

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

### THE DIGITAL AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

We, the representatives of the Western Balkan Partners, meeting in Sofia on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018:

#### BEARING IN MIND:

- a) That the **Digital Single Market strategy** launched by the European Union in May 2015 is designed to ensure that the global digital transformation benefits the citizens and business of the European Union.
- b) That the European Commission presented the Communication "**A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans**" on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018; and that the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans (WB) is one of the six flagship initiatives of that strategy.
- c) That the conclusions of the **Skopje Western Balkans Digital Summit 2018** "...welcome(d) the European Commission's Digital Agenda Flagship initiative"
- d) That the Declaration made at the **Western Balkans Summit in Sofia on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018** highlights the importance of "a market- and investment-friendly environment in the Western Balkans to move faster towards a digital economy..."; and that its "Sofia Priority Agenda", agrees to launch a Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans, including a roadmap to facilitate lowering the cost of roaming; and to launch a substantial technical assistance package for the identification of potential digital investments (including broadband) through Western Balkans Investment Framework/Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance."

#### AGREE:

1. That the Declaration made following the Western Balkans Summit in Sofia on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and the Commission Communication of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 reflect the issues which we need to tackle in order to advance on the European path: lowering the costs of roaming; the deployment of broadband; the development of eGovernment, eProcurement, eHealth, & digital skill; capacity building in digital trust and security, in parallel to efforts to enhance digitalisation of industries; and the adoption, implementation and enforcement of the *acquis*.
2. To support and facilitate the processes of lowering the roaming costs for the full coverage of consumers in the Western Balkans region.
3. To support the implementation of a roadmap to facilitate lowering the costs of roaming, between the Western Balkans and the European Union;

4. To improve the investment climate for digital projects in the region; and to facilitate stable, predictable and competitive markets in the telecommunications sector;
5. To hold a joint, annual ICT Regulatory Dialogue with the European Commission, beginning in autumn 2018;
6. To meet again in Sofia during the Digital Assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in order to launch the Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans.

Agreed by the representatives of the Western Balkan Partners in the city of Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

Edi Rama  
Prime Minister of Albania

Duško Marković  
Prime Minister of Montenegro

Zoran Zaev  
Prime Minister of the former  
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Aleksandar Vučić  
President of the Republic of Serbia

Bakir Izetbegović  
Chairman of the Council  
of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ramush Haradinaj  
Prime Minister of Kosovo\*

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence