

Committee on Foreign Affairs The Chair

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HE Ms Maja Gojković Speaker of the National Assembly National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Trg Nikole Pašića 13 Belgrade

Dear Speaker, Madame,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 September, welcoming the proposal and timeframe to establish a European Parliament facilitated inter-party dialogue in the *Narodna Skupština*.

In practical terms, I would like to suggest that you forward this letter as an invitation from the European Parliament to the Leaders of the Political Groups to participate in the first inter-party dialogue on 9 and 10 October 2019. The invitation is for the leaders of the groups plus one politician (and one optional political adviser).

In line with the proposal, the first round of the inter-party dialogue would focus on improving the conditions for holding parliamentary elections. We would propose two more rounds of dialogue before the end of the year, taking into account the outcome of each round of the preceding dialogue. We would then come back in a second phase to the longer-term issue of improving the political atmosphere, practices and procedures inside the National Assembly.

Attached you will find a draft agenda for the first dialogue that includes the key issues that came up during the discussions with most political groups and that are contained in the most recent European Commission Report and OSCE/ODHIR Recommendations. According to the agenda, we will also include electoral experts to contribute to the dialogue by providing short introductory remarks on key topics.

Mr Eduard Kukan and Mr Knut Fleckenstein will support the process by facilitating the dialogue. We will involve MEPs with responsibilities towards the country at future rounds of the dialogue. In facilitating the dialogue, Mr Kukan and Mr Fleckenstein will summarise areas of consensus at the end of each agenda item and provide an overall summary of areas of consensus during the concluding session of the dialogue.

We believe that such an inter-party dialogue can be most effective if all political groups adopt an approach that is practical and open to building a strong consensus on the priorities for improving the electoral environment. As during the consultations we will ask all parties to respect our desire for no media coverage and we advise holding the dialogue under the Chatham House rule.

Let me thank all participants in advance for accepting to engage in this European Parliament facilitated dialogue and for a successful outcome in this important inter-party dialogue process.

Yours sincerely,

David McAllister

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament