



March 16, 2020

**His Excellency  
Mr Charles Michel  
President of the European Council  
Brussels**

Your Excellency,

With this letter, the undersigned Leaders of the Brdo-Brijuni Process call upon the European Council to set the date for the start of membership negotiations with the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania, and to step up the negotiations with other candidate countries.

We are pleased to note that the European Union's enlargement to the Western Balkans has been increasingly recognised as the pivotal geopolitical and strategic objective for the stability and security of the European Union. We, however, regret that following the historic Prespa Agreement, which brought renewed optimism to the region last spring, and contrary to expectations, the enlargement process has slowed down.

Since its establishment a decade ago, the Brdo-Brijuni Process has significantly contributed to mutual understanding and trust between the European Union and the Western Balkans. It has reinforced the credibility of the European perspective for this region and strongly encouraged reform processes, democratic consolidation, reconciliation, peace, security and mutual cooperation.

The Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia, at whose initiative the Brdo-Brijuni Process was established, will prioritize the enlargement during their respective Presidencies of the Council of the European Union. The candidate countries and potential candidates for the membership of the European Union undertake to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the key reforms and to resolve any outstanding issues in the spirit of good neighbourly relations.

We welcome the efforts of the European Commission to re-launch the enlargement process and adopt a new methodology that recognises the significance of the political nature of the enlargement. We also welcome the latest very positive short Progress Reports prepared by the European Commission. However, discussions about the revised methodology should not further delay the decision-making on the opening of membership negotiations with the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania. We therefore call upon the European Council to reach a decision to open accession talks already in March.

Signed by the leaders of Brdo-Brijuni Process in alphabetical order:

**Milo Đukanović**



**Borut Pahor**



**Željko Komšić**



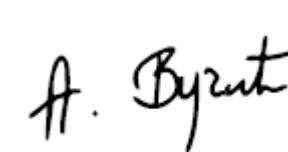
**Stevo Pendarovski**



**Ilir Meta**



**Aleksandar Vučić**



**Zoran Milanović**

