OHR’s Statement at the International Agencies’ Joint Press Conference in Mostar

Trade Gap Narrowing – But More Jobs Could Be Created.

The High Representative is addressing the BiH Foreign Trade Chamber this morning.

He will remind his listeners that improvements in the BiH business environment – including enacting the Law on National Fiscal Council, the Law on Obligations, the Salary law, and the Pharmaceuticals Law, and centralising banking supervision (all of which could be done by the end of the summer) would offer a huge boost to BiH exporters.

The follow-on from this would be more jobs and higher livings standards.

As it is, BiH is enjoying strong export growth *despite* the slow pace of progress in improving the business environment.

I’ve brought along copies of the High Representative’s speech.

Regional Development Agencies Need Better Cooperation from Authorities

Later today, the High Representative and the Head of the European Commission’s Delegation, Michael Humphreys, will take part in a roundtable with the directors of BiH’s Regional Development Agencies. The roundtable will be chaired by Principal Deputy High Representative Larry Butler.

The focus will be on transforming regional development into job creation – something that can start to happen when the

RDAs receive better cooperation from relevant government departments, and when all of the agencies responsible for attracting investment to BiH – including FIPA, the BiH embassy network, the business service centres and the RDAs – work together in order to optimize results.