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PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen meets Bosnian elections winner and SDP Leader Zlatko Lagumdžija

On 14 October 2010, **PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen** met with **SDP Bosnian Leader Zlatko Lagumdžija**. The discussion focused on the SDP Bosnia-Herzegovina's strategy and agenda following its sweeping victory in the Bosnian Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The meeting contributed to further developing SDP-PES coordinated efforts for Bosnian-Herzegovinian EU membership and to identify the challenges lying ahead, including the constitutional reform, employment, sustainable development and social security.

PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said:

"The PES is committed to EU Enlargement for Bosnia and the Western Balkans region. Through our Western Balkans Task Force, we maintain regular strategic meetings with our partners in the region and we work to set up common progressive priorities for EU Enlargement such as job creation, green growth, decent work and vocational education. The SDP Bosnia-Herzegovina is our partner in attaining these goals. We highly value our cooperation with its leader Zlatko Lagumdžija, a true social democrat. The SDP election victory has shown that a majority of Bosnians shares our vision"

SDP Bosnia-Herzegovina Leader **Zlatko Lagumdžija** said:

"We will lead the new pro-European Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This will mark a real acceleration in our pledge to enrich our country's EU Accession path. We count on the PES for support. The route we outlined at our Balkan Conference in March "*Enlargement 2014*" will have an opportunity to go from vision to concrete programme of action".

"The PES is our main partner in attaining our shared goal of EU Membership for Bosnia. Our election victory is a great step forward. We are committed to make Bosnia more prosperous, greener and fair. We share the priorities PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen has highlighted in his statement. The visa liberalization vote by the European Parliament, which received determined support from the PES, is an encouraging sign of support for our efforts. It is only with progressive strategies that we will bring Bosnia-Herzegovina forward."

Mr. Lagumdžija subsequently joined other PES Member Party Leaders in the High-Level PES Presidency conference.

Background:

Through annual conferences, its Western Balkans Task Force and its regular dialogue with progressive parties and civil society in the region, the PES has made a commitment to EU Enlargement for the Western Balkans.

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