

Dear colleagues,

Today we are witnessing initial phase of establishing new world order, where we can see old global players being active and violent again.

We have countries with a long-standing tradition of neutrality, Sweden and Finland, which have lost hope, that they can preserve their security without NATO.

I come from Montenegro, a country that, according to former US Secretary of State John Kerry, was in the line of fire between the West and Moscow in 2016, because of its desire to become a member of NATO. Although exposed to enormous Russian pressure, Montenegro resolutely defended its and the Euro-Atlantic orientation of the Western Balkans. The Democratic Party of Socialists, which I present here, made a decisive contribution to that achievement.

For years, Montenegro has made all its moves in state politics, with a clear dedication to the system of values, in which the right of every nation to choose its future, is the cornerstone of that value system. We fought for that right, and won it for ourselves, when we restored our state independence in 2006, and when we became a member of NATO in 2017. Therefore, it's logical that we include this right for all other independent states. That's why it's logical that we oppose any aggression, by which someone wants to deny that right to the Ukrainians, with the arguments of force, killing and demolition.

The key challenge for the further development of democracy in the Western Balkans is the political polarization of the parliaments. Montenegro could be an exception in this regard. Thanks to the support of the Democratic Party of Socialists, we formed a minority government a few months ago, with the aim of achieving a political compromise, as a precondition for reforms on the way to the EU.

We stand for the model that the inclusion of all parties with a European profile in the decision-making process should be an inspiration for every future parliamentary majority. We think that the gathering of political subjects on the platform of European values and respect for human rights and diversity, can only reduce political polarization in our society.

Thank you for your kind attention