



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

**In response to the Report by Ambassador Fletcher Burton
Head of Mission to BiH**

(999th Permanent Council, 8 May 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming Ambassador Burton back to the Permanent Council and express my thanks for his comprehensive presentation. Ambassador, we agree with your overall assessments of the situation both in the country and the region. We can also but concur with your view that the Mission has been trying to carry out its mandated tasks in a challenging environment.

Nevertheless, it is also a fact that this challenging environment provides dynamism, enthusiasm and opportunities for all stakeholders. The general course of the process is promising. We hope and believe it will help building a prosperous future for the country and for the whole region. It is essential for us to keep pace with this dynamic environment and rise to effectively meet the challenges it poses. To this end, we need to continue supporting regional ownership initiatives which yield a very important potential towards building the region's future.

The OSCE Mission is a key international actor in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with an outreach infrastructure covering the whole country. It makes good use of this network and its vast experience in a commendable fashion. In this context, I may perhaps express our expectation to see the Mission play an active part in ensuring an arrangement that would safeguard the rights of all within the ambit of the "Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of BiH Citizens.

The Mission plays a special complementary role in the efforts to advance national reconciliation. This is an area which particularly calls for sustained support from all of us. The Mission's organizational reform process is setting a most important precedent. We are closely following this process. Our trust in the Mission's ability to tread on that narrow pathway leading to increasing internal

efficiency without diminishing external effectiveness has so far been justified. We have every reason to believe it shall remain so.

The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina lies in integration with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. We support the enhancement of Bosnia's perspectives in this direction. Political stability coupled with national consensus among the three main peoples and two entities are the key pre-requisites for attaining this goal.

The Mission's report prominently mentions that Bosnia and Herzegovina faces the peril of lagging behind in regional cooperation processes and initiatives. To eliminate this undesirable prospect, each and all of us should continue to encourage and support Bosnia to become even more actively involved in regional and international schemes.

To this end Turkish Government has been pursuing multi-sectoral economic policies in support of the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These policies cover many areas including commerce, energy, transportation, agriculture, health, culture and education. We also appeal to others not to spare any efforts in increasing cooperation in this respect.

Mr. Chairperson,

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country with whom we enjoy exemplary special relations strengthened by the close ties that exist between our peoples. For us Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as the consolidation of a functioning state structure within its internationally recognized borders is of particular importance. We will continue to support this important objective while standing ready to be part of efforts aimed at increasing the prosperity and well-being of all in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to thank Ambassador Burton once again, since this is his last appearance at the PC, for all his important contributions and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Thank you