

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF MISSION

**Statement by Ambassador Maurizio Massari,
Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro
at the
11th Igman Initiative Regional Conference
"Ten Years after Dayton Agreement - Next Step of Co-operation"
Sarajevo
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- Dayton Peace Accords (DPA), signed almost ten years ago, played a crucial role in ending the war in Bosnia in Herzegovina and the region. DPA paved the way for rebuilding of the state of BiH and normalization of relations and re-establishing the cooperation between the three neighboring states. Since then, while continuing to rely upon Dayton achievements, the region has embarked upon the path leading towards Brussels. While the three states are at different stages of this road, their common aim is indisputable. The support of international community is also there, providing that the reforms are continued and European values are integrated into the societies and institutions of the three states. Only with full integration of Western Balkan states within the EU, we will be able to say that we won the peace.
- While looking into the European future of the region, we should not overlook that dealing with the legacy of the past, and primarily prosecuting those responsible for the war crimes, remains an unfinished business. Concrete steps to apprehend and bring to justice the remaining half dozen war criminals indicted by the ICTY, among them those most notorious, represent not only an international obligation for the Governments concerned but also one of the indispensable steps for healing the wounds of war and doing justice to the victims. All deadlines are long overdue and effective action is what is needed now.
- With the termination of the ICTY work in sight, provided all the indictees are transferred to The Hague, domestic war crimes prosecution will continue to figure as an important task on the post-Dayton agenda in all three states. The more persistent efforts are taken on this issue in each of the three states, the better bilateral relations and real reconciliation can be expected among them.
- In addition to war crimes prosecution, another unfinished legacy of past conflicts, which figures prominently in the Dayton Peace Accords, relates to the return of refugees and IDPs to their homes. Alongside with bilateral efforts, the issue of refugee return needs to be continually addressed through a regional approach. Such an approach has been promoted, *inter alia*, by the OSCE Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro. Following the OSCE supported conference held in this city at the beginning of this year, a Trilateral Declaration was signed by the ministers responsible for refugee returns in January 2005. The declaration includes a commitment to develop national plans ("road maps") specifying tasks and benchmarks in refugee return 2005. We hope that these "road maps" will be completed and

implemented and that the three governments will equally show the maximum of political will to close successfully the chapter of refugee returns. Ultimately the governments' goodwill to solve the refugee problems will also test their European maturity being the freedom of movement a key principle of the common European space.

- In spite of repugnant and unacceptable practices of ethnic cleansing and forceful removal of population in the past conflicts of the nineties, the three states in the "Dayton triangle" have remained multi-ethnic and should continue to develop as such on their way to Europe. Minority protection, therefore, is another issue where national and bilateral efforts, as well as regional co-operation, should be further encouraged. Democracy is based on respect of diversity. We should consolidate our achievements in this area to make multi-ethnicity irreversible both in each of these countries in the region as a whole.
- On the whole, the experience of relations between the three countries in the post-Dayton period, demonstrates the need that bilateral co-operation is complemented by regional efforts and initiatives. Individual competition of each of Western Balkan states to join European and Euro-Atlantic institutions should be accompanied by a regional policy of full regional reconciliation, which is indispensable for creating conditions for a sustainable peace and economic development in this part of Europe.