



NEWSLETTER MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Dear Readers,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs monthly Newsletter. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to strengthening connections with our citizens, partners, and friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina across the globe.

At the Ministry, we are steadfast in advancing our foreign policy strategic priorities, including Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration into the European Union and deepening Euro-Atlantic, regional cooperation and multilateralism. These objectives guide our work as we promote dialogue and contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity, both regionally and globally.

Through this Newsletter, we will share updates on our diplomatic engagements, success stories, and initiatives fostering economic growth, sustainability, and digital transformation. We will also highlight our international representation, collaboration with global partners, and efforts to strengthen ties with our diaspora.

This publication is not just a reflection of our progress — it is an open invitation to join us on our journey.

We look forward to staying connected with all of You.

Sincerely,

H.E. Elmedin Konaković
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina





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Happy November 25, Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina!

**Madrid**

On November 25th, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina celebrated the Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On this important day, we commemorate the adoption of the Resolution at the first session of the State Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ZAVNOBIH) held in Mrkonjic Grad in 1943, which marked the re-establishment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's statehood within its historical borders.

**Brussels**

Bosnia and Herzegovina's diplomatic and consular offices worldwide have marked the Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina by organizing formal receptions and events.

These gatherings brought together representatives of host countries, members of the Bosnian diaspora, and other distinguished guests to celebrate this significant national holiday.

**Bern**

Through these events, the diplomatic missions highlighted the historical importance of Statehood Day, fostered international cooperation, and showcased the cultural and historic heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the occasion of the Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we extend our congratulations to all citizens of our beloved country. Together we build a stronger Bosnia and Herzegovina!

**London****Berlin****Washington D.C.****Copenhagen****Zagreb**



NATO Partnership 360 Symposium 2024, titled 'Partnership in the Time of Hybrid Challenges,' held in Sarajevo

From October 22 to 24, 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted the NATO Partnership 360 Symposium 2024, titled 'Partnership in the Time of Hybrid Challenges,' held in Sarajevo. The symposium gathered a record-breaking 289 participants, both military and civilian representatives, from 28 NATO member countries and 24 partner countries and organizations. The organization of the symposium is a testament to the successful cooperation and partnership between NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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NATO Symposium in Sarajevo



CEI meeting in Tirana

Ministerial meeting of the Central European Initiative in Tirana

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, MSc. Josip Brkić participated in the CEI meeting, where he used an opportunity to share opinion on strengthening the role of CEI in regional cooperation, improving the European integration process, as well as dealing with current challenges.

Deputy Brkić referred to the process of European integration as the main goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina's foreign policy.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina Chairs the General Assembly of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the First Time in Its History

Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Netherlands and the country's permanent representative to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Almir Šahović, officially assumed the chairmanship of this major global multilateral gathering, which includes 193 member states.

Chairing the OPCW General Assembly presents an exceptional opportunity to further promote Bosnia and Herzegovina internationally as a reliable and constructive partner capable of contributing to the resolution of highly complex global issues.



OPCW General Assembly





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Bosnia and Herzegovina at the MED session „Security of the Mediterranean: The Role of the Western Balkans “

Minister Konaković referred to the extraordinary efforts and results achieved in the last few years in Bosnia and Herzegovina, stressing that BiH remains committed to implementing the necessary reforms with the hope that the long-awaited process of opening accession negotiations will begin soon.

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MED Dialogues



UNAOC in Portugal

The 10th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Cascais

In his address, Minister Konaković emphasized that the world is entering a critical phase and the decisions we make in the coming months will shape our future. He assessed that now more than ever, our choices – individual and collective – will have profound implications for the peace, security, and well-being of future generations.

You can watch Minister Konaković's address [here](#).

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Minister Konaković met with the OSCE Chairperson, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta Ian Borg

As part of the visit of the OSCE Chairman to our country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH marked the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Military and Political Aspects of Security, one of the most important documents establishing effective democratic control over institutions in the fields of defense and security.

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Meeting in Sarajevo



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Enhancing B&H's business connections with international markets

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina launched the upgraded **"Economic Diplomacy" platform**, designed to improve business communication, promote local economic capacities, and create new international business opportunities.

This digital tool supports domestic companies in connecting with international partners, the diaspora, and global business communities.

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Join today at <https://ekonomskadiplomacija.mvp.gov.ba> – because success comes with the right tools!



Opportunities for companies

By using the platform, companies from Bosnia and Herzegovina can:

- Quickly access information on business opportunities and key economic indicators;
- Enhance visibility on international markets and connect with potential partners;
- Leverage digital tools, such as databases on investments, export opportunities, and international tenders.

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Why register?

Registration opens the door to a wide range of business opportunities, enabling companies to plan and execute their activities more effectively. Supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic network, the platform strengthens business connections and promotes Bosnia and Herzegovina as an attractive destination for investment and trade.

The "Economic Diplomacy" platform is a significant step forward in advancing business communication and digital transformation. Its mission is clear: to open new markets for Bosnian companies, enhance their competitiveness, and actively contribute to Bosnia and Herzegovina's global economic integration.

High-Level WTO Delegation Visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

Between November 19 and 22, 2024, a high-level delegation from the World Trade Organization (WTO), led by Deputy Director-General H.E. Ambassador Zhang Xiangchen, conducted an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the visit, the WTO delegation held several meetings with representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions, discussing the next steps required to finalize the country's accession to full WTO membership. High-ranking officials explored the measures Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to implement to complete this significant milestone.

Deputy Director-General Xiangchen commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its substantial progress in recent years, particularly in concluding bilateral negotiations with numerous countries. He expressed optimism that the country could soon become the WTO's 167th member.

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The European Commission's 2024 Report - Progress in Chapter 31

The European Commission published The European Commission's 2024 report on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which evaluates the country's progress towards EU accession. In Chapter 31: Foreign, security, and defense policy, a positive assessment was given because Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved full alignment with EU CFSP positions and declarations, thus signaling its clear commitment to the EU path.

As the only chapter in which visible progress has been recorded, this recognition is a confirmation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to European integration and the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other competent institutions in harmonizing with EU CFSP, thus actively contributing to regional stability and international peace. By participating in the EU's crisis management missions and supporting the common security and defense policy, Bosnia and Herzegovina shows its responsibility towards international security principles and European values.

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Meeting in Sarajevo

Meeting with European Parliament delegation at the MFA BiH

Minister Konaković emphasized that the approval of the negotiation framework and deciding on the date of the first Intergovernmental Conference are crucial for Bosnia and Herzegovina and its further path towards EU membership, believing that our country will use this historic opportunity.

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Joint Declaration on Reaffirming Good Neighbourly Relations and Regional Cooperation on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Berlin Process

The Declaration initiated by Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Berlin Process, marks a diplomatic milestone as the first such initiative led by a Western Balkan country. It underscores Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to fostering dialogue, regional stability, and mutual cooperation as essential foundations for EU integration.

By emphasizing economic ties, cultural exchange, and constructive engagement, the declaration highlights the shared vision of a unified and prosperous Western Balkans, reinforcing Bosnia and Herzegovina's leadership in promoting peace and reconciliation in the region.



[Joint Declaration available here](#)





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MFA BiH hosted discussion on “Women in Multilateral Fora”

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted an impactful discussion titled “Women in Multilateral Fora” at its headquarters in Sarajevo. The event highlighted the significant contributions and challenges women face in diplomacy and multilateral engagements.

The discussion featured keynote speakers Dunja Mijatović, a distinguished human rights expert and former Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (2018–2024), and Ingrid MacDonald, the UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their insights shed light on the vital role of women in international governance and human rights.



Women in Multilateral Fora



Mentorship in diplomacy

The discussion featured a short movie showcasing young female diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs speaking about the role of women in diplomacy, their personal experiences, and their role models.

The short movie candidly portrayed the next generation of women leaders, reinforcing the importance of representation and mentorship in diplomacy.

WEDIN

The Network of Women Diplomats in Bosnia and Herzegovina was inaugurated on 26 February 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, in the presence of more than 60 female diplomats.

Introductory remarks were delivered by WEDIN coordinators Aida Hodžić, Acting Assistant Minister in the Sector of Multilateral Relations, and Aurélie Valtat, Head of Section for European Integration, Political, Press, and Information at the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue on increasing female representation in leadership positions, the need for solidarity among women, and the importance of mentorship in fostering the next generation of women leaders. The event underscored the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to advancing gender equality in multilateral forums and fostering inclusive policies for sustainable global cooperation.

Meeting with UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda

The interlocutors exchanged opinions on the contribution of the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund to the United Nations project "Women lead the way to peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

They also highlighted the importance of action plans for implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the context of strengthening the role of women in promoting peace, trust and social cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They assessed that the concrete results achieved in BiH were recognized as an example of good practice at the regional and international levels.

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Official visit to the Republic of Poland

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Elmedin Konaković met with the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda in Warsaw.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Konaković, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Radosław Sikorski. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, economic cooperation, European integration, the regional situation, and global security challenges

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Meeting in Warsaw

Political consultations between the MFA BiH and the MFA of the Republic of Pakistan

During the consultations, both parties emphasized their mutual commitment to strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan across various sectors.

A key prerequisite for advancing this collaboration is the conclusion of bilateral agreements in areas such as visa liberalization, economic cooperation, combating organized crime, educational and cultural exchange, and facilitating labor migration from Pakistan.

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Bilateral political consultations

9th Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona

In his address, Deputy Minister MSc. Josip Brkić highlighted that nearly a year has passed since the conflict in Palestine and Israel was discussed at the 8th Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean, with particular focus on the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Today, he noted, the conflict has expanded to Lebanon, further exacerbating the crisis and resulting in daily loss of lives.

Deputy Minister MSc. Josip Brkić underscored the urgent need for a resolute condemnation of all acts of terrorism, violations of international humanitarian law, the killing of civilians, hostage-taking, and the targeting of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and places of worship.

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Forum in Barcelona





Bosnia and Herzegovina joins the International Olive Council (IOC)

The flag-raising ceremony, held on 20.11.2024. at the headquarters of the International Olive Council (IOC) in Madrid, the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to this international body was symbolically made official. For Bosnia and Herzegovina membership in the IOC implies the harmonization of domestic regulations with the EU acquis in this area, which will benefit both producers and consumers of olive oil. As an important step in the development of sustainable and responsible olive growing, joining the IOC means encouragement for producers with the possibility of expert support, access to grants, better networking and availability of a wider market.



The flag-raising ceremony IOC Madrid

Inter-governmental negotiations 2024 on bilateral development cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Germany

Acting Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Relations, Ms. Aida Hodžić, led the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the intergovernmental negotiations on development cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Germany, held on November 7, 2024, in Berlin as part of the regular dialogue and cooperation.

The German delegation was led by Ms. Heike Backofen-Warnecke, Head of the Division for South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, South Caucasus at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Inter-governmental negotiations

The topics of the intergovernmental negotiations held in Berlin included: political dialogue on development cooperation; climate and energy, including a just transition; economic development, training, and employment; good governance and regional governance projects; and cooperation in other areas (demining, gender issues).

Germany committed to providing Bosnia and Herzegovina with a new amount of 157.5 million euros for bilateral technical and financial cooperation for the 2024–2025 period.

The BMZ is engaged in Bosnia and Herzegovina not only through bilateral development cooperation but also via a wide range of other instruments. Regional projects, significantly present, and contribute to various sectoral development initiatives related to Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession to the European Union.

Political consultations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Swiss Confederation

The delegations were led by Momir Brajić, Acting Assistant Minister for Bilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ambassador Muriel Peneveyre, Head of the Eurasia Division within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

During the consultations, both sides reviewed the current state of bilateral relations, exchanged perspectives on key developments, and explored opportunities for regional and multilateral cooperation. The discussions were conducted in an open and constructive atmosphere, underscoring the continued strengthening of ties between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Switzerland.





THIS IS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno

Vjetrenica Cave, one of the largest cave systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, is officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This decision, made at the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which will be held from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, Republic of India, represents a significant moment for our country and a confirmation of the Vjetrenica's priceless natural values.

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UNESCO
World Heritage Site

The votes are in: See our **Best of the World 2025 Readers' Choice** winner.



National Geographic readers have named Sarajevo the top destination for 2025, celebrating its rich history, iconic landmarks like the Latin Bridge, and natural beauty. Visitors can enjoy unique local wines, and outdoor adventures, and explore numerous historic sites.



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