



Media Handbook



Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and
European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina



“The future of the Balkans is within the European Union” Thessaloniki Declaration, June 2003

Dear media colleagues,

EU integration is a matter for the whole of society, and we see media in Bosnia and Herzegovina as key partners in this country's path to the EU. You play a vitally important role in scrutinising the process and asking the questions that matter of Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions, and of the EU institutions. You perform an important public service in doing so.

I am pleased to welcome you to the EU Delegation/EUSR's Media Handbook - I hope that it will prove useful as you research and produce your stories, articles and features on the EU itself and on Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU integration.

Your questions, comments and coverage are always welcome and I and my communication team look forward to engaging with you throughout this important process for the country.

Sincerely,

Peter Sørensen

Head of the Delegation and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina



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The Institutions of the European Union

The EU Member States are independent and sovereign nations that have pooled their sovereignty and transferred some decision-making responsibility to common EU institutions. The institutions debate, negotiate and regulate on specific issues of common interest at the European level. The EU is therefore a unique body, which on the global stage has more power and influence than each of its Member States could have on their own. The key institutions of the European Union are:

- The **European Parliament** that is directly elected by and represents the EU's 503 million citizens.
- **The European Council** that consists of the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States. It defines the general political direction and priorities of the EU but does not perform legislative functions.
- **The Council of the European Union** composed of ministers from the national governments of the EU, who may defend and promote their national interests there.
- **The European Commission** with a Commissioner from each Member State, that seeks to uphold the interests of the Union as a whole.

New legislation may be proposed by the European Commission; it must be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. After adoption, it is up to the Member States and the European Commission to implement them.

Other EU institutions include the Court of Justice which upholds the rule of European law, and the Court of Auditors which scrutinises the financing of the Union's activities.

The powers and responsibilities of these institutions are laid down in the Treaties, which are the foundation of everything the EU does. They also lay down the rules and procedures that the EU institutions must follow. The Treaties are agreed by the presidents and/or prime ministers of all the EU countries, and ratified by their parliaments.



The European Parliament

The European Parliament with a total of 766 members represents the voice of the 503 million EU citizens from all 28 Member States. Citizens directly elect the Members of the Parliament once every five years. The Parliament has three main roles:

- debating and passing European laws, together with the Council through the so-called “ordinary legislative procedure”;
- scrutinising other EU institutions, particularly the Commission, to make sure they are working democratically;
- debating and adopting the EU’s budget, with the Council.

Under the Lisbon Treaty, the range of policies covered by the new “ordinary legislative procedure” has increased, giving Parliament more power to influence the content of laws in areas including agriculture, energy policy, immigration and EU funds. Parliament must also give its permission for other important decisions, such as allowing new countries to join the EU. It has the power to approve or reject the nomination of the President of the Commission and Commissioners, and the right to vote a censure on the Commission as a whole.

The President of the European Parliament is Martin Schulz (Germany, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) whose mandate ends in 2014.



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The European Council

The European Council provides the necessary impetus for the development of the EU and establishes its general political directions and priorities. It does not perform legislative functions. Most of its decisions are taken by consensus, unless otherwise provided in the Treaties. It meets at least every 6 months. Its members are Prime Ministers and Presidents of the Member States, and it has its own President. The President of the European Commission and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission are also involved in the work of the European Council.

The President of the European Council is Herman Van Rompuy (Belgium) whose second mandate runs until 30th November 2014.



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Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union is the main decision-making institution in the EU, negotiating and bringing in new EU laws, or if necessary adjusting them with the consent of the European Parliament, using the regular legislative process. A common confusion is between this institution and:

- The European Council (see above)
- The Council of Europe (not an EU institution – see www.coe.int)

The Council of the European Union is responsible for the harmonization of policies of the Member States, the conclusion of international agreements on behalf of the EU, development of a common foreign and security policy on the basis of strategic guidelines laid down by the European Council, and the adoption of the EU budget in coordination with the European Parliament.

The Council is the EU institution where the Member States' government representatives sit, i.e. the ministers of each Member State with responsibility for a given area. The Council meets in **10 different "configurations"** depending on the subject under discussion (Foreign Affairs, General Affairs, Economy and Finance, Agriculture and Fisheries, Justice and Home Affairs, Employment, Competition, Transport, Telecommunications and Energy, Environmental Protection, Education, Youth and Culture).

Every six months, a different EU member state presides over the Council of the European Union; it chairs meetings at different levels, proposes guidelines and prepares necessary compromises for the Council of the European Union so that decisions can be adopted.

Lithuania holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union until 31 December 2013, after which the Presidency will be held by Greece until the end of June 2014.

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European Commission

The European Commission is the politically independent institution that represents the interests of the Union as a whole. It proposes new legislation to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, and it ensures that EU law is correctly applied by the Member States. The Commission makes proposals to meet its obligations under the EU treaties, or because another EU institution, country or stakeholder has asked it to act.

The European Commission is politically accountable to the European Parliament, which has the power to dissolve it by vote of censure. The European Commission takes part in all the sessions of the European Parliament, where it must clarify and justify its policies.

The European Commission is composed of 28 members of the College of Commissioners, including the President and Vice-Presidents. The President assigns to each Commissioner duties related to a specific policy area.

The current president of the European Commission is José Manuel Barroso (Portugal), whose mandate expires in 2014.



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Website for media:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/journalist/index_en.htm

Web site: <http://ec.europa.eu/>

In addition to these institutions, the EU has a number of other bodies that play specialised roles:

- The **European Economic and Social Committee** represents civil society, employers and employees (<http://www.eesc.europa.eu>);
- The **Committee of the Regions** represents regional and local authorities (<http://cor.europa.eu>);
- The **European Investment Bank** finances the EU investment projects, and helps small businesses via the European Investment Fund (<http://www.eib.org>);
- The **European Central Bank** is responsible for European monetary policy (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu>);
- The **European Ombudsman** investigates complaints about maladministration by the EU institutions and bodies (<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>);
- The **European Data Protection Supervisor** safeguards the privacy of people's personal data (<https://secure.edps.europa.eu>);
- The **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities** publishes information about the EU (<http://publications.europa.eu>);
- The **European Personnel Selection Office** recruits staff for the EU institutions and other bodies (<http://europa.eu/epso>);
- The **European Administrative School** task is to provide training in specific areas for members of the EU staff (http://europa.eu/eas/index_en.htm).

In addition, specialised agencies have been set up to handle certain technical, scientific or management tasks.

Policies of the European Union

The EU is actively working and implementing policies on a wide range of issues, from human rights to transport and trade. What follows is a summary of the EU's actions in areas likely to be of main interest to BiH media.

Foreign and Security Policy

The European Union has developed its own unique foreign and security policy that allows all of its 28 members to speak and act as a single body in international affairs. The role of the EU's foreign and security policy is to preserve peace and strengthen international security, to promote international cooperation and to develop and consolidate democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Overall policy is based on diplomacy backed by trade, humanitarian work, and where necessary by security and defence instruments – to resolve conflicts and bring international understanding.

The ultimate decision-making authority on these issues is the European Council, which has meetings four times a year and defines the principles and general policy guidelines. Foreign and security policy has further been strengthened by the Lisbon Treaty (2009) that created the position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and formed the European External Action Service (EEAS), which supports the activities of the High Representative.

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission is Catherine Ashton (United Kingdom) whose mandate expires in November 2014.

Catherine Ashton is the first High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission. Previously, after a career in domestic politics, she was European Commissioner for Trade from October 2008. During her time as Trade Commissioner, she initialled an ambitious and far-reaching free trade agreement with South Korea, and solved a number of high-profile trade disputes with major trading partners. She has also championed trade as a means of promoting development around the world, putting the EU's economic relationship with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries on a firmer footing. Catherine Ashton also represented the EU in the Doha Round of world trade talks and built on strong bilateral trade and investment relationships.



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Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

EU Enlargement

Enlargement is one of the EU's most powerful policy tools. All European citizens benefit from having neighbours that are stable democracies and prosperous market economies. Enlargement is a carefully managed process which helps the transformation of the countries involved, extending peace, stability, prosperity, democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe.

According to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, any European country may apply for membership if it respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States (Article 6.1 TEU). Accession, however, can only follow if the given European country fulfils all criteria of accession which were fixed by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993 and reinforced by the European Council in Madrid in 1995.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, to avoid the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and our neighbours. Instead, the ENP aims to strengthen the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. In this way, it also addresses the strategic objectives set out in the December 2003 European Security Strategy.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was first outlined in a Commission Communication on Wider Europe in March 2003, followed by a more developed Strategy Paper on the European Neighbourhood Policy published in May 2004. This document sets out in concrete terms how the EU proposes to work more closely with these countries. As part of its report on implementation, in December 2006 and again in December 2007, the Commission also made proposals as to how the policy could be further strengthened.

The EU offers our neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are effectively shared. The ENP remains distinct from the process of enlargement although it does not prejudice, for European neighbours, how their relationship with the EU may develop in future, in accordance with Treaty provisions.

Commissioner responsible for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy is Štefan Füle (Czech Republic).



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Human Rights, Justice, Freedom and Security

Human rights

Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights are values that have been embedded in the EU Treaties from the start and reinforced by the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Through the human rights policy EU:

- defends **civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights**
- seeks to promote the rights of women, children, minorities, and displaced persons
- opposes the death penalty, torture, human trafficking and discrimination
- is committed to defending the **universal and indivisible nature** of human rights, by working in full and active partnership with partner countries, international organisations, regional organisations and civil society.

In order to strengthen the whole framework, Stavros Lambrinidis (Greece) was appointed as EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights.

All EU institutions – the Commission, Parliament and Council – play a role in human rights protection with assistance of the Fundamental Rights Agency, which identifies and analyses major trends in the field of fundamental rights.

More information on web sites:

<http://europa.eu/pol/rights/>

<http://fra.europa.eu/>

Justice, freedom and security

Free movement and a high level of protection and safety of EU citizens are provided through policies of justice, freedom and security. Areas that are covered by these policies start from the management of the external borders of the EU to judicial cooperation in civil and criminal cases. The EU has established a European Judicial Network in order to improve judicial cooperation between Member States in the fight against serious crime (corruption, drug trafficking and terrorism) and equal enforcement applies across the whole Union to all people equally. The Schengen Agreement secured the right to freely travel from one country to another.

The Vice-President and Commissioner responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship is Viviane Reding (Luxembourg).



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More information on web sites: http://europa.eu/pol/justice/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/index_en.htm

Single Market and Competition

Single Market

The EU's Single Market (sometimes also called the "internal market") enabled **people, goods, services and money to move around** the EU freely as they do within a single country. EU citizens can now study, live, shop, work and retire in any EU country, or at home enjoy a vast array of products from all over Europe.

Free to do business across the entire economic bloc, companies have expanded their operations, with the resultant competition both bringing down prices and increasing consumer choice. At the same time, the EU works to ensure these greater freedoms don't undermine **fairness, consumer protection or environmental sustainability** with various competition and regulatory authorities.

Commissioner for Internal Market and Services is Michel Barnier (France).



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Competition

The European Commission, together with national competition authorities, adopt rules to ensure fair and equal conditions for businesses; this better functioning means better results and the greatest benefit for companies, the consumers and the European economy as a whole. Thus, according to EU rules that promote competition, companies should not restrict competition by fixing prices and / or mutual sharing market. Monopoly is permitted in certain circumstances (e.g. “natural monopoly” or when it comes to public goods) but then monopolistic companies must treat other companies equally and make their services available to everyone, and also profits of public services should not be used to subsidize commercial activities.

Vice President and European Commissioner for Competition is Joaquín Almunia (Spain).



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http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/competition/index_en.htm

Digital Agenda: IT and Audiovisual Policy and Media

Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aims to launch the European economy and help citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technology. It is one of the seven most important initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy, the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Information Society

The goal of the information society policy includes regulation of the information and communications technology market, also giving support to information society handle such issues as copyright and safety, and ensuring that Europe capitalizes on the opportunities offered by information society in a variety of areas such as health, safety and education.

More information on web site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/digital-agenda-europe>

Audiovisual Policy and Media

Audiovisual policy is formulated at **national level** by individual governments. The EU's role is to set some basic **ground rules and guidelines** in defence of common interests. The EU since 1989 has been successfully regulating TV broadcasting, but because of the development of new technologies, these rules have to be updated to include television on-demand, but also a wider range of devices such as mobile phones and tablets. These policies are implemented through the regulatory framework of Directive on Audiovisual Media Services, in order to establish a single European market for audiovisual media, but also through the recommendations of the Online protection of children / minors and European film heritage.

Implementation of policies is done through funding programmes, through measures that promote online content distribution and media pluralism, and action outside the EU in order to defend the European cultural interests in the World Trade Organization. One of the most important funding programme is MEDIA, which provides support for the expansion of the European production of high quality films and television programmes to increase their circulation in Europe and beyond, and to increase the competitiveness of local industry at the international level. In the next financial perspective of 2014-2020 MEDIA programme will be replaced with "Creative Europe".

Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Digital Agenda is Neelie Kroes (Netherland).



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Neelie Kroes' spokesperson

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http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/index_en.htm

Entrepreneurial programmes (FP7 programme)

In creating a favourable environment for business, especially for small businesses and manufacturing, the EU wants to promote the competitiveness of companies and industries of the EU, and in that way ensure economic growth and job creation. The key to economic recovery for Europe ultimately lies in industrial competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship which they shape policy in this area. So the EU runs special programmes and funds to promote entrepreneurship and skills, improving access of SMEs to markets and increase growth potential. Small and medium enterprises are the focus of a major EU programme for funding scientific research "FP7".

FP7

FP7 refers to the *7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development*. The main objective of this programme is to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of European industry, and to improve the international competitiveness of the EU in parallel with the promotion of research that supports its policies. The programme has a total budget of over € 50 billion. FP7 is a key tool to respond to the needs of Europe in terms of jobs and competitiveness, but also to maintain its leading position in the global knowledge economy. Grants are determined on the basis of calls for proposals and a peer review process for research actors all over Europe and beyond.

More information on web site: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/>

Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship is Antonio Tajani (Italy).



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Environment and the fight against climate change

The EU has in place some of the world's best environmental standards. Environmental policies protect Europe's natural capital, promote "green" business and protect the health and welfare of people living in the EU. In addition, the EU has a key role in international efforts to develop solutions to ensure sustainable development at the global level. Priorities of EU policies are combating climate change, preserving biodiversity, reducing health problems caused by pollution and the responsible use of natural resources. These policies are also implemented in accordance with a plan for sustainable development, which is also closely linked with the policy to combat climate change and energy policy and stresses the importance of education, research and public funding to achieve sustainable production and consumption patterns. As part of this policy, the European financial instrument for the environment "LIFE" was formed, thanks to which 2,600 projects have been implemented since 1992.

Commissioner for Environment is Janez Potočnik (Slovenia).



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Economic and Monetary Affairs

All EU member states are part of the economic and monetary union (EMU), which provides a framework for joint economic cooperation. With harmonization of national economic policies, Member States have the possibility to work together, which is especially important in the current period when they are faced with the challenges of economic and financial crisis. Common policy objectives in this area are to encourage growth, jobs and a higher level of social protection for all, and to respond to the global economic and financial challenges in a unique way so EU countries would be more resilient to external shocks. A common currency, the Euro was adopted by 17 member countries, having met the conditions known as “convergence criteria”, which include a low and stable inflation, exchange rate stability and healthy public finances (including interest rates, budget deficits, inflation and the level of government debt). Countries that are not yet in the euro zone are preparing for the establishment of the euro as their currency. Denmark and the United Kingdom remain outside the euro zone by special political agreement. In order to alleviate the economic crisis on the proposal of the European Commission in 2010 the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) was launched, which will take over the tasks currently performed by the European Financial Stability Facility (ESFS) and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM). In addition, instrument for control and coordination of economic and fiscal policies of member states under the name “European semester” was also established, which should allow the European Commission to inform their member countries about potential crisis ahead. European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro and Vice President of the European Commission is Olli Rehn (Finland).



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More information on web site: http://europa.eu/pol/emu/index_en.htm
<http://esm.europa.eu/>

EU Energy Policy

The aim of EU energy policy is to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable energy supply at affordable prices. Policy is developed around one of the key objectives of the EU known as the “20-20-20”, which must be fulfilled by the year 2020 and is comprised of:

- 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels
- 20% of energy consumed in the EU from renewable sources
- 20% improvement in the EU’s energy efficiency.

The European energy market is the largest regional market (more than 500 million consumers) at the global level and the largest importer of energy. Some of the challenges that the EU will face - climate change, access to oil and gas, technology development, energy efficiency – are the same as in most other countries, and are also a wake-up call for international cooperation. As a means to finance measures to improve market conditions that encourage the use of renewable energy sources, the EU uses the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE), which goes in the direction of achieving the goals related to climate change and energy. The programme supports concrete projects, initiatives and best practices including through an annual competition.

Commissioner for Energy is Günther Öttinger (Germany).



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Education, Youth and Culture

Each EU country has its own education policy, but the EU provides support in setting common goals and sharing best practices. The EU also funds programmes that provide education, training, internship or volunteering abroad. The main programmes that support exchange of students and teachers are:

- **Leonardo da Vinci:** vocational training, particularly placements for young apprentices and trainees in businesses outside their own country, and cooperation projects linking vocational training institutes and businesses.
- **Erasmus study abroad:** since 1987, 2.5 million students and university staff have been on an Erasmus exchange.
- **Erasmus Mundus** covers post-graduate students and academics from all over the world wanting to obtain a Masters or PhD from European universities.
- **Grundtvig:** adult education programmes, particularly trans-national partnerships and networks.
- **Comenius** cooperation between schools and their teachers, plus pupil exchanges at secondary school level and school partnerships over the internet (eTwinning).
- **Marie Curie Actions:** professional training and international opportunities for researchers, from post-graduate level on.

Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in relevant EU/Community programmes and instruments (TEMPUS, Erasmus Mundus, Youth in Action) which contributed to the upgrading of educational and training structures and activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These programmes also contributed to increased mobility of students and academic staff.

Culture

The EU seeks to preserve the common European cultural heritage covering language, literature, theatre, cinema, dance, art and architecture, and make it available to everyone. Support is provided through programmes that allow you to get the most out of EU markets and digital technology, through funding, research projects and encourage cooperation with partners inside and outside the EU. As a continuation of current EU cultural programmes, the Creative Europe programme (2014 - 2020) is in preparation; the expected resources are more than 500 million EUR.

Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth is Androulla Vassiliou (Cyprus).



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http://europa.eu/pol/educ/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu/pol/cult/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/media/creative-europe/index_en.htm

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The EU and national governments share responsibility for policy in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion. So the EU coordinates and monitors national policies, promotes the sharing of best practices in fields such as employment, poverty and social exclusion and pensions, and makes laws and monitors their implementation in areas such as rights at work and coordination of social security schemes. The main programmes for employment and social policy are:

- **European Social Fund (ESF)** supporting employment and higher living standards by investing in education and training
- **PROGRESS programme** for financial support for employment, social policy and equal opportunities
- **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)** supports workers who lose their jobs
- **Progress Microfinance** increasing the availability of microcredit (the amount is less than 25,000 EUR) for start-up and development of small enterprises

Commissioner responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion is László Andor (Hungary).



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Other Commissioners

Transport

Commissioner: **Siim Kallas** (Vice-President of European Commission) (Estonia)

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Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration

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Taxation, Customs, Statistics, Audit and Anti-Fraud

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EU Glossary

Acceding Country/Zemlja pristupnica:

Country that met the Copenhagen criteria, completed negotiations and signed the Treaty of Accession to the European Union.

Accession Treaty/Ugovor o pristupanju:

The Accession Treaty of a Member State is signed upon completion of the accession negotiations. Accession does not come automatically, since the Treaty has to be ratified by Member States and candidate countries. The contract lays out the terms and arrangements of accession, including the rights and obligations of the new Member States and adapting EU institutions.

Acquis Communautaire/Pravna stečevina:

A French term denoting the rights and obligations shared by all EU countries. The *acquis* includes all the Union's treaties and laws, declarations and resolutions, international agreements related to EU affairs and the judgments issued by the Court of Justice. It includes joint actions of governments of EU Member States in the field of "justice and home affairs" and a common foreign and security policy. Accordingly, "the acceptance of the *acquis*" means taking the EU as it is. Candidate countries must adopt the *acquis* before they join the EU, and EU laws must be incorporated into their national legislation.

Candidate Country/Zemlja kandidat:

Refers to the country which has requested accession to the European Union and whose application has been officially accepted. Currently there are five candidate countries: Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Iceland. Before joining the EU, a candidate must meet the Copenhagen criteria for membership, as well as the Madrid criteria.

Copenhagen Criteria/Kopenhaški kriteriji:

At a meeting in Copenhagen in June 1993, EU leaders set three criteria that each candidate country must fulfil if it wants to become an EU member. First, it must have stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, respect for human and minority rights. Second, it must have a functioning market economy. Third, it must adopt the *acquis* and support the objectives of the European Union. In addition it must have a public administration capable of applying and managing EU laws in practice. The EU reserves the right to decide whether a candidate has met the criteria and when it will be received as a new member.

European Citizens' Initiative/Evropska građanska inicijativa:

The European citizens' initiative enables one million citizens from at least seven member states of the EU to directly ask the European Commission to propose to them the relevant legislative initiatives in the area of EU competence. Its purpose is to ensure that citizens' initiatives truly represent public opinion of the EU.

European Community/Evropska zajednica:

Current name instead of the original "European Economic Community" (EEC).

European Integration/Evropske integracije:

The term means connecting European countries and peoples. Within the European Union it means that countries unite their resources and jointly make many decisions. Joint decision-making takes place through interaction between the EU institutions (Parliament, Council, Commission, etc.).

EEA/EEP:

Abbreviation denoting the European Economic Area which is made up of the European Union and the EFTA countries, except Switzerland. The Agreement of the EEA, which came into force on 1 January in 1994, gives Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway the benefit of the common market, but without the privileges and responsibilities of the Member States.

EEC/EEZ:

Abbreviation for the European Economic Community - one of the three European Communities established in 1957, for the economic integration of Europe. Primary six member countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. When the 1993 Maastricht Treaty came into force, the EEC was renamed the European Community (EC), which forms the basis of today's European Union.

Enlargement/Proširenje:

The origin of the EU was in the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community formed by six countries in the 1950s. The EU now consists of 28 members. Increasing the number of member states is called an enlargement, and it has happened on several occasions:

- 1950. Establishment: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands
- 1973. Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
- 1981. Greece
- 1986. Portugal, Spain
- 1995. Austria, Finland, Sweden
- 2004. Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia
- 2007. Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013. Croatia

Eurobarometer/Eurobarometer:

Department of the European Commission that was established in 1973, whose mission is to measure and analyse the trends of public opinion in all EU member states and candidate countries. For European Commission, it is important to know what the public thinks of the process of adoption of new legislation, decision-making and in the assessment of the Commission. Eurobarometer uses surveys and focus groups. Eurobarometer surveys are published annually in more than 100 reports. For more information http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Europe 2020/Evropa 2020:

“Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” is a strategic document that the EU Member States adopted in spring 2010. It lays out a vision of the European social market economy for the 21st century. It shows in which way Europe can emerge from the crisis stronger and to be able to turn into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy that provides high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

Eurozone/Eurozona:

This is the unofficial name for what is officially called “the euro area”. This area consists of the EU member states which have adopted the euro as their currency. So far, these are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom are members of the EU but not yet using the Euro as the single European currency.

Flagship Initiatives/Vodeće inicijative:

In strategy Europe 2020, adopted in spring 2010, European Union presented seven main goals:

1. **“Innovation Union”** to improve the framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation to ensure the ability to transform innovative ideas into products and services that create growth and jobs.
2. **“Youth on the move”** to increase the effect of education systems and to facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market.
3. **“Digital agenda for Europe”** to enable rapid expansion of high-speed internet and the use of the advantages of digital single market for households and companies.
4. **“Resource efficient Europe”** with the aim of separating economic growth from resource use, support the transition to the economy which uses small levels of carbon, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernize traffic sector and promote energy efficiency.
5. **“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”** aimed at improving the business environment, especially for small and medium entrepreneurs and the development of strong and sustainable globally competitive industrial base.

6. **“An agenda for new skills and jobs”** with the aim of modernizing labour markets and empower people to develop their skills throughout life with the aim of increasing labour force participation, and better alignment of supply and demand, including through labour mobility.
7. **“European platform against poverty”** in order to strengthen social and territorial cohesion in a way that all can benefit from the advantages of growth and jobs and that people who suffer from poverty and social exclusion provide a dignified life and active participation in society.

Four Freedoms/Četiri slobode:

One of the greatest achievements of the EU is the creation of an area without internal borders in which (1) human, (2) of goods, (3) services and (4) capital can move freely. This four-fold freedom of movement is sometimes called the “four freedoms”.

Harmonization/Harmonizacija (Usklađivanje):

Harmonization implies that each Member State in its national law prescribes similar obligations to its citizens, and that in each Member States minimum obligations in every area in which the EU has legislative powers should be prescribed. Harmonization can mean the coordination of national technical rules so that products and services are free to sell on the European market.

Interim Committee/Prelazni odbor:

Interim Committee is one of key bodies for co-ordination between BiH institutions and the EU established in line with the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs).

Lisbon Treaty/Lisabonski ugovor:

The Lisbon Treaty entered into force on 1 December 2009. It aimed to provide modern institutions and optimized working methods which will be used, efficiently and effectively deal with today’s challenges in today’s world. Europeans expect the EU to cope with issues such as globalization, climatic and demographic changes, security and energy. The Lisbon Treaty strengthens democracy in the European Union and its ability to promote the interests of its citizens on a daily basis. It provides the Union with the legal framework and tools necessary to address future challenges and meet the demands of citizens.

Lisbon Strategy/Lisabonska strategija:

To effectively compete with world players, the EU needs a modern and efficient economy. Therefore, at the European Council meeting held in Lisbon in March in 2000. EU leaders set a goal for the EU to, by 2010, become the most dynamic and competitive economy based on knowledge of the world. “Lisbon Strategy” includes areas such as research, education, access to internet and online business.

Maastricht Criteria/Kriteriji iz Maastrichta:

There are five criteria set out in the Treaty of Maastricht that must be met by European countries if they wish to adopt the European Union's single currency, the euro. They are:

- Inflation of no more than 1.5 % above the average rate of the three EU member states with the lowest inflation over the previous year.
- A national budget deficit at or below 3 % of gross domestic product (GDP).
- National public debt not exceeding 60 % of gross domestic product. A country with a higher level of debt can still adopt the euro, provided its debt level is falling steadily.
- Long-term interest rates should be no more than two per cent above the rate in the three EU countries with the lowest inflation over the previous year.
- The national currency is required to enter the ERM2 exchange rate mechanism two years prior to entry.

Madrid Criteria/Madridski kriterij:

Membership criteria also require that the candidate country creates conditions for the integration by adapting its administrative structures, as outlined in the European Council meeting in Madrid in 1995. Besides importance that the laws of the European Community are transposed into national legislation, it is important that the law is effectively implemented through appropriate administrative and judicial structures. It is a precondition for mutual trust required by EU membership.

Stabilisation and Association Agreement/ Sporazum o stabilizaciji i pridruživanju:

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) is a tool that provides the formal mechanisms and agreed 'benchmarks' that allows the EU to work with BiH to bring it closer to EU standards. Since the signing of the SAA, BiH institutions have been obliged to ensure that its existing laws and future legislation are gradually made compatible with the EU acquis. BiH institutions are also obliged to ensure that all existing and future legislation is fully implemented. According to the provisions of the SAA, the Stabilisation and Association Council monitors the implementation of the Agreement and makes recommendations in relation to the necessary next steps that need to be taken in the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP). The main elements of the SAA are:

- Promoting the free movement of goods;
- Creating efficient institutions;
- Developing a market economy;
- Reducing crime and corruption;
- Promoting higher education reform;
- Developing democracy, human rights, and an independent media; and
- Improving the region's transport infrastructure.

The mechanisms of the SAA prioritize the reforms, shape them according to EU best practice, help resolve problems, and monitor their overall implementation. The full and effective implementation of the SAA is a prerequisite for any further assessment by the EU of the country's accession prospects.

Structured Dialogue on Justice/Strukturisani dijalog o pravosuđu:

The EU-BiH Structured Dialogue on Justice is a newly-established mechanism developed by the European Commission. It has been launched with a view to supporting reforms of the justice system in the country and bringing it closer to the EU. This platform provides the context to discuss all reforms that are necessary to allow BiH to progress in the alignment of its judicial system with the EU acquis and relevant standards. Goal of this mechanism is the development and consolidation of an independent, credible, effective, efficient, impartial and accountable judiciary. The Dialogue is a bilateral exercise between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The plenary meetings of the Dialogue are open to the participation of relevant high-level practitioners and authorities. More information on:

<http://europa.ba/Download.aspx?id=736&lang=EN>

Sub-committee/Pododbor:

With Interim Committee, Sub-Committees are key bodies for co-ordination between BiH institutions and the EU in line with the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAA). Sub-Committees are divided by areas: Trade, Industry, Customs and Taxation; Agriculture and Fisheries; Internal Market and Competition; Economic and Financial Issues and Statistics; Innovation, Information Society, Social Policy and Health; Transport, Energy, Environment and Regional Development.

Subsidiarity/Supsidijarnost:


“The principle of subsidiarity” ensures that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen and that constant checks are made to verify that (decision) action at Union level is justified in light of the possibilities available at national, regional or local level. Specifically, it is the principle whereby the Union does not take action (except in the areas that fall within its exclusive competence), unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level.


For more information

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