



BRDO - BRIJUNI PROCESS
LEADERS' MEETING
PORTO MONTENEGRO, 8 OCTOBER 2024

BRDO - BRIONI PROCES
SASTANAK LIDERA
PORTO MONTENEGRO, 8. OKTOBAR 2024.

Tivat Presidential Statement

The leaders of the Brdo-Brijuni Process, met in Montenegro at a time of significant challenges to shared European values. Amid these challenges, we recognize that our strength is essential for securing a future of peace and stability.

We reaffirm our unwavering belief that the integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union is the most promising and irreplaceable path towards a Europe that is whole, free and at peace. The current moment calls for bold actions to ensure the long-term stability of our continent, creating conditions where young people can remain in the region and thrive in just, prosperous and sustainable societies.

Bearing in mind the Skopje Declaration of 2023 we agreed on the following:

1. We confirm that good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation remain essential preconditions for lasting and sustainable stability and prosperity throughout the Region and integration of the WB6 in the EU. We pledge to engage in good faith to achieve these aims, including resolving outstanding issues and bilateral disputes, keeping in mind the best interest of all parties involved.
2. We support intensive and meaningful strategic dialogue between the European Union and the Western Balkans, aimed at seizing the current positive momentum in which EU member states and institutions are committed to supporting the Western Balkans Six integration into the EU as soon as possible and according to the merit-based principle. In return, the Western Balkans Six will accelerate respective reforms and continue to meet the necessary criteria for EU accession. We welcome the ongoing discussions on the reform of the EU, particularly in the context of enlargement. We strongly believe that these discussions should occur in parallel with the enlargement process.
3. We have made youth a central focus in our commitments. We continue to attach great importance to addressing the issue of *brain drain* in the Western Balkans, particularly in light of research showing that a significant number of young people still aspire to leave their homes in search of better opportunities abroad. All the reforms we undertake in the Western Balkans will have little impact without a credible strategy to retain young talent, which includes better economic opportunities and meritocracy as employment principle.

4. Appreciating the significance of EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, we pledge to invest significant efforts to ensure investments in the WB region, in order to provide for better connectivity, enhancing people to people contacts and enhancing security.
5. As the Western Balkan Six continue to aspire toward the EU membership, we recognize the importance of the European Green Deal in shaping a modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economy. While aligning our development goals with these principles, we aim to support efforts towards achieving climate neutrality by 2050, decoupling economic growth from resource use and ensuring inclusive progress.
6. In terms of green and sustainable growth, we also recognize the necessity of addressing coal dependency in the region by implementing a gradual, just transition, providing sustainable and green alternatives for the livelihoods of citizens in affected areas. Therefore, we commit to dedicating resources, efforts, and political will to ensure a green and prosperous future for the generations to come.
7. Devastating floods that affected Bosnia and Herzegovina highlight the importance of joint action and mutual support in facing numerous challenges. We recognize that only through joint efforts we can effectively contribute to the prevention and reduction of risks associated with natural catastrophes and other disasters.
Once more, we confirm our solidarity with citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and emphasize the importance of comprehensive support and assistance in overcoming the consequences of the floods while ensuring aid for the population, as fast as possible.

