



Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Becu, ENGLISH only
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

Statement by
Edin Dilberovic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE
in response to the statement made by
H.E. Dr. Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia
to the Permanent Council Meeting
Vienna, 10 July 2007

It is our honour to welcome Dr. Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of Croatia to today's Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive and useful address.

First, I would like to point out that Bosnia and Herzegovina fully associates itself with the statement made by distinguished Ambassador of Portugal on behalf of the EU. However, we would like to add something in our national capacity.

As immediate neighbour of Croatia we are more than other countries present here aware of tremendous success that Croatia achieved in last ten years. Therefore, we commend overall positive developments in Croatia, reform processes and especially Croatian contribution in building international peace and stability, as stated by Prime Minister Sanader.

The special reason why we take floor today is – first, Croatia is our neighbour and friend, and second, very often we have been asked about our position on future of the OSCE Mission in Croatia. We would like to use this opportunity and express our position.

Of course that there are lot of questions that need to be answered and problems that need immediate actions in the region of Western Balkan.

We would like to stress that we believe that decision to open OSCE field mission, presence, centre, name it as you want, is freely expressed political decision by OSCE participating state which is Mission's host country. It was the case also with Croatia when decision to open OSCE Mission was made.

We are ready to accept the arguments that Prime Minister Sanader presented us today on future of OSCE Mission in Croatia. Bosnia and Herzegovina in this moment does not see any reason to be against this Croatian legitimate political request and future closure of the OSCE Mission in Croatia must be a success both for Croatia and for the OSCE as distinguished Ambassador of Portugal stated on behalf of the EU.

Our good relations with Croatia are established and can be developed through our bilateral relations. Same apply for the whole region of Western Balkan.

We have old saying in Bosnia and Herzegovina – *When God decides to punish someone first He takes his mind*. But we are smart enough to say that in our relations with Croatia or any other country in our region help of any international organization or institution is welcome, but is not necessary.

With that we wish you Prime Minister Sanader all the best in your endeavours and wish all the best for Croatian future.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.