

**Berlin Summit speech by
RCC Secretary General Majlinda Bregu
Berlin, 3 November 2022**

“When the world seems large and complex, we need to remember that all great ideals started off in some small neighbourhood.”

Honourable Excellencies,

As we gather today for the much-anticipated resumption of the flagship Berlin Process Summit, the quote attributed to **Chancellor Adenauer** resonates with the Western Balkans, a corner of the world full of challenges but also opportunities; a region that is inseparably linked to Europe.

Though written off as nearly impossible, after trying and nerve-racking two years, the three RCC-coordinated centrepiece mobility agreements finally see the light of day. Today they reach those intended for - our citizens!

Much like the ubiquitous impact of the regional roaming agreement and the green lanes, their manifested impact on the ground will be direct and concrete.

From tearing down the last remaining visa wall in the region. The Kosovo* - Bosnia and Herzegovina one.

I know, no-visa regime with Bosnia and Herzegovina is not the same for Kosovo* as no-visa regime with the EU. But, in real terms, this is the substance of one region, one market.

Barrier-free, deeper economic integration, hassle-free recognition of academic qualifications and professions.

All contributes to building the bridges our region still needs within, and with the EU on an equal treatment basis.

Hoping for prompt ratification procedures, we will continue to support the implementation and the governance of the agreements - so their intended benefits are extended in the shortest time possible.

Your Excellencies,

The investment of substantive political and diplomatic capital on the side of our WB governments and EU partners in the finalisation of the mobility agreements proves yet again that - Where there is a will, there is a way!

With this impetus and encouragement in mind, it is high time to follow the pioneering example of EU MS joining the green lanes initiatives and make the roaming reduction between the EU and WB a case in point.

Looking forward to some other concrete deliverables for the Tirana December EU-WB Summit.

In these challenging times, we need these and many more integration measures in energy, cyber-resilience, disinformation, and so on.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

As an all-inclusive, regionally-owned mechanism, RCC stands ready to contribute to the operability of the Process in-between Summits as well, ensuring one of the most widely taught skills: cooperation.

Thank you.