

High Representative Extends DRC Mandate

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, has today extended the mandate of the Defence Reform Commission (DRC) to 31 December 2005.

On 16 December this year the High Representative announced that the BiH DRC will oversee the next stage of Defence reform. The Commission's role will be to examine and propose the legal and institutional measures necessary to transfer the competencies of the Entity MoD's to the State level, to enhance State level command and control, and to promote co-ordination with the ICTY.

The DRC in 2005 will be co-chaired by the BiH Minister of Defence and a representative from the NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo. The Commission will include the Chair and Deputy Chairs of the BiH Parliament's Joint Commission on Security and Defence, both Entity Ministers of Defence, and representatives of the OSCE, NATO and EUFOR.