



Programme

What future for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Europe and the Euro-Atlantic community?

Monday 21 – Wednesday 23 November | WP1137

While Croatia has completed its accession negotiations to the EU, and Serbia substantially enhanced its international standing with the arrest and transfer to The Hague of the two remaining war crimes indictees, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is in a state of deep political paralysis that threatens to lead to its increasing regional isolation. The general dysfunction of governing institutions reflects a continuing retreat from even very modest inter-ethnic cooperation that has become entrenched in recent years. The deterioration of the economy in BiH is also an issue of great concern.

With a new EU Special Representative (EUSR) at the head of a reinforced EU presence in BiH just starting his term in early September, and European Commission progress reports on the Western Balkans due out in mid October, this is an opportune moment to bring key stakeholder representatives and experts together to discuss how to reinforce stability and more broadly how to address BiH's EU future. The conference objectives are to:

- Take stock of what has worked, the lessons learned and how to build positive incentives for progress
- Examine the implications of the October Commission progress reports and assist the new EUSR in setting out his vision and agenda for BiH;
- Explore potential new areas for inter-ethnic cooperative initiatives;
- Assess the material consequences for BiH of regional isolation and examine strategies for moving political dynamics there in more positive directions.

With support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, German Federal Foreign Ministry, Swedish Foreign Ministry and Open Society Foundation

Mon 21 Nov

1300-1430 Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500 **Welcome and introduction**

Robert Grant
Programme Director, Wilton Park

1510-1600

1. The International Community and BiH: Working in partnership for a European Future

David Lidington

Minister for Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1600-1700

2. The EU's reinforced mission to BiH: what are its vision and objectives?

Chair: Minna Jarvenpaa

International Advocacy Director, Open Society Foundation, London

Peter Sorensen

European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Head, European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Respondents:

Damir Masic

Minister, Ministry of Education and Science in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Srdjan Mazalica

Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka

Anton Rill

President of HDZ Sarajevo and member of the Presidency of HDZ Bosnia and Herzegovina

1700-1745

Photograph and tea

1745-1900

3. Continued roundtable discussion on EU vision and objectives

1900

Reception

1930

Dinner

After dinner speaker: **Nickolay Mladenov**, Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia

Tues 22 Nov

Chair: Daniel Korski

Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, London

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1045

4. What has worked, lessons learned, how to build positive incentives

Multi-ethnic relations: lessons from the past

*What actually works in BiH, and why? In what areas have major initiatives to promote inter-ethnic cooperation taken place, and how successful have they been? How was BiH able to implement the reforms needed for conclusion in 2008 of its *Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union*? Do the visa liberalisation reforms of 2010 hold any lessons for other areas? When and how have international and regional stakeholders been able to exert a positive influence in support of inter-ethnic cooperation?*

Denisa Sarajlic-Maglic

Director, Foreign Policy Initiative Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Valentin Inzko

High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Office of the High Representative, Sarajevo

Building positive incentives for future cooperative initiatives

Why has there been backsliding over the past several years on inter-ethnic relations? What positive incentives can be built to encourage progress in BiH? If BiH's economy continues to decline, in what ways will that affect the interests of the political elites? Could this provide a lever for reform? What impact are the October EU Commission Progress Reports on the Western Balkans having on the thinking of political elites and other elements of Bosnian society?

Gerald Knaus

Chairman, European Stability Initiative, Berlin

1045-1115

Tea and coffee

1115-1300

5. BiH's EU and NATO relationships

Fostering closer cooperation

What are the genuine perceptions and views of BiH political elites regarding their place in Europe and the Euro-Atlantic Community? Are these in line with what public opinion surveys say about popular perceptions of the EU and NATO? What does the EU Commission Progress Report say regarding the steps needed in order for BiH to submit an application for EU membership? How can BiH concretely achieve these steps, as well as those needed to join the NATO MAP? What could motivate BiH political elites to reach the necessary compromises? Can the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) process provide a lever to achieve reforms?

Nikolaus Graf Lambsdorff

Ambassador, Special Envoy for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey and the EFTA-States
Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

The EU membership questionnaire

What effect might an application for EU membership and receipt of the EU membership questionnaire have on attitudes towards inter-ethnic cooperation and institutional reform? To what extent can the questionnaire help identify how BiH governing institutions will need to function and coordinate in order for BiH to make progress on EU accession issues?

Paola Pampaloni

Head of Unit, Bosnia-Herzegovina, European Commission, Brussels

Osman Topcagic

Ambassador at Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU, Brussels

1300-1500

Lunch

1400

Optional garden tour

Chair: Tim Judah

Balkans Correspondent, The Economist, London

1500-1630

6. New areas for inter-ethnic cooperation

Are there important areas, such as energy, the environment, education, and the judiciary, that could offer openings for new cooperation initiatives? Are there parts of the EU "acquis" that could be separated out and worked on prior to actual pre-accession screening in these or other areas? What forms could such initiatives take, and how can their prospects for success be enhanced – ensuring long term and sustainable achievements? What role could political progress play in transforming infrastructure and the economy in BiH?

6a. Delivering services

Environment

Goran Tirak

Analyst, Populari, Sarajevo

Education

Lamija Tanović

Professor of, University of Sarajevo

Judiciary

Edin Hodzic

Researcher, Analitika - Center for Social Research, Sarajevo

1630-1700

Coffee in the Green Room

1700-1830

6b. Engines of economic growth

Energy

Damir Ahmovic

Managing Director, Alfa Energy, London

Infrastructure

Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic

Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science, London

1900

Reception

1930

Dinner

Wed 23 Nov

Chair: Daniel Fearn

Balkans Director and Head, West Balkans Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1045

7. Building new levers for progress

The next generation

What of the next generation of BiH leaders? How can they be supported in promoting a positive, outward looking BiH? How can a stronger, more influential civil society be developed? And what role could it play in enabling progress on inter-ethnic cooperation and institutional reform? Can steps be taken to strengthen a more independent media?

Dobriša Govedarica

Executive Director, Open Society Fund, Sarajevo

Strengthening regional cooperation

What role can BiH's neighbours play in supporting Euro-Atlantic integration? How can regional dialogue be developed further in order to deliver genuinely effective cross-border inter-ethnic initiatives?

Jovan Ratković

Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Serbia on EU and NATO relations, Belgrade

Romana Vlahutin

Special Envoy for SE Europe, Office of the President of Croatia, Zagreb

1115-1300

8. BiH's future

Taking into account the preceding conference discussions, what are the most promising strategies for moving political dynamics in BiH in more positive directions? What levers might be effectively applied in pursuit of those strategies? If BiH is unable to meet EU standards due to continued stalemate in the political and institutional arenas, what will the practical consequences be for regional trade and investment with BiH as other countries in the Western Balkans strengthen their relationships with the EU? What might be the future consequences of threats to violate the Constitution or to resort to violence in terms of the relationships of BiH ethnic factions with regional and international stakeholders?

Philip Reeker

Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of State, Washington DC

Jonas Jonsson

Head of Division for the Western Balkans, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Marco Prelec

Director, Balkans Project, International Crisis Group (ICG), Pristina

1300

Lunch

1415

Participants depart

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