



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament**

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 Bruxelles
T +32 2 284 2111
F +32 2 230 6664
www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu

Brussels, 21 June 2022

Dear President of the European Council,
Dear Mr. Michel,

On 17th June, the European Commission provided its opinion on the EU membership applications of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia. The S&D Group in the European Parliament calls on you and the Members of the European Council to give clear and unmistakable political signals in support of the European perspective of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

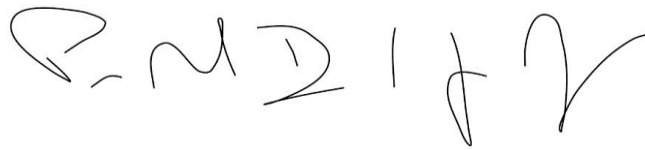
The solid and unequivocal shared European path of these three countries, which we strongly endorse, reinforces the importance of conveying a strong message of support to the Western Balkans and the legitimate aspirations for a European future of its people. In this regard, the invitation of the European Council to the six Leaders of the Western Balkans is a good step. The Western Balkans deserve a credible enlargement perspective and a predictable accession process. Their future lies in the European Union.

However, the stalemate in the North Macedonia and Albania accession processes, in particular, is sending the wrong signals to the two countries concerned and to the entire region. We urge you to overcome the difficulties that are blocking progress and to open the accession negotiations officially and immediately with Albania and North Macedonia. The EU has to live up to its commitments, especially in the current geopolitical context.

We trust the upcoming European Council and the EU-Western Balkans Leaders' meeting of 23 and 24 June, under your leadership, will deliver the expected and much needed outcome for the Western Balkan countries as well as for Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

Iratxe García Pérez
Pedro Marques
Tonino Picula
Andreas Schieder
Isabel Santos

Iratxe GARCIA PEREZ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Marques' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pedro MARQUES

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tonino Picula' with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Tonino PICULA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Schieder' in a cursive style.

Andreas SCHIEDER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Isabel Santos' with a large, stylized initial 'I'.

Isabel SANTOS

cc: President von der Leyen; HRVP Borrell and Commissioner Várhelyi