



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE TRILATERAL SUMMIT AMONG TURKEY, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND SERBIA

***953rd Permanent Council
16 May 2013***

Also on behalf of the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, I would like to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council the convening of the third meeting of the trilateral summit among Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia that was held on May 14-15, 2013 in Ankara. For the meeting, President Abdullah Gül hosted Chairman of Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nebojša Radmanović, the Members of Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency Željko Komšić and Bakir Izetbegović and Serbian President Tomislav Nikolić in Turkey.

The trilateral process initiated by Turkey in 2010 had the purpose to contribute to lasting peace, stability and confidence in the Balkans. The first meeting within the framework of the process was held in Istanbul on April 24, 2010. The second was held in Karadjordjevo, Serbia on April 26, 2011. The ideas that lay the ground for this initiation are; ensuring the territorial integrity, sovereignty and the internationally recognized borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, normalization of relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and contributing to strengthening of regional cooperation and good neighborly relations between the countries so that mutual understanding and trust again prevails in the Balkans.

We are delighted that some concrete achievements have been made within the framework of this process.

The first summit in Istanbul paved the way for the institutionalization of the consultative mechanism that was established earlier among the Foreign Ministers. Since 2009, Foreign Ministers met eight times which provided a significant contribution to the enhancement of prevailing positive atmosphere in the region.

The Summit in Ankara ended with the adoption of a joint declaration, in which our Presidents underlined, inter alia, that the joint overarching objective is to create a stable, peaceful and prosperous Balkans and reaffirmed the commitment to building our future based on common European values, democracy, rule of law and cultural pluralism. They noted with satisfaction the overall progress achieved in the Balkans in the last decade, particularly in the fields of peaceful co-habitation and integration within the European structures and stressed the significant role of the trilateral consultation process as a functioning institutional framework of regional cooperation.

As a matter of fact on the margins of the summit, a meeting between the Ministers of Economy was also held. During this meeting, potentials in areas such as trade, energy, communication, infrastructure, education, tourism, water management, agriculture and husbandry were on the agenda and ways and means to develop the relations among the countries on these fields were explored.

During the summit, bilateral meetings between the Presidents were also held.

