<u>Statement by the Ambassadors of the PIC Steering Board: "The State Judiciary is Essential for Progress"</u>

Ambassadors of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board today reiterated the International Community's strong support for the State Court of BiH and the Prosecutor's Office of BiH. These institutions play an essential role in advancing rule of law in BiH. Recent events in the Una-Sana Canton show that no one can be above the law.

The Steering Board recalls that the BiH Constitutional Court has explicitly and unequivocally upheld the constitutionality of the State Court and this should not be questioned. The Steering Board calls on all the parties to support the State Court of BiH and the Prosecutor's Office of BiH and to support the rule of law in the country in the interest of the people of BiH.

The Steering Board notes that BiH must prove its ability to provide effective rule of law through an institutionalised judicial system in order to move towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration.