



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina: Operation ALTHEA

*FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 25 January 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

“The Council reiterated its full support for the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH); and confirmed that Operation ALTHEA was an important part of the EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH to support a political process aimed at enabling BiH, on the basis of the necessary reforms, to continue to move forward in the EU integration process.

The EU underlined its commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity and sovereignty in accordance with the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement. The Council also declared strong support for the High Representative/EUSR Valentin Inzko and called on all parties in BiH to comply with all decisions taken by him and not to seek to challenge his authority.

The Council recalled the decisive progress made by Operation ALTHEA towards accomplishing its mandate and in particular the completion of the military and stabilisation tasks provided for by the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement; and underlined Operation Althea's significant contribution to the stability and security of BiH. Building on these achievements, the Council decided to start providing non-executive capacity-building and training support, within the framework of the Operation, subject to the completion of the necessary arrangements. The Council underlined in this context that security sector reform was an important part of the overall reform process in BiH, where EU military engagement through non-executive capacity-building and training tasks would contribute to strengthening local ownership and capacity.

The Council underlined the EU's commitment to supporting BiH efforts to maintain the safe and secure environment. Operation ALTHEA's executive mandate will continue in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1895 (2009). The Council expressed the readiness of the EU, should the situation require, to maintain an executive military role to support these efforts beyond 2010, under a UN mandate.

P R E S S

The Council confirmed that it will continue closely to monitor the situation in BiH. To this end, it intends regularly to review the operation, taking into account the internal situation in BiH as well as developments concerning the international community' s presence, including the future role of the EUSR.

These elements should be seen as part of the EU' s overall engagement and complementary to the wide range of instruments that contribute to a prosperous and secure BiH.”
