OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference in Mostar

<u>High Representative in Mostar</u>

I will use this opportunity to inform you of the High Representative's activities related to the Old Bridge Opening Ceremony.

On Thursday, July 22 the High Representative will participate as one of the speakers at the Mostar 2004 Symposium organized by the Mostar Fund. We will have more details on how journalists will be able to get details on this speech shortly

On the Ceremony Day, the High Representative and Mr. Chris Patten, European Union External Relations Commissioner, will take part in the "Two-way street" the project of Nansen Dialogue Center. Media will be able to cover this event. It starts at 11:00 hours, on Friday, July 23, in the "Blue Room" of Hotel Ero.

At 14:30 hours, the High Representative will join the main program organized by the BiH Presidency.

Commenting the upcoming opening ceremony as major reconciliation step in Mostar and BiH the High Representative has said that — "the Old Bridge is an important symbol but it must be underpinned by unification of the divided institutions. The new Statute introduces genuinely single administration, and a single Budget, two, which will give Mostar, needed services. The new structure brings best chance to use most of the value out of the taxpayers' money and is reducing chance for the public money not to be waster."

That is all from OHR.