

On the basis of Article 3, paragraph 2 of the Foreign Affairs Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 113/03 – official consolidated text, 20/06 – ZNOMCMO, 76/08 and 108/09), as well as Article 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 92/07 – official consolidated text), the National Assembly adopted at its session of 15 July 2010

**a DECLARATION  
on the Western Balkans (DeZB)**

Considering long-term Slovenian foreign policy goals regarding the strengthening of relations with all neighbouring countries and countries of the region, especially those of the Western Balkans, and with the aim of furthering regional cooperation among these countries, in order to facilitate constructive cooperation and mutual assistance among them;

Taking into account the commitments of the Republic of Slovenia deriving from its membership of the EU and NATO and its readiness to assist the Western Balkan nations;

Taking into account the provisions and commitments contained in the Thessaloniki Agenda, confirming the EU's support of a European perspective for the countries of the Western Balkans;

Acknowledging the necessity for an expeditious and effective establishment of connections between all the countries in the Western Balkans in the fields of politics, security, transport, the economy, energy, science, information society, telecommunications, the environment, agriculture, culture, sport and any other area, in order to facilitate the free movement of people, goods, services, capital and knowledge in the entire region;

Taking into account the interpersonal relationships, cultural cooperation and historical ties between the Slovenian nation and the other nations in the Western Balkans;

Taking into account the decisions regarding the orientation of the Republic of Slovenia in relation to enhancing economic diplomacy and fostering economic cooperation in the region; and

Aiming to create an area of permanent security and overall collaboration for all Western Balkan nations, providing them with realistic opportunities for accession to Euro-Atlantic structures within a tangible timeframe, based on assessments of their progress,

**the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia hereby adopts**

**a DECLARATION ON THE WESTERN BALKANS,**

**with which the Republic of Slovenia undertakes the following:**

1. To continue to support the efforts of the countries in the Western Balkans in drawing closer to Euro-Atlantic structures and to assist them in their reform processes and their adoption of standards;

2. To strive for enhanced regional cooperation, both with and among Western Balkan countries, for good neighbourly relations and strengthening intercultural dialogue in the region;

3. To strive for enhanced collaboration in the fields of European integration, science, research, information society, the economy, education and schooling, culture, media and information, defence, disaster relief, justice, internal affairs, transport, energy, the environment and sustainable development, agriculture, health, social and economic cohesion, local, border, cross-border and regional cooperation, as well as other areas;

4. To strive for greater mobility of citizens of countries in the Western Balkans, for the purpose of enhancing interpersonal relations and ties between representatives of civil society and other social groups;

5. To strive for both the enhancement of existing and the development of new transport, energy and other infrastructure connections in the Western Balkans;

6. To strive for enhanced economic cooperation with the countries in the Western Balkans and the establishment of a favourable business environment;

7. To plan and implement its activities relating to the Western Balkans in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, enhancing ties with the region on all levels;

8. To strive, with its own resources and within the international community, for solutions contributing to the general human and social development of the Western Balkan countries;

9. To support, in collaboration with civil society, endeavours to limit and prevent hate speech, especially that which is based on ethnicity, religion, race, gender or sexual orientation, particularly in the content of educational programmes and in the region's media;

10. To foster the development and strengthening of interfaith dialogue in the region, in collaboration with civil society and religious communities.