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# READINESS FOR PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS



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## Editorial

Dear readers,

Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, has given me the opportunity to introduce this edition of TEME magazine with some words on the Liaison and Observation Teams that EUFOR has in communities around Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

As LOT Coordination Centre Chief, I am at the heart of the important work that these teams do. As the security situation of BiH has improved over the last decade, EUFOR has reduced its number of troops and made its main objective the training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because of this reduction in the number of personnel, making sure that we are aware of the situation within BiH remains a priority. This is the main task of the LOT houses.

We have 17 LOT Houses around the country, with personnel from 7 different nations within them. They maintain links with local communities by meeting with representatives of municipalities, national and international institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations and through simple day to day interaction with local people.

The LOT's also seek to make a positive impact on the communities around them. This year alone LOT's have provided Mine Risk Education to over 12,000 students, informing children and adults about the risks of mines.

Where possible the nations supporting LOT's also conduct projects to help the local community. This year such projects have included the provision of medical equipment to hospitals, the repairing of fresh water pipelines and the donation of food. The LOT's are a visible display of the international commitment to BiH.



Finally I would like to express my appreciation for the personnel within the LOT houses. Their efforts are an absolutely key part of EUFOR's mandate to support the BiH authorities in the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

I wish them and the people of their communities a Happy New Year.

Sincerely Yours,

**Lieutenant Colonel**  
**Robert Michalik**  
**LOT Coordination Centre Chief**



# Happy New Year





### Remembrance ceremony for Italian aircrew

On the 3rd of September the Italian EUFOR and NATO contingent remembered four Italian Airforce soldiers lost in the G-222 airplane "Lyra 34". A wreath was laid by the Italian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Ruggero Corrias, Lieutenant Colonel Marco Betti, Lieutenant Marco Rigliaco, Warrant Officer Giuseppe Buttagliari and Warrant Officer Giuliano Velardi

lost their lives on the 3rd of September 1992 whilst serving the UN humanitarian relief operation when their transport plane was hit by two ground-air missiles. A simple and remembrance ceremony took place at the memorial stone on Zec mountain some 40 km north-west of Sarajevo.

### EUFOR and NATO members run the Sarajevo Half Marathon

28 members of EUFOR and NATO took part in the Sarajevo Half Marathon, running a distance of over 21 kilometres. The event has been run since 2007, and this year a record 1,500 participants from 32 countries took part in different events on the day. Major Sesto Terrazzini was the fastest of the NATO and EUFOR runners, completing the race in 1 hour, 29 minutes and 5 seconds. 'To run the Sarajevo Half Marathon was a great experience, especially running



in the rain! For the first time as runner I broke the wall of 1h 30'. I'm very happy and proud to have achieved something so important, representing both EUFOR and my country Italy!'



## **COM EUFOR visits ammunition disposal site in Glamoč**

On Wednesday the 16th of September Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited an ammunition disposal site in Glamoč. During this visit he witnessed the destruction of different types of weapon, ranging from aircraft bombs to small arms ammunition. The destruction of the ammunition was carried out by an Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) team together with civilian contractors.



## **EUFOR Multinational Battalion team building**

In September and October the Multinational Battalion conducted two 'Alpine Marches', walking in the area around Bjelašnica. The purpose of the walks was to allow the soldiers to have some time away from their work environment to team build

and enjoy the countryside. The Turkish contingent conducted their walk on the 14th of September, with 103 personnel joining the trek, including some Austrian personnel.



The Hungarian MNBN Company conducted their walk on the 1st of October. Beginning in cold, foggy conditions they were soon rewarded with clear skies when they reached their objective, the peak at Bjelašnica. This was the site events during the 1984 Winter Olympics. Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher, the commander of the MNBN said: 'I am happy that the second alpine march worked so well. I thought all the participants performed very well in the conditions'.

**Alpine March of the members of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion**



## EUFOR Events

### EUFOR Multinational Battalion conducts combined training with Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina

At the beginning of October, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) of EUFOR and infantry from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) conducted combined training in Dubrave. Led by the Capacity Building and Training branch of EUFOR, the joint training was set up to instruct soldiers tactically in peace support operation techniques. EUFOR was represented by the Hungarian company of the MNBN, which had advisory responsibilities during the training.



Training together- the EUFOR Multinational Battalion and the Armed Forces of BiH members

### International interoperability

The training included key topics necessary for Peace Support Operations including skills for running checkpoints and observation posts, and responding to incidents while patrolling. Alongside this the training focused on allowing the AFBiH to achieve these tasks in a multinational environment, using English language voice procedures and learning about the challenges of adapting to another nations operating procedures.

Austrian Captain Marco Spörk was part of the team that led the training, and commented, 'The benefit of this training was the mutual sharing of information between the two forces. The AFBiH soldiers were professional and experienced. Because of their contribution combined with the well organised training programme I think this training was a success.'

### "Quick Response 15" Opening Ceremony

On the morning of the 13th of October, the personnel from across Europe taking part in Exercise Quick Response 15 gathered for the opening ceremony of the exercise. Soldiers from the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Austria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary all paraded in Camp Butmir, and were welcomed by Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif, while a short briefing on the exercise was given by Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy.



Commander EUFOR Major General Luif, and Chief of Staff Brigadier General Mihóczy at the opening ceremony

## UK soldiers arrival in Sarajevo for Exercise Quick Response

On the evening of Saturday the 10th of October, UK soldiers arrived in Sarajevo to take part in the Exercise Quick Response 15. Arriving in a Royal Air Force C-17 aircraft, light vehicles were also transported for use during the training. Taking part in Exercise Quick Response 15 were Slovakian, Austrian, Turkish, and Hungarian soldiers, alongside key leaders from Romania and Bulgaria.



## COM EUFOR joins UN HeForShe movement

On the 14th of October Commander EUFOR Major General Johan Luif attended a press conference announcing his involvement with the United Nations (UN) Women HeForShe movement. Major General Luif joined the UN Women Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina Anne-Marie Esper Larsen at the event, where he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the organization.



UN Women Representative to BiH Anne-Marie Esper Larsen and EUFOR Commander Johann Luif signing the Memorandum of Understanding

## Disaster Relief Exercise in Derventa

From the 28th of September until the 9th of October, a 'Military Assistance in Humanitarian Emergencies' exercise was conducted in the area around Derventa. The scenario for the exercise involved heavy rain and earthquakes, focusing on the response of the



Participants of the Exercise



Military Assistance in Humanitarian Emergencies

authorities to these events. Taking part in the exercise were the Engineering Battalion of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) alongside civilian agencies including the Fire Brigade, Police and Civil Protection. EUFOR provided a Mobile Monitoring Team to train the AFBiH personnel involved.



Mayor of Derventa Milorad Simić, Colonel Tayfun Çağan from EUFOR, and Siniša Ubiparić from UNDP at a ribbon cutting ceremony

### EUFOR train AFBiH in bridge building

On the 6th of November the municipality of Derventa officially took ownership of a bridge built by a EUFOR and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) team. The transfer of ownership was marked with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by EUFOR officers and local dignitaries.



The bridge, built over the river Ukrina near Donje Detlak, was built as part of a programme run by the EUFOR Capacity Building & Training department, during which engineers from the AFBiH were mentored as they constructed the new bridge.

### Exercise Quick Response - Valuable combined training

EUFOR maintains a strong focus on training with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) through Capacity Building and Training programmes. It assists the AFBiH to continue to develop as a modern interoperable armed force becoming a security provider within multi-national crisis management operations. Exercise Quick Response has become a key part of this approach over the last three years.

Exercise Quick response is an annual exercise which has been conducted every year since 2012. It is designed to train EUFOR's capability to assist the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve (IR) forces from Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom, as well as the Multi-National Battalion from Camp Butmir (Austrian, Hungarian, and Turkish units) tested their capabilities with these exercises, training alongside the AFBiH in Peace Support Operations (PSO). Over the years these exercise have taken place in different regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Kalinovik, Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka.





Commander EUFOR, General Major Johann Luif welcomed all the nations who were contributing to this exercise

## Quick Response Opening Ceremony

On the morning of the 13th of October, the personnel from across Europe taking part in Exercise Quick Response 15 gathered for the opening ceremony of the exercise. Soldiers from the United Kingdom,

Slovakia, Austria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary all paraded in Camp Butmir, watched by COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.



Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier  
General Zoltán Mihóczy

The ceremony consisted of a welcome given by Major General Luif and a short briefing on the exercise given by Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy. Speaking during the parade, Major General Luif said, 'I warmly welcome all the nations who are

contributing to this exercise. Your presence here confirms the commitment of the European Union member states to EUFOR, and your full commitment is vital to the success of the exercise.'

# Brigadier General Mirsad Ahmić

## Deputy Commander of the Operational Command of the Armed Forces BiH

As Deputy Commander of the Operational Command of the Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH), Brigadier General Mirsad Ahmić has been in the centre of a busy year for his armed force.

In this interview with TEME magazine, we asked Brigadier General Ahmić about the activities of the AFBiH during 2015, and the progress that has been made during its busy training calendar. We also asked him for his assessment of Exercise Quick Response 15, in which the AFBiH had a larger role than ever before.

### What were the most important events for the training of the AFBiH during this year?

**Brigadier-General Ahmić:** Besides Exercise Quick Response 15, we also engaged in self evaluation to assess the progress we have made as an armed force. The 'Dual Use of Forces' concept means that we prepare ourselves to conduct both Peace Support Operations abroad and to assist the BiH authorities during Humanitarian emergencies. Because of this we conducted exercises this year to deal with flooding and other disasters, including three on the concept of Exercise Dynamic Response. We also participated in international exercises Immediate Response and Saber Junction 15. These exercises were run alongside our training calendar which includes a large range of different subjects.

### How important was Exercise Quick Response 2015 for the AFBiH?

**Brigadier-General Ahmić:** Exercise "Quick response 2015" within the Armed Forces of BiH has been recognized as a very significant event. Following invitation of the Commander EUFOR, the Armed Forces BiH have participated in such exercise with EUFOR troops deployed in BiH for three years. The exercise goal was to prepare EUFOR and AFBiH troops for carrying out tasks in peace support operations worldwide. The AFBiH participating units included units of the 5th Infantry Brigade, teams of the tactical support brigade, and EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team, a Military Police Team, and also a Medical Team of the Support Command of the AFBiH. By participating in this exercise, the Armed Forces of BiH raise their level of readiness for engagement in a multinational environment in peace support operations, together with EUFOR units. In addition, by increasing the interoperability of the AF BiH units with NATO and fulfilling the goals of the Partnership, we are closer to integration in these areas, which is the main goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Brigadier General Mirsad Ahmić



Members of the AFBiH training with EUFOR



### In which areas have the AF BiH made progress this year?

**Brigadier-General Ahmić:** The result of training we did to assess our capabilities in areas such as the infantry, logistics and military policing was positive. In addition, I want to emphasize the contribution of the AF of BiH in the process of destruction of unstable ammunition, mines and explosive devices and ongoing and active role of the AF BiH in the process of demining in BiH. Assistance to civil authorities in responding to natural and other disasters is one of the important tasks of the AFBiH, so this year the Armed Forces of BiH, together with the civil authorities who are engaged in the protection and rescue, organized joint exercises as a result of lessons learned from the involvement of the AFBiH in the catastrophic floods of 2014. Actually, we all witnessed the engagement of the AFBiH in the flooding last year and the results of their engagement. The Law of Defence of BiH defines the tasks of the AFBiH including provisions of assistance to civil authorities in natural disasters and catastrophes. Last year the AFBiH made available all the capacities to our citizens and institutions of state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the public response

was really outstanding. What is ahead of us is to maintain that level of readiness of the AFBiH to train our formations and equip our units so that we can be ready to respond such complex tasks at any time.

### In which PSO the AFBiH participated in 2015?

**Brigadier-General Ahmić:** The AFBiH deployed 117 personnel on Peace Support Operations during 2015, taking part in operations in Afghanistan, Kongo and Mali.

### What challenges are there for the AFBiH looking forward to 2016?

**Brigadier-General Ahmić:** 2016 will see the continuation of training for Peace Support Operations, and also the hosting of more international military exercises. Alongside continuing regular training such as Exercise Quick Response and Exercise Dynamic Response, we will also be participating in international exercises abroad. This will assist the Armed Forces of BiH in our firm commitment to improving and increasing the level of interoperability according to NATO standards.

# Exercise Quick Response at Manjača





### International Collaboration

Exercise Quick Response 2015 is a Peace Support Operations Exercise between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). It features the Intermediate Reserve forces of EUFOR, training their ability to join EUFOR and contribute to any tasks involving the maintenance of a safe and secure environment within Bosnia and Herzegovina. The exercise is also a fundamental part of the combined training schedule between the AFBiH and EUFOR. The main effort of EUFOR is the Capacity Building and Training of the AFBiH, and exercises such as this one are part of this long term commitment

# Distinguished Visitors Day at Manjača

On the 20th of October in "Mika Bosnić" Barracks in Manjača, EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) held a Distinguished Visitors Day during Exercise "Quick Response 15". This event was attended by Dr. Emir Suljagić, Deputy Minister of Defence for Policy and Planning, and Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH, alongside Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

Exercise "Quick Response 15" is an annual Peace Support Operations exercise, designed to allow EUFOR and AFBiH to train together. It is also part of EUFOR's training to bring supporting personnel into BiH to assist in the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. Taking part in the event alongside permanent EUFOR personnel from Turkey, Hungary and Austria were additional troops from Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria and Romania. The

event featured a Live Demonstration, during which the visitors witnessed a display of Peace Support Operations. The scenario for the display included EUFOR and AFBiH troops conducting crowd and riot control, dealing with minefields and casualty evacuation.

In a statement during the press conference, Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif said, "EUFOR has an Executive Mandate to be ready to support the BiH authorities in the maintenance of a safe and secure environment if requested to do so. EUFOR has never been required to do this. However, we must ensure we are prepared to. This exercise is part of EUFOR's routine training for this Peace Support Operations role. It is true that EUFOR has a small presence in BiH, but the Intermediate Reserve personnel playing their part in this exercise demonstrate we have support if needed."

Lieutenant Colonel Bacher explains the dynamic display to the distinguished guests

## Exercise "Quick Response 15" closing ceremony

On the 22nd of October a closing ceremony was held for Exercise "Quick Response 15". The ceremony was presided over by Commander EUFOR who made a concluding speech thanking the personnel attending for their efforts during the exercise. The ceremony featured all the soldiers who took part in this year exercise, including personnel from Slovakia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Key Leaders from Romania and Bulgaria.



Representatives of the troops which took part in the exercise

"EUFOR has a commitment to the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have a training programme running throughout the year in military topics ranging from disaster relief to vehicle maintenance.

The benefit of this exercise is that, as you have seen, it allows EUFOR and the AFBiH to put this training into practice together in a realistic multinational environment", concludes Major General Johann Luif.

## Developing the 'Dual use of Forces'

The main effort for EUFOR is the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because of this our most important achievements have been in fact the development of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The focus is the building of a 'Dual use of Forces' concept, whereby the AFBiH are capable of contributing to Peace Support Operations abroad but also assisting the authorities of their own nation during Humanitarian Emergencies. EUFOR supports this with a program of training and mentoring in these two areas.

This program is a long term commitment, however over recent years some clear examples of progress

can be identified. Exercise Quick Response 15 saw the AFBiH for the first time exercise at a Company level with a multinational force. Their contribution to this exercise was a positive, public display of their development.

Much of the work that EUFOR does in the area of Capacity Building and Training goes on away from the public eye. Its most important achievement is its commitment to the AFBiH, an army which still has progress to make but has made demonstrable steps forward in partnership with EUFOR.

**By Lieutenant Commander Ben Timpson, EUFOR Spokesperson**



## EU support for the Western Balkans at 2015 Summit in Vienna

Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič and Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, represented the European Union at the Western Balkans Summit in Vienna, hosted by Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann.



WESTERN  
BALKANS  
SUMMIT  
VIENNA 2015

The Summit built on the progress made since the Berlin Summit in August last year, and sought to further develop the co-operation between the 6 Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia) in dealing with their common challenges. This included migration – one of the main topics of the Summit, and also regional cooperation, religious dialogue and anti-extremism. The Summit included parallel sessions for the Heads of Governments, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Economy.

At the Heads of Governments' session the Prime Ministers discussed the current economic situation in the region, youth/vocational education and connectivity.

**Vice President Šefčovič said:** "Our Energy Union Strategy states very clearly that the Energy Union does not stop at the Union's borders. That's why we spare no effort to better connect the Western Balkans to our own energy systems. That's the message I passed when I was recently in Serbia, and this is my message at the Summit as well."

Vice-President Šefčovič and Economic Ministers debated economic prospects of the region, and energy and transport connectivity as well as vocational training.



**Commissioner Hahn,** together with Foreign Ministers discussed current priority issues in regional cooperation, and the current migration-related challenges. Commissioner Hahn said: "We have seen remarkable progress on our joint connectivity agenda since the Summit in Berlin last year and we have now identified concrete priority investment projects in the region, which could receive support from the Instrument of Pre-Accession."



### High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini said:

“The Western Balkans region faces many challenges, from the urgency to tackle security and migration issues to the need to address economic and political difficulties in many countries. The Western Balkans Summit in Vienna will give us an important opportunity not only to discuss the present challenges, but also our common future”.

### €1.5 million in humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in the Western Balkans

Ahead of the Summit, the European Commission released an additional €1.5 million in humanitarian funding to assist refugees and migrants in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The aid will support humanitarian partners in helping with the provision of basic emergency services such as drinking water, hygiene, health care, shelter, and protection for refugees and migrants, improvement of the reception centres, and coordination and reporting on migration issues in the region. Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, said: “The Western Balkans are dealing with an unprecedented number of transiting refugees and migrants. The EU is stepping up its humanitarian aid to provide them with urgently needed relief. This is European solidarity at its core”.

The European Commission has previously granted over €90 000 in EU humanitarian assistance to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (on July 31 2015) and 15 million Euros to Serbia (on August 20, 2015) in response to this emergency situation. The funding went directly to the national Red Cross Societies of the two countries. Overall EU humanitarian aid to support vulnerable refugees and migrants in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia now amounts to €1.74 million.

In its European Agenda on Migration, the European Commission has set out a comprehensive approach to addressing migration challenges, both in the short and long term. Cooperation and support of third countries, especially those that are in our immediate vicinity, is an essential element of that approach.

### Background

The Summit was hosted by Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann, who invited the Prime Ministers of the Western Balkan 6 (Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo,

Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as of Germany, France, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia to the event.

## Council conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina



Council Conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted by the Council at its 3416th meeting held on 12 October 2015

1. The Council reiterates its unequivocal commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU perspective as a single, united and sovereign country. In this context, the Council welcomes the adoption in July 2015 of the Reform Agenda by Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities, which marks an important step for the credible implementation of the commitments undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina's leadership. The Council calls on Bosnia and Herzegovina's leadership to maintain positive momentum in implementing the reforms, in line with citizens' demands and in cooperation with civil society. Meaningful progress on the implementation of the agenda for reforms will be necessary for a membership application to be considered by the EU, in line with previous Council Conclusions.
2. Following the entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), Bosnia and Herzegovina should fully uphold its commitments and obligations under this Agreement, including those relating to the adaptation of the SAA.
3. The Council expresses its serious concern about the preparations for holding an entity-level referendum on the state-level judiciary in Republika Srpska. The holding of such a referendum would challenge the cohesion, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would also risk undermining the efforts

to improve the socio-economic situation of all Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens and to make further progress in EU integration. The outstanding shortcomings of Bosnia and Herzegovina judiciary should be addressed in the structured dialogue on justice.

4. The EU will continue using all available instruments to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in moving forward in reforms and on its EU path.
5. The Council welcomes the continued presence of **Operation Althea**, which retains the capability to contribute to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities' deterrence capacity if the situation so requires while focusing on capacity building and training. In this context, as part of the overall EU strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council confirms the EU's readiness to continue at this stage an executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment, under a renewed UN mandate.
6. It reiterates its agreement to keep the operation under regular review, with a view to assessing progress on the conditions conducive to the delivery of its mandate. In this context, furthering the efforts of **Operation Althea** in the field of capacity building and training could be considered.
7. The EU at the same time encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of the international community, to accelerate their efforts to address the disposal of excess ammunition and other outstanding issues.



## BiH sign agreement on participation in crisis management operations

On the 15th of September the High Representative/Vice President of the Commission Federica Mogherini and the Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Marina Pendeš, signed in Brussels a Framework Agreement on the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in EU crisis management operations.

The agreement set out a legal framework for the possible future participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the full range of EU-led crisis management military operations and civilian missions. It represents a step towards more structured cooperation between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the security field.

The EU has a close relation with the country in this field, as the first EU Common Security and Defence Policy Police Mission – EUPM – was launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2003, providing support to police structures until June 2012. The **EU Military Operation EUFOR Althea** launched in 2004 is still present in the country, supporting BiH efforts to maintain the safe and secure environment and supporting capacity-building and training of the BiH Armed Forces.

This new framework instrument will allow, on a case-by-case basis, the smooth involvement of Bosnia and Herzegovina in on-going and future EU crisis management efforts across the world. It will avoid unnecessary delays where Bosnia and Herzegovina is invited and agrees to participate in EU operations and will offer enhanced effectiveness and flexibility in response to future crises. It also further confirms BiH's increasing role and commitment as security provider notably as regards its current contribution to UN Peace Keeping Operations.



BiH Minister of Defence Marina Pendeš and High Representative Federica Mogherini

### AFBiH members in Peace Keeping Operations





## Austrian Ambassador to BiH H.E. Mr. Martin Pammer

**Diplomatic missions contribute to peace building, poverty reduction and economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through their engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they provide assistance aimed at promoting ethnic reconciliation and economic stabilization, with the aim to bring this country closer to the EU membership. An example of such mission is the Austrian diplomatic mission in BiH.**

Many facilities from the Austro-Hungarian period in BiH symbolise a strong connection both culturally and historically between Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to the historical and cultural ties, the excellent political and economic relations should be noted, reflected in the high level of investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Austria is, in terms of volume of business, at the top when it comes to investments in BiH. In an interview with "Teme", the Austrian Ambassador to BiH, H.E. g. Martin Pammer, highlights how economic relations are important for the future of the country and its inclusion in European integration, and that Austria, as a close partner, strongly supports the European path of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **What is your opinion about the new EU initiative for BiH?**

**Ambassador Pammer:** The current EU-Initiative has already started to succeed. The content of the new approach, laid out to a large extent in the EC/EUDEL-led initiatives called 'compact for prosperity, growth and jobs' in 2013 and 2014, which in cooperation with all levels of government in BiH was translated into what is now the 'Reform Agenda', was somehow politically kicked off at the beginning of 2015 in the context of visits to BiH of the German

and British Foreign Ministers, who decided to give more attention to BiH after years of stagnation and social protests in the country and the failed strategies of sole domestic ownership and strategic patience. Previous to the Reform Agenda a written Commitment has been signed by all relevant political actors – after which the SAA entered in force as a first reward in June. The Reform Agenda was elaborated into detailed action plans in spring which are since summer currently being implemented.

## In what way could this initiative be important for improving the lives and the standard of living of the citizens of BiH?

**Ambassador Pammer:** The basic aim of the reform agenda is to make BiH become a better place, with more rule of law, less corruption, a reasonably sized administration, dynamic economic growth, more of opportunities the young and unemployed and for investors, to finally make it fit for moving successfully ahead on its way into the European Union. Modest growth has already been recorded this year and the new labor law will make hiring people more attractive. Of course, things will not change overnight, as some expect. However, despite BiH having fallen behind in comparison to its neighbors in the region, the overall situation of this country with its immense potential is much better than is generally portrayed. Reform is always painful, but I am convinced that in the medium term citizens will feel improvements, both in material terms as well as in the context of security and stability in the country.



Ambassador Pammer with the Austrian Military Attaché, Colonel Dr. Pesendorfer and Major General Anto Jelec, the Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH

## What is the most valuable part of the renewed EU approach?

**Ambassador Pammer:** I would say that the logic has changed – from stalemate and stagnation to getting BiH on the reform and integration path again. Eventually, this will hopefully lead again to optimism, positive energy and entrepreneurial spirit amongst

the people. Political elites, often despite their nationalistic power base and half-hidden pursuit of individual agendas, are showing commitment and responsibility, and are increasingly understanding that moving ahead in terms of socio-economic progress is crucial also for themselves to 'survive', can also be seen as a certain achievement. Of course, connecting and bringing in line the approaches of the International Financial Institutions and the EU is part of the recipe.

## Can we expect any sanctions to be taken against BiH politicians if this initiative fails?

**Ambassador Pammer:** First, I would think that we should rather look at encouraging and supporting those who are working in the reform agenda. Certain politicians will sanction themselves sooner or later, as the citizen will see who is constructive and not, and, hopefully, will act accordingly when it comes to voting next time.

## What do you think about greater engagement of the civilian sector and NGO's?

**Ambassador Pammer:** I am aware of the manifold issues of the NGO-sector in BiH, but getting civil society on board is crucial for creating an overarching movement. After all, the presumption that all challenges can be adequately met by 'the state' alone surely belongs in the past. And we all know of many respectable results of civil society.

## Can we say that the entry into force of the Stabilization Association Agreement (SAA) on 1 June represents hope for the citizens of BiH but requires stronger commitment from BiH politicians?

**Ambassador Pammer:** In a certain way yes, as the SAA is one step further for BiH/EU relations. Under the SAA, relevant structures will be set up for the negotiation process to begin shortly. Both the presidency and the government have announced the filing of a membership application very soon.

## What is your opinion about the migration/ refugee crisis happening right now?

**Ambassador Pammer:** Firstly, it is a clear human and international obligation to help refugees. Second, by looking more closely at this challenging issue with unseen numbers of people traveling to certain European countries where they see a future, a clear distinction between asylum seekers and economic migrants has to be made in view of who can stay and not. However, the scope of this politically, systemically and logistically very challenging crisis requires a jointly coordinated, fair and intelligent European response. It wouldn't be acceptable, as we see now, that the overwhelming number of refugees and migrants go to Germany, Austria and Sweden, while others, also those who have certain co-responsibility for what is going on in the region of origin, abstain more or less. To tackle the challenges of the language used in this regard, of integration into the labor market and of ensuring a respectful handling of the values of the host societies will be crucial.

## What are the most important projects being run by the Austrian Embassy in 2015?

**Ambassador Pammer:** Our Embassy has been working on a number of projects in the context of the social, cultural and educational dimensions of our

bilateral relations. One of the most important cultural events was the focus on Austrian contemporary Art at the Biennale in Konijic. Besides that, many humanitarian and social projects have been supported with funding from the Austrian North-South Embassies' program. An important part of the Embassy's work is to take care of the many visits we have, in 2015 we had four Ministerial visitors, many parliamentary and other delegations relevant for our network of relations. The most important 'project' is however, to support BiH's implementation of the reform agenda and the EU integration process. This is being done through bilateral institutional projects as well as within the framework of Twinning.

## What are the main goals of the Austrian Embassy for next year?

**Ambassador Pammer:** For 2016 we are planning a cultural year for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria. With different events – conferences, exhibitions and concerts all over the country we will introduce more of contemporary Austria to the public in BiH and analyze past, present and future, as well as the potential of our relations. Furthermore, as in the past two years, Foreign Minister Kurz will come to Sarajevo again.



Ambassador Pammer with the Water purification unit of the Austrian Army in Orašje, in June 2014 (during the EUFOR/AFBiH Joint Effort Exercise)

## Slovakian LOT Foča

### Mine Risk Education

On the 29th of September Slovakian personnel of a LOT (Liason and Observation Team) in Foča visited “Sveti Sava” primary school to deliver MRE (Mine Risk Education) lessons to 62 of the children there. MRE teaches children about the dangers of mines, explaining likely mine locations and what to do if they come across them. EUFOR has a number of civilian MRE instructors who work with LOT houses to provide this training.



### Positive environment

Captain Andrej Kukla said at the event, “The children had lots of questions, and the training was held in a really positive environment. MRE is a really important topic, and it is rewarding to be part of the effort to make children aware of it”. After the presentations the Foča LOT House team gave the children presents and donated some school equipment.

## Turkish LOT Livno distributes food to local community

On the 25th of September members of the EUFOR Turkish Liaison and Observation (LOT) Team based in Livno, distributed food parcels to needy individuals within their area.



The team gave this food as a gesture of good will to the community, strengthening the relationships between the LOT team and the people they live with. Around 40 people received the food, consisting of beef. These donations happen every year during this time.

# Help for those who help Slovakian LOT House donates to Health Center in Foča



Slovakian LOT House Commander, Captain Andrej Kukla with the Foča Health Care Center representatives

**Slovakian Captain Andrej Kukla, a member of the LOT Foča, recently visited the Health Center Foča and handed over a donation of 5.000 euros for the modernization of the heating system at the center. This project was implemented with the support of the Slovakian embassy in BiH.**

“The employees of the Health Center in Foča, are often obliged to provide health care for citizens in difficult conditions. In many cases, these people work exceptionally hard and they do their work with a single purpose - to help others. Due to the poor financial situation in the health sector, the employees must often operate without heat and hot water, and this is something very difficult for both

the medical personnel as well as patients. However, no matter how bad conditions are, they never give up”, explained an Captain Kukla, impressed by their dedication. On seeing these difficulties, Captain Kukla decided to help this health facility and its patients.

Thanks to his own and his colleagues’ efforts, a temporary solution has been found. “The staff of the Health Center and especially its director, Mr. Miroslav Ristanović, refused to accept this difficult situation, and searched for a solution. He made contact with LOT Foča, myself and Staff Sergeant Paul Blaho, and we then addressed the representatives of the Slovak Embassy in Sarajevo with request for assistance. After processing and presenting the appropriate project documentation, the Slovak Embassy allocated 5.000 euro to modernize the heating system of the Health Center in Foča. For all of us it was really a great success which we are proud of”, said Captain Andrej Kukla.

The director of Health Care Centre Foča, Mr. Miroslav Ristanović, said that this aid has had a huge effect mainly during the winter season, and will help with the care of all the patients in the facility.



# Pazarić Disabled children Institution visit

## EUFOR hosts residents of the Institution for the Protection of Children and Youth Pazarić at Camp Butmir

A few months ago Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, visited the Institution for the Protection of Children and Youth from Pazarić, near Sarajevo. The purpose of his visit was to present a donation from EUFOR personnel. As a sign of good cooperation, the EUFOR Commander then invited children from the Pazarić Institute with their teachers and caregivers to spend one day in EUFOR Camp Butmir. A group of 16 children and 8 teachers visited EUFOR on the 22nd of September. The children and the Institute personnel were welcomed by the Deputy Chief of Staff EUFOR, and also the Commander of the Turkish Armed Forces Contingent at EUFOR, Colonel Özkantar, who wished them a fun day with EUFOR soldiers at Camp Butmir.

During the visit, the disabled guests had the possibility to enjoy a day in a military environment, meeting personnel from the EUFOR helicopter

unit. They were given live demonstrations of the equipment, witnessing an evacuation drill in which the main role was played by their doctor. It was very interesting for children and their teachers who, for the first time, were able to climb aboard one of the helicopters. The Austrian crew were delighted that this performance provided some fun and excitement for children. During the visit they also had lunch in the EUFOR dining facility, and offered some of their artworks for sale.



Major General Luif and Mr. Čerimagić

## Cooperation and Friendship

Major Alexander Kovacs, the organizer of the children visit to EUFOR Camp Butmir said, "The children were really excited at having the possibility to experience an unusual day in a military environment.

Continued on next page



Children from the Pazarić Institute visiting the Austrian helicopter unit

They enjoyed everything today, especially the sports activities, and it showed how little it takes to brighten someone's day. We believe that our dear guests will keep this nice day in their memories for a long time. EUFOR has a long lasting relationship and regular contact with the Institution, and this will continue the tradition of friendship in the future”.

### Organisation with a heart

Director of the Institution Mr. Ćerimagić Jasmin said, "The Institution for the Protection of Children and Youth in Pazarić houses 345 people with disabilities. They are all away from their families, and some have no family at all. However, they all are given the help and love they need by the employees of the institution, and also to those people who support our work. There has always been great support from troops across EUFOR and NATO, and today's event is important to us because it is an opportunity to form a strong bond of friendship with your organisation”, commented Mr. Ćerimagić Jasmin, expressing his gratitude to EUFOR for organising this visit for children, including a sales exhibition of handcrafts and pictures made by the disabled children. "Indeed there are no words to describe their and our happiness and satisfaction at having this wonderful day in Camp Butmir. I am glad to see that these children are not forgotten and that someone cares for them”, concluded Mr. Ćerimagić.

# NGO



### Association for improving quality of life - "Futura"

Throughout different programs and projects, non-governmental organizations' have had a key role in BiH civil society development. One of these is the association for improving quality of life - 'Futura'. It is a non-governmental, non-party organization based in Mostar, established to tackle problems that are part of the populations everyday life. These problems include issues with media, education, the economy, individual and collective human rights, and European integration. The organization addresses these issues through public opinion research, campaigns, documentaries and the creation of debates on these issues. The members of 'Futura' have significant experience in the areas which they work in.

"Futura" is a non-party organization founded in 2008 in Mostar, focused on the improvement consumer protection and media literacy in BiH. As the Association president Mr. Marin Bago highlights, their main goal is to inform and educate citizens about their consumer rights and obligations, as well as provide them with assistance through mediation to resolve consumer disputes. "Through the launch of advocacy activities we want to contribute to the creation of better legal solutions in the field of consumer protection. Informing and educating citizens is the way to improve the level of media literacy in BiH. We believe that citizens, as active consumers and media literate persons, directly contribute to improving the quality of life in our country", he says.



So far "Futura" has implemented numerous projects. What they are most proud of, Mr. Bago says, is the creation of

Association president Marin Bago

"Barcode" – a TV consumer rights magazine that was broadcasted on BHT1 for two seasons. "We had contributors from Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and the program discussed specific consumer problems the public has. In addition to this series, we have made many documentaries and educational programs. I would particularly highlight the 'Alphabet Media Literacy' educational videos that informed the viewers about five basic principles of media literacy. Whenever people need advice regarding issues such as consumer disputes, they can contact our office by phone or email. We not only provide advice, but also mediation in disputes between different parties.

Last year, "Futura" became a member of the "Our society" NGO network of associations from Mostar, and it is an "Improvement of the rights of patients" project member. Mr. Marin Bago emphasizes, "Although we are focused on problems in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and wider Herzegovina, the problems are the same in other parts of the Federation'

Mr Bago states that his organization has a good relationship with the governmental sector, and mentions the Federal Ministry of Trade as an organization that has supported them since the start. However, he also says that many companies that violate the Consumer Protection Act do not become involved with 'Futura', and that it becomes difficult to protect consumers when people will not engage with them.



Young people contributing to the common good - volunteers on the "Improvement of Patients' Rights" project

In just a few years of the associations work, Mr. Bago emphasizes its well-established cooperation with many foreign institutions and organizations. "Without this cooperation, we would hardly be able to survive, because the national authorities and institutions do not pay enough attention to our projects. Twenty years ago, the new economic model was adopted in our country, without any discussion and without any explanation. In a market economy, the consumer is the only balance. However, problems arise when we have not sufficiently understood on which kind of economic model our country rests and what it is essential to do if we want this model to survive and to be developed. An economic model creates a social one, so we can say that our society cannot develop without understanding of its economic model. The student is a consumer of the educational system, the patient is a healthcare consumer, the citizens are consumers of services of the public administration. If the consumer is not equal in the process of obtaining a service or purchasing a product then a simple conclusion is that consumers, citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, are not equal in their country. It is clear that the greatest violators of the consumers' rights are public institutions and public enterprises. And this situation is not sustainable, not in terms of the economic or social situation"

# Futura



# National Museum of BiH

The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in 1888, during Austria-Hungarian period. It is the oldest cultural and scientific institution in the country. Following the founding of the National Museum it has been able to collect and preserve a large part of the national cultural heritage of BiH. In 1913, the museum was enlarged by the Czech architect Karel Part who designed a structure of four symmetric pavilions with a facade in the Italian Renaissance architectural style.

The Museum covers a wide range of areas including archaeology, art, ethnology, geography, history and natural history. The Sarajevo Haggadah, an illuminated manuscript and the oldest Sephardic Jewish document in the world issued in Barcelona around 1350, is held at the museum.

The first director of the Museum was Kosta Hörmann, an advisor to the Austro-Hungarian government. Greatly influenced by the progression of 19th-century European science and culture, the museum's collection under Hörmann grew rapidly. This was especially evident in the departments of natural history and archaeology. The Museum was funded by the Austro-Hungarian's departments of education and culture as well as by private donations and charity events.

After World War II, the National Museum made big progress until the beginning of the 1960s. Culture was declared to be of special importance for society by the Socialist Government and this period in time marked some of the National Museum's greatest achievements in scientific research, publishing and exhibitions.

Despite the difficult moments from in past, and damage that the building suffered, the Museum reopened recently as a result of numerous donations and contributions by many BiH and foreign institutions and organizations.

**The Museum Library** holds approximately 350,000 different titles, rare editions, manuscripts and medieval charters. After the disastrous fire which destroyed the library holdings of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the same fate that befell the Oriental Institute, the Library of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the biggest and most important library in the country and one of the largest specialized libraries in Southeast Europe.

**The Botanical Garden** is an unusual living exhibition with 2000 different plant species. The Department of Natural Sciences keeps the world-famous entomological collection of more than 500,000 insects, a herbarium with 160,000 plants of which modern science considers many as endangered, rare or missing. The zoological department keeps the largest white sharks caught in the Adriatic Sea, and two preserved Mediterranean monk seal captured more than 100 years at the mouth of the Neretva River amongst its collection.



**The tomb stones exhibition was open to the public in 1913.**

**The Department of Ethnology** keeps valuable objects, 400,000 of them, which is the largest ethnological exhibition in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A collection of traditional costumes, jewelry and folklore is a record of all people living in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is an inevitable starting point for the study of folk customs and the origins of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Within **the Department of Archaeology** is kept a famous prehistoric boat dating from the 8th century BC. Alongside it are artifacts of prehistoric cultures, two-relief altar screen of the Mithra's sanctuaries, Roman mosaics, architectural fragments of early Christian basilicas, weapons, and jewelry.

**The permanent exhibition:  
Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Middle Ages**





**One of the most important exhibits in the museum is the famous Sarajevo Haggadah, the traditional Jewish book by the Sephardim brought to Sarajevo from Spain**

A special symbol of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the oldest scientific Herald of the National Museum, which has been published since 1889. The Museum has a library exchange with nearly 600 institutions in the world - museums, universities, galleries, institutes, national libraries on all continents.

The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the backbone of the formation of many modern scientific, university and cultural institutions. From the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its holdings emerged: The Oriental Institute, the Art Gallery of BiH, the National and University Library of BiH, the Institute for Protection of Cultural,



Historical and Natural Heritage, the Scientific Society of BiH from whom later the Academy science and Arts of BiH was established, the Faculty of Science and many other institutions. The museum has been at the center of scientific and cultural developments within this country.

In 2012, after 124 years the largest museum in the Eastern Europe closed its doors due to funding issues. Thanks to a variety of campaigns that have been organized by cultural workers, foreign embassies, international organizations and citizens to raise awareness of the museums importance, the Museum reopened its doors to the public in September 2015. We hope that this priceless treasure of BiH culture and history will again attract many visitors, because it is a place worth visiting.



# UN Mandate extension EUFOR Althea

## UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2247 (2015) for European Union-Led Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Security Council renewed authorization of the European Union-led multinational stabilization force (EUFOR ALTHEA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina for another year, a decision taken ahead of its semi-annual debate on the situation there in the 20 years since the historic Dayton Accords had ended the Bosnian war.

Through the adoption of Chapter VII resolution 2247 (2015), the Council also renewed, for one year, the authorization contained in paragraph 11 of resolution 2183 (2014), which outlined the maintenance of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Headquarters. States acting under those provisions were authorized to take "all necessary measures" to ensure compliance with annexes 1-A and 2 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to ensure compliance with the rules governing command and control of airspace over the country.

More broadly, the Council authorized States to take all necessary measures, at the request of EUFOR ALTHEA or the NATO Headquarters, in their defence and to assist in carrying out their missions. It called on all authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and its residual mechanism to facilitate the Tribunal's closure.

The European Union representative welcomed the continued presence of EUFOR ALTHEA, which would support the country's deterrence capacity, while focusing on capacity building and training. The bloc had agreed to keep EUFOR ALTHEA under regular review and looked forward to discussions on its reconfiguration. He called on Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to meet the criteria for closing the Office of the High Representative.

While supporting the EUFOR ALTHEA presence, Croatia's representative said the mission should not be seen as an obstacle to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European integration, but rather, an important part of the bloc's future. Its advancement to NATO was also critical and he urged political leaders to intensify the implementation of the political agreement on registering immovable defence properties.

Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that in the first decade after the war, when Bosnia was the "shining star" of peacebuilding and reintegration, freedom of movement had been established, one million refugees had reclaimed their homes, the Government had been reinforced, the economy had stabilized and the State judiciary had been established. Three armies that had fought each other had been brought together under State control and a single Ministry of Defence and a single intelligence service had been created to the highest European standards.

The future for Bosnia and Herzegovina was the European Union, he said, as the democratically elected authorities had consistently set out as their primary objective. That had been a choice its people had made. To the authorities, he said a genuine offer was on the table from the European Union, which offered a chance for a secure, prosperous and dignified life.





*Seasons Greeting & Happy New Year*  
*Your EUFOR Public Affairs Office*