



European Council  
The President

Brussels, 14. 07. 2022

Dear President,

*Dear Borut,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 June. The EU is fully and unequivocally committed to the EU membership perspective of the Western Balkans and called for the acceleration of the accession process. The EU-Western Balkans leaders meeting on 23 June in Brussels was an important opportunity to re-energise the process.

I share your concerns over the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and this is why, following the discussions in the February Foreign Affairs Council and the March European Council, I have personally engaged to help the leaders in the country to resume the dialogue and refocus on the implementation of the reforms necessary to advance on the EU path.

On 23 June, the European Council stressed that it stands ready to grant the status of candidate country to Bosnia and Herzegovina. It called on all political leaders to stand up to their commitment to swiftly implement the commitments set out in the agreement reached on 12 June 2022 by the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Brussels, in line with the Opinion of the Commission. This is a clear sign that the EU path of Bosnia and Herzegovina is open – provided that the country delivers on reforms.

The Council has tasked the Commission to report on the implementation of the 14 key priorities of the Opinion in order for the European Council to revert to decide on the matter. This is Bosnia and Herzegovina's chance to demonstrate progress and advance to the next stage of the integration process – we must encourage them to seize this opportunity.

Be assured that the EU, and myself personally, intend to maintain its engagement, to support Bosnia and Herzegovina and all our Western Balkan partners in the necessary steps to move forward on their EU path.

Yours faithfully,

Charles MICHEL

H.E. Mr Borut Pahor  
President of the Republic of Slovenia