

**Emergency Resolution Nr. 6 adopted at the EPP Congress, Rotterdam (The Netherlands),
31st May – 1st June 2022**

The European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the context of the drastically deteriorated security environment in Europe determined by unprecedented aggression of the Russian Federation 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 candidate status, EPP strongly believes that at least several of the priorities should be implemented as soon as possible, among which electoral and 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 follow-up visit to Sarajevo of the President of the European Council, thus confirming the highest level of engagement in order to reach agreement on the electoral and 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 consensus. We welcome the steps undertaken by BiH leaders and lawmakers to reach political agreements and adopt legislative amendments which

allowed local elections in Mostar to take place in December 2020, underlining the multicultural reality of BiH.

3. We strongly condemn the most recent unacceptable incitement calling into question the country's territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty. Any unconstitutional secessionist actions, departing from the constitutional and legal framework, must cease, while the current blockade of institutions must end immediately to allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to tackle necessary reforms and further pursue its EU perspective.
4. 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.
5. The EPP urges that electoral reforms be addressed swiftly in an inclusive manner, while complying with the requirements of EU membership. Electoral and constitutional reforms, in line with both EU principles and international and constitutional court decisions, which includes the equality of its three constituent people, others and all citizens.
6. The EPP calls on all political leaders and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to give their constructive contribution to ensure fair elections and to involve all EPP sister parties in this process.