



## RESOLUTION

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### RESOLUTION ON RFE/RL'S BALKAN SERVICE

June 20, 2014

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Balkan Service launched its first broadcast in 1994, is part of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Balkan Service broadcasts accurate and objective news and information to the people of Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Balkan Service's dedicated and talented staff of journalists report from the region's most dangerous hotspots and provide viewers up-to-the-minute news;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Balkan Service operates in five countries in six languages, broadcasting over 50 hours of new content per week with over 130 affiliate stations carrying their programs;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Balkan Service frequently covers topics not regularly addressed in the region's media, including human rights, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech;

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Balkan Service expands the spectrum of ideas, opinions and perspectives available in the region's media; and

WHEREAS, RFE/RL's Balkan Service serves as a multi-media platform, reaching audiences through video, [RFE/RL.org](http://RFE/RL.org) and social media platforms, so that Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Albanian, and Macedonian speakers can receive credible news in a way that is convenient to them.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors continues the RFE/RL Balkan Service. RFE/RL is a catalyst for free and independent media. RFE/RL is a safety net for all independent media. The BBG still has an opportunity to make an impact in the Balkans. The news and information war is still underway and is even more critical in light the recent events in Crimea. Unfortunately, RFE/RL is the last western media outlet in the Balkans reporting on local issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in light of the President's new budget announcement of one billion dollars in spending on additional U.S. air and ground forces in Europe, the BBG and the Board of Directors of RFE/RL re-affirm their commitment to providing high quality news and information in Ukraine, Moldova and the Balkan region.