

**EUROPEAN UNION - SERBIA  
STABILISATION and ASSOCIATION  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (SAPC)**

7th Meeting  
20-21 December 2017  
Belgrade

**DECLARATION and RECOMMENDATIONS**

The European Union-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) held its seventh meeting on 20-21 December 2017, in Belgrade, under the co-chairmanship of Mr Eduard KUKAN for the European Parliament Delegation and Mr Vladimir ORLIĆ for the National Assembly of Republic of Serbia Delegation.

It exchanged views with:

- Ms Jadranka JOKSIMOVIĆ, Minister of European Integration, on behalf of the Government of Serbia,
- H.E. Mr Daniel Erik SCHAER, Ambassador of Estonia to Serbia, on behalf of the Estonian Presidency-in-Office of the Council of EU,
- H.E. Mr Sem FABRIZI, Ambassador of the European Union to Serbia, on behalf of the European Commission.

The members of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee addressed the following subjects:

- State of play of the accession negotiations and EU-Serbia relations.

The Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, in accordance with Rule 7 of its Rules of Procedure and Article 125 of the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement, addressed the following Declaration and Recommendations to the Stabilisation and Association Council and to the institutions of Serbia and of the European Union:

1. Welcomed bringing the total number of negotiations Chapters opened to 12, two of which have been provisionally closed and called on Council and Commission to support opening of the technically prepared chapters; reiterated the importance for Serbia to allocate sufficient human and financial resources, with EU's financial support which comes through the EU Pre-accession assistance, to meet its ambitious objectives on negotiations; recalled that Serbia's progress under rule of law chapters 23 and 24 and in the process of normalisation of relations under chapter 35 remains essential for the overall pace of the negotiating process, in line with the Negotiating Framework; welcomed the holding of the fourth meeting of the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association (SA) Council;

2. Acknowledged that Serbia has an overall positive track record in implementing its obligations under the SAA; took note of certain open issues within the framework of the SAA, in particular longstanding ones related to state aid and fiscal discrimination on certain goods and welcomed the continuous dialogue between Serbia and the European Commission aimed at achieving full SAA implementation, as it remains crucial for the EU-Serbia trade relations;

3. Reiterated importance of communication on the EU in the Accession process, which remains Serbia's first economic and political partner; encouraged Serbian authorities and the Delegation of the EU to put more efforts in promoting European values in the public debate.

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