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**FAREWELL ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR EDIN DILBEROVIC,  
HEAD OF PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE OSCE**

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It is a privilege and honour to listen the speech about myself from Princess Maria-Pia, our Dean. Maria-Pia is not just our Dean, she is our institution. I learned a lot from her, I benefited a lot from discussions with her. Very open and sharp mind – this is combination which I like the most. Maria-Pia, thank you for everything and my special thanks for wonderful social events at your residence. I shall miss you a lot.

Mr. Chairman,

For all of us here, time to say goodbye will come. Today and now, it is my turn. I will definitely not use this opportunity and preach you about the OSCE, what we should do, what we were not able to do and similar boring stories. I will use this opportunity to share few thoughts with you.

I care a lot about this Organization, I like it, I think it is important and especially important international player in my country. From 1996, when I started to work in Ministry of Foreign Affairs until today I am constantly in touch with the OSCE except for two years when I was working with Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Organization is always around me, and believe it or not, I like that. And what I like the most is that this Organization was able to shift the centuries old important issue of territorial sovereignty to individual sovereignty. Each individual and his or her rights meters from Vancouver to Vladivostok. This is why OSCE is and will be important in the future. I am glad that OSCE will be in my portfolio again in my new post in Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sarajevo.

OSCE today is our reflection in mirror and we should not break the mirror because we do not like reflection. If we do not like reflection lets change hairstyle, make up, clothing, if needed why not even to perform plastic surgery. But it has to be our own decision, base on consensus and compromise, two important features of politics and diplomacy.

I know that sometimes I bother my colleagues with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and often about the recent past and war, always bearing in mind one old Bosnian proverb "*The greatest victory of all is to forgive your enemy*". One of my friends once told me that when Berlin wall fell down, each and every brick from that wall hit us directly into the head in Bosnia and Herzegovina. And he was right.

Thank God and thanks to our friends, especially thanks to citizens of my country, Bosnia and Herzegovina is now a part of European solution rather than European problem. And I am optimist, about future of European Union and optimist about Bosnia and Herzegovina in NATO and European Union in a near future.

We, in Bosnia and Herzegovina often say that when God closes all doors, He slightly opens one window. So there is always a way out. With the help of our friends and particularly with the OSCE help we found our way out. Now we are ready to help the others to find their way out all over the world from Ethiopia and Eritrea, East Timor, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and

Iraq. We do not want to share experience, as it is not good experience to share; only what we want is to help.

We have small group of Ambassadors from Western Balkan who some of our colleagues call Coffee Club. Sometimes I must admit that I preferred cafeteria rather than PC sessions. We can call it Coffee Club, but what matters is not coffee. What matters is person who you are drinking coffee with. So I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their company while drinking coffee with me here in Hofburg or Vienna.

Mr Chairman, dear Antti, I would like to thank you for your understanding, for your excellent sense of humour, for your calmness which has very often left me speechless, and believe me I am rarely speechless – I can speak a lot. I hope you will have nice rest after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. You deserved it.

Dear Mara, I am sorry that I will not be able to follow you at the PC but I promise that I will visit Vienna few times in next year. I do not doubt at all that you will be excellent Chairperson, second lady Chairperson in OSCE history. I wish you and your colleagues all the best in next year. Good luck, you will need it and you can count on my full support from Sarajevo.

My special tribute goes to our Secretary General, for his support and understanding. We are lucky to have Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, as our Secretary General and I mean it. While thanking to Secretary General I include all his staff, interpreters and others who make our meetings possible. Especially interpreters, they are the rare ones here who listen everything what is said in this room.

Last but not least my profound thanks also go to my own Delegation for their support and understanding. I am grateful to them for some of the most rewarding years in my career.

I will miss Vienna, as it is my second home, home for my family and my wife's family starting from XIX Century through education, Universities, than war in Bosnia and Herzegovina when this beautiful country and Austrian people open their homes and their hearths for Bosnian Citizens. We can never express enough gratitude to Austria. I am grateful that my both posting abroad were in Vienna and hope that the third one will be in Vienna again.

My first statement at the PC was in 2005 when Pady Eshdown, High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovian was in Hofburg. And I started with the joke about international community. So allow me Mr. Chairman to end my last statement also with the joke The first joke was long and good, today's one will be short and also good.

*Do you know who is a diplomat? Diplomat is a person who tels you to go to hell in a way such that you are egar to go to hell as soon as possible.*

So my dear friends and diplomats, I wish you all the best in your future life. Hope to see you again somewhere, sometimes, why not in Sarajevo. You are more than welcome. I already miss you all!

Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you Maria-Pia!