High Representative and BiH Delegation meet Political Directors of the Peace Implementation Council

The High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch, and BiH State and Entity officials will meet on Wednesday with the Political Directors of the Peace Implementation Council's (PIC) Steering Board in Brussels.

The PIC comprises the 55 governments and agencies that oversee the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords, which ended the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995. The members of the Steering Board, the PIC's executive arm, are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, United States, the Presidency of the European Union currently held by Belgium, the European Commission, and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which is represented by Turkey.

Discussions will focus on economic reform and the European Union's Stabilisation and Association Process for South Eastern Europe. On the agenda are the conditions that have been placed on Bosnia and Herzegovina — commonly known as the "EU Road Map" — which, when complete, will enable a feasibility study for such a Stabilisation and Association Agreement to be made. Several countries from the region have already established or are in the process of establishing such relations with the European Union.

The BiH delegation consists of Zlatko Lagumdzija, Chair of the Council of Ministers and BiH Foreign Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, BiH Minister for European Integration, Ante

Domazet, BiH Minister for Treasury, Karlo Filipovic, President of the Federation of BiH, Alija Behmen, Prime Minister of the Federation of BiH, and Mladen Ivanic, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska.

There will be a short photo opportunity before the start of this meeting. The photo opportunity will be at the:

Borchette Centre, Salle 4B, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels,

at 14.45 hours on Wednesday, September 12th, 2001.

Journalists are asked to arrive promptly so that the meeting can start at 15.00 as planned. A press release will be issued after the meeting.