

JOINT DECLARATION
FOLLOWING THE TRILATERAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ALBANIA, CROATIA AND MONTENEGRO
SPLIT, CROATIA, 10 FEBRUARY 2017

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Albania, Croatia and Montenegro,

Bound by common values and principles and sharing the vision of an area fully interconnected and integrated into the European Union and strategically bound with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

Convinced that our excellent relations create a firm ground for enhanced trilateral cooperation which can further contribute to the prosperity and development of our countries and the entire South-East Europe;

Believing that good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation is a key element for the stability and security of this part of Europe as well as for the Euro-Atlantic integration process;

Recalling that the South-East Europe was recognized as being of strategic importance for the EU and NATO;

Convinced that integration into the EU remains instrumental for the lasting stability and prosperity in Europe;

Aware that violent extremism, radicalization, terrorism, hybrid threats and other security challenges are of common concern; committed to enhancing our cooperation in order to better tackle these challenges;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening mutual relations and promoting closer cooperation and commitment to facing today's challenges together;

Believing that our bilateral and trilateral cooperation has the full potential to shape into a close partnership;

Desirous to contribute to advancing our common agenda in various areas of mutual interest,

Have convened this meeting to launch the Adriatic Trilateral initiative with the aim to strengthen our cooperation and trilateral partnership:

1. We agree to enhance our cooperation for the benefit of all and to the detriment of none;
2. In this regard, we are committed to continue working together in promoting peace, stability, security and prosperity of the South-East Europe;
3. We agree that the trilateral cooperation provides a valuable platform for deepening and strengthening our cooperation in the fields of foreign and regional policy, security, and other fields of common interest;
4. We recognize in particular the importance of increased connectivity and cooperation in the field of economy, infrastructure, transport, energy, trans-border and trans-national environmental protection and tourism, which can bring substantial benefits for our countries and citizens as well as strengthen European integration process;
5. We stress the importance of the continuation of the EU enlargement process as a key driving force for reforms and the major unifying factor in the South-East Europe;
6. We acknowledge Croatia's steadfast support for the EU integration of Albania and Montenegro;
7. We look forward to welcoming Montenegro as a full-fledged member of NATO shortly, which will further consolidate regional security, advance Euro-Atlantic values in the South-East Europe, and encourage other aspirants to continue with their reform agendas;
8. We acknowledge Albania's efforts in establishing the Regional Coordination Centre with the aim to develop a consolidated regional approach and platform of action to address challenges of violent extremism;
9. We agree that more efforts and goodwill are needed to make regional cooperation truly inclusive where all countries participate and contribute on equal footing;
10. We agree to hold regular meetings and maintain regular contacts at different levels;

11. We agree to invite, whenever needed and as appropriate, other countries to our meetings;

We agree, upon invitation of Albania, to meet again in Tirana, before the end of this year at a date to be decided in due time.

H.E. Mr. Ditmir Bushati
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania

H.E. Mr. Davor Ivo Stier
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia

H.E. Prof. Dr. Srđan Darmanović
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro