<u>Spanish Embassy and OHR Commend FBiH Government Decision</u> to Help Flooded Municipality Ravno

The Embassy of Spain to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina have closely monitored developments over the recent unfortunate flooding in Popovo Polje. The Embassy and the OHR are concerned about possible consequences as a result of the flood on the future development in the area.

We fully support a quick and impartial investigation into what exactly happened, without further politicization. Also, we are very pleased with the immediate and professional reaction to this incident by the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Government. OHR and the Spanish Embassy commend the decision of the Federation Government to approve 200,000 KM from budget reserves for repairing damages from floods in Popovo polje, Ravno Municipality. We look forward to the RS Government taking similar measures.

The Embassy of Spain to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OHR wish to emphasise the importance of Popovo Polje and its agricultural potential in relation to further development and revitalization of the economy of the Herzegovina region. The project in Popovo Polje, financed by Spanish Government, involving both Trebinje and Ravno, is an important element of reconciliation and business co-operation between the RS and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.