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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	27 May 2015
To:	Political and Security Committee

Subject:	European Union Special Representatives - Mandate Implementation report of the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1 September 2014 to 28 February 2015)
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1. At its meetings on 11, 21 and 26 May 2015 the Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB) discussed the Mandate Implementation Report of the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period between 1 September 2014 to 28 February 2015, based on a presentation by the EEAS.
2. The EEAS highlighted the key elements of the report, summarising the main activities of the EUSR during the reporting period. The EEAS noted the change of atmosphere in BiH in the context of the EU's renewed approach and highlighted first positive signs of progress. Many underlying challenges, however, remain. These will need to be tackled without delay, starting with the development and implementation of the "initial reform agenda" in accordance with Council Conclusions of 15 December 2014 and 16 March 2015. The European Commission provided readout of the visit of Commissioner Hahn to Sarajevo on 8 May 2015 aimed at engaging BiH leadership on the preparation of the "initial reform agenda".

3. The Working Party expressed its appreciation for the work done by the EUSR Sørensen and his office during the implementation of his mandate and during the interim period. The Working Party welcomed the arrival of EUSR/HoD Wigemark to BiH and expressed support for his efforts on the ground.
4. The Working Party welcomed the latest "retreat" with BiH government representatives at State and entity level organised on 10 and 11 May 2015 by the EUSR/EUDEL Sarajevo, together with the European Commission and relevant International Financial Institutions. The Working Party expressed readiness to support and to follow closely the related reform processes and activities and wishes to be regularly informed on this matter. Constructive engagement by BiH authorities in this regard is crucial. The Working Party also stressed the need to ensure effective coordination mechanism as soon as possible.
5. The Working Party underlined the importance of an effective communication strategy to enable the 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 take note of the Mandate Implementation Report of the EUSR in BiH.
