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Building a robust and sustainable AF BiH

Women in the security sector



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IMPRESSUM

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Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that I am given this opportunity to share a few words with you.

I have now been in post for 4 months and I'm confident that EUFOR will continue to serve as a valuable contributor to the strengthening of the stability and development of the state and continues to perform its obligations in a positive and pro-active way within the overall EU strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina and through the executive mandate derived from UN Security Council Resolution 2183, signed on 11 November 2014. EUFOR continues to support the "dual use of forces" concept with regard to the use of the AF BiH in disaster relief operations, in addition to its conventional role, where the authorities of BiH have provided the funds and equipment necessary to carry out the function.

Coming from Austria's Federal State of Burgenland where we have a diverse ethnic population, I would like to think that I have some little understanding and sensitivity of the issues which could arise in a country like Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I have an understanding of the limitations these posed on you all in the pursuit of those results.

My main focus remains the pursuit of capacity building and training for the AF BiH and the preservation and safeguarding of a safe and secure environment within Bosnia and Herzegovina, through our continuing and persistent support of the local authorities.

By maintaining our Capacity Building and Training programme, EUFOR is also making a significant contribution to the creation of a more professional and capable BiH Armed Forces. EUFOR has moved its activities from individual training to collective training, whilst placing greater emphasis on mentoring and monitoring through embedded training teams and advisors. This is about giving the members of the AF BiH



the capacity and capability, and above all the confidence to implement the training provided by EUFOR.

The EU and the International Community remain committed to the security and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions, and I personally give the people of this country my best wishes for its future as they make progress along the path to Euro-Atlantic integration. The pursuit of this goal should bring with it, prosperity, economic improvement, a safe and comfortable life, and most of all, reconciliation.

I'm fully aware that this will require everybody involved to continue to build the trust and respect necessary to ensure this country makes progress. It is my opinion that Bosnia and Herzegovina must take its place in the European Union and become eligible for the substantial benefits which it provides, including among other things, an improved quality of life, the ability to work or trade in any member state, and to enjoy a high level of personal and national security and stability.

Bosnia and Herzegovina must strive to develop in a consistent manner to ensure that it keeps pace and exceeds the progress being made by her neighbours, bringing it closer to the EU.

**Major General
Johann Luif
Commander EUFOR**

EU High Representative Mogherini visits EUFOR

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, visited EUFOR headquarters at Camp Butmir, on 23rd February as part of her visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. Mogherini was welcomed by a guard of honour at the EUFOR headquarters before attending a brief on EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina given by Major General Johann Luif, Commander EUFOR.

Commander EUFOR informed the High Representative on the main aspects of EUFOR's presence in BiH, underlining the challenges and achievements in the field of capacity building and training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and



Herzegovina. "EUFOR is a strong and visible sign of the EU presence in country and as such it gives a message of reinforced commitment from the side of the EU", Major General Luif said.

The High Representative thanked Major General Luif for the contribution EUFOR and the Troop Contributing Nations continue to make in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the country prepares to take a step forward on its EU integration path.

EUFOR contributes to BiH's stability

"The presence of EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina maintains unreserved support to the process of integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina in NATO and the EU and contributes to the stability of our country," said Chief of the Joint Staff of the BiH Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, on the occasion of the visit of the European Union Military Forces Commander.

The importance of cooperation between the Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR has been underlined, in particular the contribution to the development of independent and self-sustaining capacity of AF units training and the willingness of EUFOR to support the Armed Forces in aid to civil structures during emergencies.



Major General Luif stressed that EUFOR would continue to assist the Armed Forces of BiH in the field of education and training and that he will personally make all efforts in the future for even better and more successful cooperation.



Cooperation of mutual interest

During the EUFOR Commander's visit to the Director of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB), Mirsad Vilić, and the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) Director, Goran Zubac, it was underlined that the cooperation with EUFOR is on a high professional level. The role of the security sector of BiH is of great importance.



FBiH Red Cross awards EUFOR certificate of appreciation

EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General András Szűcs, received a certificate from the Red Cross of Federation BiH for the support that EUFOR offered during the last year's floods and landslides throughout BiH. Letters of appreciation were presented to all individuals, organisations, NGOs and companies who provided significant assistance during this difficult time. Thanks to the commitment of all, hard work and dedication, by joint efforts the citizens affected by natural disaster were helped.



Photo by Dnevni avaz



Photo by Staff Sgt. Katie Gar Ward

Technical EUFOR – NATO Agreement

In view of constructive and close cooperation, Brigadier General Christopher Petty and Major General Johann Luif signed in February a Technical Agreement between NATO HQ Sarajevo and HQ EUFOR. The aim of this Agreement is to increase mutual support and cooperation

in relation to Capacity Building and Training activities, since this cooperation demands very close working relationship. These two headquarters will continue to provide support to BiH Ministry of Defence in Capacity Building and Training activities with the goal of fulfilling the training needs of BiH Armed Forces.

Maintaining the good relations with the local authorities and international partners

After taking over as Commanding Officer of the European Forces, Major General Johann Luif began his courtesy visits to EUFOR's national and international partners. One of the first visits was to the BiH Presidency Chairman Mladen Ivanić, who welcomed the EUFOR Commander Major General Johann Luif and expressed his appreciation to the members of the EUFOR for efforts invested in BiH, especially for the help during the last year's floods and landslides. During the meeting they also discussed the Armed Forces BiH and Chairman Ivanić stressed that their primary tasks were to participate in UN peacekeeping missions and provide assistance to BiH citizens in the event of natural disasters.



During the meetings with Dragan Čović and Bakir Izetbegović, the other two members of the BiH Presidency, Commander EUFOR expressed the readiness of EUFOR to continue providing assistance to BiH in line with its mission. The BiH Presidency members pointed out their willingness to take all measures within their powers to assist EUFOR, adding that the armed forces is the area that has seen one of the most successful reforms, thus reflecting the spirit in BiH.

Road Map Agreement signed

Deputy Chief of Operations and Training of the Joint Staff, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH), Colonel Branko Rašeta, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) EUFOR, Colonel Hakan Soner Aplak, signed the Road Map Agreement 2015, which is a plan for training cooperation between the two organizations for 2016 and 2017.

The Road Map Agreement is a planning document that will serve as a reference for future cooperation between EUFOR and the AF BiH. It is the result of previous assessments from both sides on how to improve the CB&T activities and on how to coordinate the planning of training for the upcoming years. Colonel Hakan Soner Aplak said that this document is very important to see the way ahead to AFBiH and EUFOR's common future.

In order to achieve a self-sustainable training system for the AF BiH and to train AF BiH to international standards,



with the capability to participate in Euro/Atlantic structures, AF BiH will take over more responsibility by engaging already their trained personnel, and allowing EUFOR to mentor, monitor and assist its activities. Besides the training areas where cooperation already exists, other new ones have been identified such as, "Specific training of AF BiH Military Police on forensic techniques" and "Mountain Techniques for Natural Disaster Relief Operations" in which there could be cooperation in the future.



The common support

Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco, Head of the European Union Command Element (EUCE) at the Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples visited the EUFOR and NATO Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. The focus of his visit was

Capacity Building and Training in support of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence, he also received an update on the current and future cooperation between EUFOR and NATO.

The common approach of NATO and EUFOR has been one of providing support to all levels of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence



Building a robust and sustainable AF BiH

On 25th January 2010 the EU's Foreign Affairs Council decided to launch capacity building and training tasks (CB&T) within the framework of the EUFOR Althea Operation. It represents the non-executive part of EUFOR's mandate in BiH. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed between EUFOR and the BiH Ministry of Defence, defined general conditions for CB&T tasks including the participation of the Armed Forces of BiH troops in EUFOR exercises and training coordinated by EUFOR. The executive part of the mandate still remains, and EUFOR relies primarily on a robust reserve structure including the rapid deployment of Intermediate Reserve Forces to BiH in the event of an emergency.

Operating alongside European Forces

Implementing CB&T activities in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) supports the idea of building a robust and self-sustainable training capacity in AF BiH. Furthermore EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training Programme trains AF BiH to be capable of operating and exercising alongside Euro-Atlantic Forces and as BiH develops from a security consumer to security provider, to participate in Peace Support Operations (PSO).

Colonel Hakan Aplak, EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training Chief, explains "It is common knowledge that a modern army these days faces various challenges, nationally and internationally. International crises in our globalised world need an international response. A single state wouldn't be able to counteract a crisis with an international dimension. Armed Forces must therefore be able to work with each other and as in any other organisations this must be learnt."

Arming with knowledge to be more than just an army

Following the motto "Arming with knowledge", developing the capacity and capability of BiH's Armed Forces has in recent years been the main effort for EUFOR, not only for operations abroad but also to support authorities and people in the country through disaster relief assistance and crisis management in the sense of a dual use of forces.

Colonel Aplak describes the aim of EUFOR's CB&T programme "EUFOR has established a special division. The main goal of this organisation, consisting of around 80 personnel, is to assist the AF BiH in achieving its own sustainable training system to develop an army of international standard. We provide BiH authorities with military expertise and



Colonel Hakan Aplak

technical support in the areas of CB&T as agreed between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union. Believe me, a lot of knowledge as well as a proper organisational structure is needed to do this. EUFOR supports the AF BiH's effort. We monitor, mentor and advise the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the AF BiH through the command structure, in close coordination with NATO."

Dual use of forces – an economic way to run an army

EUFOR soldiers have often been deployed to assist in different search and rescue operations, such as helicopter evacuations and disaster relief activities. For example EUFOR brought relief to the population of BiH shoulder to shoulder with AF BiH during the heavy snowfalls in 2012, the massive forest wildfires in 2013 and the devastating floods in 2014. To protect people and to provide relief is an important task of an armed force. Common training focusing on a dual use of forces enable the AF BiH to be used not only for conventional military operations, but also for other domestic tasks, such as de-mining, medical evacuation, disaster relief and civilian and military cooperation duties, known as CIMIC. This dual use is seen as one of the most economical way of running the military and further contributes to a

CB&T Goals

- Build a robust and self-sustainable AF BiH training system
- Train AF BiH to operate and exercise alongside Euro-Atlantic Forces
- AF BiH capability to participate in Peace Support Operations
- Training for military assistance to civilian authorities (dual use of forces concept)
- Training for Search and Rescue operations and Medical Evacuations
- Advise, assist, monitor and train demining units

Capacity Building and Training Programme

safer and more secure BiH, which will in turn lead to better development in the country. A well trained and well equipped army is the only force a state has when all its other organisations are overwhelmed.

EUFOR within BiH's Army structures

Capacity building and training today is embedded at all relevant command levels within AF BiH. EUFOR personnel are working within the AF BiH structures, side by side with their AF BiH counterparts, to make a joint effort in assisting the AF BiH to achieve their goals. This approach demonstrates EUFOR's continuing commitment to support BiH and its Armed Forces.

Working and learning together

Within a relatively short period of time EUFOR has designed and delivered a new training concept with an emphasis on mobile EUFOR teams working closely with the Armed Forces of BiH.

While training is conducted by Mobile Training Teams and continued by Mentoring and Monitoring Teams, capacity building activities are performed through Embedded Advisory Teams supported by a number of Subject Matter Experts throughout the EUFOR Headquarters. The installation of advisory teams guarantees that training efforts at the tactical level are not detached but connected to structures and processes at the operational level. The latter describes higher command levels such as AF BiH Joint Staff, Operational Command and Support Command while Brigades and lower commands are summed up under the tactical level.

Within the Joint Military Affairs Branch (JMA)

additional support for specific subjects on ammunition, de-mining, weapons and movement control is available. All this is coordinated in an annual joint EUFOR-AF BiH training calendar.

Training, monitoring and mentoring are the sequences to assist the AFBiH in achieving a robust and self-sustainable training system with appropriate staffing mechanisms, to allow AFBiH to produce personnel trained in line with international standards and capable of participating in EURO-Atlantic structures and in NATO/UN led Peace Support Operations.

You'll find examples of EUFOR's capacity building and training activities with AF BiH in this and upcoming issues of the Teme Magazine.







EUFOR Concept of Training

Embedded Advisory Team

Teams of advisors embedded with AF BiH at operational and tactical level backed up by mobile teams at the Battalion level, provide best advice to achieve the overall mission objectives of: trained AF BiH personnel capable of operating alongside Euro-Atlantic forces and a self-sustainable AF BiH training system.

Mobile Training Team (MTT)

Experts conducting training courses for the Armed Forces (AF) BiH, they are normally engaged in the first phase of the CB&T process.

Mobile Mentoring/Monitoring Team (MMT)

Experts engaged in the second and third phase of the CB&T process, providing mentoring and monitoring of AF BiH training. The MMT is a continuation of MTT and assists AF BiH by further capacity building and assessment of trained AF BiH instructors using their new skills and knowledge.

Embedded Advisory Team (EAT)

A team of expert staff officers providing advice and assistance to officers working at operational level while the training audience is working in their assigned position.

Subject Matter Expert (SME)

SME work in the EUFOR's Headquarters structure and assists in their field of expertise such as engineering, communication or construction.



EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General András Szűcs, cutting a ribbon at the bridge opening ceremony

Working together for the common good

EUFOR Mobile Mentoring Team and AFBiH engineers worked on bridges construction

After the flooding in May, the infrastructure suffered enormous damages in different communities all around BiH. One of these regions is the wider area of the Dobož Istok, where the floods complicated life of the local population. Thanks to the engineering units of the Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR, the normalisation of living condition for residents of Lukavica Rijeka, Zvornik, Gradiška, Šekovići and Lužani village will be possible.

Through the CB&T programme, EUFOR ensures that the Armed Forces gain the training and skills to contribute to humanitarian tasks. The chief of the Mobile Mentoring Team (MMT), Captain István Baranyai, from the Hungarian Army, said: "We have been involved in this project in Lukavica Rijeka for five weeks, but the preparation for the bridges building project started a few months ago. Our team is here to mentoring the work of the AF BiH engineering teams who are very motivated and well trained for this job".

A EUFOR team of engineering specialists from Hungary were mentoring members of the BiH Armed Forces working on a bridge construction project in Lukavica Rijeka. This was one of the several projects run by EUFOR MMTs and Armed Forces on the bridges construction.

"The reconstruction of the bridges serves as a good example of a true multi-institutional cooperation in the post-flood recovery process. Everybody wants to see the bridges rebuilt in a top quality manner, and we are therefore glad to have the military engineers from the Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR as our implementing partners."

*Andy McGuffie,
Spokesperson of the EU
Delegation to BiH*





Last year the European Union launched its EU Floods Recovery programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina worth 43.52 million Euro. The Programme aim is to rehabilitate 4,000 dwellings for approximately 14,000 people, 100 local roads and bridges, 90 educational institutions, 10 water and sanitation facilities, three municipality buildings, four Centres for social welfare, and four healthcare facilities.

The Programme will be implemented through the United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) until October 2015.



AF BiH members' statements

Private **Naida Kljajić**, 1st Demining Troop of the 2nd Demining Squad.

Participation in the landmines and UXO awareness course for instructors has helped me to gain the knowledge and skills required to deliver educational lectures on: awareness of the danger from landmines and UXO.



Sergeant Major **Hamdija Subašić** – A medical technician of the 2nd Demining Squad

In 2014 I participated in the implementation of the “Fast and efficient extraction of the injured person from a minefield” training, organised by EUFOR. Now I know how to, in a real life situation, apply this training when providing assistance to both military and civilian personnel.



Corporal **Srđan Radivojević** - a member of the Engineering Battalion, Derventa

The EUFOR MTT instructors shared their experience and knowledge with us, and helped in making us into leaders and presenting the highest standards of training. Knowledge gained during the training, particularly the theoretical has been already applied in our daily work.



Private First Class **Eldin Hajdar** - a member of the Engineering Battalion, Derventa

As a member of the Engineering Battalion, I have attended two courses with EUFOR's Mobile Training Teams (MTT), the “Creating crossing of transition point” course with the MTT from Slovenia and the “Bridges construction” course with an Austrian MTT. The instructors used their knowledge and experience when instructing us, which will certainly be good for our future military careers.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND



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ARMED FORCES BiH



TV SERIES "NAŠA SNAGA"

The Public Affairs Office of the BiH Ministry of Defence two and a half years ago initiated the production of the TV series "Our force" (Naša snaga). Their aim was to reaffirm the reform path of the BiH Armed Forces and their contribution to Euro-Atlantic integration and NATO membership.

We talked to Halid Rifatbegović, the author and editor of this project, the TV series "Our force". His interesting coverage of the topics, relating to the activities of the Armed Forces, are an excellent example of how progress is being made toward Euro-Atlantic integration.

"Respecting the principle of equality and multi-ethnicity of the AFBiH, in the shows, that are produced every two weeks, we alternately use the Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian languages", said Mr. Rifatbegović.

The aim of the show is to draw attention to the fact that the Armed Forces are a very important factor in maintaining the stability and security in the country, to introduce them to the audience, and to point out their contribution to the local communities. Despite limited resources, with their efforts, dedication and professionalism the Armed Forces have shown and proved that they are an indispensable partner that citizens and civil authorities can rely on to respond to different tasks, such as search and rescue operations, natural disaster relief, demining activities, medical transport and engineering works. Their contribution to the promotion of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the international level is vital from being a former recipient of security assistance, BiH has grown into an actor that contributes to global security through a number of peace building support missions.

The editor Rifatbegović emphasised, that the series can be seen on the website of the Ministry of Defence (www.mod.gov.ba). "The show was conceived as a collection of the most important weekly or monthly activities of the Armed Forces. We are trying to show to the public the importance of their existence and role in BiH. I think over two years of broadcasting we have managed to achieve this goal.

I must stress that we have received great support from the Command of EUFOR in BiH, the NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo and the NATO Department for Public Diplomacy in Brussels", said Mr. Rifatbegović "The series is made with the help of assistants, especially from the Public Affairs Offices of the MoD and Joint Staff of the AFBiH. Excellent cooperation was established also with the EUFOR Public Affairs Office and NATO HQ Sarajevo", he says.

Creating a positive image of the AFBiH

During two and a half years of "Naša snaga" broadcasting, with its dynamism and quality, it has attracted many viewers across the country. Also the citizens' perception of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina has changed in a positive way. "Thanks to our show, the citizens recognised EUFOR, NATO HQ in Sarajevo, OSCE, and other international organisations as true friends who help and want to see Bosnia and Herzegovina as a safe, stable and prosperous country", said Mr. Rifatbegović. EUFOR contributes to the production of the project which, in the opinion of the EUFOR Public Affairs Office Chief, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Pehr, is very important in informing the public about the value of the Armed Forces of BiH.

"EUFOR is a strong partner and supporter of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. We see the importance of these institutions, which are multiethnic cross-entity organisations who serve and represent the whole of BiH", says Lieutenant



Colonel Pehr, emphasising that the defence reform so far is a success story but there is still a lot to do. "EUFOR supports this development, especially through its Capacity Building and Training Program for the Armed Forces. It is extremely important, that the public understands the value of its Armed Forces. We see our support to the "Naša snaga" TV magazine as a valuable contribution to reaching that goal. We currently offer financial support to assist with the production of the TV magazine and on the other hand we inform the production team about ongoing EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH activities which in consequence lead to reports. In edition 63, COM EUFOR, Major General Luif, took the opportunity to answer questions about several topics relating to EUFOR's mission. I recommend you to have a look to the productions, they are easy to find online", Lieutenant Colonel Pehr concludes.



Mine Risk Education Instructors' Course

33 participants from EUFOR's Liaison Observation Teams, the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) and Non-Government Organisations (NGO), attended a Mine Risk Education Accreditation course that was recently held at Camp Butmir. The objective of the course was to train instructors to deliver Mine Risk Education (MRE) to the population of BiH, in particular children, young people and hunters. The course was delivered by HQ EUFOR, BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMAC) and NGO "Stop mines" personnel.

Topics covered on the course were the current mine situation, countermine actions, the basics of cartography and data collection.

"The aim of EUFOR is to educate as many people as possible, so that all of these future instructors help

their communities at risk to learn how to live and behave with the threat of mines and UXO. According to the BHMAC statistics, EUFOR has educated the highest percentage of people within a year", said Džejna Skopljak from EUFOR's Mine Information Coordination Cell.

For Elvir Muslić from the AFBiH this was the first time participating in a course organised by EUFOR and BHMAC. "We are all aware that the danger from mines is still very real in BiH, and that all national structures must be involved to deal with the landmines problem. The EUFOR CB&T programme helps the AFBiH members to develop the skills and capabilities in a number of areas including the mine risk education activities", said Elvir.

According to the data, there are still 1,218.5 km² of suspected mines area in BiH. Since the end of the war, 1,723 people have been affected by mines, of which 600 were killed. Although a great deal of work has been invested in the process of identification and clearance of mine contaminated areas, they can still be found almost all over BiH.



SAZNAJTE VIŠE O MINAMA

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*Chilean Liaison Observation Team
- MRE in Derventa school*

Mine Risk Education in schools

Over the past year, BiH suffered significant natural disasters.

“Two decades have been spent trying to detect about one million landmines in BiH”, says Saša Obradović, the senior associate at BHMACH. “Fortunately, at the time of flooding we were able to have good communication between the organisations at all levels, both military and civilian as well. Thanks to the engagement of all of us, there were no victims of landmines. I am glad that the cooperation between EUFOR and BHMACH continued throughout projects like this”, he concludes.

BiH still has one of the most severe land mine problems in the world. This affects the economy and development of the country in many ways but especially with tourism.

EUFOR is often seen as being responsible for the mine clearance in this country, however it is not. This responsibility has been taken over by the local authorities, however EUFOR and its Liaison Observation Teams (LOTs) with some 50 trained and accredited Mine Risk Education Instructors, continue with the Mine Risk Education lectures, especially for the children in BiH.

During the first 3 months of 2015 personnel from EUFOR Liaison Observation teams have visited over 70 schools around BiH. EUFOR teams are looking forward to visiting many other schools throughout the year, with the aim of educating the children in BiH communities as to the danger of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

The new European perspective for Bosnia and Herzegovina



P.Hammond

F.W. Steinmeier

Late last year, the foreign ministers of Germany and Great Britain, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Philip Hammond, initiated new talks on intensifying reforms that should speed up BiH's path towards the European Union. This new initiative is the result of months-long process that started after the absence of Bosniak and Croatian political leaders' agreement on the implementation of the "Sejdić-Finci" Judgment.

After the protests last year, the need for stronger EU engagement in BiH has been stressed. Problems in the economy and the hard steps endured by the population can be turned into violence with devastating ethno-political connotations. Therefore, the fact that the EU countries have become aware of how socio-economic problems can jeopardise the security of BiH, and that their strong action is needed, is very important.

How to design a process of European path of BiH

As the ministers of Great Britain and Germany emphasised, it is important to permanently bring together the domestic political forces on common activities and goals aimed at achieving stabilisation and economic reform effects. Implementation of the program of the European Council for the recovery of BiH, called "Pact for Growth and Jobs", is the first mechanism of the EU which provides support to the internal stabilisation of the country, especially after last year's floods, which contributed even more to the deterioration in the social and economic situation in BiH.

The positive and well-intentioned step of the international community

EU bodies for Foreign Affairs, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the Office of the High Representative of the EU foreign policy are responsible for the implementation of the initiative. Help from Brussels has been offered, but now, the greatest responsibility lies with BiH political representatives, to finally launch the economic reform and development.

"Germany and the United Kingdom have a history of their strong engagement in BiH. We want you to succeed and we want to see you as a member of the European Union. However, there is only one path to the European Union - the path of reforms that will help Bosnia and Herzegovina in achieving the standards of governance and economic development of EU member states", said ministers Steinmeier and Hammond in a joint statement.



If the initial reform plan will be fully applied, Germany and the United Kingdom would support the submission of the application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for EU membership



The new European policy towards BiH, which received the official title of "New approach", was the result of empirical insight that in BiH there are difficult political issues, which are almost impossible to solve without improving the general political environment, and, this would be possible by jointly work on some more benign reform issues.

Visit of the High Representative - Federica Mogherini

The visit of Federica Mogherini to BiH, has come in time of the positive motion of BiH on its EU integration path. Bosnia and Herzegovina's Presidency has agreed an irrevocable commitment to undertake reforms in the framework of the EU accession process. "This is a historic decision that will fulfill the desire of BiH citizens who want to make this country going ahead. Your country is full of potential and now is the moment to realise that. You do not have the luxury of repeating old political stalemates time and again. I count on this political will to be able to deliver some good, positive steps for the people of BiH", said Mogherini in the address to Parliament.

The ministers said there is no more time to waste and that the economic situation in BiH is extremely worrying. "This is not an act of the international community

that imposes new laws in BiH. We just want the efficient functioning of the democratic system of BiH. We want your country to be independent and strong, that your new government goes first on this path, to lead, and we will be generous in supporting those who determine the path to a better future. The aim of the reform is the opening of new jobs in the private sector, which would help to reduce the exodus of young people and open up new possibilities for the creation of prosperity. We are convinced that this is what most of BiH citizens want: functional, efficient country that progresses on the path toward EU accession", they concluded.

Although the EU and its representatives are approaching Bosnia and Herzegovina with great caution, because of previous experiences, however they remain committed to supporting local stakeholders in finding a common political language. The latest visit of EU High Representative for Foreign Policy, Federica Mogherini, and her intent to help the reform process, is very encouraging. On the road to changes, major challenges lie ahead, and the political stability and eventual economic progress should be on a permanent check of the public. The stakes are high, for both the BiH politicians, and for the European Union as well.





The European Union Information Centre (EUIC) in Sarajevo is a project funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). It was officially opened last year by former Ambassador Peter Sorensen, Head of the EU Delegation to BiH and EU Special Representative, at the EUD building in Sarajevo in the presence of representatives of local authorities and the international community.

The EU Info Centre provides to the BiH public and other interested parties information on the EU, its institutions and policies on the spot, via Internet and social networks. Its mission is to improve general awareness of the European Union and the challenges the EU accession process brings.

Increase general understanding of the EU, its policies and programmes among large population;

Increase knowledge of EU institutions, policies, objectives, priorities and possibilities;

Increase knowledge on the relations between the European Union and BiH and better understanding of the impact of the pre-accession process on one's own life and expectations of the citizens;

Increase knowledge of EU funds and their opportunities.





Opportunity to foster dialogue on Bosnia and Herzegovina's future and its path towards the EU

The EU Info centre started a new cycle of cultural events with screening of "Viva la libertà!" directed by Roberto Ando. The event was aimed to promote the European cinema as one of the most powerful expressions of cultural diversity and social dialogue in Europe. "Investigating the relation between politics and the citizens," "Viva la libertà" shows us that vision, transparency and engagement are at the core of a healthy and functioning democracy. We thank the EU Info Center for choosing this Italian film to be the first in a series of European movies. We strongly support this initiative and believe it is an important opportunity to foster dialogue on BiH's future and

The EU Info Centre is project funded by the European Union with aim to increase the knowledge of citizens of BiH on the EU, its programmes and policies, as well as on relations between BiH and the EU.

on its path towards the EU", said Ilaria Ragnoni, First Secretary for Trade, Culture and Press in the Embassy of Italy in BiH.

After the screening of this top Italian comedy, EUIC visitors had the opportunity to participate in an open discussion with representatives of the Italian Embassy.

The EU Info Centre runs an enquiry service. If you are interested in visiting the EU IC, it is situated at Skenderija 3a (EU Delegation building) where you can find the information that you are looking for. Working hours of the Centre is Monday to Friday from 09.00 am to 17.30 pm. It also offers presentations

on relevant topics for group visits, which can be requested via online application on the web site www.EUinfo.ba. EUIC also produces information material about the EU. All material can be provided by e-mail or downloaded from the web site.



Institute for Youth Development "Kult"

Educated young people are the main pillar of a healthy society

After fourteen years of existence it has become the most important non-governmental organisation for young people, their work and non-formal education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Institute holds the values of the European Union and seeks to contribute as much as possible in moving BiH closer to the EU family.

The EU has recognised the "Kult" as a good partner, it is supported by the EU Delegation, and it has successfully implemented a large number of initiatives. The members of the Institute are currently working on the implementation of several projects, aimed at improving the position of youth in BiH and other countries, such as *Young decide on democracy!*, *Strengthening youth structures and young accompany youth policy*.

Through various non-formal training activities, counselling, monitoring, courses, seminars, workshops aimed at addressing problems, round table discussions, brochures and working materials, the "Kult" has been assisting youth associations, non-formal groups and other interested parties to become recognised members in society, ready to take the responsibility and make efforts to improve living conditions.

The main founding motto and mission of the Institute for Youth Development "Kult", was articulated by the PR Officer of the organisation, Tarik Kapetanović. He emphasised that its role is to create and advocate legal and other strategic solutions, as well as to build and strengthen the capacities of associations and governmental authorities in BiH and the region, for a successful and sustainable youth policy. "Our



Tarik Kapetanović

vision is an open society with empowered citizens who participate in all decision-making processes in public life. They have a right to be part of all social events, especially those that concern them. The basic idea of an open civil society is to ask the citizens to identify the needs and the problems with which they struggle, and to enable them to directly or indirectly take part in decision-making processes, giving them the opportunity to join the efforts to improve the environment in which they live", said Mr. Kapetanović.

Citizens' participation in social life is the core of any democratic system. To become responsible actors in society, it is necessary to possess the knowledge and skills for this. It is within the "Kult" that they can acquire best practices. "To furnish them with those knowledge and skills means to enable them to be not only the observers of changes that are taking place, but according to their interests and opportunities, to contribute to personal and social development, he emphasised.

There are a large number of important projects that "Kult" has implemented so far which have had an impact on improving the situation of young people



in BiH. As Mr. Kapetanović explains, "Current projects of the "Kult " are focused on the implementation of the Youth Law in BiH, youth and elections, and the monitoring of youth policies. Each of our projects is part of a large puzzle that we are able to arrange in order to have a perfect picture of the life of young people in BiH. Thus, our activities and our projects represent large and stacked images, to make the big picture much prettier", he added.

Are authorities unconcerned about youth?

Young people should be a key component of the population that can steer the process of democratisation in BiH and the region. Mr. Kapetanović considers that they provide the best reasons to improve the surrounding circumstances. However, to make this possible, they need affirmative legal solutions, strategic orientation of politics and society, as well as structures and capacities that will be available to them to take action. "I would say that the commitment of decision makers is important when developing and maintaining a successful and sustainable youth policy. On the other hand, the authorities don't care about young people or the lack of concern boils down to a miserable and

unsatisfactory level. The primary reason is the fear of educated young people who can really bring positive things and make significant tectonic changes in the society in which we live".

When it comes to cooperation with the authorities' representatives, the "Kult" does not want to dissociate from them, but the opposite. "We want to help them because we have the knowledge and capabilities that can help young people in BiH. Young people should demand to speak to the officials for youth issues in their municipality and address them (www.sluzbenici.mladi.org). In particular, the FBiH Law on Volunteering offers great opportunities for young people to gain work experience. Young people should consult the council of youth in their town (www.direktorij.mladi.org) and inquire about additional training. They can get a lot of information on the website www.mladi.org that will encourage them to trigger change - both for society and for their own good. All of these are instruments that we have long struggled for to exist", Tarik Kapetanović says.

Asked how the young people can make an influence and change BiH society, he answers that a fact that the laws on youth in BiH have not yet been fully implemented is very well-known, which shows how the government takes care of the youth. "The Institute for Youth Development, through good cooperation with the authorities, indicates the legal obligations that the government has towards the youth, but also the legal mechanisms that young people have at their disposal. The onus is on them to push things forward. Our greatest success is established young people who, as they leave the legal framework of youth, still remain active participants in creating social changes, and people who know how to fight for their rights and for what belongs to them. Our young people are socially engaged, active and ready to react to all forms of social injustice, even when it does not concern only them. That is the biggest success in society, because an independent and well-oriented and educated individual is the main pillar of a healthy society. If they are at the same time an indirect "product" of the Institute for Youth Development "Kult", then we can say we have succeeded!", Tarik Kapetanović concludes.



The cutting-edge dairy farm in the Balkans

To invent something new, different and interesting is characteristic of highly creative people. A case in point is Jusuf Arifagić. Returning home from Norway, he decided to invest money in his birthplace, thereby helping to create new jobs. Bearing in mind that BiH is a country with more than half a million unemployed, this business undertaking is to be applauded.

The concept that is sure to be a driver of agricultural development in BiH

“The breeding and selection centre for the Norwegian red ox is the only centre of its kind in the Western Balkans, but also the largest farm for this breed of cows in the world”, said the director of the company and the creator of this centre, Jusuf Arifagić. After being exiled to Norway from his native city of Kozarac and after two decades of doing business in Norway, he decided to return to his country to achieve a longstanding and somewhat unusual vision - a luxury hotel for cows.

Where the idea to start a business comes from?

Jusuf Arifagić: I wanted to help people who returned to their birthplace in Kozarac to get a job. This is why I created a number of jobs in the manufacturing sector in order to make their return economically sustainable. For these reasons, I was working a lot and exploring similar achievements in the agricultural sector in Norway. I was always amazed at the fact that the Norwegian people managed to have an advanced and prosperous agricultural

Cattle breeding is a very traditional and profitable business. Nevertheless, like in any other business venture, a lot of effort and knowledge needs to be invested to have tangible results. A precondition for success is certainly to have a good idea, which is the first step that must be taken in order to enter the world of entrepreneurship, in which innovation and creativity are essential and indispensable.

production in such harsh climate conditions. Guided by the idea and knowledge acquired, and having a share in a number of successful companies in Norway, I decided to invest the money I earned to produce jobs in Kozarac.

Is this the first farm of this type in Europe, and also the world?

Jusuf Arifagić: It is true, this is the first farm of the Norwegian Red cows in Europe and also the largest farm of this type in the world. Nowhere else in the world exists farm with such a large number of cows in one place. The farm should be developed into a breeding and selection centre, while serving as a scientific demonstration centre for a number of advanced agriculture – related technologies already partly implemented by us. For example, the construction of a biogas plant where the cow manure is processed into electricity and heat, or the development of a software system that fully monitors and controls a microclimate in the stable, in order to create a high level living conditions for cows in the barns. The air quality and amount of light



Hotel for cows

As Mr. Arifagić says, 14 million KM is the amount that has been invested in the project so far - 8 million of his personal money and 6 million of



credit funds. There are currently 200 cows at milking, 200 heifers who are waiting for the first calving and 200 young calves, which is 600 cattle in total. "When it comes to exporting the farm has applied for the European number, and through our project we have implemented all six HACCP standards (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points). The farm possess an ecological study license, so these things should be just a formality. Once issues regarding non-compliance with EU export regulations on the part of BiH are solved, milk and products from our farm will be ready with their quality and standards for export into the European Union", he says.

are constantly measured. The cows sleep on latex mattresses and in the corridors, when moving the cows, there are specially designed softly rubber grips which are particularly important for the cow's long-term health care.

When do you expect return on investment to take place?

Jusuf Arifagić: When it comes to revenues, last month we earned about 120,000 KM from sale of the milk. We also have accumulated earnings (the calves that we want to keep it for further expansion).

The cows living at the farm in Kozarac are sleeping on mattresses, listening to music, and having special treatment, which is why it was popularly called the "hotel for cows". In such modern equipped workshops everything is done automatically. Thanks to the conditions in which the cows live, both milk and meat products are of high quality. Milk production will go up to 1.5 million liters in 2015.

In our budget plan for 2015, by the end of May we expect to have enough income from production to cover all expenses (loans, workers' salaries and food expenses). Therefore, I can say that in June we can expect the first net profit. I believe that this year will be very successful for us. Investing after seven years will finally allow us to live from our own production and continue with further development.

Contribution to sustainable return, the development of co-existence and tolerance

Mr. Arifagić says that this is a project that in some way contributes to both, the sustainable return and the development of co-existence and tolerance, and building of progressive democratic community as well. "Among the total number of employees in our company, we have people of all ethnic groups and minorities as well. It is particularly important that chance for employment get young highly educated people.

For the first time after the war, since the company opened its offices, the young people start to return to Kozarac", concludes Arifagić.



WOMEN IN THE SECURITY SECTOR

With support from the OSCE Mission to BiH, the Gender Equality Committee (GEC) of the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly (BiH PA HoR) has co-hosted Gender Equality Week at the BiH PA from 9 to 13 March 2015. This is part of a wider initiative to mark International Women's Day on the 8th of March, in which the Gender Equality Agency of BiH (GEA) and entity Gender Centres (GCs) are organising similar activities across BiH.

In order to contribute to these events and once again reinforce the commitment to gender equality, Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif has hosted a Conference "Efficient Security Sectors include Women at all Levels" on 12 March 2015.

Significant progress for BiH in the participation of women in the security sector

Major General Johann Luif, who opened the event, emphasised that the aim of the conference was to foster gender awareness and gender mainstreaming in the area of operations. General Luif underlined that BiH and its competent institutions have made significant progress in the participation of women

Numerous non-governmental organizations, embassies and international organizations also held different activities aimed collectively at strengthening the role of women in all aspects of life in BiH.

in the security sector, stating that women currently make up six percent of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), and that EUFOR encourages and supports the efforts of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and OS BiH this important segment.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina was the first country in Southeast Europe that drafted a national action plan to adopt a gender perspective", said Major-General Luif in his opening speech, adding: "Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in this regard, but in the future there will be even much more work for the governmental institutions of BiH. I am proud to say that EUFOR supports the capacity building and training of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of BiH in this area and I am ready to continue with my support in the future as well."

The Conference offered a variety of experts working on achieving greater sensitivity within the BiH security sector and political establishment towards equal participation of female political and security experts, civilians or uniformed personnel. At the same time, it was an additional contribution to the efforts of the EU towards achieving the same results,

increasing female political representation in the EU and achieving a more gender sensitive security sectors in some of the EU countries.

Acting Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH, Alexander Chuplygin, said that the OSCE considers gender equality and women's rights to be integral parts of comprehensive security. Domestic violence, human trafficking, labour exploitation, inadequate political participation and under-representation in the security sector remain key concerns in BiH.

"It is only fair to say that no single person or group of people has an exclusive right to human security and that all humans must have the access to it. Making security accessible to everybody requires serious changes to the security systems around the world.



Ms. Nikolina Marčeta, Gender Advisor of EUFOR, receiving flowers from Major General Johann Luif

Inclusion of women in the security sector must be seen as one of the steps towards creating a strategy for providing for the security needs of women and girls as efficiently as providing for the needs of men" said the organiser of the conference, Gender Advisor of EUFOR, Ms Nikolina Marčeta. She stressed that challenges to the civilian and military components of the security sectors around the world have changed dramatically and continue to change. "Not being prepared to respond to these challenges, in particular in terms of protection of civilians will have a devastating effect to any society. Thus, security sectors around the world must include women at all levels to be able to understand the specific security needs of civilian female population as quality as those of male population and to be adequately responsive to tackling those needs", said Ms Marčeta.

Although any reform of the security sector is a very demanding, long-lasting and comprehensive process, there is no time to waste and nothing should be holding such reforms back.

Reforming the security sector from the gender equality perspective leads to increased efficiency of the security sector and its credibility amongst the people. Any society build on principles of adequate representation of its population groups and giving the same amount of attention to their specific concerns will progress more quickly and steadily than others.

A promotional poster for EUFOR's International Women's Day event. The top section features the EUFOR logo and the text "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" and "Efficient Security Sectors include Women at all Levels". Below this is a collage of four images: two soldiers in camouflage gear, a line of soldiers in uniform, a soldier assisting a civilian, and soldiers in a vehicle. The bottom of the poster has a purple gradient with the text "GENDER EQUALITY WEEK".

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