



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Olli Rehn  
Member of the Commission

Brussels, 26.5.2005  
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Dear Prime Minister,

Following the EU/Bosnia and Herzegovina Consultative Task Force (CTF) meeting of 19 May, I would like to share my views with you on where we stand regarding the prospect of opening negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA).

The last CTF meeting was another opportunity for the European Commission to note Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in addressing the priorities identified in the Feasibility Study of November 2003. I particularly welcome the achievements made since my letter of 4 April in the areas of International Obligations, Human Rights and Energy, as well as the progress made as regards Governance, Trade and Single Economic Space. You should now continue your efforts in order to further reform and to ensure proper implementation. Full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia is also essential.

However, the necessary progress in relation to Police Reform and Public Broadcasting was not achieved.

Regarding Police Reform, Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders need to reach a comprehensive political agreement in conformity with the conclusions of the Police Restructuring Commission and EU principles, i.e. securing the state-level competences on police, the exclusion of politics from police operations and ensuring a technically efficient local policing. This political agreement should also include a schedule for the implementation of the necessary reforms. Allow me to stress that without concrete results in this area, it will not be possible for the Commission to recommend the opening of SAA negotiations.

Mr Adnan Terzic  
Prime Minister  
Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
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On Public Broadcasting, I understand that there is a fair possibility that the laws on public broadcasting system and public broadcasting service be formally adopted in the first half of June. Bosnia and Herzegovina should not miss the opportunity to fulfil this Feasibility Study requirement.

I am confident that, as soon as the above-mentioned issues have been properly addressed, I will be in a position to start procedures for the opening of SAA negotiations. I sincerely hope that these matters will be tackled very quickly so that our objective to officially open SAA negotiations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement can still be met.

Yours sincerely,

