

**Address by H.E. Dr. Zlatko Lagumdzija, Deputy Chairman of the  
Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and  
Herzegovina at the Conference on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
RCC (Regional Cooperation Council) in Sarajevo**

**Sarajevo, February 27, 2013**

Dear Secretary General,  
Dear Colleagues Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to greet you all and to congratulate the Regional Cooperation Council on the fifth anniversary of the work and activities of this important regional initiative in B&H. I would also like to warmly welcome newly appointed Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council Mr. Goran Svilanovic, and to wish him all success in his future work. At the same time I would like to extend our gratitude for exemplary devotion and particularly good and active approach by the first Secretary General mister Hido Biscevic.

Development of the regional cooperation in various fields in Southeast Europe, aimed at achieving standards of the regional countries individually and the entire region necessary for integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures, is certainly the intended and well accomplished goal of the RCC.

The regional cooperation is a key factor for integration of the Western Balkan countries to the European Union. The regional cooperation is essential for economic development of the Western Balkan countries and we should be focused in that direction in the future.

A number of regional initiatives in Southeast Europe have been launched in recent years where concrete results were achieved in many fields; still we face some skepticism or negative assessments of regional cooperation usually based on prejudices, wrong perception or simply the lack of knowledge of the process.

Security and development are still two crucial motives for establishment of regional cooperation and integration, but also a multi-dimensional process of integration in the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina undertakes significant efforts in order to have more functional and efficiently institutions that will be capable to face challenges of European integrations.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

At the end, allow me to emphasize that the five-year of presence and operation of the RCC certainly has contributed to the promotion of interpersonal contacts between the countries of the region and the European Union and it is now of great importance. Politicians have to enable creating of favorable political and economic conditions in order to offer new visions that will give a chance to the younger generations for a better life here.

The support of friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognizing and highlighting the positive steps undertaken in B&H on its path towards Euro-Atlantic integrations is always welcomed. I have no doubt that you will continue to provide support to B&H, its policy and its all citizens.

I hope that we have been good hosts to the Secretariat of RCC for the past five years and we'll keep our traditional hospitality in the future.

Thank you for your attention!