

**Speech Delivered at the Fourth Ministerial Forum on Cultural Cooperation
between PR China and Central and Eastern European Countries**

**by HE. Dragan Jacimovic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the
Republic of North Macedonia**

Skopje, 24-26 November, 2019

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you here in Skopje and address on the occasion of the IV Ministerial Forum on Cultural Cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Central and Eastern European Countries.

I take the opportunity to express gratitude to all those who have contributed to the successful organization of the Forum, which is an excellent opportunity to connect and gain a greater understanding between cultures, and thus to build a platform for participating countries to build new friendly relations in their mutual interest.

Culture has a powerful influence and the ability to bring peoples closer together and send powerful messages. Culture knows no borders but builds bridges and is one of the best representatives of a country.

Tangible and intangible cultural heritage is facing many challenges today, and therefore a shared commitment to preservation and promotion of culture is of great importance. I consider the IV Ministerial Forum as a unique opportunity to make cooperation between our countries even stronger and more successful, as well as to contribute to the promotion of cultural exchange.

I am pleased that today will be adopted the Declaration which will further confirm the exchange and promotion of culture and facilitate communication, cooperation, networking and coordination between national cultural institutions and organizations within the countries of Initiative 17 + 1.

Convinced that this unique cultural event will contribute to the growth of cultural exchange between the People's Republic of China and the 17 Central and

Eastern European countries, we believe that this friendly cooperation, which we will realize with determination and creative energy, will contribute to the affirmation of our cultural space and will open new perspectives for generations to come.

Thank you!