

OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference in Banja Luka

The HR will today present his regular update on progress made in BiH to the UN Security Council. After that, he will meet with Secretary General Kofi Annan and the Under Secretary for Peace Keeping Operations Jean Marie Guehenno. Earlier this week he met with senior US administration officials in the State Department.

In his speech to the UN Security Council, he will focus on BiH's progress made towards PfP entry and SAA negotiations. He point out to the achievements of the past 6 to 8 months – in the economic field, in reforming the judiciary, in establishing a State Court, in reforming of the police, in merging the entity customs administrations and in key defense reform.

But he will say that – despite this progress – BiH's Nato and EU aspirations are jeopardized by the RS's complete failure to meet its obligations to the ICTY.

He will say that lack of ICTY cooperation is now the biggest threat to BiH's future. He will point out that in the past nine years, the RS government has failed to give the ICTY the information it needs to track down indictees. And he will say that it has also failed to take any significant action to do so itself.

He will point out that this is in fundamental breach of Dayton – and that time for the RS government to comply is running out.