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TWINNING PROJECT

EU SUPPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF BiH IN EU INTEGRATION TASKS



EU TWINNING FACTSHEETS / NEWS ON THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ON THE ROAD OF EU ACCESSION

► CONDITIONS FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

The Treaty on the European Union in its Article 49 states that any European country may apply for membership if it respects the democratic values of the EU and is committed to promoting them. The EU assesses the readiness of applicant countries according to three accession criteria defined by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993 (the so-called "Copenhagen criteria"). Specifically:

- Political criteria: stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
- Economic criteria: existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces in the EU;
- EU acquis criteria: the ability to take on and implement effectively the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

At the same time, as defined by the 1995 Madrid European Council, applicant countries are expected to develop their administrative structures and the EU needs to be able to integrate new members.

In the case of the countries of the Western Balkans additional conditions for membership were set out in the so-called "Stabilisation and Association Process" (launched in June 1999 and strengthened at the Thessaloniki Summit in June 2003), mostly relating to regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations. Bilateral Stabilisation and Association Agreements between the EU and the Western Balkan countries serve for its implementation.

► BiH & EU: KEY MILESTONES & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



On 29 May 2019 the Commission adopted its Opinion on the EU membership application of BiH. The Opinion and the accompanying Analytical Report are extensive analyses covering for all three Copenhagen criteria, including 33 policy chapters of the EU acquis as well as conclusions and potential recommendations to the EU Council related to the granting of candidate country status and the opening of accession negotiations. It identifies 14 key priorities for the country to fulfil in order to be recommended for opening of EU accession negotiations.

The Project is implemented by the Consortium of the
Hungarian National Assembly, Austrian Parliament and Croatian Parliament

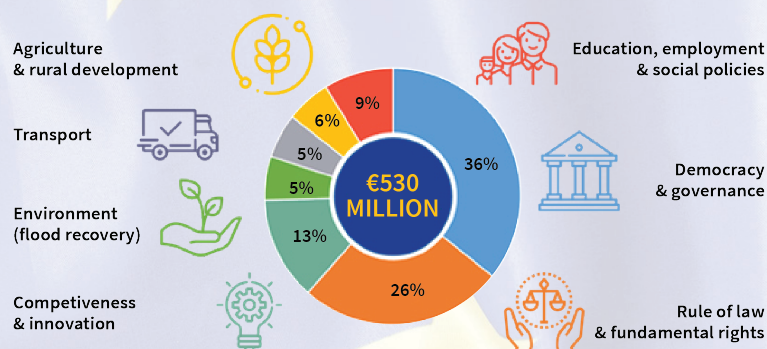


REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
Parlament



These cover the areas of democracy/functionality (5 key priorities); rule of law (3); fundamental rights (5); and public administration reform (1). Starting with the one in 2020, the Commission is going to focus its annual reports on BiH on the implementation of these key priorities. On 15 October 2019 the Council of Ministers of BiH on its extraordinary session adopted an Action Plan for the Implementation of Priorities from the European Commission Analytical Report. It contains 729 planned measures for implementation of 115 priorities set by the European Commission Analytical Report. On 10 December 2019 the Council of the EU adopted Conclusions on the Commission's Opinion. It welcomes the Opinion and urges executive and legislative bodies at all levels of government to start addressing the key priorities identified in the Opinion. On 26 March 2020, the new enlargement methodology was endorsed by EU Member States Heads of State and Government which will be consequently put in practice.

► EU SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS IN BIH 2014–2020



► THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN EU ACCESSION

In the EU accession process the parliaments play key role in the following fields of activities:

- **Legislative function:** legal approximation tasks, transposing the EU acquis to the legislation of the country.
- **Oversight function:** in addition to the control on the executive over the whole negotiation process, the position represented by the government should be based on support gained from the parliament.
- **Information function:** The Treaty on the European Union states that countries, applying for EU membership shall respect its democratic values and being committed to promoting them. Parliaments and their Members should raise the awareness on European issues by strengthening the openness and transparency of the EU accession related parliamentary activities.
- **International and inter-parliamentary cooperation tasks:** the parliamentary diplomacy, cooperation with national parliaments of EU Member States as well as with the European Parliament and other EU institutions can strengthen and accelerate the integration process.

► PARLIAMENTARY BODIES DEDICATED FOR DEALING WITH EU AFFAIRS

- The **Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee** is the joint body of the European Union and the States signatory to the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). It is established for parliamentary oversight of the implementation of the Agreement and transacting political dialogue at parliamentary level. The Commission Opinion of May 2019 states that the parliamentary dimension of the SAA is not properly functioning and urges to ensure its operation.
- The **Joint Committee on European Integration** consists of representatives and delegates of both Houses (12 Members). Its responsibilities are regulated by the Rules of Procedure of both Houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.
- The Committee on **European Integration of the Parliament of Federation of BiH House of Representatives** and the **Committee on European Integration of the Parliament of Federation of House of Peoples**
- **Committee on European Integration and Regional Cooperation of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska**
- **Committee on European Integration of the Brčko District Assembly**

► KEY DOCUMENTS

- **Stabilisation and Association Agreement** between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, of the other part, 2008
- **Commission Opinion** on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the EU, 2019
- **Analytical Report** Accompanying the –Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union, 2019
- **Action Plan** for the Implementation of Priorities from the European Commission Analytical Report, 2019
- **Council conclusions** on the Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union, 2019
- **New Enlargement Methodology** Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Enhancing the accession process - A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans, 2020
- **European Commission 2020 report on Bosnia and Herzegovina**