



Western Balkans Summit  
London 2018

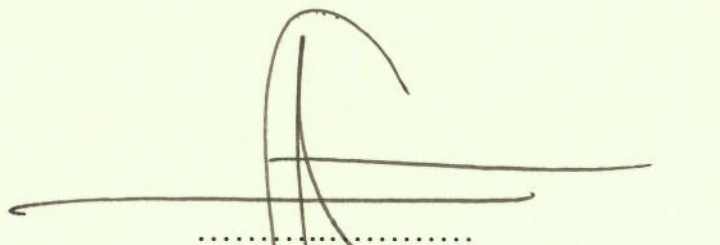
We the undersigned, gathered in London on this day, 10 July 2018,  
hereby adopt:

*Joint Declaration on Regional Cooperation and Good  
Neighbourly Relations in the Framework of the Berlin Process;*

*Joint Declaration on Missing Persons in the Framework of the  
Berlin Process; and*

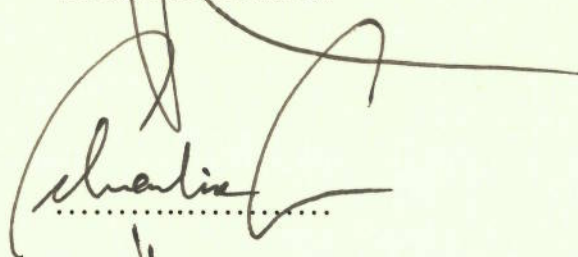
*Joint Declaration on War Crimes in the Framework of the Berlin  
Process.*

Edi Rama



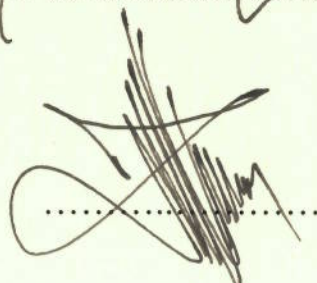
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Sebastian Kurz



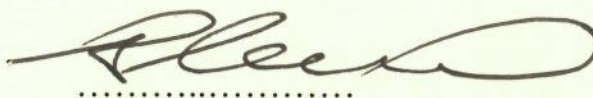
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Denis Zvizdić

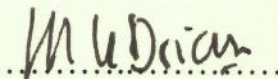


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Andrej Plenković

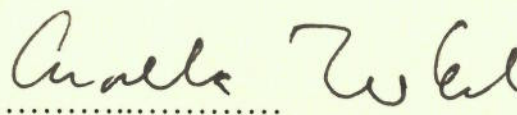


Jean-Yves Le Drian

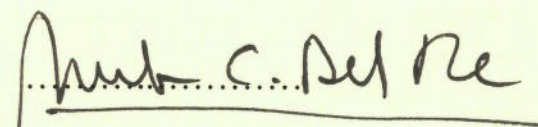


*Representing Emmanuel Macron*

Angela Merkel

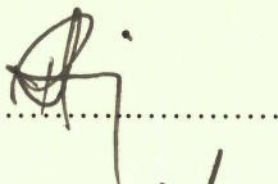


Emanuela Del Re



*Representing Giuseppe Conte*

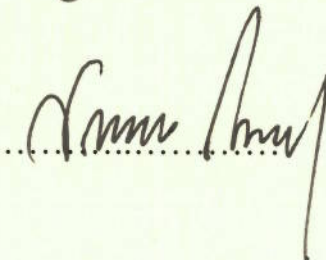
Ramush Haradinaj



Zoran Zaev



Duško Marković



Mateusz Morawiecki

M. Morawiecki

Ana Brnabić

A. Brnabić

Miro Cerar

M. Cerar

Theresa May

T. May



## Western Balkans Summit London 2018

### Annex

#### **Joint Declaration on Regional Cooperation and Good Neighbourly Relations in the Framework of the Berlin Process**

We, the Heads of Government of the Berlin Process participants, meeting in London in the framework of the Conference on the Western Balkans,

*Recalling* the commitment made by the governments of the Western Balkans in 2015 at the Vienna Western Balkans Summit

- to resolve all open bilateral questions in a spirit of good neighbourliness and a shared commitment to European integration;
- to resolve open questions through bilateral negotiations and other peaceful means including international arbitration;
- to report annually at the Berlin Process Western Balkans Summit on progress made in bilateral relations and in settling outstanding bilateral questions

*Noting* the February 2018 EU Commission strategy for a credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans, which calls on governments of the Western Balkans

- to commit to overcome the legacy of the past, through promoting reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, and for the leaders of the region to take full ownership and lead by example, solving outstanding bilateral issues as a matter of urgency;
- to abstain from misusing outstanding issues to block, or encouraging others to block, the progress of neighbours on their respective EU accession paths

*Welcoming* the May 2018 Sofia Declaration of the leaders of the EU and its Member States, with which the Western Balkan partners have aligned themselves, including

- to support the Western Balkans partners' pledge to continue strengthening good neighbourly relations, regional stability and mutual cooperation. This includes in particular, finding and implementing definitive, inclusive and binding solutions for their bilateral disputes rooted in the legacy of the past and devoting additional efforts to reconciliation

*Noting* the spirit, commitments and obligations contained within the Copenhagen Criteria and in the Stabilisation and Association Agreements

*Welcoming* further progress in developing regional cooperation structures and bilateral relations including through the Berlin Process

*Commending* the positive progress made on regional cooperation between the participants of the Western Balkans, and with the wider region, and on the resolution of some open issues since the Vienna Western Balkans Summit in 2015, including

- the historic agreement signed by Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov and Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias on 17 June 2018 in Prespa on the Name Issue;
- the signing on 1 August 2017 and the subsequent entry into force of the *Treaty on Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation* signed by Prime Minister Borissov and Prime Minister Zaev;
- the subsequent ratifications in the region of the agreements signed in 2015 in the margins of the Vienna Summit;
- the agreement of various protocols, agreements and mechanisms of cooperation between the relevant Berlin Process participants in accounting for missing persons;
- the holding of technical discussions between Albania and Greece to reach agreement on outstanding issues;
- and the holding of technical discussions between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia to resolve outstanding questions relating to their border

*Support* and encourage the governments of the Western Balkans to redouble their efforts towards the resolution of all outstanding bilateral issues, through bilateral

negotiations and / or other means of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, and to foster an atmosphere conducive to meaningful progress

*Welcome* the re-commitment of the governments of the Western Balkans in London to make further progress in developing good neighbourly relations and, working closely in all areas, to strive for mutual understanding, respect and lasting benefit for their populations; to overcome divisions; and to work for a Europe in which human and fundamental rights are respected

*Continuing* its constructive approach to resolving bilateral issues, Montenegro commits to working with its neighbours on remaining border issues

*Welcome* the re-commitment of the governments of the Western Balkans to report annually at the Western Balkans Berlin Process Summit on the progress made in strengthening good neighbourly relations and resolving outstanding bilateral issues

*Welcome* the contribution that civil society organisations can make in improving regional cooperation

*Welcome* the readiness of the Berlin Process participants and other partners to provide support as appropriate

*Acknowledge* the benefit and importance of regular stocktakes between Berlin Process Summits to facilitate progress, and therefore *welcome* the offer of Vienna to host the first stocktake with governments of the Western Balkans within six months following the London Summit, and the offer of Skopje to host the second stocktake in advance of the next Berlin Process Summit in 2019. Other Berlin Process participants will be invited to these meetings.



## Western Balkans Summit London 2018

### Annex

#### **Joint Declaration on Missing Persons in the Framework of the Berlin Process**

We, the Heads of Government of the Berlin Process participants, meeting in London in the framework of the Conference on the Western Balkans,

*Acknowledging* the utmost importance to account for those who went missing during the conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the necessity to investigate the circumstances of their disappearance, and to bring the perpetrators to justice, in the hope that this might bring closure for the families concerned and contribute to lasting reconciliation, peace and stability

*Noting* the protocols, agreements and mechanisms of cooperation between the Berlin process participants concerned on cooperation in accounting for missing persons

*Noting* Resolution 71/201 on Missing Persons adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2016

*Recalling* the best practice principles set out in the 2014 Declaration on the Role of the State in Addressing the Issue of Missing Persons as a Consequence of Armed Conflict and Human Rights Abuses

*Emphasising* the importance of a non-discriminatory and impartial approach to addressing all cases of missing persons on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion or their role in the conflicts in the 1990s

*Welcoming* the establishment of dedicated institutions, the creation of legal frameworks and the development of technical capacities in the Berlin Process participants concerned to account for the missing

*Welcoming* the considerable efforts and the unprecedented progress made to date in accounting for more than 70 percent of the approximately 40 000 persons missing as a result of the conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s

*Noting* the urgent need to intensify efforts to locate and / or identify the remaining

approximately 12 000 unresolved cases, in particular through greater regional collaboration and cooperation in and between the Berlin Process participants concerned

*Strongly welcome* the pledge by the Berlin Process participants concerned

- to ensure impartial and effective investigations into missing persons cases in accordance with international human rights standards and to resolve as many missing persons cases as possible over the next five years;
- to engage pro-actively all domestic institutions that are responsible for or involved in locating and / or the identification of missing persons to explore all possible avenues to obtain new information about gravesites, including a commitment to adequately resource the search of archives for relevant information, and the transmission of this information to the appropriate central institution;
- to provide the competent central institution from each of the Berlin Process participants responsible for the search and / or identification of missing persons with adequate human and budgetary resources to fulfil their mandate;
- to ensure the active engagement of families of the missing in the process of searching and / or locating the missing;
- to ensure that reliable and accurate information on the process of locating and identifying the missing is made publicly available;
- to commit to develop further domestic forensic institutions and ensure continued institutional support and funding for this;
- to ensure that families are able to exercise their rights, including by harmonising and fully implementing domestic legislation in line with international laws and standards;
- to adequately address the needs of the families of missing persons;
- to refrain from any politicisation of the missing persons issue





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#### **Joint Declaration on War Crimes in the Framework of the Berlin Process**

We, the Heads of Government of the Berlin Process participants, meeting in London in the framework of the Conference on the Western Balkans

*Recognising* the increasing urgency to end impunity and overcome the legacy of the past, including through justice for all victims of past atrocities

*Determined* to promote the rule of law, including as a central tenet of the EU accession process

*Reaffirming* the importance of the independence of the judiciary

*Determined* to contribute to the establishment of facts of war crimes and other atrocity crimes perpetrated against all victims, and to restoring confidence among individuals, societies and peoples

*Noting* the establishment of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (MICT) to carry out the residual functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and the work of domestic courts in the Western Balkans

*Recalling* that the United Nations Security Council established the ICTY on the understanding that it would not be able to investigate and prosecute all crimes committed, and that the domestic courts would also be responsible for prosecuting such crimes

Underline the importance of:

*Recognising and respecting* verdicts from international and domestic courts relating to war crimes and other atrocity crimes

*Rejecting* the use of hate speech and the glorification of war criminals

*Promoting* a culture of respect for and solidarity with all victims

*Addressing* stigma resulting from conflict-related sexual violence, and rejecting narratives of victim-blaming and other discriminatory treatment, in line with the Principles for Global Action

*Supporting* domestic prosecutors' offices and courts in bringing perpetrators to justice and in processing outstanding cases without delay, including addressing the significant backlog of cases, applying uniform standards without discrimination

*Strengthening* the capacity of domestic prosecutors and judges to handle and process evidence, including for cases of conflict-related sexual violence

*Providing* support and protection to victims and witnesses, including appropriate legal and civil frameworks to ensure their rights are upheld and protected

*Strengthening* cooperation with, and seeking the assistance of, the MICT, particularly the Office of the Prosecutor

*Supporting* and removing impediments to effective regional cooperation, including through the exchange of information, cooperation between prosecutors' offices, expeditious mutual legal assistance and avoiding conflicts of jurisdiction.