

Alenka Bratušek, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Zoran Milanović, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, and Werner Faymann, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria (hereinafter: prime ministers), met on 20 June 2014 at their second trilateral meeting at Brdo, Slovenia.

1. Deeply saddened by the **recent catastrophic floods** that hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia, the prime ministers expressed their solidarity with all flood victims in the afflicted areas. They reiterated their full support for the joint efforts undertaken by the EU, individual member states and the international community to alleviate the humanitarian crisis and to eliminate the consequences in the affected areas. They stressed that the EU needs to express solidarity with all three countries, regardless of the formal EU-related status of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Given the excellent cooperation thus far, the prime ministers stressed the importance of further cooperation to increase preparedness and prevention as well as joint response in the event of major disasters.

2. In the light of the European election results, the prime ministers reiterated their common resolve for **a strong and efficient European Union** close to its citizens with a clear emphasis on the social dimension. They agreed that in the years ahead the Union should primarily focus on **growth, jobs and youth** as well as on tackling environmental/climate challenges. All efforts to increase the efficiency of the Commission must be based on the principle of collegiality and equality of its members.
3. The prime ministers especially stressed the importance of job creation and the integration of **youth** into the labour market, including through innovative forms of job creation, the stimulation of youth mobility, and the exchange of good practices. They expressed their expectation that discussions at the third Conference on Youth Employment on 11 of July 2014 in Torino will build on these priorities.

4. The prime ministers reaffirmed their full support for the **enlargement process**. The prime ministers welcomed the highly dynamic negotiation process with Montenegro and expressed support for the opening of the first negotiating chapters with Serbia as soon as possible. They confirmed their strong support for the recommendation to grant Albania candidate status at the June European Council, expressed expectations for the prompt initialling of the SAA with Kosovo and underlined the need to efficiently continue the Kosovo visa liberalisation process. The prime ministers also agreed that a greater focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as on Macedonia, is needed and that it is necessary to find solutions that enable both countries to overcome the obstacles preventing them from taking further decisive steps towards EU membership.

5. The prime ministers reiterated the importance of **regional cooperation**, both in traditional and new, innovative formats. They agreed to invest further joint efforts in enhancing cooperation within the scope of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), particularly concerning flood prevention. In this regard, the prime ministers recognised the important role of the International Sava River Basin Commission. They also welcomed the 3rd EUSDR Annual Forum to be held in Vienna on 26 and 27 June 2014.

The prime ministers agreed to meet in Croatia at the end of November/beginning of December for their third meeting.