

# Deputy High Representative Paul Martin Steps Down

The Deputy High Representative and Head of the OHR Banja Luka office, Mr. Paul Martin, is leaving his post on 5 July and will hand over to Ambassador John Bennett, who is presently serving in OHR Sarajevo and will fill the post temporarily.

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, expresses his heartfelt thanks to Mr. Martin for his dedication and his enduring contribution to peace implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative learned with regret of Mr. Martin's decision to resign, for personal reasons. The High Representative understands that this was not a decision that Mr Martin took lightly. His commitment to the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina through his work here has set an example of the highest professional dedication.

During his time with the OHR, Mr. Martin was closely involved in the issue of constitutional reform and held frequent talks with representatives of the RS government on this topic. His support for the continuing effort by the OHR and authorities in the RS to fight against corruption led to closer cooperation among all those engaged in this issue.

Mr. Martin has worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina in various capacities. His service to the OHR first began in 1999, when he was the High Representative's Special Envoy to Doboj. His understanding of the country, its people and its politics comes from first-hand experience, which greatly contributed to his work in the OHR.

On his own behalf and that of the OHR, the High Representative wishes Mr. Martin every success.