

Civil Society Forum

of the Western Balkans Summit Series

CSF Vienna

Working Groups' Recommendations

Legacy Issues in the Western Balkans

Bilateral disputes

- The EU should design clear mechanisms to support the bilateral disputes resolution and show commitment and readiness to engage;
- The Western Balkans' governments should publish (through their websites) report on the bilateral disputes resolution annually;
- Reports of the technical commissions dealing with the bilateral disputes at the national level should be public;
- The Western Balkan countries should plan work of the technical commissions within/for the three-year period;
- The EU and the Western Balkan governments should involve the CSOs in monitoring of the bilateral disputes resolution and the agreements implementation. When engaged with parties in resolution of bilateral disputes, methodology of involvement needs to include elements of formulation of exit strategies, so that resolution does not get converted into an open-ended frozen conflict.

Reconciliation

- Agreement at the governmental level on the establishment of the regional commission for the establishment of facts and other serious violations of human rights committed in the former Yugoslavia between 1991 and 2001 should be signed;
- Institutions responsible for education, in cooperation with the CSOs, should improve text-books for primary and secondary schools with facts about past and reconciliation; Set of principles should be defined at regional level with stronger articulated outreach strategy by the CSOs;
- The Western Balkans' prosecution offices should strengthen cooperation in prosecution of war crimes with the assistance of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (bilateral agreements on cooperation in prosecution of war crimes should be signed between the Western Balkan countries);
- The Western Balkan countries need to further step up their efforts to fight impunity for war crimes with a more proactive approach, to proactively investigate and punish them in line with international standards; the prosecutor offices and the courts should start prosecuting chain of command cases.