

2 June 2015

Agreement

1. The parties agree to put the interest of the country first and confirm their commitment to the Euro-Atlantic process and democratic principles.
2. In the interest of all citizens and all communities in the country, the parties agree on steps to overcome the current crisis. They commit to ensuring inclusiveness in taking this agreement forward, through consultation and coordination with the main parties in the country.
3. The parties commit to respecting the democratic principle of political accountability in addressing key challenges facing the country.
4. At a time of great national challenge, the parties agree that they must, acting in the interest of all citizens, address critical and unprecedented challenges facing the country, to consolidate its economic and democratic development, to strengthen inter-ethnic relations, to ensure full implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, to strengthen good neighbourly relations and its international standing and, in so doing, to bring the country forward on its Euro-Atlantic path.
5. The parties therefore agree to establish a "transitional period" starting immediately and ending in free and fair elections, in full compliance with European standards, by the end of April 2016.
6. During the transitional period:
 - By June 10, the parties shall agree on the exact organization of the government preparing the elections.
 - SDSM returns to parliament and will chair a specially constituted parliamentary committee of inquiry into the wiretap scandal. The intelligence oversight and interception of communications committees, also chaired by SDSM, will commence work, looking into democratic oversight failings in the functioning of the state intelligence services (UBK). An initial report by these committees shall be completed by November 2015.
 - With immediate effect there shall be no further publication of any wiretap material. Upon the SDSM's return to parliament, all of the material in possession of the SDSM or any other actor will be handed over to the public prosecutor for immediate action.
 - Between June and the end of August 2015, the EU will facilitate a cross-party dialogue (open to all main parties represented in parliament) to reach an agreement on structural reform issues. This agreement shall inter alia include reforms that need to be taken in the areas of Chapters 23 and 24, representation in and independent functioning of relevant state bodies, greater media freedom and fully aligning with Venice Commission Opinions and recommendations.
 - The parties also agree to implement all recommendations to be issued by the European Commission in relation to systemic rule of law issues. Implementation will be reviewed in the context of an inclusive High Level

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Accession Dialogue involving all main political parties and civil society and ahead of the Commission's October 2015 Progress Report.

- By 31 July 2015, the composition of the State Elections Commission will be reviewed and modified. By 30 September 2015 the State Elections Commission will be given enhanced powers to ensure free and fair elections and a level playing field for all parties. This shall notably include stronger oversight powers. All OSCE/ODIHR recommendations shall be implemented, including revision of the voter's list according to a new and agreed methodology. In the run-up to the next elections, the government shall request enhanced long and short term electoral observation from OSCE/ODIHR.

This agreement is open to signature by interested political parties

