



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council Conclusions on the Comprehensive Review of the EU's activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**(2736th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting - Luxembourg, 12 June 2006)**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"As a potential candidate country, Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in the Stabilisation and Association process (SAP), which is the framework for the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries. BiH is currently negotiating a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU. In addition to the activities of the European Commission and bilateral initiatives from EU Member States, the EU has deployed a number of instruments in BiH in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP): an EU Special Representative (EUSR), an EU Police Mission (EUPM) and an EU Military Operation (Operation ALTHEA). The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) also continues to be active in BiH. The various EU actors act in coordination with each other, and the results of the comprehensive EU approach in terms of security, political stability and overall socio-economic development have been notable in recent years. The coherent EU policy and a clear European perspective have contributed substantially to the country's transition from stabilisation towards closer ties with the EU.

The Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of the EU activities in BiH, including by conducting concurrent review processes of Operation ALTHEA and EUPM, which has helped ensure a more complete operational overview and a coherent approach to ESDP actions such as in the support to the fight against organised crime. The Council also welcomed the joint efforts of the SG/HR and the Commission in conducting the comprehensive review and took note of the Commission's contribution.

# **P R E S S**

Within the framework of the comprehensive review, the Council reviewed Operation ALTHEA and welcomed the positive contribution of the operation to ensuring a safe and secure environment in BiH. The Council approved the SG/HR's recommendations for Operation ALTHEA and confirmed that EUFOR should maintain current force levels and its current tasks for the coming six months. The Council furthermore noted that cooperation with NATO continues to work well in the context of the Berlin Plus Arrangements. The Council considered that a EUFOR presence would be required beyond the end of 2006.

The Council also reviewed EUPM and welcomed the positive contribution of the Mission to the establishment of developing sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership. The Council recognised the important role of EUPM, in close coordination with the EC, in the area of police reform. The Council approved the SG/HR's recommendations for EUPM.

The Council welcomed the extensive EU support to BiH authorities in the fight against organised crime. In the broader framework of security sector reform in the Western Balkans, the EU has substantially contributed to the build up of local capacity. The Council reconfirmed EUPM's leading role in the coordination of policing aspects of ESDP efforts in the fight against organised crime in BiH. The Council also welcomed the increased cooperation between the EUSR, EUFOR and EUPM in this regard."

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