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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	Working Party on the Western Balkans region
On:	26 May 2015
To:	Political and Security Committee

Subject:	European Union Special Representatives - Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for a Council Decision extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina
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1. At its meetings on 21 and 26 May 2015, the Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB) discussed the Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for a Council Decision extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (doc. 8829/15 of 15 May 2015), with the focus on Articles 2 and 3 of the Proposal.
2. The EEAS introduced the Proposal highlighting strong reasons for the continued presence of the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EEAS noted that, unless extended, the current mandate of the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina will expire on 30 June 2015.
3. The Working Party expressed support to the Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for a Council Decision extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 31 October 2015, without a prejudice to the discussion on the financial, legal and institutional aspects of the Proposal in RELEX.

4. Delegations noted their expectation that the proposed "technical" extension of the Mandate until 31 October 2015 will be followed by a "regular" extension of the Mandate, taking into account the results of the horizontal review of the EUSRs, as well as a need for a strong EUSR mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina to underpin the long-term nature of the commitment by the European Union to the country.
 5. The Working Party underlined the importance of effective implementation of the communication strategy as part of the of the EUSR's efforts to enable success of the EU's renewed approach towards BiH and expressed support for continued strong engagement of the EUSR in this regard.
 6. Recalling the Council Decision of 21 April 2015 concluding the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Working party underlined the need for BiH to uphold its commitments and obligations, including those relating to the adaptation of the forthcoming Stabilisation and Association Agreement, and expects active engagement of the EUSR/EUD in this regard.
 7. The Working Party invites the Political and Security Committee to endorse this Outcome of Proceedings.
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