



European
Commission
Delegation
to BiH

EU Newsletter



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Prime Minister, Presidents, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years ago, the Dayton/Paris Peace Accords brought to an end the worst war in Europe since World War II. We have celebrated this important anniversary this week.

During the last decade, Bosnia and Herzegovina has gone a long way in building a multiethnic democracy. Today the prospects of hostilities are remote, the reconstruction of infrastructure is largely completed, and state-building is on its way. I would like to congratulate the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for such achievements.

The official opening today of the negotiations between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina for a Stabilisation and Accession Agreement is proof of your success. The EU demanded

significant progress in sixteen different areas for this step to be taken. I am delighted to be here to celebrate such important progress with you.

Your country has a clear European perspective, which today becomes even more concrete and tangible. Today marks the start of a new phase in the relationship between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It was only about one month ago that the Commission recommended to the Council the opening of the negotiations. The speed at which the Council has adopted - on 21 November - the Negotiating Directive for the Commission to negotiate the Agreement indicates the strong support of the Member States in this process. I want to particularly thank the UK Presidency for its effective and determined work to this effect.

However, this does not mean that the conditions to progress in this process were more relaxed. The process is demanding and will require strong commitment, efforts and visible results from BiH. The recent Progress Report and the new European Partnership provide further guidance for the work ahead. The pace and conclusion of negotiations will depend on BiH's progress in developing its legislative framework and administrative capacity, and in addressing European

The SAP Progress Report

On November 9 Ambassador Michael Humphreys delivered to Prime Minister Adnan Terzic the 2005 SAP Progress Report, with the European Commission's assessment of progress made on the sixteen Feasibility Study priorities between the last report (March 2004) and 30 September 2005. The Feasibility Study was published in November 2003 and the Commission has closely monitored subsequent progress. The new report includes a detailed description of developments in the political and economic areas and with regard to European standards. It notes overall progress in tackling the main priorities identified within the SAP and stresses that progress should now be accelerated.

The full report is available on: www.delbih.cec.eu.int





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Partnership key priorities such as continued co-operation with the ICTY, implementation of the agreement on the police restructuring and progress regarding public broadcasting. Before the end of the negotiations, the Council and the Commission will jointly review Bosnia and Herzegovina's performance.

For the rapid advancement of the SAA negotiations, we need a well-organised counterpart that is able to cooperate, find solutions and forge common solutions. It is of paramount importance that BiH can speak with one voice through its chief negotiator - and that the chief negotiator be capable of building internal consensus on the negotiating positions. This also implies involving civil society and economic actors to ensure a smooth implementation of commitments taken in the negotiations.

With a good implementation record, it will be possible for BiH to advance towards ever more ambitious EU objectives.

Bosnia and Herzegovina can substantially benefit from this agreement, which will help in enhancing trade relations and attract investments, which in turn will generate jobs. BiH citizens will benefit from better consumer protection and from cooperation in areas ranging from tackling organised crime and trafficking to environmental standards, and from education and social policies to transport and energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years on, Bosnia and Herzegovina has to look toward the

future: the country can now move from peace-building to state-building.

I welcome the emerging consensus among Bosnian political party leaders on the need to make changes to the Constitution. This is a key reform, and it is you, the people of this country and their representatives, who have, and must have, the ownership. Let me, nevertheless, underline again that it is crucial for this country to develop efficient governance in a functional multi-ethnic state to better serve its citizens.

Dear friends,

I am looking forward to next year. I hope to see SAA negotiations advancing and the constitution evolving during 2006. I am also looking forward to a high-level event on the Western Balkans that will be organised in March under the Austrian Presidency. At this meeting we will get an opportunity to take stock of achievements and shortcomings since the Thessaloniki Summit, as well as to set new goals for the future.

I am committed to work with the Austrian Presidency to push issues that really matter for people in this region, for example easier access to visas. The Commission is currently working on negotiating mandates for both visa facilitation and readmission, which we will propose to the Council.

We have important challenges ahead. Much effort will be required from BiH. On behalf of the Commission I can say that we are looking forward to support you on your road towards ever-closer integration with the EU.

Commissioner Rehn Lays the Foundation Stone of the Future SBS Building

On November 25 Commissioner Rehn also visited the site of the future State Border Service headquarters, located near Sarajevo airport. He ceremoniously laid the foundation stone of the new building, which will cost 2.9 Million Euro, of which the EU is providing 2.4 Million Euro and the Ministry of Security the balance of 0.5 Million Euro.



Photos: FENA



Photos: M. Žigojević

Supporting the Reform of General Education in BiH

On December 16, the EU Project Reform of General Education in BiH held its final conference. The €1.5 million project started in January 2004 and over the past two years achieved outstanding results with working groups which produced a range of key new material, provided technical assistance to the Standards and Assessment Agency, drafted the Law on BiH Education Agency and worked with pilot projects in school networks. It also carried out the Functional Review of the Education Sector in the framework of the Public Administration Review.

Mr. Safet Halilovic, BiH Minister of Civil Affairs, praised the project's achievements but stressed that much remains to be done in the area of education reform - notably at higher level - and expressed his hopes that the EU will continue to support the development of curricula for other subjects.

Ambassador Humphreys pledged to actively seek funding solutions for a second phase, which all agree is necessary, but added that the real obstacles to education reform are within BiH, where little or no progress has been made in adopting or implementing the recommendations of the Functional Review. He judged the current framework to be unsustainable and the creation of a rational and efficient framework essential. Notably, strengthening of the State-level ministry is needed, to ensure

diploma recognition throughout the country. He ended by highlighting the duty towards youth - the future of BiH.

Some of the main project outputs include:

Model Framework Curriculum

Developing and up-grading curricula has changed over the past decade from a subject and teacher focus to a focus on learner needs and learning outcomes. Rather than being structured into many fragmented academic subjects, modern curricula are structured into broad learning areas. Principles such as curriculum integration and a comprehensive and flexible approach to learning lead to a reduction of unnecessary repetitions and to flexible and creative time-management, which fosters innovative solutions for teaching and learning.

Models for Mother Tongue and Mathematics Syllabi

(Grades 3, 6 and 9 of primary school and grade 4 of general secondary education)

Education in BiH is under the authority of thirteen Ministries of Education, with schools using several different curricula, resulting



The TEMPUS Programme

The **Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies** enables universities from EU Member States to cooperate with those in partner countries, such as the Western Balkans, in higher education modernisation projects. Established in 1990 following the fall of the Berlin Wall, Tempus has been renewed three times. Today, more than ever, there is need to enhance understanding between cultures, and for the EU to work together with its partner countries in the field of higher education.

Tempus projects fall into three categories of which the main type, **Joint European Projects**, are implemented by actors in higher education in EU member states and partner countries, and help the higher education sector propagate its knowledge

outside academic institutions. **Structural and Complementary Projects** are short-term interventions designed to support national higher education reforms and strategic framework development. Projects address issues such as quality assurance, accreditation systems and good university management practice. **Individual Mobility Grants** help staff in participating partner countries take part in training and conferences abroad, and to assist European teachers to deliver training courses in partner countries, within the context of Tempus' objectives.

Since 1997, the EU invests around €2.3 Million a year in Tempus projects in BiH.

in lack of quality insurance and mobility in education. The common core curriculum is defined in the Framework Law as a cluster of subjects, subject content and topics which are important and obligatory for all BiH students and should define common goals and learning outcomes.

These model syllabi refer only to the common core curriculum, while offering guidelines for the development of the school-based curricula which fall under the responsibility of entities, cantons and/or individual schools.

Framework Matura

(school leaving examination), in accordance with the Lisbon Convention, with standards for Mother Tongue and Mathematics

Examinations at the end of general education in BiH are not currently standardised and, therefore, universities and prospective employers do not accept the school leaving examination as a reliable indicator of a student's ability. Standardised examinations which are fair, appropriate, reliable, transparent, efficient and effective are therefore necessary, with all students receiving the same test, in the same format, at the same time and with standardised marking procedures. Such standardised examinations depend on curriculum development; hence the Matura examination will be piloted in a number of schools in 2007 and, following feedback and revision, will be introduced for all students in 2008.

Draft Guidelines for Curriculum Implementation

The Curriculum Framework states the basic principles of organising the curriculum in BiH, based on modern pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning. The guidelines provide teachers with a curriculum-based education resource, including information relating to implementations, such as: learning styles; active learning; planning for learning, etc.



Draft School Development Guidelines

(for primary schools and general secondary education)

Nineteen primary and ten secondary schools participated in an analysis of the situation in their schools and the preparation of a plan for school development, so as to systematise and further communicate their experiences acquired in: child-centred and student-centred teaching methods; inclusive education; parents-school cooperation; modern and democratic management; students' formal participation in the school management.



IN MEMORIAM

Mladen Bevanda

1961 - 2005

The EC Delegation staff mourns the passing of colleague and friend Mladen Bevanda.

Task Manager for Refugee Return & Reconstruction and De-mining since February 2000, Mladen's dedication to his work was instrumental in assisting thousands of families to realise their dream of a sustainable return to their home of origin. He was responsible for millions of Euro to support returnees, including the physical reconstruction of over 20,000 dwellings and technical infrastructure, job creation activities and sustainability measures as well as local capacity building and de-mining programmes with the Civil Protection Authorities. The tributes recently published by refugee associations and NGOs active in this sector are a testament to his professional and personal commitment to full implementation of Annex 7 of the DPA.

Prior to joining the EC Delegation, Mladen worked from 1996 to 2000 in the Reconstruction Sector of the European Community Humanitarian Office, ECHO, in BiH, attaining the post of Sector Co-ordinator. In this capacity, he supervised numerous infrastructure rehabilitation projects, in addition to housing reconstruction throughout BiH.

A civil engineer by training, Mladen graduated from Sarajevo's faculty of Civil Engineering in 1986 and up till 1992 worked as Chief Engineer/Site Manager in the "ŽGP Building Company", managing project sites such as the "Valjevo" road viaduct and the water supply from Skadarsko lake to the Montenegrin coast.

In addition to his professional obligations, Mladen was active in civil society and in recent years tirelessly represented the interests of tenancy right holders in nationalised apartments.

The EC Delegation staff extends heartfelt condolences to Mladen's wife and children, parents and all of the Bevanda family.

R.I.P.

New Year's Message from the Ambassador

The year 2005 will remain a watershed in Bosnia and Herzegovina's history, marking ten years of peace and a major step forward in the European integration process, with the formal opening of Stabilisation and Association Agreement negotiations.

New challenges await Bosnia and Herzegovina in the year 2006, with negotiation sessions opening as early as January: the European Commission's commitment of continued support during this process will help Bosnia and Herzegovina move forward in these new times. We will develop assistance programmes which are based on the priorities of the Stabilisation and Association Process and the European Partnership.

However, the pace at which the country progresses through this new phase is in its own hands. We thus look forward to a similar resolution on the part of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to invest every effort in ensuring speedy progress.

Addressing the shortcomings identified in the Progress Report is crucial in order to make continuous progress toward the EU: Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts should now concentrate on achieving full co-operation with the ICTY, ensuring that State-level ministries and institutions are fully operational and in adopting and implementing a sound and comprehensive action plan for public administration reform. It is also important to further increase the effectiveness of executive and legislative bodies. Co-ordination between the State and the Entities should be strengthened and the issue of corruption deserves further attention. Continued progress is also necessary to fulfil outstanding Council of Europe post-accession requirements, notably in the areas of elections and education. In this respect, due attention should be paid to avoid the division of schools along ethnic lines. The proper and timely implementation of the police restructuring in accordance with



EU requirements is crucial. It is also essential that all the necessary public broadcasting legislation, including that at Entity level, be adopted and applied.

A busy time lies ahead of us and the European Commission, I and all of the Delegation team look forward to working together in fruitful cooperation to meet these challenges.

Ambassador **Michael B. Humphreys**,

Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina



The New 'dot-eu' Suffix

The new ".eu" Web address suffix was launched in December 2005. It enables businesses, public bodies and citizens to

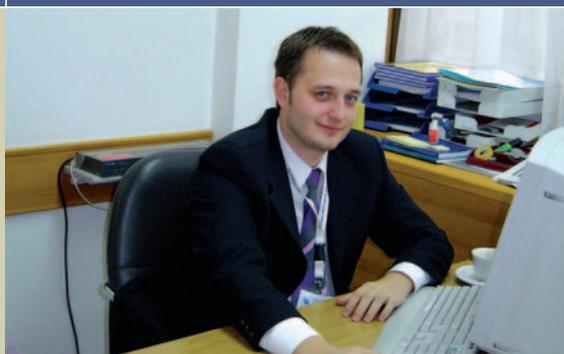
choose a pan-European Internet name for their web sites and e-mail addresses.

The new address or domain name will operate alongside national domain names such as .be for Belgium and .de for Germany. Any resident in the EU, or any organisation or company established in the bloc, will be eligible for a ".eu" address, including non-EU bodies that have a branch in the Union. This will make it easier for companies to have a presence across the bloc's internal market without need for

separate Web addresses in each country. It is predicted that "dot EU" will become as important for European business as "dot com".

Registration for the new Top Level web Domain .eu began in December, with a 4-month "sunrise" period during which only the holders of existing trademarks or other prior rights may register. Registrations will be fully open to the public from April 2006, at which time all EU institutions will begin using .eu Web addresses.

With the launch of .eu, the Commission lives up to the promise made at the Lisbon European Council in 2000 to give Europe's Information Society an identity on the web under reliable EU rules.



EU Scholarships for Young Professionals from BiH - College of Europe Graduates in European Integration Studies

Ahmed Turkic, Dijana Ferizovic, Dusko Glodic and Mersiha Zuban were the first four students from BiH to be awarded scholarships by the EU for a one-year Postgraduate European Studies Programme at the College of Europe, for the 2004-2005 academic year.

This was the first time that the EU, in an effort to educate more young people on European issues, provided funds for young BiH graduates wishing to specialise in EU affairs. The contract with the College of Europe "Scholarships for BiH Civil servants at College of Europe" was signed in June 2004 and covered four Master's Degree students and three-week courses on EU integration matters for seventeen civil servants.

The selection of the Master's students was done in 2 rounds: the first in June 2004 was published exclusively for BiH civil servants and the second, in early August, was open to the public. Three of the selected scholarship recipients studied on the College's campus at Natolin (Warsaw, Poland), opened in 1992, where they followed a programme in Interdisciplinary European Studies, while the fourth studied European Political and Administrative Studies in Bruges, Belgium. Aside from the Politics programme, students in Bruges also have the choice of European Economics, European Law and EU International Relations & Diplomacy. At the College, students have the possibility of meeting many important speakers, which in 2004 included José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament.

The College's students have a unique opportunity to live in a multicultural environment - a truly European microcosm of cultures, languages and backgrounds. Life in such a diverse community was one of the most memorable experiences for the BiH team.

Ahmed Turkic, a young economist from Sarajevo, specialised in issues of EU governance. He feels that the College experience gave him a sense of direction in his professional life, placing the EU firmly on his career map.

Dusko Glodic holds a degree from the Faculty of Law in Banja Luka and specialised in EU Law. While he found the College's high academic requirements a challenge, it is the values of the European community - which he came to fully

particularly appreciated the depth in which EU processes are studied at the College. She chose to focus on the EU's relations with the Western Balkans, aspiring to a career in the field of economic and political transformation of the countries in the region.

Mersiha, Ahmed and Dusko are currently working in the Directorate for European Integration. They are all pleased to be able to put the knowledge gained at the College into practice in the

The College of Europe

The College of Europe was founded in 1949 and focuses on postgraduate European studies in the legal, economic, political and interdisciplinary domains. It is the first postgraduate institute in European Affairs and educates nearly 400 students a year from over 45 countries. Approximately 87% of students are granted scholarships by their government, EU programmes where applicable, or by other public or private institutions.

Study Programmes

Bruges:

- European Economic Studies
- EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies
- European Legal Studies
- European Political and Administrative Studies

Natolin:

- European Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, comprising:
 - Governance in the enlarged EU
 - The EU as a world actor
 - Single Market
 - European Legal Framework
 - Central and Eastern Europe

appreciate during his studies - that he feels will enable him to take on an even greater challenge: implementing these European values and ideals in his own country.

A linguist and journalist by background, Mersiha Zuban chose the Single Market as her major. She firmly believes that the year she spent at the College will be of crucial importance to her future career - thanks to her studies, she is already working in what she describes as a "dynamic and interesting job" in the DEI's EU Aid Coordination Unit.

Having studied languages and some EU affairs before, Dijana Ferizovic

best possible way - by providing BiH with much needed expertise and help on European integration issues.

The second generation of BiH graduates funded by the EU have already started their postgraduate studies. The EU scholarship scheme aims to ensure that all students remain in BiH, working for the Government for at least three years. With further initiatives planned, the experience and contacts of these students will be of great value to others hoping to follow the same path and bring more local EU expertise to BiH.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Regional Workshop on Cross-border Co-operation Between Border Police and Customs

In the framework of the CARDS Regional Project "Support to and Coordination of Integrated Border Management Strategies", a Regional workshop was held in Tirana, Albania in November 2005. The seminar addressed practical aspects of Cross-Border Co-operation between Border Police and Customs administrations operating in Border Security-related issues. Officials from all five CARDS countries - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, including representatives from the UNMIK administration - discussed the possibilities of information exchange and networking in order to improve and strengthen cross-border co-operation mechanisms in fields of common interest. The workshop aimed at giving the participants an

opportunity to determine areas where inter-agency co-operation can be strengthened on the regional level, with the aim to facilitate the legitimate circulation of people and goods through better-controlled borders. Experts from EU Member States, notably French border police and customs officers from a Police-Customs Co-operation Centre (CCPD), shared their practical experience and provided detailed information about these topics. The regional workshop was followed by a three-day study visit to France later in the month, to illustrate how inter-agency co-operation has been organised between border police and customs both at an external EU border and between two EU Member States.

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The Annual Reception for Contractors

On December 13, hundreds of representatives of EC contractors and beneficiaries - including local and foreign civil servants and consultants as well as staff from non-governmental organisations, agencies and commercial companies - gathered in a Sarajevo restaurant for the EC Delegation's annual reception.

Ambassador Michael B. Humphreys paid tribute to the assembled company, stating that EC partners have been instrumental in achieving BiH's progress. He stressed that the

partners actually implementing the projects, not the Delegation staff providing them with support and assistance, are those who have made this a year of achievements.

DEI Director Osman Topcagic addressed the gathering on behalf of the BiH government, stressing that BiH's recent decisive step toward European integration did not come about alone, but rather, was the outcome of the commitment of institutions and the individuals within them.



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European Union home page: www.europa.eu.int

The EU's actions in BiH web page: www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/bosnie_herze/index.htm

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