

# High Representative Concerned by BiH Presidency's Failure to Approve BiH Armed Forces Structure by Legally Required Deadline

The High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling is concerned by the BiH Presidency's failure to meet its legally required deadline for approving the proposed decision on the size, structure and stationing of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH).

The 1 July deadline was specified in the Defence Law that came into effect on 28 December 2005 and expired at midnight on Friday.

"By missing this deadline, the BiH Presidency is delaying implementation of critical military reforms," the High Representative said. "In its capacity as collective commander-in-chief, the Presidency must take this up at its next meeting as a matter of urgency."

The BiH Presidency is meeting again tomorrow.

The proposed decision on the size, structure, and stationing of the AFBiH has been developed by BiH Minister of Defence Nikola Radovanovic and his Transition Team with NATO advisory input.

The Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council specifically addressed this issue at its meeting last month, expressing hope in the communiqué that "a decision will be reached before 1 July that is consistent with the law and the readiness requirements of a NATO-compatible, single military

force”.