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

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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?

Dobrila 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
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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