

# OHR's Statement at the International Agencies' Joint Press Conference in Banja Luka

## OHR welcomes BiH Presidency decision on size, structure and location of Armed forces of BiH

The High Representative and EU Special Representative, Christian Schwarz Schilling, today welcomed the fact that the BiH Presidency's had taken a decision determining the size, structure, and locations of the Armed forces of BiH. Even though, the Presidency failed to complete this task within the timeframe envisaged by the Law on Defence, this decision represents a crucial milestone in the development of a single military force, compatible to NATO standards.

This structure may be amended further to enhance compatibility with NATO forces once BiH meets the full cooperation with the ICTY requirement for membership in Partnership for Peace.

"It is now up to all members of Armed forces of BiH, as professional soldiers, to do their utmost to implement the new structures", said the High Representative. The High Representative expressed hope that all local communities will make welcome and help support the soldiers, civilians, and their families who may be required to relocate over the coming period as part of the transformation process.