



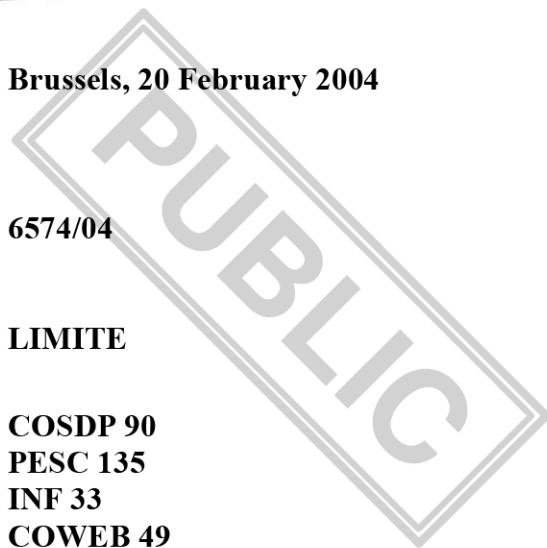
**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 February 2004**

**6574/04**

**LIMITE**

**COSDP 90  
PESC 135  
INF 33  
COWEB 49**



**NOTE**

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From : Secretariat  
To : Delegations  
No. prev. doc. : 6260/2/04 REV 2 COSDP 66 PESC 116 INF 29 COWEB 42

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Subject : Initial Public Master Messages on possible ESDP mission, including a military component, in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Delegations will find attached the Initial Public Master Messages on possible ESDP mission, including a military component, in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), as agreed by the Political and Security Committee in its meeting on 19 February 2004.

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

**Initial Public Master Messages**

**I. CORE MESSAGES**

- The international community remains committed to helping BiH move closer to Euro-Atlantic structures.
- The international community, notably the EU and NATO, have succeeded in bringing greater stability to BiH.
- The proposed EU-led mission will take on a new type of security role, tying in with ongoing activities through other EU instruments and by other international organisations.
- The international community - EU, NATO, UN, OSCE and others - will coordinate their activities closely.

**II. MASTER MESSAGES FOR USE TOWARDS BiH AUDIENCES**

1. The international community remains committed to helping BiH move closer to Euro-Atlantic structures.
2. The EU, in addition to its longstanding commitment to BiH, notably through the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and its considerable assistance programmes as well as through the police mission EUPM, is now ready to lead a military mission in BiH after NATO has terminated SFOR this year. While no formal decisions have yet been taken, by either the EU or NATO, we have begun discussions on the tasks an EU force after SFOR would carry out.
3. The EU is also prepared to continue and, if required, increase its responsibility regarding civilian instruments further to assist the stabilisation and normalisation of the Bosnian society.

4. The international community, notably the EU and NATO, have succeeded in bringing greater stability to BiH. We see a case for continuing the international presence for the following reasons: to continue to provide a safe and secure environment; to underline the EU's long-term commitment to BiH's integration; and to assist in the fight against international and organised crime and in the development of the rule of law. BiH's stability is essential for further movement towards the EU and the envisaged mission will help BiH move down that path, building on the substantial progress made since the Paris/Dayton Peace Agreement.
5. The EU Force will aim to build on the excellent work done by NATO through IFOR/SFOR. The transition will be smooth – maximum continuity (some 80% of the troops in SFOR today are European).
6. Any EU deployment would be tailored to the needs of BiH and its citizens, in consultation with BiH authorities. The ultimate goal is to ensure effective local ownership.
7. Any EU deployment would have a robust mandate (from the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter) and military resources to match, using NATO assets and capabilities.
8. In addition, the proposed EU-led mission will take on a new type of security role, tying in with ongoing activities through other EU instruments and by other international organisations.
9. Any EU mission would deploy following discussions and in line with established agreements that exist between the EU and NATO.
10. The international community - EU, NATO, UN, OSCE and others - will coordinate their activities closely.
11. The EU and the US are in full agreement on the need for a co-operative and concerted approach towards BiH. That is for us essential. Our experience in BiH shows that we are most effective when we are united.

12. That is why discussions with NATO allies including the US as well as the BiH authorities are an essential part of preparing for a mission.

### **III. DETAILED MASTER MESSAGES<sup>1</sup>**

#### **A. The mission in prospect**

1. The EU has expressed (since the December 2002 Copenhagen European Council) its willingness to lead a military mission in BiH following SFOR. The aim of this EU mission is twofold:
  - to continue the implementation of the Paris/Dayton Peace Agreement,
  - to support the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP).
2. The process towards this new mission will be led in concertation with the EU's partners and with their support. It involves consultations with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, High Representative/EU Special Representative Lord Ashdown, NATO and other international players including the United States.
3. The European Council (December 2003) has now confirmed the EU's readiness for an ESDP-mission in BiH, including a military component based on the agreed "Berlin Plus" arrangements between the EU and NATO. It has welcomed NATO's readiness to start consultations with the EU.
4. The envisaged EU-led mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be launched in close co-operation with NATO. The EU and NATO are developing their strategic partnership in crisis management and are working in close co-operation in the security affairs of the region. The EU-led mission would take place in the context of this EU-NATO partnership. It would be the fifth ESDP mission launched by the EU as part of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), all but one in the Western Balkans.

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<sup>1</sup> For use primarily towards EU and international audiences.

5. There will be continuity between the two operations. The majority of troops participating in SFOR are from EU countries.
6. The EU is already deeply engaged in co-operation with BiH in many sectors including security. It has a substantial police mission of over 500 international police officers (EUPM) as well as a monitoring mission on the ground (EUMM). It is called upon further to enhance its commitment to BiH by assuming increased security responsibilities with the SFOR take-over. The military engagement would support the EU's policy and the already substantial EC assistance to the country. The EU firmly supports the work of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, who is also the EU Special Representative in the country.

**B. The security context in BiH**

7. BiH has made considerable progress in stabilisation since the conflict of the 1990s was brought to an end. Nevertheless, the country is still in the process of establishing a self-sustaining state; thus the continuing need for an international security presence -- even if downsized -- in which the EU would shoulder increased responsibility
8. The General Framework Agreement for Peace (Paris/Dayton Peace Agreement) will remain the political and legal framework for an EU-led mission in BiH.
9. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU would simultaneously deploy military, police and other civilian instruments in pursuit of a single objective – the continued stabilisation and transformation of a post conflict society into one which in due course could become part of European integration.
10. A possible EU-led military mission in BiH would facilitate the efforts of the BiH authorities to establish a secure environment by themselves

### **C. The EU and BiH**

11. The future of the Western Balkans is within the European Union. The Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) is the framework for the European course of the Western Balkans countries. The EU is determined to do its utmost to support the efforts of the countries of the region in moving closer to the Union. Available instruments will be geared towards this objective. The EU is strongly committed to the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as stated by the European Council at Feira in 2000 and at Thessaloniki in June 2003.
12. The future for Bosnia and Herzegovina lies in a well functioning and stable multicultural State, within its internationally recognised borders, moving towards European integration. A State based on democracy, rule of law, and prosperity; a State able to bring justice and job opportunities to all its citizens equally.
13. In December 2003, the EU Council welcomed the European Commission's report on the preparedness of BiH to negotiate a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU. It endorsed the Commission's assessment that BiH had made important progress in stabilisation, but still suffered from significant weaknesses. The Council called upon the government of BiH to make significant progress by summer 2004 in the areas identified by the Commission as priorities for action.
14. The EU encourages the authorities of BiH to work jointly, rapidly and intently on carrying out all the necessary Stabilisation and Association Process reforms in order for BiH to move from stabilisation to association. In this respect, the EU supports the efforts of the HR/EUSR Lord Ashdown aiming at accelerating the peace reform.
15. Key reform objectives include the adoption of European standards for rule of law, more effective governance and better functioning of state institutions, the creation of a fully functioning single economic space, fight against organised crime and compliance with international obligations including Paris/Dayton provisions and full cooperation with ICTY.

16. Full co-operation with ICTY has been identified by the EU Council as an essential element of the EU's Stabilisation and Association process. Failure to co-operate fully with ICTY would jeopardise further movement towards the EU. The EU will continue to press for such co-operation.
  
17. Through the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) launched in January 2003, the EU seeks, in line with the general objectives of the Paris/Dayton Agreement, to establish sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership in accordance with best European and international practice, through monitoring, mentoring and inspection activities, complemented by the CARDS Police institution-building project.
  
18. Some € 2.5 billion of European Community funds have been committed for BiH since 1991 to dealing with conflict and post-conflict development in BiH(excluding bilateral aid from Member States, estimated at over € 1.8 billion for the period 1996-2001). From 1991 to 2000, EC assistance (ECHO, PHARE, Obnova) focused on refugee return programmes and reconstruction. From 2001 focus has shifted towards institutional capacity-building and economic development in accordance with the goals of the Stabilisation and Association Process -- in short the preparation for further movement towards the EU.
  
19. The EU will continue to work with international partners, including the Dayton partners. The Peace Implementation Council (PIC) will continue to play an important role.

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