

Statement by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board*



The Ambassadors of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board (PIC SBA) strongly condemn the escalation of tensions by some political leaders in response to the recent amendment of the criminal code, and steps taken by the RS National Assembly that would undermine stability and impede effective government.

Rhetoric and actions which undermine the functioning of the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the boycotting of state-level institutions and the blocking of vital decision making, are destabilising and contrary to the Dayton Peace Agreement. Such activity does not serve the interests of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and impedes European integration and progress on the 14 Key Priorities.

Revisionism, glorification of convicted war criminals, and denial of well-documented and established facts about war-time events including genocide is unacceptable. This contradicts the most basic European values and undermines the stability of the country and the welfare and prosperity of BiH's citizens. The recent amendment is the result of lengthy inaction by domestic political actors, and is applicable to all citizens in BiH.

The PIC SBA calls upon authorities to refrain from

destabilising behaviour and urges all political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to focus on supporting peace, stability and prosperity for the citizens of this country and advance reconciliation, built on mutual recognition, empathy and respect for all victims.

The PIC SBA emphasises its continuing support for the authority and mandate of the High Representative and the vital role the High Representative will play until the 5+2 conditions for BiH's graduation from international supervision are complete.

* The Russian Federation does not agree with this Statement.