

# Bosnia and Herzegovina is on a **one-way** **street**

*Building a Prosperous Democracy in the Heart of Europe*

## **European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The mandate of the European Union Special Representative is to help Bosnia and Herzegovina complete its journey to full EU membership.

This is an ambitious task but two things mean that it can be completed successfully – the first is that the European Union is committed to helping Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbours take their rightful place as full-fledged members; and the second is that there is enormous popular support, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the other countries in the region, for securing EU membership as soon as possible.

The EU Special Representative is also the international community's High Representative, responsible for overseeing implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. While the Office of the High Representative has been systematically downsized – reflecting the fact that most of the Dayton agenda has been implemented – the Office of the EU Special Representative has been reinforced.

The EUSR is responsible for making sure that all of the European Union's agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina work together in the most effective way, helping the country move forward towards the EU and implement the European Partnership and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, as well as the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The overall objective is to offer Bosnia and Herzegovina constructive partnership as it evolves into a prosperous multiethnic democracy capable of joining the EU.

To achieve this, the EU Special Representative

- offers the EU's advice on how to make the BiH political process more efficient and more effective;
- liaises with EU heads of mission to ensure that EU agencies are working in a complementary and effective way;
- gives local political guidance to the EU Police Mission and the EU Force;
- monitors rule-of-law activities and provides EU institutions with advice on this issue;
- provides support for a more effective criminal justice system;
- engages with local authorities to help them cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY); and
- contributes to the development and consolidation of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU Special Representative reports to the Council of the European Union, which represents the 27 EU member states, through the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton.

The EU Special Representative is well placed to help Bosnia and Herzegovina make steady progress because the EU integration agenda has been developed and honed over decades through the practical experience of the member states. The *acquis communautaire* – the thousands of pages of EU legislation that Bosnia and Herzegovina must enact and implement before it becomes a member, is a kind of blueprint.

As this blueprint is turned into reality, citizens begin to experience the benefits.

It is possible for BiH's authorities to efficiently address the conditions which are required for European integration. The progress in addressing the conditions from the visa road map is commendable, and similar efforts are now needed to address conditions in other fields of the EU integration process for BiH to progress towards the EU together with the other countries in the region.

The exhaustive process of reforms helps countries achieve prosperity; it helps them ensure their own security; it gives citizens a whole range of new services and opportunities.

And the good news is that the benefits of EU membership don't have to be put off until the very moment that Bosnia and Herzegovina formally enters the Union. The experience of EU member states is that every single one of the thousands of pre-accession reforms – in the economy and employment, the rule of law, and the education – delivers real benefits to citizens long before membership is achieved.

The EU agencies are in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the single purpose of helping to get these benefits to the people of this country sooner rather than later.

The EU and its member states have contributed more than €2.66 billion to Bosnia and Herzegovina's reconstruction since the end of the war, and the EU has systematically stepped up its involvement, for example, by assuming responsibility for the international community's police-



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monitoring and peacekeeping missions. This involvement will further intensify as Bosnia and Herzegovina moves towards full membership.

Apart from the EUSR, the EU is represented in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the following organisations.

- **The Delegation of the European Union** is assisting in reconstruction and democratic transformation.
- **EUFOR**, the European Union's longest-running military mission to date, monitors and ensures compliance with the military aspects of Dayton and helps maintain a safe and secure environment.
- **The EU Police Mission**, the European Union's first civilian crisis-management operation under the European Security and Defence Policy, aims to establish a sustainable, professional and multiethnic police service, operating in accordance with European and international standards.
- **The EU member states** are represented by 19 diplomatic missions and by the rotating EU Presidency, which is held by Spain from 1 January to 30 June and by Belgium from 1 July to 31 December 2010.

## The European Union Special representatives

The European Union currently has eleven Special Representatives (EUSRs) in different regions of the world. The EUSRs promote European Union policies and interests in troubled regions and countries and play an active role in efforts to consolidate peace, stability and the rule of law.

EU Special Representatives support the work of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission. They play an important role in the EU's increasingly active part on the world stage. They provide the EU with an active political presence in key countries and regions, acting as a local "voice" and "face" for the EU and its policies.

The eleven EUSRs currently in office cover the following regions: Afghanistan, the African Great Lakes Region, the African Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Middle East, Moldova, the South Caucasus and Sudan. Some EUSRs are resident in their country or region of activity while others work on a traveling basis from Brussels.



EUROPEAN UNION  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## Valentin Inzko

Valentin Inzko is an Austrian diplomat who served for four years as Ambassador to Slovenia immediately before taking up his appointment as High Representative and EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2009.



Ambassador Inzko has been involved in South-east European diplomacy since 1981, when he joined the Austrian Foreign Ministry and began working for the department responsible for relations with the region. He was assigned to the Austrian Embassy in Belgrade from 1982 to 1986, and in 1992 he headed the OSCE Mission in Sandzak. From 1996 to 1999 Dr Inzko served as the first resident Austrian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this capacity he was responsible for establishing the embassy in Sarajevo. Based in Vienna from 1999 to 2005, Dr Inzko headed the Austrian Foreign Ministry department responsible for Central, Eastern and Southern Europe as well as Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus.

Before joining the Foreign Ministry, Dr Inzko held senior positions with UN Development Programme missions in Mongolia and Sri Lanka. His other diplomatic postings have included serving as the Austrian Representative at the United Nations, and as the Deputy Director of the UN Disarmament mission.

Ambassador Inzko was born on 22 May 1949 in Klagenfurt, Austria, and grew up in a Slovene-speaking household. He was educated at a bi-lingual (Slovene and German) primary school in the village of Suetschach, near Klagenfurt, and then at the secondary school for Slovenes in Klagenfurt. He studied Law and Languages at Graz University, specializing in Russian and what was then Serbo-Croat. He subsequently studied at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna.

Ambassador Inzko is married to the noted mezzo-soprano Bernarda Fink. The couple have two children.

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