



We, the Paneuropean Youth from Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia gathered at Banja Luka and Sarajevo in June 2023, declare:

1. We support the continuation of the European Union enlargement process in this part of Europe, having in mind that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia should become full members of the European Union and we call on bodies and institutions of the EU to encourage and help them in fulfilling the necessary criteria and that these countries be given the option to join as soon as they meet all the membership conditions.
2. These countries have tremendous resources, which can be economically and culturally integrated into the European Union to the mutual benefit of all Europeans. Their most valuable resource are the people who share a common European culture and history and have particular experience in multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious co-existence and dialogue, which is now needed in the European Union more than ever.
3. In this regard, we welcome the European Council decision of December 15, 2022 to give candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina, hopeful that now the EU accession process will gain new wind, with the negotiations being conducted as swiftly as possible. It is evident that the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously express a clear desire for their country to be a fully integrated EU Member State and we call on political representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina to dutifully respect the will of the citizens. We urge Bosnia and Herzegovina political representatives to refrain from a rhetoric invoking any kind of secessionism or ethnic division and domination and condemn any celebration or denial of war crimes, especially the genocide in Srebrenica.
4. We encourage EU representatives and decision-makers to take into account the specific political and legal situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the negotiations process. We believe that the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the cultural and economic benefit of all its citizens can only be achieved in the EU and by respecting the democratic processes and carefully built constitutional institutions, the equality of the three peoples and the protection of human rights of all citizens.
5. We welcome the 2022 decisions of the European Council to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia, as well as to award candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova.
6. We have experienced personally how beneficial it was for Croatia to join the Eurozone and Schengen area and call for the immediate accession of Bulgaria and Romania to Schengen, seeing that they fulfilled all required criteria; and accession to the Eurozone as soon as they meet the conditions.
7. We support the institutions of the European Union, as well as all Member States and those on the road to membership in all processes of strengthening the EU as a subject of international politics that can equally defend the interests of Europeans in relations with the other global powers, as well as lead a policy of peacemaking, in line with the objectives and principles that led to the creation of the EU. We believe that the ideal of a peaceful and democratic Europe means also being prepared to defend itself as was shown in the Russian aggression against Ukraine. We fully support the EU, member states and other European countries' solidarity with Ukraine, including in providing economic and military aid and we are hopeful that Europe will not falter until the aggressor is defeated.
8. Our vision of Europe is one of solidarity, economic cooperation, wellbeing of every citizen, respect for cultural diversity, scientific and educational excellence, with the family protected and promoted as the fundamental unit of society. Such a vision calls for a strong European Union with a unified foreign and security policy, ready to protect the interests of all European citizens, and to which the nations of South-East Europe naturally belong.