

High Representative Welcomes Constitutional Reform Agreement

The High Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, today congratulated the participants at the constitutional reform negotiations for coming to a political agreement.

This is the first substantial step on the long process of reform towards more effective and functional state institutions. This reform should meet the needs of the citizens and support the country's path towards the EU", said the High Representative.

The agreement will now need the required Parliamentary support for Constitutional change. "Parliamentarians now have the important job of assessing this agreement. The timetable for putting these changes in place in time for them to be incorporated into the 2006 elections is extremely tight. I urge parliamentarians to seize this opportunity", said the High Representative. If Parliament cannot ratify this agreement on time then these changes will not come into effect until the 2010 elections.

The High Representative welcomed the role played by the representatives of the international community, and primarily the United States , in assisting BiH Politicians come to this agreement.