



Conclusions of the Extraordinary Summit of the Brdo–Brijuni Process

**“A common strategic vision of
Europe whole, free and at peace”**

Zagreb, Croatia, November 25, 2015

We, the Leaders of the Brdo-Brijuni Process met in Zagreb on November 25, 2015, for an Extraordinary Summit with the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden and the President of the European Council Donald Tusk. Our previous guest, Austrian President Heinz Fischer, was in attendance.

We discussed current challenges as well as opportunities for strengthening the stability, security and prosperity of South East Europe. It was agreed that to achieve these common aims we must continue to strengthen the transatlantic partnership between the United States and the European Union and to re-energize the EU enlargement process for candidate countries and the Euro-Atlantic integration process for NATO aspirants. The European Union and the United States expressed their steadfast commitment to advancing and supporting these European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes for Brdo-Brijuni Process members, which will help to realize our common strategic vision of Europe whole, free, and at peace.

The momentum of the accession processes varies among the countries of South East Europe. Some countries are experiencing challenges in their individual progress on the European integration path, contributing to a sense of discouragement and providing fertile ground for populism and instability that often thrive on unresolved political and interethnic tensions. Active support for EU enlargement among EU Member States may be adversely affected, reinforcing this negative pattern, which must be broken on both sides.

In the last decade, South East Europe has seen considerable progress in consolidating democratic institutions, improving relations among neighbours, and advancing an open dialogue among both civil society and political leaders, as demonstrated by today’s meeting. Even though the EU enlargement process is an effective tool for transformation and modernization of candidate countries, commitment to this process needs to be reinvigorated. This process has to be considered as not just a technical exercise, but a paramount political process.

Each country is aware that it has the responsibility to reinforce the rule of law, fight crime and corruption, strengthen its institutions, ensure the implementation of ambitious structural reforms, reduce chronic unemployment, boost development and competitiveness and improve its business and investment climate. Outstanding bilateral and regional issues should be constructively addressed, according to international law and its principles.

Today, We, the Leaders of the Brdo-Brijuni Process, renewed our joint commitment to building trust, developing bilateral and regional dialogue, assisting each other accordingly in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes, and promoting further cooperation and reconciliation. We pledged to improve economic cooperation and connectivity through regional infrastructural projects, with special attention dedicated to energy security. Focus was given to guaranteeing prosperity for young generations by providing them with mobility programs and job opportunities. Here, a synergy of the Brdo-Brijuni Process with the Berlin Process was emphasized. In this context, we welcome the outcome of the Vienna Summit.

It was agreed that regular dialogue at the operational level between the United States, EU, and the countries of South East Europe is necessary to counter global security threats. The present dramatic migrants crisis poses an unprecedented challenge from both humanitarian and security aspects, requiring dialogue and agreement to better protect the EU's external borders and substantially alleviate migration pressure on afflicted countries.

Joined in our unity and solidarity, and appalled by the brutality of the terrorist attack in Paris, as well as terrorist acts in Ankara, Sinai, Beirut and Bamako, we called for effective and efficient global solutions to combat, prevent and address the root causes of radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism, which affect us all. Broader international cooperation, as well as better coordination and sharing of information by law enforcement agencies is vital.

A collection of handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged in several rows. The signatures are cursive and vary in size and style. Some legible names include 'R. B. ...', 'I. ...', 'P. ...', 'V. ...', 'B. ...', and 'Z. ...'. The signatures are written over a white background.