<u>High Representative and Chairman of the CoM sign agreement on</u> welfare contributions for local OHR staff

The High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Zlatko Lagumdzija, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the calculation and payment of social contributions and levies for local staff of the Office of the High Representative.

Following MoUs signed in June by the OHR and the Ministers of Finance of the two Entities, the OHR began paying social contributions for all its local staff into a holding account. Today's signing gives legal effect to the earlier MoUs and allows payment to be made directly to the appropriate authorities.

The OHR is not legally obliged to make these contributions. However, it regards the inclusion of its local staff in the welfare system of BiH as an essential element in normalising working conditions.