

OHR's Statement at the International Agencies' Joint Press Conference



OHR, Oleg Milisic
EUFOR, Lt Cdr Niel Mathiesen

OHR

Heinrich Boell Foundation Conference

The High Representative and EU Special Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, spoke at a conference organised by the Heinrich Boell Foundation this morning entitled *Example of Bosnia and Herzegovina : Sustainable concepts or sidetracks of the international community?*

In his contribution, the High Representative and EU Special Representative argued that political integration into the European Union is the only model for lasting peace in the Western Balkans.

“EU enlargement is the most effective transformative mechanism available in the world, but its success depends on the willingness and ability of local stakeholders to participate in this process,” he told the conference.

The High Representative and EU Special Representative explained that Bonn Powers were still required in Bosnia and

Herzegovina because of both the situation in the country and in the wider region. However, he also made clear that: "The international community has no other choice but to insist on local ownership and continue the path to full transition and closure of the OHR as soon as possible."

BiH Officials Must Work Together for Srebrenica

The High Representative and EU Special Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling will this afternoon meet with four Srebrenica and Podrinje Women's Associations to discuss promised additional assistance to Srebrenica and its focus.

The HR-EUSR is holding a series of consultations as a part of preparatory work for a meeting with all interested in making progress in Srebrenica. That meeting will discuss additional assistance for Srebrenica and its focus.

The OHR has welcomed the increased assistance to Srebrenica pledged by entity and cantonal governments as well as the parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Support must be focused and transparent and take account of the wishes of the local population.

The HR-EUSR's aim is to focus efforts on achieving tangible results that can improve the lives of all who live in and around Srebrenica by strengthening the law-enforcement and judicial institutions responsible for the investigation of genocide and rehabilitating Srebrenica's economy through targeted financial support, including possibly special economic status for the municipality.

If the most is to be made of existing promises, increased cooperation between different levels of authority is required and existing regulations must be harmonised and implemented

The HR-EUSR this afternoon will underline that competent State, entity and municipal officials must work together to implement specific measures for Srebrenica.

EUFOR

No statement.

RTQs:

Dnevni List, Rešad Dautefendić:

I would like to know when will the High Representative meet with the major political leaders to talk about Srebrenica and could you give us some more concrete information regarding the High Representative's meeting with the women of Srebrenica, such as at what time the meeting will take place today?

OHR, Oleg Milišić:

As far as the first meeting you mentioned is concerned, no date has yet been set. However, as soon as it is set we will inform the media. Regarding the meeting with the women of Srebrenica and Podrinje, I think it will be held at 15:00 this afternoon. You can expect a press release to be issued after the meeting.

Journalist #2:

What is the OHR's comment on the arrival of the first group of Srebrenica citizens in Sarajevo?

OHR, Oleg Milišić:

As we have already said, we consider that the call for moving out of Srebrenica is in a way quite saddening, especially since those people have invested a lot and shown their courage simply by returning to Srebrenica in the first place. As far as their arrival in Sarajevo is concerned, they have the right to gather and demand their rights. Therefore, we have no particular comment on their arrival in Sarajevo.