

**DRAFT Emergency Resolution Nr. 6 tabled by HDZ / Croatia to the EPP Congress,
Rotterdam (The Netherlands), 31st May – 1st June 2022**

“The electoral reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

In the context of the drastically deteriorated security environment in Europe caused by the Russian Federation’s unprecedented aggression against Ukraine, the European Union must prevent possible new negative scenarios and make efforts to steer the Southeast Europe towards accelerated acceptance of fundamental European values.

As concluded in the EPP Emergency Resolution at the EPP Congress in Zagreb in 2019, *“the Western Balkans remains a region of strategic importance to the EU since the stability, economic and social development of the region have direct consequences for the EU”*. In that, the accession process plays an essential role in ensuring the transformation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in to a stable and well-functioning European country.

1. The EPP is concerned with the lack of reforms that should be adopted in accordance with the fourteen key priorities set by the European Commission's Opinion. In order to obtain the candidate status, EPP strongly believes that at least several of the priorities should be implemented as soon as possible, among which electoral and limited constitutional reform, as well as ensuring the functioning of all state institutions, are of particular importance. Significant progress in implementing other vital reforms such as the strengthening of the coordination mechanisms on EU matters, ensuring effective coordination and capacity for border and migration management and implementing anti-corruption measures should be achieved in parallel.
2. The EPP welcomes the conclusions of the European Council meeting on 24-25 March 2022 on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EPP supports the the President of the European Council’s follow-up visit to Sarajevo, thus confirming the highest level of engagement in order to reach agreement on the electoral and limited constitutional reform. We also welcome the efforts of all the institutions, including the European Commission, the European External Action Service, the Office of the High Representative and the Venice Commission, in assisting political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to find a consensus. In this context, we call for full implementation of the Mostar Agreement on Electoral Law Reform of 2020 that has been endorsed by the representatives of the EU and other international stakeholders.



3. The EPP supports political dialogue which must be given priority over blocking the most important political processes and reforms, thus prolonging the political crisis which poses a potential risk for democracy, stability and the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
4. The EPP calls for a swift change of the Electoral Law, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the implementation of the principle of full equality, parity and non-discrimination of the three constituent peoples and all other citizens in all political institutions.
5. In line with the decision of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina of 2016, the EPP believes that political stability starts with legitimate political representation, as a precondition which should be ensured at all political and administrative levels, so that constituent peoples and all other citizens are not deprived of their democratic right to choose their representatives.
6. The EPP calls on all the political leaders and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to give their constructive contribution to ensure fair elections and to avoid electoral practices that may endanger legitimate political representation of the three constituent peoples and all other citizens.