

<u>High Representative Issues Decisions Affecting Removal of Three</u> Officials

As part of a programme underway since March 2005, the High Representative, Valentin Inzko, has issued three Decisions affecting the bans on participation in the public life of Bosnia and Herzegovina placed on three individuals.

Concluding that the reasons for the removal of Mr Nedzad Behram on 29 November 1999 no longer apply, the High Representative has expressly permitted Mr Behram to hold official, elective or appointive public office, to run in elections and to hold office within political parties.

Concluding that the reasons for the removal of Mr. Dragutin Djurdjevic on 7 September 2000 no longer apply, the High Representative has expressly permitted Mr Djurdjevic to hold official, elective or appointive public office, to run in elections and to hold office within political parties.

Concluding that the reasons for the removal of Mr. Obren Zeljaja on 29 November 1999 no longer apply, the High Representative has expressly permitted Mr Zeljaja to hold official, elective or appointive public office, to run in elections and to hold office within political parties.

These three Decisions have been issued in light of the principles of equity, proper governance and judicious exercise of the High Representative's international mandate, which take into account the balance between the protection of national stability and the rights of the individual. They do not call into question the validity of the original removals, nor do they entitle the individuals concerned to automatic restoration to the office from which they were removed.

These Decisions take immediate effect.