



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MIROSLAVA BEHAM,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SERBIA TO THE OSCE,  
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS OF H.E. MR. VALENTIN INZKO,  
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,  
AT THE 771<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF  
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 July 2009

Madame Chair,

First of all, I would like to warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his presentation.

My delegation has listened very carefully to the report of the High Representative and the statements and views expressed here. Allow me to make a few observations as the Representative of a neighbouring country, which is one of the guarantors of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Let me reiterate, Madame Chair, Serbia's determination to fully respect the Dayton Peace Accords, as a basis for stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the whole region of the Western Balkans. The Republic of Serbia fully respects Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign country, with two entities and three constituent nations.

One of the top priorities of Serbia's foreign policy is the development of good neighbourly relations and a strong commitment to regional stability in the Western Balkans. Serbia is working actively to promote the stability of the entire region and supports the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States. Regional cooperation is a way to resolve differences through dialogue, not confrontation. Therefore, the Republic of Serbia supports the participation of all OSCE participating States in Southeast Europe in various regional projects and initiatives. We welcome the continuing participation of UNMIK on behalf of our southern province of Kosovo and Metohija, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Let me also reiterate, the position

expressed many times in different international bodies. For the region of the Western Balkans, Europe has become a regional unifying force: all of us share the same dedication to join the EU. It is Serbia's central strategic Priority.

Madame Chair,

As a signatory to the Dayton Peace Accords, Serbia fully respects its obligations and firmly believes that its consecutive implementation and strict compliance with its provisions are of paramount importance.

It is our view that the relations between three constitutive nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina have to be dealt with by the international community with due attention and mutual respect. Any reform should be carried out in a way that it could contribute to Bosnia's path towards the EU integration.

Serbia supports all efforts towards stability, democracy and social and economic prosperity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and welcomes all decisions and solutions which are the result of a democratic agreement between its three constituent nations: Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats.

Madame Chair,

I would also like to point out the importance of the commitment of all countries in the region to the universal values in the areas of the rule of law and human rights, as well as to the respect of the Helsinki Final Act as the basic document of the OSCE and the fundamental principles of international law.

Finally, allow me to confirm once again our firm belief that all those who perpetrated heinous crimes during the tragic conflict in our region must be brought to justice, and this is the moral and political duty of all countries that have been affected. Serbia continually makes efforts towards full cooperation with the ICTY.

Thank you, Madame Chair.