlov, Center for Civil Society Development
22. Fisnik Mula, JEF Kosova
23. Erolld Belegu, Institute for Culture and Sport
24. Shqipe Pantina, Center for Policy and Advocacy
25. Jeton Zulfaj, Çelnaia
26. Gazmend Qorraj, Institute for European Integration
27. Leonora Kryeziu, Prishtina Institute for Policy Studies
28. Jeta Xharra, BIRN Kosova
29. Engjellushe Morina, Kosovo Stability Initiative
30. Ferdinand Nikolla, Forum for Civic Initiatives
31. Ilir Deda, KIPRED
32. Muhamet Mustafa, Riinvest Institute
33. Agron Bajrami, Editor-in-Chief, Koha Ditore
34. Besa Luzha, Lecturer, University of Prishtina

Macedonia

1. Фондација Институт отворено општество – Македонија
2. Македонски центар за европско образование
3. Младински образовен форум – Скопје
4. Реактор – Истражување во акција – Скопје
5. Центар за развој на медиуми – Скопје
6. Фондација Метаморфозис – Скопје
7. Национален совет на жени на Македонија
8. Центар за одржлив развој на заедницата – Дебар
9. Центар за граѓанска иницијатива – Прилеп
10. Совет за глобална соработка
11. ФОРУМ - ЦСРД
12. Граѓани за европска Македонија – ГЕМ
13. НВО Инфоцентар
14. Македонски центар за меѓународна соработка
15. Заеднички вредности – Скопје

16. Регионален центар за одржлив развој – Кратово
17. Ековита – Неготино
18. Центар за современи уметности – Скопје
19. Здружението за еманципација, солидарност и еднаквост на жените на Р.М – ЕСЕ
20. Организација на жени Радика – Скопје
21. Европско здружение на студенти по право – ЕЛСА – Скопје
22. Организација на жени Кумановка - Куманово
23. Граѓанско движење Разбуди се
24. Светска академија за карпеста уметност
25. Светска федерација за палеолингвистика
26. Македонски центар за карпеста уметност
27. Здружение за развој и активизам Аква - Струга
28. Хуманитарно здружение на Ромите – Месечина
29. Центар за истражување на граѓанското општество
30. Центар за одржлив развој „Порта“ – Струмица
31. Здружение за образование, култура, уметност и спорт „Нијази Беј“ – Ресен
32. Здружение на граѓани Музичка младина – Ресен
33. Хуманитарна организација „Хаџеган“ – Ресен
34. Прогрес – Институт за социјална демократија – Скопје
35. Здружение за заштита на културниот идентитет на Еѓипќаните Изда – Ресен
36. Развој на локална заедница – Штип
37. Центар за развој на Пелагонискиот плански регион
38. Здружение на новинари на Македонија – Скопје
39. Р.Р.О.М.А.
40. Здружение на граѓани – Х.Е.Р.А.
41. ЦИВИЛ- Центар за слобода
42. Центар за поддршка на заедницата – Ресен
43. Регионален центар за одржлив развој – Гевгелија
44. Плоштад Слобода
45. Про-медиа
46. Чекор по чекор – Скопје
47. Општествено неподобен политички театар – Скопје
48. Акција Здруженска – Скопје
49. Младински културен центар – Битола

50. Центар за развој на заедницата – Кичево
51. Институт за човекови права – Скопје
52. ЗГ Извор Кратово
53. Македонско здружение за едукација и социјализација (Ромапес) - Штип

Montenegro

1. Foundation Open Society Institute- Representative Office Montenegro
2. Center for Civic Education
3. Center for Development of NGOs
4. Institute Alternative
5. European Movement in Montenegro
6. Center for Democracy and Human Rights
7. Foundation for Roma Stipends
8. Green Home
9. Safe Women's House
10. Youth Initiative for Human Rights
11. Center for Democratic Transition
12. Coalition »Roma Circle«
13. Association of NGOs Libertask
14. Montenegrin Association of Youth with Disabilities
15. Center for Consumers Protection
16. Expeditio, Center for Sustainable Development
17. Center for Euro-Atlantic Policies
18. 35 mm
19. Fund for Active Citizenship –fAKT
20. Montenegro Media Institute
21. New Horizont
22. Citizen Information and Education Center Cetinje
23. Citizen Information and Education Center Ulcinj
24. Bonum
25. Forum Mne
26. Montenegrin Helsinki Committee
27. Nansen Dialog Center Montenegro
28. Bono Modo Center
29. PRO NEN
30. Center for development of agriculture
31. Association of paraplegics Bijelo Polje
32. Center for Monitoring

33. Montenegro parents association
34. Mens sana
35. Center for Roma Initiatives, Nikšić
36. Association of paraplegics Pljevlja
37. Association of RAE refugees
38. Montenegrin Employers Federation
39. Youth Cultural Center »Juventas
40. New chance in Novi

Serbia

1. Fund for an Open Society
 2. Center for Applied European Studies
 3. Center for Regionalism
 4. Civic Initiatives
 5. Belgrade Center for Human Rights
 6. Center for Advanced Legal Studies
 7. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
 8. Belgrade Open School
 9. International and Security Affairs Centre, ISAC
- 10- 81. League for the Decade of Roma.
The League for the Decade of Roma includes 72 organizations that deal with Roma related issues.
82. Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence
 83. European Movement in Serbia
 84. Center for Civil-Military Relations
 85. Group 484
 86. Belgrade Center for European Integration
 87. Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, YUCOM
 88. Center for Development of non-profit Sector
 89. Center for Democracy
 90. PALGO Center
 91. Balkan Trust for Democracy
 92. Forum for Ethnic Relations
 93. Center for Strategic Economic Studies- "Vojvodina CESS"
 94. Faculty of Economics, Finance and Administration, FEFA

95. Sandžak Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms
 96. Sandžak Intellectual Circle
- 97-101. Committee for Human Rights in Serbia (CHRIS Network includes 5 following organizations: Committee for Human Rights-Novi Sad, Committee for Human Rights-Niš, Committee for Human Rights-Valjevo, Committee for Human Rights-Negotin, Committee for Human Rights-Novi Pazar)
- 102-109. Coalition for Monitoring of Public Finances.
The Coalition is made up of 8 organizations.
- 110- 125. Coalition for Free Access to Information.
The Coalition is made up of 16 organizations.
126. Center for Cultural Decontamination
127. Women in black
- 128-141. Balkan Civil Society Development Network.
The Network is comprised of 13 civil society organizations from Western Balkans Countries and EU member states (Slovenia and Rumania).
142. Balkan Anti-Corruption Platform
(consisting of 7 organizations from Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia)