



We, representatives of the Paneuropean Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of Paneuropean organizations from Austria, Montenegro, France, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, and Slovenia, at the international conference „Bosnia and Herzegovina: One Step to Candidate Status – Can We Speed Up the Process?“ which takes places in Bihac, 19 – 21 May, 2017, adopt

DECLARATION

- 1. Bosnia and Herzegovina has always been, is, and can only be possible with the widest consensus of all constitutive nations and others living in it. BiH requires constitutional and economic changes, and we in the Paneuropean Union have been advocating for them for a long time because the state as it is now is neither fair nor functional. We invite the representatives of all the parties in the parliament to adopt necessary constitutional changes, which would understand embedding the principle of subsidiarity in the BiH Constitution, and based on that principle redefine jurisdictions in public undertakings between local, cantonal, entity, and state levels, paying more attention to the role of municipalities and their equal development in the country. It is important that no one in BiH uses its quantitative majority against quantitative minorities, starting from the state level all the way down to the local level.*
- 2. The Paneuropean Union BiH salutes the efforts of the responsible institutions, nongovernmental sector, and citizens, with the aim to better answer European Commission's Questionnaire to prepare the opinion on the application for membership. We underline the importance of the functioning of the adopted Coordination Mechanism as the key condition for future steps of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards receiving the candidate status. We invite citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to stay involved in socio-political and economic processes in the country through all forms of civic engagement.*
- 3. The European integration process is not just a technical issue but a kind of cultural, political, and versatile paradigm of the new revolution in thinking and behavior. This is the question of the future of our homeland, and all political parties have taken the stance on this issue. Our future is in the European Union! That's also the opinion shared by most citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thus, abuse of the European integration processes for selfish political goals needs to stop and we need to tackle the challenges it brings. Even the smallest advancement in the process is a step closer to a functional country.*
- 4. The Paneuropean Union recognizes the crime, corruption, and attempts of political meddling in the work of the justice system of BiH as key obstacles for the acceleration of the process to receive the candidate status and the overall process of the integration of BiH in the European Union. In this light and, we emphasize the need for stronger efforts to keep the autonomy of the justice system and to strengthen the integrity of people carrying key roles within this system.*
- 5. The Paneuropean Union asks the representatives of the international community, in particular of the European Union, to become more involved in all essential processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina through their mediation. As much as it is important for BiH to become a member of the European Union, given current geopolitical circumstances, it is important for the European Union that BiH becomes its part, because only a European Bosnia and Herzegovina guarantees safety and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and ensures the preservation of peace in Europe and realization of the European project.*
- 6. The Paneuropean Union BiH invites BiH officials and officials from the EU institutions to harshly judge increasing calls to redraw the borders of Southeastern Europe. The Paneuropean Union BiH believes these actions are very destructive for the European integration process, which we want to accomplish, and are not in the interest of peace, stability, and prosperity of BiH, the region, and the entire European continent.*