



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
TO THE OSCE

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Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union

Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

692nd Meeting of the Permanent Council

13th December 2007

Statement of the European Union on Bosnia and Herzegovina

I would like to draw Partners' attention to the External Relations Council's Conclusions from 10th December on Western Balkans, specifically on Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Begin quote «The Council welcomed the latest positive developments, including renewed commitment to police reform. However, the Council reiterated its concern over the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and slowdown in reform process over the last year. It underlined the responsibility of the political leaders to ensure the full functioning of State institutions and to advance reforms which are essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move forward and assume full ownership of its governance. The Council reiterated its full support to HR/EUSR Miroslav Lajčak and his efforts to advance the reform agenda.

The Council noted the initialling of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement as an important step. The Council reaffirmed its readiness, as soon as the four conditions are met, including full cooperation with ICTY, to sign a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. » *end of quote*