

Republic of Serbia
Deputy Prime Minister
335/04

Belgrade, April 26th 2005

Dr. Jadranka Jelacic
Executive Director
Fund for Open Society
Novi Sad

Dear Mrs. Jelacic,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for your letter. You have my full support in your activities that aim for our country, along with other countries of the Western Balkans, to accelerate in the process of integration into the European Union. I fully share your concerns that the existing mechanisms of the European Union designated for the countries of the region are not sufficient, and that this might cause their further falling behind the rest of Europe. I use every opportunity to share this conviction in my contacts with the partners in European capitals, as I try to persuade them that it is necessary to create more efficient policies in order to provide a more balanced treatment of all potential members of the European Union.

Moreover, I was delighted to see that some of our most prominent NGOs and institutes took part in this joint effort, as the profound transformation of our country and a faster achievement of our European future are not possible without a broad engagement of civil society. I believe that a faster and sustainable development should be made a focal point of our activities, as this is a critical precondition for realisation of our European perspective.

As a Deputy Prime Minister of the Serbian Government and the head of the negotiating team with the European Union, I use this opportunity to assure you that I am open to all your initiatives, and I hope that we will work more closely together in achieving our common goal – the modernisation of our country and a faster process of European integration.

With my kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely Yours,

Miroljub Labus.