Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Pirate Academy was made possible by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament.

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The candidates in this scenario. Eight countries sit at this table without a vote: Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In reality you would not be in the room when the Union decides about you. Here you are, because you hold the one thing the Union cannot obtain any other way: a commitment to reform that somebody actually intends to carry out. At the end of the conference the Commission tables a recommendation for you in each of four areas, each costing you reform capacity. Each recommendation you accept raises that score by the same number after the session, up to 5, provided your government survives. Before you answer, the Council and the Parliament vote on the funds package, so you will know what support you have: reform support expands your capacity, at a rising cost (1 unit for the first extra point, 2 for the second, 3 for the third). You may accept more than your capacity, but every point over it raises the chance that your government falls and nothing is delivered: 25, 50, 75 and 90 per cent for one, two, three and four or more points over. You may accept or decline each recommendation, you may bargain about them beforehand, and you may **leave the process**, which freezes your line where it is and is a real option that has been taken before. Your scores are public and in the factsheet. **Your reform capacity is yours alone**, unless the Commission spends one of its two detailed reviews on you or you choose to tell somebody. The Council may also attach a one-sentence note to its decision on you, proposed by a member state and entered unless another objects: that is where conditions and promises about you get written down. Side agreements with anyone, including the other candidates, are allowed; they should be written down with the clear support of everyone in them, and they are published only after the scenario.

Your delegation: Bosnia and Herzegovina (solo)

Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for membership in 2016 and received a list of fourteen priorities, most of which remain unmet. You are not a candidate. The reason is not indifference but architecture: a state built to end a war, with three constituent peoples, two entities, rotating institutions and a veto available at almost every level, is extremely good at preventing decisions and very bad at taking them. Reforms the Union asks for routinely require constitutional changes that the structure itself makes impossible.

Meanwhile the political leadership of one entity questions the state's institutions openly and maintains warm relations with Moscow, and the European perspective is one of the few things that holds the argument together at all.

Your scores (public, as in Annex A of the factsheet). Rule of Law 2, Corruption 2, Democracy 1, Economy 2. **Your reform capacity (do not publish)**: 2, among the lowest here, because almost nothing can be delivered without agreement between entities. You also face an institutional freeze: unless you receive candidate status tonight, or **2 fund units**, the political process at home stalls and the debrief records it.

Decision rule: you decide alone.

Your role

Motivations and constraints: Your aims: candidate status now, which is the single thing you came for; an acknowledgement that your reform capacity is a structural problem rather than a lack of will, because every assessment of Bosnia reads as an accusation of laziness; and support that reaches institutions capable of using it. Your argument is that candidate status is not a reward for reforms completed but the condition that makes them possible: it gives the people in your country who want the European path something to point at, and it takes an argument away from those who say the path does not exist.

Red lines: No decision that leaves Bosnia and Herzegovina exactly where it was, since the status quo here is not stable. No conditions requiring constitutional change as a precondition for candidate status, which inverts the order in which anything could actually happen. No treatment of your country as a security problem to be managed rather than a country to be admitted.

Style: Modest, concrete and slightly urgent. You are asking for one thing, so ask for it clearly and repeatedly, and be generous about everyone else's files, because you need votes rather than arguments. Do not oversell what you can deliver: the room has read your scores, and a delegation that promises reforms it plainly cannot execute confirms every doubt in the file.

Confidential (for you alone): Austria is your delegation. It has been arguing for your candidate status all year, it needs a Balkan result tonight, and it will trade away its position on the size of the funds package to get you one. Find it in the first ten minutes and stay close. Your second calculation is about the Commission: you would rather receive candidate status with a demanding reform sheet attached than no status and an easy one, because status is the thing that changes your politics at home and the reforms will be renegotiated for years regardless. If the Commission offers to soften its recommendations instead of supporting your status, refuse the trade. Your third: you know your capacity of 2 is among the lowest at this table and that the honest thing is to say so. Saying it makes your case for support stronger and your case for status weaker, and you will have to decide which of those matters more before the Final Act begins.