

**JOINT STATEMENT OF CROATIA, CZECHIA, GREECE, ITALY, SLOVAKIA AND
SLOVENIA
ON SUPPORT FOR OPENING THE EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH
BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA**

Brussels, 29 November 2023

On the margins of NATO ministerial meeting, Croatia, Czechia, Greece, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia met to express the enduring commitment and support to Bosnia and Herzegovina on its European integration path.

We underline the political necessity to ensure the opening of the EU accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of this year.

Since Bosnia and Herzegovina was granted an EU candidate status, it has taken important steps and commitments towards the fulfilment of the key priorities.

In the current geopolitical context, any delay of the decision to start the EU accession negotiations could further exacerbate instabilities in the region and result in losing the positive momentum.

We stand ready to ensure our continued political, technical and financial support for Bosnia and Herzegovina to undertake the key reforms during the process.

We underline once again that enlargement is not a choice between candidate countries, but our joint strategic interest that will bring the much necessary stability and security to the European continent.