High Representative Considers RS Boycott of Standing Committee on Military Matters as a Reversal of Progress on Dayton

The High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, has written to Zivko Radisic, Serb member of the Presidency, and Milorad Dodik, RS Prime Minister, to express the International Community's grave concerns over the RS boycott of the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM).

This evening, the High Representative, Ambassador Robert Barry, Head of the OSCE mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and General Montgomery Meigs, Commander of SFOR, will meet with the RS authorities to resolve the matter.

The SCMM, one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Common Institutions, is crucial for ensuring peace in the country. It meets monthly to co-ordinate defence-related issues and confidence-building measures among Bosnia and Herzegovina's armed forces.

The High Representative considers the RS boycott of the SCMM meeting scheduled for September 8, which led to its cancellation, a serious reversal in the progress made since the Dayton Peace Agreement, which portrays the RS as obstructive to the peace process.

It is the sincere hope of the High Representative that the RS authorities will immediately call off the ill-advised boycott and resume the important work of the SCMM.