



Commissioner Füle visited Bosnia and Herzegovina

During his one-day visit to BiH, Commissioner Füle met with representatives of the BiH authorities to discuss the European integration

Štefan Füle, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy visited Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18 March 2010, the first time after being appointed to the new position at European Commission in November last year.

During his one-day visit to BiH, Commissioner Füle met with representatives of the BiH authorities to discuss the European integration and visa liberalization process, and the need to reach agreement on BiH constitutional amendments, as well as the need to adopt the Law on Population and Household Census.

Commissioner Füle also met with the High Representative and EU Special Representative, Valentin Inzko, and Heads of the EU diplomatic missions accredited to BiH.

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October elections are very important for BiH because they will mark its transition from the Dayton era to a new, European era

Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikola Špirić briefed Commissioner Füle on the steps that have been taken by the Council of Ministers towards implementing the European Court of Human Rights ruling in the case of “Finci and Sejdić versus BiH”, as well as on efforts to adopt the Law on Census, which would enable a census to be conducted on schedule next year.

In addition, Špirić informed Commissioner Füle about the efforts of the BiH authorities to fulfil the requirements attached to the IMF Stand-by arrangement. The European Commission had earlier indicated that it is ready to provide €100 million to support development of projects in BiH as long as the Stand-by requirements are met.

Füle said that he and Špirić managed to reach a high degree of agreement on most issues. He informed Chairman Špirić that internal consultations with regard to liberalisation of the visa regime for BiH citizens are ongoing in the European Commission, and that consultation with EU Member states will follow. He said the European Commission will present its report on



Štefan Füle and Nikola Špirić

Bosnia and Herzegovina's fulfilment of the visa liberalisation requirements and that this will then be forwarded to the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament for adoption by mid April.

Speaking about the necessity of adjustments in the BiH Constitution to meet the criteria of the European Human Rights Court, Füle said he appreciated the action plan adopted by the BiH Council

of Ministers with regard to the Finci-Sejdić case, and stressed the importance of amending the constitution before the elections in order to uphold the integrity of the democratic process.

“It is very important to implement these changes before October so that the legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is consistent with the ruling of the European Human Rights Court,” he told reporters after his meeting with Špirić,

adding that the October elections are very important for BiH because they will mark its transition from the Dayton era to a new, European era.

Füle said he expected the BiH authorities to reach agreement on the Census Law soon, so that the country can be included in the 2011 Census along with all the other EU countries.

When asked to comment on the region's progress in entering the EU, he said that all the countries in the region have a clear European perspective, but that each country is at a different stage in reaching this goal.

Commissioner Füle's visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina was part of a week-long tour which also included Serbia and Kosovo.

He stressed the importance of continuing current negotiations and added that the Western Balkans will not be forgotten. He also said that he will focus mainly on the Western Balkans, including Croatia, and also Turkey and that he is familiar with the region, since he visited these countries as NATO Ambassador and as Deputy Defence Minister.

First European Commissioner from Eastern Europe

Unlike his predecessor, Olli Rehn, Mr. Füle is responsible not only for enlargement, but also for the so-called Neighbourhood Policy, which aims at strengthening political and economic integration of neighbouring countries within the European Union.

The Czech commissioner is an experienced and ambitious diplomat, described in the Czech political context as a “Euro optimist.” After the Velvet Revolution, Mr. Füle served as the First Secretary of the Czech mission to the UN. He also spent three years as Ambassador to Lithuania, and two years as Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Between 2005 and 2009, Füle was the Ambassador to NATO. In March 2009, right after the fall of the Czech government, which was presiding over the EU at that time, he was appointed Minister of European Affairs.



Although he stayed in this position for only a short time, Füle is regarded as one of the key negotiators who completed ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in Ireland and the Czech Republic.

Joint statement of the European Commission and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in its European Integration process depends on fulfilment of requirements of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the European Partnership

During their meeting in Banja Luka, the representatives of the European Commission and BiH discussed the level of the country's adjustment to EU standards with respect to free movement of goods, industrial policy, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and taxation and customs, as well as trade and cooperation with other EU candidate countries.

The progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the European Integration process depends on its compliance with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the European Partnership, which are, among other things, particularly important for the country's economic development, according to a joint statement of the European Commission and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Overall, the Interim Agreement is being implemented smoothly. The general recommendation of the European Commission is to pursue activities related to adjustment of jurisdiction in the whole of BiH in a coherent manner and in accordance with the country's constitutional framework.

The European Commission

pointed out that the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) represents an essential element of the Interim Agreement and underlined the importance of working out the Action Plan for implementation of the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in a timely manner.

The European Commission welcomed BiH's progress in transposition of the New Approach Directives. Some outstanding issues related to accreditation, metrology and conformity assessment should be resolved soon in order to strengthen the competitiveness of BiH's industry. The Commission welcomed the strengthening of the administrative capacities in this field and it emphasized that industrial policy should be part of the Development Strategy of BiH, which represents one of the European Partnership priorities.

The Commission stressed the importance of establishing a comprehensive countrywide tourism strategy which would also benefit small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The EC reminded the BiH officials that there have been delays in implementing the Strategy,



Banja Luka hosted representatives of the European Commission

which was supposed to be realised through the founding of the Enterprise Agency and the forum supporting SMEs in BiH, which is on the list of short-term priorities of the European Partnership.

Coordination mechanisms in this area should be reinforced as a prerequisite for the availability of further EU funds on a large scale.

The economic and financial crisis has not had as significant an impact on trade between the parties as had been expected; this applies in particular to BiH exports to the EU. The European Union is still the most important foreign trade partner of BiH. Although the largest part of BiH exports still lies within the terri-

tory of the EU, in 2009 the share slightly decreased in favour of exports to the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) market. This reflects the high importance of BiH trade with its neighbours. The CEFTA Agreement is being implemented without major problems.

The European Commission welcomed the progress BiH has made in negotiations on accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and it offered to provide further technical assistance in this direction. Some progress has been made in adjusting taxation and customs to EU legislation. However, further alignments are necessary, above all those related to the laws on excise and customs.

Paola Pampaloni: BiH should make further efforts to adjust its legislation to EU law

During her visit to Banja Luka, Ms. Pampaloni pointed out the need for BiH to harmonize its Constitution with the European Convention on Human Rights

The Head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Unit at the Enlargement Directorate of the European Commission, Paola Pampaloni, chaired a two-day interim sub-committee meeting on trade, industry, customs, taxation and cooperation with other candidate countries, which took place on 18 and 19 March in Banja Luka. The meeting concluded that BiH should make further efforts to adjust its legislation to EU law, particularly with respect to strengthening the

competitiveness of its economy and improving the business environment.

Ms. Pampaloni also spoke about "the role of social and economic dialogue in the economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina" at a conference organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The conference offered a Brussels perspective on EU enlargement policy and the key challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina faces. Ms. Pampaloni spoke about the Stabilization and Associa-

tion Agreement and other current activities related to the European integration process.

During a visit to the BiH Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA), Ms. Pampaloni said the ITA represents one of the most important institutions for ensuring smooth implementation of the interim agreement between the EU and BiH on trade related matters.

In Banja Luka, Ms. Pampaloni also met with the NGOs "ACED" and "Zdravo da ste" - supported by the Eu-

ropean Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The agencies deal with improvement in living conditions for disabled people, as well as with preventing juvenile delinquency.

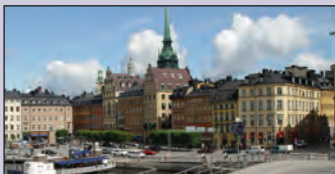
Ms. Pampaloni also used this opportunity to emphasize the need to adjust the BiH Constitution to the European Convention on Human Rights, and the urgent need for adoption of state-level laws on census and government aid.

News from EU

Reports about the risks of improper use of antibiotics

The Commission has published two reports which demonstrate the need for further progress in the European Union on the issue of anti microbial resistance. The first is a pan-European survey which reveals some worrying trends in public attitudes towards the use of antibiotics. The results indicate that citizens need more information on the correct use of antibiotics. The second document is a progress report, on the 2002 Council Recommendation on the prudent use of antibiotics. "Antibiotics brought about a revolution in medicine: thanks to them we can treat bacterial infections and save lives. However, the over-use of antibiotics by people and animals has led to the emergence of antibiotic resistant organisms", said John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health & Consumer Policy. The commissioner added: "This means that misuse of antibiotics undermines their effectiveness in the longer term and that we must continue to raise awareness amongst our citizens about the risks of improper use of antibiotics".

Stockholm - European green capital 2010



Traditionally known as 'The Venice of the North', Stockholm has added more fame to its name. Throughout 2010, Sweden's capital will be celebrated as Europe's first Green Capital. Clear and effective measures towards reducing noise pollution; a protection plan setting new standards for cleaner water; an innovative integrated waste system; 95 % of the population living less than 300 metres from green areas. These are just some of the reasons why Stockholm was the first city to be awarded the European Green Capital title.

Commission opens public debate on future EU agricultural policy

Changes in the Common Agricultural Policy must take into consideration changes resulting from EU enlargement

On April 12, 2010, the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Dacian Ciolos, opened a public debate in Brussels on the Common Agricultural Policy in the next seven-year budget period, which starts in 2014. Ciolos announced that the Commission will propose future legislative reforms some time in the middle of next year.

In his welcome speech, Ciolos stated that the Common Agricultural Policy is not only a matter for agricultural experts, but something that affects everyone in Europe.

"I want to hear the reactions and opinions not only of farmers, but also of ecologists, environmentalists, consumers and animal rights activists," Ciolos said. "We should expand this discussion as much as possible. It is in the interest of society as a whole to have this common policy, and its benefits are manifest through quality of food, land management and protection of the environment, so citizens have a right to express their views on this matter as well."

There is a discrepancy in views about European farm subsidies as a portion of the



Dacian Ciolos

budget. In 2007, the Commission proposed that the top agricultural incentive should be €300,000 per annum, but this was rejected, particularly in countries where farms cover large areas, such as Germany and the United Kingdom.

As a component of the budget, agriculture has declined steadily since the beginning of the Common Agricultural Policy. In 1985, this segment amounted to 85 per cent of the total budget, and in 2013, it is expected to drop to 39.3 per cent. At the present time, about €55 billion a year is allocated to the agricultural sector, which represents slightly more than 40

per cent of the EU annual budget, or about €100 per capita.

To many small farmers in Europe, this amount is barely sufficient to survive, but larger, commercial farms, annually receive more than €500,000, and this has caused widespread dissatisfaction.

Ciolos said that changes in the Common Agricultural Policy must take into account changes which have resulted from EU Enlargement.

When drawing up the document, which is due to be presented in mid 2011 and which will include legislative proposals, the Commission will take into account the contribution of public debate participants.



As a component of the EU budget, agriculture has declined steadily

Europe 2020: Commission proposes new economic strategy in Europe

In order to meet its targets, the Europe 2020 agenda consists of a series of flagship initiatives



European Commission headquarters in Bruxelles

The European Commission launched on 3 March the Europe 2020 strategy to provide an exit from the economic crisis and to prepare the EU economy for the next decade.

The Europe 2020 strategy rests on three interlocking and mutually reinforcing priority areas: smart growth (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society), sustainable growth (making our production more resource efficient while boosting our competitiveness) and inclusive growth (raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty). “Europe 2020 is about what we need to do today and tomorrow to get the EU economy back on track,” stated President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso. “The crisis has exposed fundamental issues and unsustainable trends that we can not ignore any longer. We must decisively tackle our weaknesses and exploit our many strengths. We need to build a new economic model based on knowledge, low-carbon economy and high employment levels. This battle

requires mobilisation of all actors across Europe,” Barroso added.

In order to meet its targets, the Europe 2020 agenda consists of a series of flagship initiatives.

Innovation union - refocusing R&D and innovation policy on major challenges, while closing the gap between science and market to turn inventions into products. As an example, the Community Patent could save companies € 289 million each year.

Youth on the move - enhancing the quality and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education system by promoting student and young professional mobility. As a concrete action, vacancies in all Member States should be more accessible throughout Europe and professional qualifications and experience properly recognised.

A digital agenda for Europe - delivering sustainable economic and social benefits from a Digital Single Market based on ultra fast internet. All Europeans

should have access to high speed internet by 2013.

Resource-efficient Europe - supporting the shift towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy. Europe should stick to its 2020 targets in terms of energy production, efficiency and consumption. This would result in €60 billion less in oil and gas imports by 2020.

An industrial policy for green growth – helping the EU's industrial base to be competitive in the post-crisis world, promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills. This would create millions of new jobs;

An agenda for new skills and jobs – creating the conditions for modernising labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels and ensuring the sustainability of our social models, while baby-boomers retire; and the European platform against poverty - ensuring economic, social and territorial cohesion by helping the poor and socially excluded and enabling them to play an active part in society

News from EU

European heritage label



House of Robert Schuman

The European Commission has proposed to establish the 'European Heritage Label' as an EU-wide initiative. The aim of the Label is to highlight sites that celebrate and symbolize European integration, ideals and history. The Commission's proposal builds on a 2006 intergovernmental project involving 17 Member States. Sixty-four sites have received the label under the existing scheme, based on selections by individual Member States. They range from the house of Robert Schuman, the French statesman who was one of the founding fathers of the EU, to the Gdansk Shipyards in Poland, birthplace of Solidarność, the first independent trade union in a Warsaw Pact country. The proposed Decision to establish the Label will be submitted to the EU's Council of Ministers and the European Parliament for adoption and could come into effect in 2011 or 2012.

EU to provide 45,000 micro-loans to unemployed and small entrepreneurs

EU Employment and Social Affairs Ministers have agreed on a new facility to provide loans to people who have lost their jobs and want to start or further develop their own small business. The European Microfinance Facility will have a starting budget of €100 million which could leverage more than €500 million in cooperation with international financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group. The initiative is part of the EU's response to the crisis and is especially targeted at people who cannot normally obtain credit because of the economic crisis and the current lack of credit supply.

Signing ceremony of protocol for technical cooperation programme between European Central Bank, Delegation of EU to BiH and Central Bank of BiH takes place

During the next 18 months, BiH Central Bank staff will cooperate closely with experts from the ECB as well as with experts from national central banks of the Eurosystem

A protocol for the technical cooperation programme between the European Central Bank (ECB), the Delegation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CBBH) was signed on 15 March at the CBBH facility in Sarajevo. The tripartite protocol for the technical cooperation programme, "Implementation of the ECB/Eurosystem recommendations for the Central Bank of BiH", was signed by ECB Executive Board Member Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell, Head of the EU Delegation to BiH Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, and Governor of the Central Bank of BiH Kemal Kozarić.

The 18-month programme, which started on 1 April 2010, aims to support the Central Bank of BiH in its efforts to implement the central banking standards of the European Union in preparation for Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession to the EU.

Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell pointed out that the aspiration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the European Union and



The Protocol was signed by Kemal Kozarić, Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell and Dimitris Kourkoulas

its status as a potential EU candidate country entail the need to adapt to EU rules and standards. "Once the overall conditions are met and Bosnia and Herzegovina joins the European Union, the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina will join the European System of Central Banks," said Mrs. Tumpel-Gugerell, adding that "continuous efforts towards compliance are very important."

The EU has allocated €1 million to this programme

from its Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The programme will cover six different areas, the first three of which represent the continuation of recommendations from the 2007 programme. These areas include statistics, economic analysis and research, financial stability, harmonisation of legislation with the EU, coordination of integration with the EU, and improvement of the IT services at the Central Bank of BiH.

During the next 18 months, staff at the Central Bank of BiH will work closely with experts from the ECB as well as with experts from national central banks of the Eurosystem, towards compliance goals.

Dimitris Kourkoulas noted that the Central Bank of BiH is one of the strongest institutions in the country and that it has a good reputation and is a pillar of the country's monetary stability. "Preparation for future membership of the Central Bank of BiH in the EU central banking community is a significant challenge. It will mobilise experts from the national central banks of

Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria and Slovenia to work with their BiH colleagues and help them to move closer to European central banking standards," Ambassador Kourkoulas said. "All these efforts will be managed by the European Central Bank."

This new project is a continuation of the needs assessment programme of the Central Bank of BiH, which was implemented in 2007 by the European Central Bank, with the financial support of the European Commission. Kemal Kozarić said that at the time, an assessment of conditions was made in seven areas of the BiH Central Bank's operations and that benchmarking with the European system of Central Banks' standards was conducted. The Central Bank of BiH received a Road Map with recommended steps to be implemented in order to harmonize its activities with European standards. As Governor Kozarić stressed, the Central Bank of BiH has managed to implement some of the recommendations using its own capacities.



The EU has allocated €1 million to this programme

Eurostat Director Pieter Everaers: BiH needs to prepare Census Law as soon as possible

Delays in approval of the Law on Population and Household Census may exclude Bosnia and Herzegovina from the 2011 census in Europe

Mr Pieter Everaers, Director of External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators at Eurostat, and Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, met on 25 March 2010 at the BiH Parliament building in order to clarify outstanding census issues in cooperation with the ad hoc commission for Preparing the Law on Population and Household Census and the Joint Committee on European Integration.

Mr Everaers highlighted the European and international standards guiding the census organisation. All the EU member states, candidates and potential candidate countries will take part in the next decennial census in 2011. This also applies to potential candidate countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina. EU and other

international standards should be applied to guarantee the comparability and credibility of the census results.

The officials discussed the issues of ethnicity, language and religion in the census questionnaire, as well as the absentee census for BiH citizens living abroad.

According to EU standards, questions about ethnicity, language and religion are not obligatory and, if included, the answers should be optional.

Director Everaers advised the Members of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly to reach agreement on the Census as soon as possible in order to be able to begin preparations for a pilot census in 2010. He particularly stressed that delays in approval of the Law may exclude Bosnia and Herzegovina from the 2011 census round in Europe and put its European integration



Pieter Everaers

process at risk.

Pieter Everaers is the highest responsible statistics official in the European Commission and is in charge of cooperation on statistics with EU candidates and pre-candidate countries in the Western Balkans. He represents the European Commission and Eurostat at

international statistics meetings with several organisations such as the UN and the OECD. He has been involved in census preparations and census taking throughout his career. Currently, he is also engaged in census preparation monitoring in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Official Launch of Twinning Project Assistance to Ministries in Effectively Managing Migration

This project is part of broader EU assistance in support of immigration and asylum policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Suppression of illegal activities related to human trafficking in accordance with EU standards, is the goal of the Twinning project, "Assistance to the Ministry of Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and other competent authorities, in effective migration management".

The European Union has provided €750,000 for this project from IPA funds, while the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Danish Immigration Service have provided qualified and experienced staff

for implementation, supported by experts from the Czech Republic, Finland and Slovakia.

The project was officially launched at a press conference on 4 March 2010 in Sarajevo. It will run for 18 months and the main beneficiaries are the BiH Ministry of Security, together with its agencies, SIPA, the Border Police and the Service for Foreigner Affairs, as well as the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees.

The Head of Operations at the EU Delegation to BiH, Boris Iaročević, explained that "the EU has also pro-

vided relevant Ministries with servers, computers, fingerprint scanners and vehicles (for the Witness Protection Unit)."

"We are preparing delivery of 33 biometric passport readers to a number of Border Crossings and the upgrading of the Migration Information System," Iaročević said, adding that "total assistance of about €7 million is aimed at capacity building to enable BiH institutions to respond successfully to the growing challenges in their respective areas of responsibility."

Dutch Ambassador Sweder Van Voorst tot Voorst and

Danish Ambassador Kirsten Geelan stressed that the assistance provided is intended to help BiH institutions to further develop and strengthen their capacities.

"Twinning" is an instrument used in the context of EU assistance for EU candidate countries to strengthen their administrative and institutional capacity in preparation for membership of the European Union. The aid is also intended to help the candidates adapt their administrative structures in order to implement the *aquis communautaire* and take on the obligations entailed by future membership.

Klobuk border crossing officially opened

The Klobuk border crossing between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro was officially opened on 10 March 2010. Covering a total of 22,500 square metres, the new European standard facilities were built with EU granted funds amounting to €2.6 million. The crossing has seven car lanes,



Kemal Čaušević, Dimitris Kourkoulas and Sadik Ahmetović

two for trucks, four for passenger vehicles and one for extra-large transport, and is designed to accommodate officers of the BiH Border Police, and the BiH Indirect Taxation Authority and Inspection Service.

The new border crossing was formally opened by the Head of the EU Delegation to BiH Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, BiH Minister of Security Sadik Ahmetović, Director of the BiH Indirect Taxation Authority Kemal Causević, and BiH Border Police Director Vinko Dumančić.

The Klobuk border crossing is located around 20 km from Trebinje, BiH, going towards Niksić, Montenegro. Its construction is part of broader EU assistance within the Integrated Border Management Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina, worth a total of €34.5 million.

EU Grants for State Court and State Prosecutor Office Registry

The European Union has recently granted €3 million to the Registry for Section I for War Crimes, and Section II for Organised Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption of the Criminal and Appellate Divisions of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the Special Department for War Crimes and the Special Department for Organised Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The overall aim of the grant is to assist local authorities in developing an effective, independent and efficient judiciary system at the state level for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The grant is the third in a series of EU grants to the Registry for the operations of the state court and state prosecutor's office, and the total amount granted exceeds €8 million.



First Cidi educational seminar

The Cidi project held its first educational seminar with the topic "Capacity building of civil society dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina" for state and entity government representatives, as well as Brcko District representatives, on 30 March 2010 in Sarajevo.

The project is to last for two years and will be financed

by the EU. This was the first in a series of seminars which will be organized over the next 18 months by the Cidi project.

During the seminar, representatives of the government institutions had an opportunity to deepen their knowledge about issues which are currently affecting dialogue policy in BiH, and the challenges and opportunities of organizing dialogue among civil society organisations.

The www.cidi.ba website offers further information about the aims of the Cidi project, policy dialogue and project activities, as well as a database of documents and relevant publications, photos, video and training materials, and information about the project's main beneficiaries.



EU Marks

International Women's Day

"International Women's Day provides a great opportunity for each one of us to reflect on our responsibility for working towards the eradication of gender inequality," stated the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, on the occasion of International Women's Day, on 8 March.

The international community has clear legal norms on prohibiting discrimination and on active promotion of gender equality and women's position in society. These norms are accepted in all countries of the world as part of human rights law. The international community is also equipped with bodies that effectively monitor implementation of women's rights. However, in many countries this implementation has been quite slow.

According to a new 10-country study on women's health and domestic violence conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO), it appears that between 15% and 71% of women report physical or sexual violence by a husband or partner. Between 4% and 12% of women report being physically abused during pregnancy. Every year, about 5,000 women are murdered worldwide by family members in the name of "honour".

Under these conditions, women's rights mechanisms remain under-exploited, and the possibility for individual victims to submit complaints, to the UN for example, is unknown to most women. These are key challenges for EU human rights policy in third world countries.

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European union home page: www.europa.eu

The EU's actions in BiH web page: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/bosnia_herzegovina/index.htm

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