

Dear Ms/Mr,

A group of human rights organizations are encouraging the European Commission and European Union member states to support Serbia in being granted the date for opening EU accession negotiations with Serbia as soon as possible.

This act on behalf of the EU would be a clear signal that Serbia is prepared to open issues in areas in which any improvement would also mean a direct improvement of Serbia's citizens' lives. The values that the EU brings, especially in chapters 23 and 24, which are to be opened at the very beginning of the negotiations, will distance Serbia from the politics of conflicts, non-tolerance and instability.

In addition, this will also be a clear indicator that the energy invested in the changes of October 5, 2000 has not been forgotten, and that progress and willingness to negotiate are being appreciated. The issues that Serbia has been successfully resolving, from its cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, to the latest improvements in relations in the region demonstrated that there is a willingness to begin a process of adapting to the EU regulations, but, more importantly, that there is a willingness to adopt values that the EU brings.

Opening accession negotiations is not and should not be the support to any particular government, but rather support to the citizens of Serbia to build their country as a stable and modern one, willing to respond to all of the challenges it is faced with.

House for Human Rights and Democracy (KLJPD):

- Civil Initiatives
- Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
- Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
- Policy Center

Letter signed by:

- Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies (CEAS)
- Center for Human Rights – Nis
- Sandzak Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms
- Asociation Step Forward Krusevac
- Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Argus – Civil Association of Hungarians in minority rights
- SOS Belgrade

- PROTECTA Nis
- Center for Development of Non-profit Sector
- Women in Black
- Center for Cultural Decontamination (CzKD)
- Center for Independent Living Serbia