



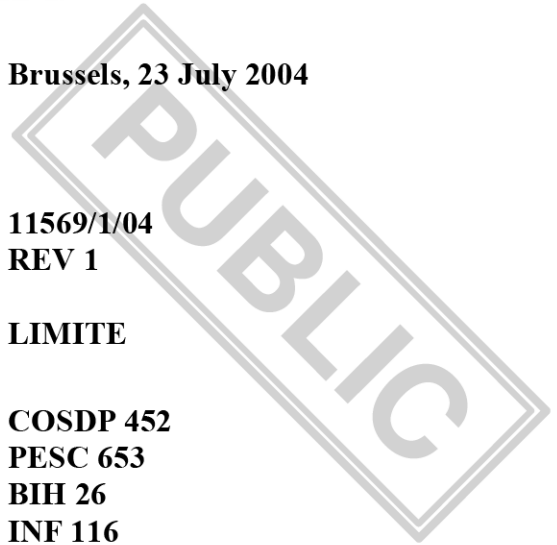
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Subject : ESDP Mission, including a Military Component, in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(BiH) - Updated Public Master Messages

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Delegations will find attached Updated Master Messages on the ALTHEA Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), as agreed by the Political and Security Committee on 20 July 2004.

# ESDP MISSION, INCLUDING A MILITARY COMPONENT, IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

## Updated Public Master Messages

### Core Master Messages

- The EU has decided to conduct a military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) - Operation ALTHEA.
- This follows the decision by NATO to conclude its successful SFOR-operation and the adoption by the UN Security Council of resolution 1551 welcoming the EU's intention to launch an operation.
- The aim is to deploy by the end of the year a robust force (EUFOR) - starting at the same force levels as SFOR - with a Chapter VII mission to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton/Paris Agreement and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in BiH.
- The EU operation will be part of a coherent EU approach. It will add in a significant way to the EU's political engagement, its assistance programmes and its ongoing police and monitoring missions with a view to helping BiH make further progress towards European integration in the context of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

### **A. The Mission**

1. The Council of the European Union decided on 12 July 2004 to conduct a military operation in BiH in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).
2. This military operation, code-named ALTHEA, will be launched by the end of the year. It will end on a date to be decided by the Council in contact with the BiH authorities.

3. The key objectives of ALTHEA are:
  - a) to provide deterrence, continued compliance with the responsibility to fulfil the role specified in Annexes 1A and 2 of the Dayton/Paris Agreement (General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH); and
  - b) to contribute to a safe and secure environment in BiH, in line with its mandate, required to achieve core tasks in the OHR's Mission Implementation Plan and the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP).
4. EUFOR - ALTHEA will be both robust and capable. It will start at the same force levels as SFOR - around 7,000 troops. In fact, over 80 per cent of SFOR soldiers are already from EU Member States.
5. EUFOR will have full authority, exercised through its force commander, in order to fulfil the role specified in Annexes 1-A and 2 of the Dayton/Paris Agreement to monitor implementation of military aspects of the Agreement, and to assess and address non-compliance by the Parties.
6. Admiral Rainer FEIST, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander for Europe (D-SACEUR), has been appointed EU Operation Commander. Major General A. David LEAKEY (UK) has been appointed EU Force Commander.
7. Under the responsibility of the Council, the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) will exercise the political control and strategic direction of the operation.
8. The entire chain of command of the EU Force will be under the political control and strategic direction of the EU throughout the EU military operation. Within this framework the EU Operation Commander will report on the conduct of the operation to EU bodies.

#### **B. UNSC Resolution**

9. United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution No 1551/2004, adopted unanimously on 9 July 2004, welcomed the EU's intention to launch an EU mission in BiH, including a military component, from December 2004.

10. The resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

### **C. EU - NATO Relations**

11. The EU military operation will be carried out with recourse to NATO assets and capabilities, under the "Berlin Plus" arrangements.

12. On 28 June 2004, NATO decided to conclude its SFOR operation in BiH by the end of this year. NATO welcomed the readiness of the European Union to deploy a new and distinct UN-mandated Chapter VII mission in the country.

13. The ALTHEA operation has been prepared in close consultation between the EU and NATO. NATO will continue to play a role in BiH to assist the local authorities in defence reform and carry out some operational tasks. Some important issues, such as catching war criminals, are relevant tasks for both the EU and NATO. The EUFOR headquarters will, as was the case with SFOR, be located at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, with the EU and NATO working side by side.

### **D. EU Co-ordination**

14. The operation will be part of a closely co-ordinated EU presence in BiH. The Council shall ensure the maximum coherence and effectiveness of the EU effort in BiH. The EU Special Representative will promote overall EU political co-ordination in BiH.

### **E. EU and BiH**

15. The primary responsibility for the further successful implementation of the Peace Agreement lies with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves.

16. The continued willingness of the international community and major donors to assume the political, military and economic burden of implementation and reconstruction efforts will be determined by the compliance and active participation by all the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the Peace Agreement and rebuilding a civil society, in particular in full co-operation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), in strengthening joint institutions which foster the building of a fully functioning self-sustaining state, able to integrate itself into the European structures and in facilitating returns of refugees and displaced persons.
17. The EU is stepping up its engagement for peace and stability in BiH. The Dayton/Paris Accords remain in force as the basis for peace and stability in BiH.
18. In the short term, continued progress is required in the implementation of the Dayton/Paris Accords, as highlighted in the OHR's Mission Implementation Plan (MIP), and the opening of negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) following the fulfilment of the required conditions.
19. In the medium term, the completion of the MIP and the signing of an SAA should be achieved.
20. The long term objective is a stable, viable, peaceful and multiethnic BiH, co-operating peacefully with its neighbours and irreversibly on track towards EU membership.
21. The EU-led military operation will be part of a comprehensive support package. This package is designed to assist the country as it moves from Dayton implementation to integration into European structures and ultimate membership into the European Union. There is a clear framework for the journey towards the EU: the Stabilisation and Association Process. The EU will make use of all its policy instruments in order to help BiH to make progress within that process.

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