



SEECP TIRANA SUMMIT DECLARATION

16 JUNE 2025

Under the Chairmanship of President, Mr. Bajram Begaj, we, Participants of the Southeast European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Summit, President Nataša Pirc Musar, President Jakov Milatovic, President Vjosa Osmani Sadriu, Chairwoman of the Presidency Željka Cvijanović, President Gordana Siljanovska Davkova, President Rumen Radev, Prime Minister Đuro Macut, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mihai Popșoi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Hakan Fidan, Minister for Foreign Affairs Emilian Horatiu Hurezeanu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexandra Papadopoulou, and State Secretary for Political Affairs Frano Matušić,

In the presence of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretary General, Mr. Amer Kapetanović, and representatives of the European External Action Service and the European Commission, have met in Tirana on 16 June 2025.

REITERATING our strong commitment to the founding principles of the SEECP Charter, International Law, the UN Charter, as well as to the relevant documents of the EU, OSCE and the Council of Europe;

STRESSING our commitment to the values and principles of democracy, rule of law, respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity, inclusiveness, and equality;

CONTINUING to emphasize the inclusive role and the commitment of SEECP as the main political platform for regional cooperation, based on the principles of equality, inclusivity, and regional ownership; underlining its potential to streamline regional efforts in achieving common goals such as enabling fast economic growth, sustainable development, security, stability and prosperity;

ACKNOWLEDGING the role and importance of the SEECP in the overall cooperation in Southeast Europe, based on shared strong political will, the principle of inclusiveness, and a regionally-owned process;

RECONFIRMING our commitment to good-neighborly relations and inclusive regional cooperation as indispensable basis for achieving and safeguarding peace, stability, prosperity and regional economic integration as well as promoting sustainable development, to the benefit of our citizens;

STATING our common vision towards the European perspective of our entire region, as a key pillar to achieving peace, security and prosperity, as well as social coherence and economic convergence;

BY ENHANCING reconciliation and trust-building, regional cooperation, merit-based EU accession process and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in SEE in line with SEE 2030 Strategy, and the current Common Regional Market (CRM) Action Plan, we encourage strengthening human exchanges, regional people-to-people contacts and the full realization of the

economic potential of the region as an essential element in integrating the entire SEE region into EU;

RECOGNISING that the effective and sustainable implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans is crucial for the region;

EXPRESSING the will to enhance our cooperation and coordination in the field of foreign and security policy, and to defend universal values upholding the primacy of international law, a rules-based international order, and good neighbourly relations;

RECALLING the previous Declarations adopted at SEECP Summits as guidelines for fostering of the overall cooperation and partnerships and converting our region into a peaceful and developed area;

REAFFIRMING the will to continue to cooperate at a regional level in response to common regional and global challenges;

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

We underline the importance of the EU enlargement as a cornerstone of peace, democracy, security, rule of law, stability, prosperity and shared values for the whole SEE region.

We reiterate the significance of constructive regional cooperation, good-neighborly relations, the respect of fundamental human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and the rule of law as essential elements for a successful European integration.

We highlight the important milestones reached in the EU integration process confirming that it is based on the principle of own merits, and fulfillment of the EU established accession criteria and fundamental European values.

We commend the recent endeavors of EU to foster the enlargement process through a number of new initiatives such as the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, the Ukraine Facility and the Growth Plan for Chisinau, aiming to support fundamental reforms and economic development, strengthen convergence, enhance policy engagement and regional cooperation in order to make tangible progress on the EU enlargement agenda.

We welcome the Common Regional Market (CRM) Action Plan, for the period 2025-2028, endorsed at the Berlin Process Summit in October 2024, and reiterate that CRM is an important instrument of regional economic integration, bringing Western Balkans closer to the EU Single Market, as well as a contributor to sustainable development across Southeast Europe.

We underscore the necessity of the EU aspiring SEECP participants to be committed to the process of integration into the EU Single Market, based on adopting the relevant EU Acquis, and closing

the socio-economic gap between the SEE region and the EU. These new instruments are critical for addressing development gaps and current infrastructural shortcomings in SEE and achieving connectivity convergence with the European Union.

We reiterate the commitment of the EU SEECP participants to continue providing political and tangible support to other SEECP participants in their EU accession processes and reform agendas, ensuring that the prospect of EU membership remains a joint objective and a credible goal for entire SEE region. Also, we acknowledge the progress of the region on the EU accession path.

REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION AND CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES

We remain deeply concerned about the complex and challenging geo-strategic circumstances that the world is facing, caused by the current crises with serious actual and potential consequences for the European and the global stability.

We condemn once again Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, underlining the need to put an end to the war through a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the principles of the UN Charter and International Law, and welcome all the international efforts to that end, including the talks in Istanbul and Riyadh, as well as the support of Washington, the European Union and its Members States. We reaffirm our steadfast support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and our commitment to continue providing assistance. This war reinforces the unity of all SEECP Participants in upholding peace, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights as essential pillars for building a stable and prosperous SEE region.

We deplore the unacceptable and appalling humanitarian catastrophe still unfolding in Gaza. We strongly condemn all attacks causing loss of civilian lives and call for immediate and permanent ceasefire, provision of unimpeded, sufficient humanitarian assistance, release of hostages, exchange of detainees and reviving the political process to achieve a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution.

We reiterate our commitment to effective multilateralism, as well as our respect for International Law and the Charter of the United Nations, which should be the guiding principles for dealing with all threats against international peace and security. In this respect, we emphasize the UN Security Council's essential role and we express our full support to Athens and Ljubljana, in their current role as non-permanent members of the UNSC.

We emphasize the increasing significance of cooperation with the EU on security matters, including through regular dialogue at all levels, recognizing the importance of harmonization of respective positions and alignment of policies on matters which fall under the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy.

We are determined to closely cooperate and undertake coordinated action aimed at confronting and defeating persistent threats, such as cyber and hybrid attacks, information manipulation and interference, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, arms and drugs smuggling, cyber-crime, terrorism and violent extremism, as well as malign hybrid activities including disinformation and fake news. We underscore the essential role of a free and independent media, as well as a vibrant civil society, in promoting transparency, accountability and democratic values across Southeast Europe.

We underline that the role of NATO in Southeast Europe is important for maintaining security, peace and stability in our region, especially in the current geopolitical context. We will continue to support the Euro-Atlantic aspirations in the region.

We underline the need for continued efforts in combatting corruption and organized crime in the region. We must increase our efforts in opposing all forms of violence, including but not limited to gender-based violence and femicide, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance based on religion or belief, hate speech and hate crime, both offline and online, as well as all forms of violence and discrimination against persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups.

We commend the work of other regional initiatives, and, on the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, we welcome its activities in fostering cooperation among its members and contributing to efforts towards promoting peace and stability in the Southeast Europe.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

We welcome and attach great importance to the European Union's Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and Chisinau which is expected to give a new impetus to the economic development and integration process of the SEE region. We assess that the European Union has a pivotal role to play in accelerating the SEE overall economic convergence and social development on the region's path to European integration.

We acknowledge the role of EU Growth Plans for Chisinau and the Western Balkans, and the Common Regional Market Action Plan 2025-2028 that will improve job opportunities, and increase foreign direct investments, contributing to economic growth.

We highlight the importance of regional economic integration of the EU aspiring SEECP Participants markets to the EU Single Market based on the EU relevant acquis, including the implementation of the four freedoms, and other measures within the framework of the CRM. Fostering competitiveness and inclusive growth as well as speeding-up trade facilitation and reducing negative impact of non-tariff measures are the key instruments to transform the SEE region into an area of sustainable economic development and prosperity.

We highlight the importance of a business enabling environment and competitiveness under the Common Regional Market Action Plan to create an economic landscape that meets EU standards, focusing on sustainable development, digital and consumer finance, sustainable investments, and greening industries.

We acknowledge important achievements in various areas, such as strengthening connectivity, Green Lanes, transport, trade, energy, the Green Agenda, digital ties and cybersecurity as well as advancing the mobility of people and professionals in the region. Initiatives within this framework are encouraged to combine the use of private funds as well as financing emanating from the EU Instruments for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III 2021-2027).

We stress the importance of innovation and research as key drivers of sustainable growth and competitiveness in Southeast Europe. We support regional cooperation in creating smart strategies to drive digital transformation, green technologies and human capital development across the region.

We underline that the Western Balkans' Common Regional Market is serving as an important stepping stone towards convergence with the EU Single Market. The Participants from the Western Balkans reconfirm their commitment to implement the CRM Action Plan 2025-2028 and to ensure the full implementation of all agreements within the Berlin Process. We evaluate that the mobility agreements of the Berlin Process will further increase opportunities for free movement in the region.

We commend the reduction of data roaming charges between EU and the region, and encourage efforts towards introducing Roam like at home, similar to those of Chisinau and Kyiv. We welcome the decision of European Payments Council Board to include Belgrade, Chisinau, Podgorica, Skopje, and Tirana in the geographical scope of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), and we expect others in the region to join soon. We commend advancements in the implementation of Green Lanes and reduction of waiting times for the respective procedures.

We underline that environmental challenges posed by climate change are among the most difficult issues faced in Southeast Europe. We emphasize the importance of comprehensive and coordinated climate action, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a level of ambition in line with that of EU, developing renewable energy sources (RES), promoting energy efficiency, ensuring sustainable urban development and management, sustainable water management and sustainable management and preservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity, and recycling to minimize environmental

footprint and conserving valuable natural resources. Regarding the energy sector, we pledge the development of the RES sector through synergies on multiple levels.

We highlight the region's vulnerability to natural hazards, which are being intensified by climate change, such as floods, droughts and wildfires. In this context, we stress the need to strengthen disaster risk reduction efforts and enhance resilience at all levels. Regional cooperation and investing in early warning systems, risk-informed urban planning is essential to safeguard communities, infrastructure and ecosystems, and to foster sustainable and inclusive development across Southeast Europe.

We underscore the particular importance of connectivity as an outcome of synergies within the SEE region. Enabling connectivity in all possible forms is an efficient lever of growth acceleration and, for that purpose, fostering connectivity at all levels and fields of activity in the SEE region is crucial.

We recall that the SEECP participants share the view that the Transport Community for the Western Balkans could provide a positive impetus for economic development by improving the region's logistical connections to the European markets. This can also serve to the expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure under reliable conditions.

We commit to advancing gender equality and youth engagement, recognizing that empowering women and youth is essential for innovation, economic growth, and the sustainable prosperity of the region.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SEECP

We support and highly appreciate the work of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. Inter-parliamentary interaction and cooperation are essential in strengthening continuous political dialogue, upholding democratic standards, reinforcing democratic institutions and the rule of law.

We encourage further engagement of SEECP Parliamentary Assembly in the agendas of regional cooperation and in supporting the European perspective of the SEE region.

We acknowledge and welcome the endeavors of the Tirana C-i-O Parliament in successfully chairing SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. These endeavors aimed to further upgrade the role of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly.

We commend the activities of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly and recognize that the close cooperation between SEECP and the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly advances regional reforms and strengthens parliamentary dialogue in the region.

SEECP-RCC SYNERGY

We underline that SEECP will continue to provide political guidance to the RCC aimed at achieving greater synergy and efficiency in our common task of converging the region into an area of prosperity and stability, through fostering regional cooperation, reconciliation and good neighbourly relations.

We encourage the continued engagement of RCC in facilitating the implementation of regional programs and projects, also through identifying potential partners and financial instruments for their realisation.

We recognize the achievements of RCC in fostering cooperation, regional development, and progress towards a shared future within the European Union.

We emphasize our commitment to implementation of the SEE 2030 Strategy as we support RCC's ongoing efforts to facilitate regional programmes and projects to ensure its priorities remain aligned with the current challenges facing the SEE region.

We endorse the Annual Report of the Secretary General of RCC for the period 2024-2025 and welcome the RCC Strategy and Work Program 2026-2028, endorsed at the RCC Annual Meeting.

We recognize the pivotal role of RCC in leading the preparation of the second iteration of the CRM Action Plan 2025–2028 and in supporting its effective implementation.

We invite all SEECP Participants to conclude the revision and updating process of the SEE2030 Strategy.

We acknowledge the establishment of the Southeast Europe Network on Disaster Insurance and Risk Sharing as a significant step in our shared commitment to enhancing the resilience of Southeast Europe within the framework of the SEE2030 Strategy.

TIRANA SEECP CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

We express high appreciation to Tirana for a successful Chairmanship-in-Office for the period 2024-2025, under the motto "Shaping our European future" and promoting its priorities namely; European integration, security cooperation, economic growth, health cooperation, cooperation in the fields of tourism and culture, connectivity and transport.

FUTURE CHAIRMANSHIP IN OFFICE

We welcome the upcoming Sofia Chairmanship in Office of SEECP for the period 2025-2026.

The Chairmanship-in-Office will be exercised in accordance with current SEECP practices and in a neutral manner regarding documents, procedures, premises and symbols.