

Proceeding from the strategic goal of the Republic of Serbia to become a full member of the European Union which was confirmed by the formal application for the membership of the European Union on 22 December 2009;

Reaffirming that full membership of the European Union shall contribute to the general social development of the Republic of Serbia and the betterment of its citizens;

Endorsing our firm commitment to honour the founding values of the European Union and the dedication of the Republic of Serbia to develop a democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human and minority rights, principles of market economy, as well as building efficient institutions;

Having regard to the Resolution on association to the European Union, adopted by the National Assembly on 13 October 2004;

Expressing satisfaction that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their member states on the one part and the Republic of Serbia on the other, entered into force on 1 September 2013;

Taking note of the Opinion on Serbia's EU membership application adopted by the European Commission on 12 October 2011, and a recommendation that the Republic of Serbia be granted the status of candidate country, as well as the European Council Conclusions from 1 March 2012, granting Serbia the status of candidate country for the membership to the EU;

Bearing in mind the decision contained in Conclusions endorsed by the European Council on 28 June 2013 to open accession negotiations with the Republic of Serbia, calling the European Commission to prepare the negotiating framework for negotiations on Serbia's accession to the EU, and to hold the first intergovernmental conference in January 2014, at the very latest, as well as Serbia 2013 Progress Report of 16 October 2013, prepared by the European Commission;

Reiterating the readiness to contribute to strengthening regional cooperation and stability in the Western Balkans while building good neighbourly relations, bilaterally and through participation in multilateral regional initiatives, the Republic of Serbia is firmly committed to finding peaceful solutions to all open issues, through dialogue, mutual understanding and by fully observing the principles of international law;

Conscious of a strong interest in furthering relations and exchanging experience and knowledge with other states participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process;

Offering an active contribution to promoting cooperation, stability and prosperity in South-East Europe;

Reaffirming that along with the preservation of its territorial integrity and sovereignty, the goal of the Republic of Serbia is to honour tradition and protect its culture and language as a cornerstone of every national identity;

Emphasizing that the association and accession to the European Union are continuous processes which recognise and acknowledge the role of all participating stakeholders;

Having in mind the Government decision on establishment of the Negotiating team on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union and the Decision on establishment of the Coordination body for the process of accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union;

Conscious of the importance of cooperation and coordination between the National Assembly and the Government in the process of association with the European

Union, as well as the process of negotiations on accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union;

Emphasising its commitment to contribute, within its competence, to meeting all criteria required for the membership of the European Union;

Reaffirming the commitment to active participation of the National Assembly, institution that most strongly represents the democratic will of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, in the process of negotiations on accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union;

Pursuant to with Article 99 paragraph 1 item 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and Article 8 Paragraph 1 of the Law on the National Assembly ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Number 9/10),

The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, at the Sixth sitting of the Second regular session, held on 16 December 2013, adopted the following

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ON THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PRINCIPLES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

1. National Assembly affirms that the objective of the Republic of Serbia in accession negotiations is to become a full member of the European Union in the nearest future.

2. National Assembly invites the Government, in charge of leading and coordinating negotiations on the accession to the European Union, to perform the task responsibly and efficiently, while paying attention to the protection of national interests.

3. Through its active engagement, the National Assembly is eager to contribute to successful development of the process of negotiation and a quick completion of the negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, while fully acknowledging and promoting founding values and principles of the European Union.

4. National Assembly underlines the obligation of full compliance with the European Union membership criteria, which were precisely established by the European Council in Copenhagen and Madrid, in accordance with the commitment of the Republic of Serbia to contribute to the development of functional, sustainable and efficient system of the European Union.

5. National Assembly emphasises the importance that the negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union are conducted with the aim of providing for speedy and stable economic growth, while providing protection to all economic branches of vital interest for the Republic of Serbia in the conditions of market economy. Particular attention should be devoted to achieving sustainable development and promotion of competitiveness of Republic of Serbia's economy through implementation of economic and social reforms, completion of the process of economic transition, building of an economy based on knowledge and to creation of stable financial and macroeconomic environment.

6. National Assembly emphasizes the importance of conducting negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union with the aim of achieving well being, full social security and better life quality for the citizens of

the Republic of Serbia, while preserving and further promoting the level and protection of social rights.

7. National Assembly affirms that, in order to provide for equitable integration of the Republic of Serbia into the system of the European Union, most suitable exemptions and transitional periods need to be guaranteed, as well as possible deviations, where required and possible. Transitional terms and exemptions will be secured for those areas where at the foreseen time of accession the level of alignment and application of regulations could not be sufficient, mindful of certain priorities within the negotiating framework chapters.

8. National Assembly underlines the importance of a permanent dialogue and coordinated work of state authorities in the process of accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, especially as regards harmonisation of national legislation with the European *acquis*. Calls on the Government to continue with the implementation of the National Programme for Integration and adoption of EU *acquis*, and the National Assembly will in accordance with the agreed dynamics adopt the laws from the National programme for adoption of the EU *acquis* and oversee the implementation of these laws.

9. National Assembly underlines the importance of implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and declares its readiness to give its full contribution to the implementation of the Agreement through the work of its Parliamentary Committee on Stabilisation and Association.

10. National Assembly shall actively cooperate with the European Parliament, national parliaments of the European Union member states and parliaments of states participating in the Process of Stabilisation and Association, and communicate positions and interests of the Republic of Serbia as a future member state of the European Union.

11. National Assembly emphasizes the importance of efficient cooperation with the Government and the President of the Republic of Serbia during the course of negotiations on the accession of Serbia to the European Union, so that all political, economic, legislative and institutional EU membership criteria could be fulfilled in the quickest possible time.

12. National Assembly affirms the importance of cooperation between professional parliamentary staff and the Government with regard to process of negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, and with this in mind shall pursue further the process of increasing its institutional and administrative capacities.

13. National Assembly emphasizes the need to include in the process of following the negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, all relevant parliamentary committees, within whose remit the issues from respective negotiating positions fall.

14. National Assembly obliges the Government to inform the National Assembly timely and comprehensively on all planned activities with regard to the process of negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, so that the work plan of the National Assembly could be prepared.

15. European Integration Committee is a working body of the National Assembly which in cooperation with the Speaker of the National Assembly coordinates the process of following negotiations on the accession of Serbia to the European Union.

16. As regards the process of implementation of analytic examination and the assessment of the level of alignment of Serbian legislation with the EU *acquis* and

its implementation (screening) for individual negotiating chapters, the Government shall report to the European Integration Committee the results of bilateral screening for each negotiating chapter.

17. Prior to determining a negotiating position for each chapter, the Government shall submit to the European Integration Committee its proposed negotiating position.

18. The meeting of the European Integration Committee at which the proposal of the negotiating position is considered shall be held in the presence of an authorised Government representative, Chair of a Negotiating Group and the Head of the Negotiating Team for negotiations on the accession of Serbia to the European Union.

19. European Integration Committee shall pass an opinion and/or adopt recommendations on the negotiating position proposal. Government shall take into consideration the opinion and recommendations of the European Integration Committee when adopting the negotiating position and inform the Committee on the adopted negotiating position.

20. European Integration Committee shall adopt a special decision regulating the procedure for consideration of the proposed negotiating position at the meeting of the European Integration Committee or a Committee within whose purview a matter concerning negotiating position falls.

21. In case of amendment to negotiating positions or reopening of negotiating chapter procedure for consideration of the proposed negotiating position shall be applied.

22. Member of the Government in charge of European Integration and the Head of the Negotiating Team for negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union shall submit a report to the European Integration Committee concerning the EU accession negotiation process, every three months, or more frequently, if requested by the Committee.

23. Government shall submit to the National Assembly a report on the process of negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union twice a year, i.e. every six months when the Presidency of the Council of the European Union rotates, and the report shall be considered at the session of the National Assembly.

24. During the course of negotiations, the National Assembly shall pursue its efforts in strengthening social and political consensus on accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union. National Assembly shall cooperate with the civil society, experts and other interested stakeholders in order to encourage their participation in all stages of the process of negotiation on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union.

25. National Assembly invites all state authorities and encourages all social stakeholders to take part in public debates on the process of negotiations with and accession to the European Union.

26. National Assembly particularly emphasizes the importance of informing the public, timely and continuously, on the European values, the European Union, developments and results of the negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union.

27. This Resolution shall be published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia".

RS Number 95

Belgrade, 16th December 2013

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

S P E A K E R

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