

To:

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Brussels

Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Brussels

Pierre Mirel, Director, Directorate C, Enlargement Directorate General, European Commission, Brussels

H.E. Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

16 July, 2009, Sarajevo

OPEN LETTER

**REGARDING THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION EXCLUDING
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FROM THE LIST OF WEST BALKAN COUNTRIES
GRANTED VISA-FREE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EU**

Dear Sirs,

We support the European Commission recommendation to lift visa restrictions on Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, which constitutes for those countries certainly a huge, legitimate step towards the European Union, finally granting their citizens visa-free EU travel. However, we are also very much concerned over the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is excluded from the recommendation, which is a major failure of the European policy towards Bosnia and Herzegovina and yet another disappointment on the part of the Bosnia-Herzegovina citizens in the European politics.

With this recommendation, the European Commission discourages the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and encourages those policies which have been disintegrating Bosnia and Herzegovina over many years and doing everything to keep Bosnia and Herzegovina as far as possible from the European values and European prospects. The European Commission recommendation is a unique discrimination against those citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina who have one citizenship – that of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After the European Union's unsuccessful politics during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its failure to prevent genocide against Bosniaks in Srebrenica in July 1995, today, 14 years later, in the same month, that same European Union has made a decision to put Bosnia and Herzegovina further into isolation.

We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the exclusion of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the decision and request that also the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina be granted visa-free arrangements with the EU as from 1 January, 2010.

Signatories:

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2. Heinrich Böll Foundation, Office for Croatia
3. Heinrich Böll Foundation, Regional office for Southeast Europe, Serbia
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5. Ugo Vlaisavljević, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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7. Association for Political Sciences in BiH, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Nebojša Gavrilov, Croatia
9. Center for Human Rights of the University in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
10. Naša stranka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. Women in Black – Belgrade, Serbia
12. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina
13. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
14. Youth Movement „Revolt“, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
15. Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
16. Nermina Mujagić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
17. Srebrenka Viđen, Bosnia and Herzegovina
18. Esad Zgodić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
19. Suad Kurtćehajić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
20. Kenan Rašidagić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
21. Nedžma Džananović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
22. Faruk Jašarević, Bosnia and Herzegovina
23. Elvis Fejzić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
24. Kamber Refika, Bosnia and Herzegovina
25. Damir Kapidžić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
26. Elmir Sadiković, Bosnia and Herzegovina
27. Zarije Seizović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
28. Fahira Fejzić Čengiće, Bosnia and Herzegovina
29. Mirko Pejanović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
30. Sarina Bakić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
31. Osman Sušić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
32. Safet Halilović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
33. Asim Mujkić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
34. Sead Turčalo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
35. Nerzuk Ćurak, Bosnia and Herzegovina
36. Dino Abazović, Bosnia and Herzegovina

37. Sulejman Bosto, Bosnia and Herzegovina
38. Šekib Sokolović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
39. Zilka Spahić-Šiljak, Bosnia and Herzegovina
40. Green-Neretva, Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
41. Saša Gavrić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
42. Sarajevo Open Centre, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
43. Srđan Dvornik, Croatia
44. Amir Hodžić, Croatia
45. Mirela Holy, Croatia
46. Association “Friends of Srebrenica”, Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina
47. Centre for Ecology and Energy, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
48. Centre for Humane Politics, Doboj, Bosnia and Herzegovina
49. Center for Peace Studies, Zagreb, Croatia
50. Foundation One World – platform for Southeast Europe (owpsee)
51. Nataša Babić, Prague, Check Republic
52. Maja Hasanbašić, Croatia
53. Serbian Citizen Council – Movement for Equality in BiH, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
54. Board for Referendum, non-party association, Pula, Croatia
55. Association for Philosophy and Social Idea, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
56. Ines Sabalić, Brussels, Belgium
57. Adnan Rondić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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59. Lovel Petrović, Croatia
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61. Paul Stubbs, Croatia
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63. Forum of BiH members of Parliaments, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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66. Saša Ilić, Serbia
67. Tomislav Marković, Serbia
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71. Citizens Association Pešćanik, Belgrade, Serbia
72. Svetlana Lukic, Serbia
73. Svetlana Vukovic, Serbia
74. Veselin Gatalo, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
75. Tin Gazivoda, Croatia
76. Zagreb Centre for Independent Culture and Youth, Croatia
77. Ana Marija Simić, Croatia
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79. Media Plan Institute, Bosnia and Herzegovina
80. Nikola Gelevski, Macedonia
81. Nevenka Koprivšek, Bunker, Stara elketrarna and Mladi levi festival, Slovenia
82. Sanja Ćurin Bonković, Croatia
83. Biljana Vankovska, Macedonia
84. Ivo Poparić, Croatia
85. Ivo Škorić, New York, USA
86. Katarina Živanović, Serbia
87. Samira Sulejmanović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
88. Mubera Bičakčić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
89. Suada Hadžić, Bosnia and Herzegovina