

Lajčák Meets Topolánek: Czech Republic Ready To Focus On BiH During EU Presidency



High Representative and EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajčák met with Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek, Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Vondra, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Karel Schwarzenberg in Prague today.

The Czech Republic is due to take on the EU Presidency on 1st January 2009 and as such will become a member of the Peace Implementation Council.

High Representative and EU Special Representative Lajčák outlined the current poisoned political atmosphere in BiH and agreed with Prime Minister Topolánek that the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina requires a full redefinition of the International Community's engagement in the country

Prime Minister Topolánek confirmed that the Western Balkans will be one of the key priorities of the Czech Republic's Presidency, which intends to focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Czech Republic is fully committed to assuring BiH's EU future. It is clear that only a single BiH can enter the EU.

High Representative and EU Special Representative welcomed Czech Republic's commitment to BiH.

HR/EUSR Lajčák underlined that the International Community and

the EU in particular, need to refocus once again on Bosnia and Herzegovina to help the country get on track with reforms and the EU integration processes.

HR/EUSR presented the current political situation in BiH and outlined the progress that the country has made in meeting the five conditions and two objectives set by the Peace Implementation Council in February 2008