



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Beču,  
OSSE i drugim međunarodnim 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 H.E. Igor Davidovic, Ambassador of Bosnia  
and Herzegovina at the 748<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council  
on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Madame Chairperson,

On behalf of the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina I would like to express a very warm welcome to His Excellency Karel Schwarzenberg, Foreign-Minister of the Czech Republic and to congratulate the EU Presidency.

Besides appreciation for the essential and remarkable Czech support Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoyed over the course of SAA negotiations, the list of the Czech Presidency priorities we can esteem as an additional effort to reinforce BiH-EU partnership.

Looking forward for membership in the EU, as prospective country candidate we salute regional approach marked in policies of integration of the Western Balkans within Czech Presidency priorities, as a constructive and well balanced way leading to profound stability in the region.

Understanding of an overall importance of the EU integrations in many ways keeps the processes of stabilization and association on the highest position among priorities on Bosnia and Herzegovina's agenda. Our commitment to support constructive and successful transformation of the Office of the High Representative to the Office of the European Union Special Representative is next demanding challenge for institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are ready to contribute the transition taking our part of responsibility the way equally meeting demands and for common benefit of all affected parts, as a next step leading to the EU membership candidate status.



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I take this opportunity as a convenient one to allow myself to advise and address attention of the Czech Presidency to the urgent need to accelerate visa liberalization process regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Current visa regime, despite certain liberalizations could be described as obnoxious one seriously damaging still high degree of public support to the European integrations, and is on behalf of some analysts already seen as a restriction of freedom of movement of persons, counterdictory to highest values of European ideas.

We wish the fruitful and a very remarkable term to the Czech Presidency, and to Minister Schwarzenberg, and distinguished Ambassador Pocuch as well.

Thank you