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COVER NOTE

from:	Mr Dragan ČOVIĆ, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
date of receipt:	15 February 2016
to:	Mr Bert KOENDERS, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for membership to the European Union

Your Excellency,

I have the honour, on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to the Statement on the commitment of institutions at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the necessary reforms within the EU accession process, in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, to present the application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for membership in the European Union.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dragan Čović

Enclosure: Decision and Written Commitment of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Pursuant to Article 169 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" no. 79/14), Article 153 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" no. 58/14), the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted at the first emergency session of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held on February 23, 2015, and the first emergency session of the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held on February 23, 2015, the following

DECISION

I.

Upholding and endorsing the Written Commitment of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina no. 01-50-1-351-15/15 of January 29, 2015, signed by the leaders of all political parties represented in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which reads:

"Pursuant to Article V/3 a) and c) of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Article 32, paragraph (1) items a) and i) of the Rules of Procedure of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" no. 10/13, 32/13 and 22/14), in accordance with the conclusions of the European Union Foreign Affairs Council of December 15, 2014, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina established and adopted at its first extraordinary session held on January 29, 2015, the following

WRITTEN COMMITMENT

Aware of the complexity of the socio-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, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Dedicated to the underlying principles, values and goals of the European Union;

Affirming that the EU membership is a strategic goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

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

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

1. Institutions of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina will conduct all the reforms necessary 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 conditions and obligations needed for membership of the European Union. The agenda of the institutions of government on all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with respective constitutional competencies, will include the reforms necessary to advance Bosnia and Herzegovina's process of accession to the European Union and prioritize timely implementation of the said 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. Institutions of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina (institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, Brcko District and the ten cantons^b), 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 program of measurable initial reform measures, to include:

- 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 modernizing the economy, fostering sustainable, efficient, socially just and steady economic growth, creating new jobs, increasing and more appropriately targeting social assistance, and creating a favorable 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 social assistance targeting process and establishing more effective, efficient and equitable social protection policy. Specific measures will be developed and implemented in agreement and cooperation with socio-economic partners, civil society, European Union and International Financial Institutions;
 - b) Measures to build a functional market economy;
 - c) Measures to strengthen the rule of law, particularly the efficiency of institutions of the rule of law in the fight against corruption, organized 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 on all levels of government in accepting and implementing the EU *acquis communautaire* and other obligations of accession to the European Union.
3. Institutions of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina will at a later stage (following the initial reform measures) make progress in 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 of Human Rights in the case of *Sejdic and Finci vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina*".

II.

This Written Commitment will be published in the "Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

No. 01, 02-05-1-49/15
February 23, 2015
Sarajevo

Chairman
of the House of Representatives
of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

Šefik Džaferović, sgd.

Chairman
of the House of Peoples
of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

Bariša Čolak, sgd.

¹ Una-Sana Canton, Posavina Canton, Tuzla Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Bosnian-Podrinje Canton, Central Bosnia Canton, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, West Herzegovina Canton, Sarajevo Canton and Canton 10.