

# HR Schmidt in London underscores need to bolster institutional framework and advance BiH's Euro-Atlantic path



During his visit to London yesterday, High Representative Christian Schmidt briefed the UK House of Lords International Relations and Defence Committee on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative underscored the critical need for the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina to prioritize reforms and move towards Euro-Atlantic integration. He also highlighted that an electoral framework must be established in which every vote is counted and respected. High Representative Schmidt called it imperative to fortify the rule of law and bolster state institutions.

In London, the High Representative met with Leo Docherty MP, the Minister for Europe in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); the Rt Hon. James Heappey MP, the Minister for the Armed Forces; Victoria Billing, FCDO Director Europe; and Osman Topčagić, BiH Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Throughout these discussions, the High Representative highlighted the need to fully implement the Dayton Peace Agreement and catalyze collective efforts to combat crime and

corruption. "It is in the best interests of all in BiH to propel the country forward and reinforce its Euro-Atlantic integration efforts. The strengthening of the rule of law, particularly through the augmentation of institutional capacities, is crucial for long-term stability and security of BiH and the broader region," said the High Representative.

The High Representative expressed his appreciation for the UK's continuous and invaluable support to BiH and its citizens, as well as to the Office of the High Representative and the execution of the High Representative's mandate in accordance with the Dayton Agreement.