



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu,  
OSSE i drugim medjunarodnim organizacijama, B E C  
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations  
Office at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

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**Statement by  
Edin Dilberovic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE  
in response to the  
High Representative of International Community and EU Special Representative  
to Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**H.E. Dr. Miroslav Lajcak  
715<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 5 June 2007**

Mr. Chairman

On behalf of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina I would like to join others in welcoming High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr. Miroslav Lajcak to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report.

Good news is that Bosnia and Herzegovina will sign Stabilization and Association Agreement with EU on 16 June 2008. Yes we are the last country from the region of Western Balkan that will sign SAA. I will add last but not least! It is true that signature is coming too late, but time in Bosnia and Herzegovina is precious and also much needed.

Today and especially after 16 June Bosnia and Herzegovina is and will be a part of European solution rather than its problem. We need to continue our efforts in strengthening state-level institutions and thereby providing a unified and coherent governmental system ready for NATO and EU integration.

All decisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina must be consensus based if you want to have reforms and laws implemented. This is a symbol of our constitutional and political system. Do not forget that the most devastating war ended just 12 years ago and in that period of time Bosnia and Herzegovina went through extraordinary progress, of course with help of international community, OHR, OSCE and our friends.

Almost each year was an election year, after Dayton Peace Agreement was signed. You must admit that it was an extra burden to politicians to pursue with desperately needed reforms with all might and speed. Also during each election even after the war it was never happened that someone was killed or hurt as it was not the case with other countries in our region. Even we are post-war society we do not kill our politicians, our leaders, our prime ministers, our parliamentarians because of their political views, actions or stands. This must be acknowledged.



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I will repeat it again that to my humble opinion, all problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina start and end within the very fact of identification with the state. It is very much so due to the destructive war, but it is even more due to the very complicated and strange constitutional system. Also, there are good examples, for instance Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina which proves that you can be Serb, Bosniak, Croat, Jew and in the same time loyal to your homeland – Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are talking here about people who were fighting each other just 12 years ago.

I said it last time when Dr. Lajcak was here that we need a deep social introspection. Foreigners and diplomats in Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot do that part of job on our behalf. We must face that challenge and until we face it seriously we will not be able to cope with all problems that are floating on the surface. This is now more valid than it was few months ago.

Office of the High Representative started to transform during 2006 till today and will continue with transformation in accordance with PIC Decisions. We welcome this process but we must add – this process can be successful only through close cooperation with the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. For now on, we can hear only what USA, RF or EU, as members of PIC think about future of OHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina and it is finally time that we hear what Bosnians think about the future of the institution which is a part of our Constitutional System. And before any final decision we need to find proper replacement through constitutional reforms.

Now most painful part - Still bringing most wanted war criminals Karadzic and Mladic in front of the justice is the main goal of both Bosnian leadership and international community and both are to be blamed because these two individuals are still at large, twelve years after the war. The fact that spirit of these two remaining fugitives and indicted war criminals is very present in the region, is more than recognizable through the news that we are receiving from the region on a daily basis. I hope I will not need to repeat myself again next year. I hope but I do not believe!

We would like to use this opportunity and welcome Ambassador Davidson, Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and thank him and his mission for excellent work they do in my country. I must refer to education reforms and help of the OSCE, especially to the OSCE project with libraries in small municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. You know Jorge Luis Borges ones said “I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library”. Thanks to the OSCE this small paradises can be found even in the most remote areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bad political rhetoric is a part of daily life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Again I will refer to Borges who said: “Democracy is an abuse of statistics”. Statistically, rhetoric of politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina is like in 90’s and for the record, not different than the one in a whole region. But statements, be it political or just nasty cannot overthrow reality, and reality is that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a sovereign state with its all imperfections that can be only changed by consensus of all political players in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When I say political players in that I include also international community as prominent political player in my country.



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I know that High Representative was pushed to react when some nasty statements were said about Bosnia and its political future. And good thing is that Dr. Lajcak did not react, because those who expressed themselves in that way just did it to provoke OHR reaction. Lack of reactions by OHR is making their stupid statements worthless.

On the end to make whole story simple - the issue facing Bosnia and the world is just this: *Will we focus on our differences, or on what we have in common?*

Dr Lajcak my country in particular wishes you, all the success in your future private and professional life.

Thank you Mr Chairman