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H.E. Mr Nebojša Radmanović
Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Excellency,

We are deeply concerned with Bosnia and Herzegovina's lack of progress towards the European Union. The key priorities of the EU Agenda, implementation of the Sejdic/Finci ruling and establishment of the EU coordination mechanism, have not been addressed despite repeated pledges from you - the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result, while the region is moving forward, your country is now lagging behind. Once again, we want to urge you to resolutely reverse these negative dynamics and to do the right thing.

There should be no question about today's priority to urgently address the Sejdic-Finci ruling, a priority shared with Secretary General of Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland. This is not about political gains of some. This is about opportunities for the future generations and it is crucial for Bosnia and Herzegovina to remain a credible partner for the European Union. Time is running out for the Constitution and Election Law to be brought in compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights in view of the 2014 elections. Continued non-compliance with the Convention risks undermining Bosnia and Herzegovina's European Integration process.

In this context, we have asked the Head of Delegation/EU Special Representative Ambassador Sorensen in line with his mandate to further strengthen his efforts in facilitating an agreement among you with the view to see significant improved efforts being put into the implementation of the Sejdic/Finci ruling. Given your commitment, we expect a political agreement on the Sejdic/Finci ruling by the end of March, in line with the conclusions of the Second Meeting of the High Level Dialogue on the Accession Process. We invite you to present this at the next High Level Dialogue meeting in April. This could pave the way to the entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and after its implementation, to a credible EU membership application later in the year.

The EU is firmly committed to support your country and its citizens in fulfilling their EU related hopes and ambitions. However, further progress towards the EU now depends on your ability to work together, make a compromise for the greater good and renew the trust of Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens in your capacity to deliver on EU integration with concrete deeds.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine M. Ashton

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