



Adis Ahmetovic
Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Press release

Sixth speech of Adis Ahmetovic, MdB, in the German Bundestag - "Historic turning point to the good"

Berlin, 08.07.2022

Adis Ahmetovic, MdB
Mitglied im Auswärtigen Ausschuss
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
Telefon: +49 30 227-73194
adis.ahmetovic@bundestag.de

Wahlkreisbüro:
Im Kreuzkampe 1
30655 Hannover
Telefon: +49 511 699 805
adis.ahmetovic.wk@bundestag.de

Pressekontakt:
Jasmin Schönberger
adis.ahmetovic.ma07@bundestag.de
Telefon: 0176-22882667

<https://adis-ahmetovic.de/>

Sixth Speech by Adis Ahmetovic, MdB, in the German Bundestag on July 8, 2022 on TOP 28 - Motion by the Federal Government on "Resumption of the Participation of Armed German Forces in the EU-led Security Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA)" and on the Motion by SPD, Greens and FDP "Supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina as it embarks on a better future"

- The spoken word applies -

Dear Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Of all that man builds and constructs, there is nothing better and more valuable than bridges."

This statement comes from the Nobel Prize winner in literature, Ivo Andrić. Born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, baptized Catholic and died in Belgrade.

Building bridges - that is ultimately what life is always about: Between people, cultures, religions, neighboring states or entire regions and continents.

As members of the German Bundestag, we all try to be political architects. In doing so, the foundation on which we work is our free democratic basic order and deep European conviction.

Bosnia and Herzegovina also wants such a construct with identical pillars: peace and freedom, democracy and prosperity.

And therefore, ladies and gentlemen, today's debate and the adoption of the two motions is a historic turning point for the good of the future of this young democracy.



I would like to thank my coalition partners and fellow rapporteurs Boris Mijatović from the Greens, Thomas Hacker from the FDP, and the CDU/CSU parliamentary group for joining us in sending out this clear signal today.

The content of the two motions has been the subject of much discussion in recent weeks and months. This shows that we have touched a nerve, possibly put our finger deep into the wounds.

Our plan for a better future for Bosnia and Herzegovina includes 22 points - which can be broken down into three dimensions:

A security dimension: we want to participate again in the EUFOR ALTHEA mandate after a ten-year absence. We clearly oppose attempts at secession and reject the establishment of a third entity. Sanctions must be imposed on those who work to destroy state structures. Democracy and prosperity need a strong and stable framework.

A European dimension: Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the European family. It must be granted EU candidate status in a timely manner. This is another reason why we will support integrity-based elections in October 2022. The pro-European parties enjoy our solidarity. The concept of constituent peoples has failed; it needs a modern, democratic and European principle at all levels.

The social dimension. There must be equality before the law for all. The country needs a strong civil society, democratization of state and social structures, political education. Children must be given the same opportunities in an education system free of discrimination, and an independent media landscape is needed.

Dear colleagues!

Let us usher in a new era for a democratic Western Balkans, especially for a democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina - nationally, European and internationally.

Because: the credibility of the EU will also be measured by the progress achieved in the Western Balkans.

To end as I began: Let's start building bridges that won't collapse.

Thank you very much for your attention!