

**THE XX CONFERENCE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES ON EUROPEAN  
INTEGRATION/AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE STABILISATION AND  
ASSOCIATION PROCESS IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE (COSAP)**

***Belgrade, 3-5 November 2024***

**JOINT STATEMENT**

The Twentieth Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the Countries Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process in South-East Europe (COSAP) was held in Belgrade on 3-5 November 2024, at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Delegations of Members of Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia participated in the meeting.

The delegations of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and the Parliament of Georgia participated in the Conference in the capacity of special guests.

Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, EU Member States' parliaments and COSAC Troika, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, the diplomatic corps, the Transport Community and the Regional Youth Cooperation Office also took part in the meeting.

Within the exchange of opinions and experience regarding the Stabilisation and Association Process and the European Union integration processes, and after discussing topical issues related to the enlargement policy and the EU development perspectives, as well as the significance of enhancing the regional cooperation and connectivity, COSAP members:

1. *Confirm* their commitment to the European Union association and integration process and *emphasise* the significance of this process as a mechanism for stepping up reforms, ensuring market economy, rule of law and preserving regional peace and stability, which are at the same time conditions for EU membership.
2. *Welcome* the EU support to a consistent enlargement policy, reaffirmed by the adoption of the EU Strategic Agenda for 2024-2029 noting that the new geopolitical reality underlines the importance of enlargement as a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and progress;
3. *Welcome* the priorities of the Hungarian presidency of the Council of the EU, in particular a balanced, credible and merit-based enlargement policy that includes enhancement of cooperation and ties between the EU and candidate countries.

4. Particularly *welcome* the Growth Plan for the Western Balkan region aimed at approximation of the Western Balkan region partners by providing them with some of the benefits of membership prior to their EU accession, such as the access to the EU single market, which will enable unlocking the region's economic potential, creating business opportunities and new jobs, and transformation of the region into a place more attractive to European investors;
5. *Support* enhancement of regional connectivity and integration, in the context of the EU integration of the Western Balkan region, and *continue* developing a proactive cooperation with other regional organisations that share European values; *particularly underline* the significance of transport connectivity between SEE and the EU which positively affects regional economic flows; *support* public policies promoting the spirit of cooperation among the youth in the region, through their participation in various projects;
6. *Welcome* the Joint Declaration adopted by the Berlin Process Summit of leaders held in Berlin on 14 October 2024, estimating it as a confirmation of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, and of the Western Balkans' future in Europe aimed at fulfilling the vision for a strong, stable and united Europe and especially recognising the role of the parliamentary cooperation in achieving the goals of the Berlin Process.
7. Aware of the fact that the Berlin Process plays an important role in the EU integration process, and that it has become a promoter of a common regional market approximating the region to the European single market, *underscore* the importance of an unhindered flow of goods, people, services and capital, and of promoting investments and innovations in the Western Balkans;
8. *Remind* EU Member States and EU institutions that over two decades have passed since the Thessaloniki EU Summit when the Western Balkans was promised a European perspective, and *emphasise* a modest visibility and a limited scope of tangible benefits for the Western Balkan region in the previous period, which has consequently caused a rise in Euroscepticism. Moreover, *appeal to* the EU Member States to reconcile their different positions on the enlargement policy and to ensure support of their public for further EU enlargement.
9. *Express hope* that the announced EU reforms will ensure legal and political mechanisms that would prevent bilateral and other issues that are not necessary requirements for the EU accession, from being used as a means for blocking the EU integration process.
10. *Underline* the significance of regional cooperation and *appeal to* parliamentary committees to intensify their mutual cooperation for the purpose of exchanging experiences and best practices in the EU integration processes, which would additionally contribute to accelerating the EU accession process, to exchanging experiences and best practices in the EU negotiation processes, both at the political

and technical levels, with an emphasis on the alignment of the national legislation with the EU acquis.

11. *Welcome* the agreement reached on establishing a working group that would draft amendments to the COSAP Rules of Procedure during the next chairmanship-in-office;
12. *Emphasise* their commitment to continuing the implementation of the 'Regional Cooperation for EU-Integration (RCEI)' Project implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and *welcome* the activities of the regional Network of Secretariats of the Western Balkans' parliamentary European Integration Committees;
13. *Express gratitude to* the European Integration Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia for organising the Twentieth COSAP and *extend* their full support to the European Affairs Committee of the Albanian Parliament as the next chairing parliament.

Belgrade, 4 November 2024