EU-SERBIA 12th SPECIAL GROUP ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

21 April 2026 (9:00-13:00)

Belgrade and online connection

OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

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2. Strategic framework of public administration reform, including public financial management:

1. The parties agreed on the need for effective implementation, monitoring and reporting on the PAR strategic framework. While reliance on donor funding needs to be gradually reduced, discussions with donors, as well as with civil society organisations, need to be strengthened. The Ministry of European Integration will start organising Sector Working Groups (SWGs) with donors, including on PAR, shortly after the newly proposed Decision on the establishment of SWGs and the Rules of Procedure have been finalised in cooperation with the EUD and become operational, with the first meeting consequently aimed for by the end of 2026.

2. Serbia committed to ensuring stronger political steer, budgetary commitment and effective coordination to underpin the reform process, including through more regular and focused meetings of the PAR Council.

3. The Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government will consult, **by Q4 2026**, the European Commission on draft amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government. Serbia will ensure that the Commission for Financing Local Self-Governments regularly meets (one per quarter as prescribed by the law) and analyses the regulatory framework for financing local government including methodology and criteria for allocating any earmarked transfers to local self-government units.

3. Public Financial Management (PFM):

1. Serbia will establish a unified, comprehensive and transparent system for prioritising all public investments, regardless of type and source of financing **at the latest by the end of 2027.**

2. Serbia will ensure a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent consultation process on the Action Plan on public investment management as part of the Reform Agenda step **at the latest by December 2026.**

3. Serbia will increase the number of internal auditors and ensure the establishment of internal audit functions covering all central budget institutions all **by the end of 2026**.

4. Serbia will increase efforts to improve budget transparency, as well as public participation and parliamentary oversight over the budget process **for the 2027 budget** and the following budgetary cycles.

5. Serbia will create **by Q3 2026**, and regularly update, an overview of projects that have been marked as being of "special importance" under the Regulation or before that through the lex specialis.

4. Policy development and coordination:

1. Serbia will initiate the process of amending and supplementing the Law on the Planning System, together with the accompanying regulations. Upon completion of this process, Serbia will further refine the steps to be taken in all areas covered by this field.

2. Serbia will provide for a stronger quality control role of the Centre of Government to ensure effective implementation of the law on the planning system and other relevant legislation, including at the local level where necessary. As a binding, quality control, mechanism is needed to verify that legislation and policy planning documents adopted by the government effectively comply with the legal framework, a review of the rules of procedures of the government, and/or other legal bases, could be considered.

3. Regarding the Government decrees of March 2026, the European Commission encouraged Serbia to reconsider the exemption from impact assessments and consultation of the PPS for draft regulations and public policy documents related to European integration.

4. The European Commission stressed the need to strengthen quality control mechanisms on public consultations. Serbia agreed to further put efforts in increasing the number of regulations and public policy documents (PPDs) for which public consultations will be conducted as well as publication of their Summary reports in line with the legal framework. The European Commission encouraged Serbia to increase, **by the end of 2026**, the percentage of public consultations on draft legislation to 65% (from 51% in 2025) and on draft by-laws to 36% (from 30% in 2025). Serbia will consult the European Commission on changes to the legislative framework on public consultations, with the aim of adopting it **by Q1 2027.**

5. As regards the optimisation of sectors, the European Commission encouraged Serbia to increase further the number of optimised sectors to 8 sectors **by the end of 2026.**

5. Accountability:

1. Serbia will provide for the full establishment of analytical units in all ministries in accordance with the Roadmap for Improving Managerial Accountability. It will pilot the implementation of the newly adopted guidelines on analytical units **by Q4 2026.**

2. Serbia will keep the European Commission informed on plans and steps to comprehensively address the challenges in the area of access to information as well as access to administrative justice. It will consult the European Commission on possible draft

amendments to the Law on access to information of public importance and other elements of the legal framework **by Q1 2027**.

6. Public service and human resources management:

1. Serbia will share with the European Commission, by the end of 2026 the conclusions of the upcoming ex post assessment of laws and by-laws regulating recruitment procedures and **following the formation of the new Government,** will make proposals for improvement, including draft amendments to the Law on civil servants if applicable.

2. Serbia committed to fully roll out HRMIS in state administration bodies **by Q2/2028, and in local self-government as early as possible.**

3. On the "*recruitment and management the career of civil servants on the basis of clear and transparent criteria, focusing on merits and proven skills*" as per chapter 23 interim benchmark, Serbia will, **as a matter of urgency**, prioritise the reduction of the high number of acting senior management posts. Upon reconstitution of the Special working group for improving the condition of senior civil servants and after its first session, Serbia will propose dates to the European Commission to schedule a dedicated meeting on this topic to be attended at an appropriate decision-making level.

7. Service delivery to citizens and businesses:

1. To address the issue of institutional fragmentation in this area, Serbia will follow up on the comments of the European Commission and SIGMA in the finalisation of the new e-Government Programme.

2. As regards the ongoing extension of one-stop shops (OSS), in order to ensure a citizen-centric and standardised minimum number and level of service provision and quality throughout the country, Serbia will develop and implement a pilot project to measure the quality of selected administrative services **by Q2/2028**.

3. Serbia will continue its work on aligning provisions of all sectoral existing and future laws with the Law on General Administrative Procedure (LGAP) with the overall aim of ensuring legal security and more effective service delivery to citizens and businesses.