

Strasbourg, October 25, 2018

Mr Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels
Belgium

Mr Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
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Ms Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Mr Johannes Hahn
Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations
Rue de la Loi 200
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President Tajani,
President Tusk,
President Juncker,
High Representative / Vice-President Mogherini,
Commissioner Hahn,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament from Croatia, would like to use this opportunity to express our deep concern with the outcome of the recent elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which resulted in a Croatian member of the Presidency being elected mostly by Bosniac voters, while the overwhelming majority of Croats voted for another candidate. This has happened now for the third time. It is our firm belief that such outcome does not contribute to BiH's stability and viability/functionality as a state of three equal constituent peoples and Others, as envisioned by the Dayton Paris Accords (DPA).

We recall that Croatia is a signatory to the DPA and an EU Member State sharing the longest border with BiH and having ties that run long and deep. Therefore, the Croatian Members of the EP, call for vigilance and attention on how these developments might affect the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its wider region, bilateral relations with Croatia, regional cooperation and its European ambitions.

We also recognise serious challenges of prolonged formation of the new authorities at the Federation and at the state level due to the non-existent provisions of the Electoral Law.

Encouraged by the fact that this was raised at the highest levels in the Council and European Council, we expect a follow up and comprehensive discussion about the post-election situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the next FAC meeting. We support the message in the joint statement by Ms. Mogherini and Mr. Hahn on the importance of rapid formation of the House of Peoples in line with rulings by the Constitutional Court of BiH (*Ljubić case*).

There are very good reasons why in the DPA Bosnia and Herzegovina was constructed as one state with two entities and three constituent peoples. The architecture was not perfect in every detail, however, subsequent changes to the original balance produced unfavourable/harmful results. This must be corrected, and there should be no excuse for further postponing this work. We believe the EU should have a role and assist in this process.

It is high time that all EU institutions and Member States understand and accept the fact that the equality of the three constituent peoples is a must, not only because it is stated so in the DPA, but also because that is the only concept that guarantees the long term sustainability and prosperity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We hope that other stakeholders will consider this call to reason, as well as previous appeals from the European Parliament, including in its last 2017 Resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina about the crucial value of ensuring the legitimate representation for a functioning democracy.

The tendencies advocating centralization or separatism are not conducive to efficient functioning of BiH and continue to polarize the communities. BiH can overcome the present troubles only if all three constituent peoples can come together and ensure that each of them has an equal and unifying stake in their country.

We, the undersigned, will continue supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina within the vision outlined by the said European Parliament Resolution, and encourage all actors to help BiH move forward in the same direction as the best way to overcome the present disturbing/destabilising uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Biljana BORZAN 
Member of the European Parliament

Ivana MALETIĆ 
Member of the European Parliament

Marijana PETIR 
Member of the European Parliament

Tonino PICULA 
Member of the European Parliament

Jozo RADOŠ 
Member of the European Parliament

Davor ŠKRLEC
Member of the European Parliament

Dubravka ŠUICA 
Member of the European Parliament

Ivica TOLIĆ
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Ruža TOMAŠIĆ 
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Željana ZOVKO 
Member of the European Parliament

IVAN JAKOVIĆ
MEP 