Novi Pazar, 17th January, 2013 – the speech of Minister PhD Sulejman Ugljanin at the Gathering for the legal certainty and the European future

Dear citizens,

Dear members and sympathizers of the Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak,

It is my great honour and pleasure to see so many of you gathered here in order to give support to the intentions of the Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak, and which has been promoting, for 23 years now, for the legal certainty and the European future of our country.

Today, when we have the opportunity to stand among the Members of the European Union in the following period, we will have to make extra efforts in order to realize this generation dream as soon as possible. I am sure that the accession of our country to the EU will result in better life for all the citizens of Serbia.

The Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak, for twenty years now, has been involved in fair politics, fighting for and promoting of the respect and realization of the rights of Bosniaks and other national minorities living in our country. New employments, increased number of employees and bringing new investors to the least developed regions of our country represent our main goals, and which will remain priority in the course of the following years.

However, apart from life in general, a prosperous, legal, safe and just state in which the criminals will be arrested and sanctioned, regardless their political party affiliation, as well as national and religious affiliation, is exactly the kind of Serbia which the Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak if fighting for. That is the kind of Serbia preferred by the European Union.

We believe that the actual Government, that has been achieving impressive results in their fight against all types of crime, will continue to act with the same ardour and courage, and with the purpose of building legal and safe state in which the laws, awards and sanctions will be equal for all –for the Bosniaks, for the Serbs and for all other citizens of our country.

I believe that the actual Government, that had the courage and the will to resolve the homicide of the journalist Slavko Ćuruvija after 15 years, will also resolve this case that happened five years ago in Novi Pazar, and which still brings about insecurity and fear among the citizens of this town. Resolving of this case would be of a great importance for the following:

• Functioning of the legal system of Serbia
• Respect of human rights
• Fight against the crime
• Security and the feeling of safety of the citizens of Sandžak

The state of Serbia and the competent authorities should resolve this case, in order to prevent it from complicating our efforts in further negotiations for accession of our country to the European Union.

We cannot join European integrations if we carry a heavy suitcase full of unresolved crimes.

Our country must resolve this and similar criminal actions by its own will and self- initiative, and not just following the orders of the European Union.

We believe that our highest state officials, from the President Nikolić to the Prime Minister Dačić and the first Deputy Prime Minister Vučić, will give their full contribution to resolving of this crime, and which the former government neither understood nor had any will to resolve.

We are calling to account of all the members of the police and the legislation, and who deliberately obstructed the investigation thus protecting those who ordered this crime.

Resolving of this crime would also be a message to all the Bosniaks, saying that Serbia is the state that takes care of them in the best possible way.

There are some who would love to join the EU, and yet not to change a single thing in lives of the people, following the model of “Potemkin villages”. We do want to join the EU, but we promote for essential changes in state authorities with public authorizations, such as the police, prosecution, jurisdiction and all other authorities acting according to the principle “the law, that is me”. That was the topic that Radoje Domanović wrote about in his piece “Stradija”.

The Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak has been promoting for the same cause for twenty three years now – the respect for the legal state, fight against the crime, equality of rights and the respect for all national minorities, fight for a better life of the citizens, and will always fight for that.

That is why this gathering is a call for common sense, a call for civilizational protection of the citizen against arrogant individuals, and a call for a government to do their job.

It is a high time to regain the old and to build a new trust between the government and the citizens through resolving of this case and to calm down all the tension dwelling in this region.

Nowadays, the percentage of unemployment in Sandžak has risen to 53%, which is a direct consequence of personal, proprietary and legal uncertainty. Without the legal certainty, there will be no investments and no employment.

Then the Europe will have legal asylum-seekers from Sandžak, people asking for political asylum, in order to save themselves and their families.

This is not what the Government wants.

Accession to the European Union is a key to solution of our problems. Not everything is so bad and there are certain positive aspects, too. Certain changes have been taking place in the Ministry of Justice, and which is increasingly being consolidated with the European legislation. It will be the next week when the Judicial Academy of Novi Pazar will be opened.

Soon, the free vacancies for a new generation of Bosniak policemen will be announced, and which will make a balance within the national structure in the police and the judicial authorities. And that is exactly what will build a sense of belonging to all Bosniaks from Sandžak, a belonging to the country they live in, and which means the legal certainty for all the citizens.

This gathering is a call for peace, prosperity and safety of all the nations lining in our Sandžak and the State of Serbia. Owing to your trust, engagement and determination to change the situation in Novi Pazar and Sandžak, the Party of Democratic Action of Sandžak, even after 23 years, is still the leader party of Sandžak. We are ready to take the same responsibility in the forthcoming years. We are still fighting for new working positions of the citizens of Sandžak and for finding domestic and foreign investors willing to invest into undeveloped but potentially rich regions of our country.

I am so much grateful for such a huge trust and the support that you have been giving, and we promise, as in this so in each following year, to act and work diligently, first of all in your favour but also in favour of Novi Pazar, Sandžak and all the citizens of Serbia.

We wish you good health, employment and fair and responsible Government.