



Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu,  
OSSE i drugim medjunarodnim organizacijama, B E C  
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations  
Office at Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A

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**Statement by  
Edin Dilberović, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE  
on the signature of an SAA and Interim Agreement with EU**

**Permanent Council Meeting  
Vienna, 19 June 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

In Luxemburg on 16 June 2008 Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement and an Interim Agreement with European Union. Bosnia and Herzegovina was the last, but I hope not the least country for the EU perspective to sign SAA and by this act circle of contracted relations among EU and all countries of Western Balkan was closed.

For me one of the most famous statements was one of a German refugee from East Germany about life in West. He said *“There, in East, you are not able to say anything, here in West you are free to say what ever you want but nobody listening”*. Luckily somebody in Brussels and in the EU is listening.

For the EU this was one of the signatures in accomplished agenda in Western Balkan, for us it was victory filled with pride, dignity and optimism. Only 12 years after the most devastating war on European soil after Second World War, after genocide in Srebrenica, 200.000 killed people, more than 1.5 million refugees and displaced persons, completely destroyed infrastructure and economy equal to zero, my country, Bosnia and Herzegovina was able on 16 June 2008 to sign a contract with the EU. This is what I call achievement.

This was possible only because of the help of our friends in international community and because sincere EU obligations towards Western Balkan and of course because of EU and NATO reform agenda which was priority of all post-war governments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mostly important – this was possible because of truly and sincere pro-EU attitude of the waste majority of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

So much about euphoria, now let us go back to reality. This signature does not mean – job is done. Real work and reforms are now ahead of us. I hope that this positive attitude among Bosnian citizens will be smartly used by our politicians to fulfil all our obligations towards gaining candidate status.

On the end Mr. Chairman, allow me to partly quote what was said by EU representatives after signing ceremony with Bosnia and Herzegovina in Luxemburg – *Bosnia and Herzegovina will leave the past behind and look towards the future*. I could not agree more, but I just want to add something - we will use past and history not more or less than any other EU member state. Even for us in Western Balkan, this is more than enough.

Thank you Mr. Chairman