



**Statement by
H.E. Tomislav Leko, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the
OSCE on Srebrenica,
to the 960th Meeting of the Permanent Council
Vienna, 11 July 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

Today we mark the sad 18th anniversary since the genocide in Srebrenica has occurred.

It is yet another grievous Commemoration of the atrocity that took away lives of more than 8000 innocent Muslim men and boys. The perpetrators buried them in mass graves.

Though 18 years have passed since, there are still a number of unidentified victims. In this commemorative year another 409 newly identified victims will be buried in a mass burial ceremony, as a result of ICMP's forensic expert work on trying to identify the remains of Srebrenica massacre's victims. Their families, mostly mothers, women and sisters will send off their beloved sons, husbands and brothers to the last rest and long awaited peace.

Totally, in the past 18 years 6.065 victims have been identified and buried. People from across Bosnia and Herzegovina are gathering today in Srebrenica at the Memorial Center of Potocari for the central commemoration and to pay their tribute and honor to the innocent victims of the worst post World War II crime on European soil.

The Commemoration is marked as the day of pain and mourning, not only for those who lost their loved ones, but for all. It is a day of remembrance and warning that such crime never happen again.

Inspite of the fact that crimes and atrocities committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina have left an open wound on our country, we in Bosnia and Herzegovina have to turn round to the future, in order to reconcile and develop a good perspective for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

October 2012 local elections in the municipality of Srebrenica unfolded well with the freely elected political representatives, who expressed their readiness to work together for the future and wellbeing of the citizens of Srebrenica. We believe that this is a very hopeful sign of perspective and sustain future for the place that has seen not long ago one of the worst crimes in the modern history.

I would like to mention here a valuable support of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina that helped facilitating Srebrenica electoral process.



*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
in Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

The OSCE Srebrenica field office was and still is fully committed to extend its support to the people in and around Srebrenica aimed at reconciliation and building common future.

I would like to express our gratitude to the delegation of EU and the countries that have aligned with the EU Statement on the commemoration of Srebrenica, as well as delegations of USA and Russian Federation for their interventions and their sympathies for Srebrenica victims and their respective families.

In conclusion I would like to underline once again that Bosnia and Herzegovina stays committed to its European perspective and is convinced that only joint endeavors of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina can contribute to building of a functional multi-national, multi-cultural, multi-religious and, above all, tolerant state, as a member of the European family.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman