

Statement: Srebrenica Working Group Must Complete Its Work in Next Ten Days

Senior Deputy High Representative Martin Ney held a meeting today in Sarajevo with RS Prime Minister Pero Bukeylovic, RS Interior Ministers Darko Matijasevic, RS Defence Minister Milovan Stankovic and the Chair of the RS Government's Srebrenica Working Group Jovan Spajic. Ambassador Ney reminded those present that the Srebrenica Working Group must conclude its work satisfactorily by the end of this month.

Ambassador Ney expressed concern about the lack of progress being made by the Working Group, which in April this year was tasked by the High Representative to ensure that the RS Ministries of Interior and Defence provide full information on the units that were active in the wider Srebrenica area during in July 1995. The Sub Group responsible for assessing the RS authorities' level of cooperation has indicated that the methodology used by the Ministry of Defence has been insufficient and that more information could be made available to the ICTY and domestic prosecutors.

"Progress has been made by the Srebrenica Working Group, but time is short – the Working Group is due to finish its task by the end of September. We have identified outstanding tasks and the RS Government must do everything possible to ensure that the Working Group successfully completes its work," Ambassador Ney said today. "This meeting was about assuring the success

of the Srebrenica Working Group; there are ten days left to the deadline. This is the RS Government's working Group and it will be the RS Prime Minister whom we will consider ultimately responsible in the case of failure as the Working Group depends on the cooperation of the Government."