Faster, higher, stronger – together

Citius, altius, fortius – communiter

High Representative Christian Schmidt extends his heartfelt congratulations to all citizens of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the momentous occasion of the 40th anniversary of the opening of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games. The Games were a testament to the power of peaceful competition during a time filled with hope and optimism. The Olympic spirit found a home in Sarajevo, igniting the flame of unity and camaraderie.

However, just eight years later, the city was engulfed in despair, terror, and grief, only to rise from the ashes with renewed hope and determination for peace. Today, Sarajevo stands as the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a state on the path to European integration and prosperity. Mayor Benjamina Karić and the resilient citizens of free Sarajevo deserve commendation for their unwavering commitment to building a brighter future for all.

“As we reflect on the crescendo and dynamic spirit of the Bolero, we are reminded of the need for a renewed manifestation of peace and community not only in Sarajevo but also in Banja Luka, Mostar, and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Let us unite, in the true spirit of the Olympic motto, to consider the possibility of bringing back the Olympic Winter Games to Sarajevo and the surrounding region, encompassing neighboring countries. The Olympic Games could

serve as a beacon of hope, inspiring us to embrace a shared future in Europe.

The Olympic peace could inspire us to experience a common future in Europe. I am confident that people would see the new Olympic Games in BiH as an excellent signal that, since 1995, this part of the world has regained its wealth, peace, and a promising future.

It is my firm belief that this country can be an example how unity and collaboration can bring about positive change. Therefore, I call upon all stakeholders, on all of us, to join forces in championing the celebration of the Olympic Games of Peace in Sarajevo.

Together, let us pave the way for a brighter tomorrow, where peace, prosperity, and solidarity reign supreme.”