



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

The Acting Deputy Director-General

Brussels, **15 JUL. 2009**
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Mr Samir Rizvo
Assistant Minister
Head of the Sector for International
Cooperation
Ministry of Security
Bosnia and Herzegovina

By email: bh-mission-07@skynet.be

Dear Mr Rizvo,

Further to my meeting with your representative, Mr Macan, on 12 June 2009, I am pleased to outline in the present letter the next steps in the dialogue on visa liberalisation between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As noted in the updated assessment of 8 June 2009 on the implementation by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the roadmap for visa liberalisation, your country has made substantial progress, though further efforts are still needed to meet the outstanding benchmarks of the roadmap. In order to assess the ongoing efforts and progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to reiterate my invitation to your authorities to submit a second readiness report by 1 October 2009, reporting on developments and progress made in meeting the outstanding benchmarks of the roadmap since April 2009. To help your authorities and services in the preparation of this report, please find in annex a list of specific areas in which Bosnia and Herzegovina is asked to make further progress, and report on, in view of the fulfilment of the outstanding benchmarks.

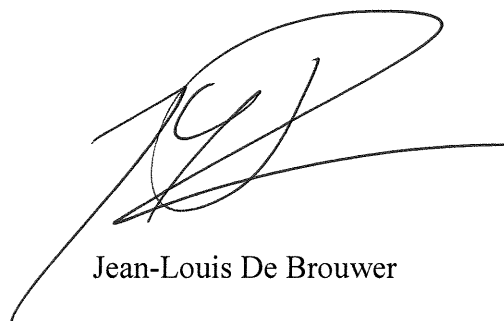
After a review by the Commission services of the second readiness report, I would like to invite you to a further Senior Officials' meeting in Brussels in order to take stock of the progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina and to discuss the next steps, such as the organisation of further field missions and expert meetings where appropriate.

As you are aware, on 15 July 2009, the European Commission adopted a proposal for modifying Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 to exempt the citizens of three countries of the Western Balkan region from the short-stay visa requirement. This confirms the long-standing commitment of the European Commission to granting visa free travel for the people of the Western Balkan countries.

Bearing in mind the substantial progress made so far by Bosnia and Herzegovina, I am confident that your country will too be able to meet the outstanding benchmarks in the near future. To this respect, I also want to confirm to you that the assessment of the progress made

by the countries involved in the continuation of the visa dialogue will be made based on their own merit. The Commission services will continue to support your efforts to achieve this important result for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jean-Louis De Brouwer

Annex

ANNEX

On 8 June 2009, the European Commission presented Bosnia and Herzegovina with an updated assessment of the implementation by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the roadmap for visa liberalisation. As outlined in the assessment, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made substantial progress but has yet to meet a series of the benchmarks specified in the roadmap. Bosnia and Herzegovina is therefore invited to submit by 1 October 2009 a new readiness report covering developments and progress made in meeting the outstanding benchmarks of the roadmap since April 2009. **The purpose of this annex** is to outline the specific areas in which Bosnia and Herzegovina is asked to make further progress, and report on, in view of the fulfilment of the outstanding benchmarks.

BLOCK 1 Document Security

Passports/travel documents, ID cards and breeder documents (benchmarks 1-5)

- introduction of biometric passports (please specify the number of biometric passports issued)
- measures taken to ensure systematic training and general anti-corruption programmes targeting public officials dealing with issuance of breeder documents, ID cards and passports
- measures taken to ensure systematic reporting of lost and stolen travel documents by IDDEEA via Interpol NCB Sarajevo
- progress of verification of all registry books and entry into central database managed by IDDEEA

BLOCK 2 Illegal migration, including readmission

Border management (benchmarks 6-9)

- implementation of the Law on Border control
- implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy and Action Plan, in particular,
 - measures to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between central, regional and local authorities working at the border
 - measures taken to strengthen risk analysis, in particular establishment of the Joint Risk Analysis Centre
 - modernisation of infrastructure, equipment and IT technology
 - measures taken to strengthen human resources, including training
- progress to close uncontrolled border crossings, in cooperation with neighbouring countries

Asylum (benchmarks 11, 12)

- adoption and implementation of bylaws on asylum procedure and access to travel and identification documents
- measures to ensure a sustainable solution for backlog of asylum applicants
- progress of construction of permanent reception centre for asylum seekers in Trnovo

Migration Management (benchmarks 10, 13-17)

- monitoring of migration flows, in particular development of migration profile and implementation of the Information System on Migration (ISM)
- measures to strengthen the integration of returnees
- measures taken to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between authorities involved in fighting illegal immigration, including inland detection
- progress of construction of additional facilities at detention centre for illegal immigrants

BLOCK 3 Public order and security

General/Overall policy on preventing and fighting organised crime and terrorism (benchmarks 19, 24)

- adoption of a revised strategy and action plan for fight against organised crime
- measures taken for harmonisation of the domestic legal and policy framework between state and entity levels
- adoption and implementation of an adequate model of information exchange from police records throughout the country
- measures taken to improve and better coordinate across state and entity levels trainings on preventing and fighting organised crime
- effective investigations, indictments and convictions against organised crime

Policy on preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings (benchmarks 20, 24)

- implementation of the action plan to combat trafficking in human beings
- measures taken for harmonisation of the legislative framework at State, entity and Brcko district level regarding the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings.

Policy on preventing and fighting financial crimes (money-laundering, terrorist financing, confiscation of assets) (benchmarks 21, 24)

- adoption of a national strategy and action plan on the prevention and fighting of money-laundering and financing of terrorist activities
- effective measures taken against (suspected) money laundering, including temporary suspension of suspicious transactions, investigation, prosecution and convictions
- measures taken to raise the awareness of the reporting entities of their obligations
- measures taken to adapt the legislative framework to international standards in the area of confiscation of assets and to harmonise it between state and entity levels.
- trainings to enhance expertise on confiscation of assets , financial investigations, economic crimes and prosecutor-police cooperation

Anti-drug policy (benchmark 22)

- adoption of a national action plan 2009-2013 for drug control, suppression and prevention.

- measures taken to enhance training and equipment of specialised law enforcement structures at state and entity levels.
- implementation of EU standards for sharing drugs-related information with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.
- measures taken to ensure availability of information on drugs seizures and persons involved at border crossing points.

Policy on preventing and fighting corruption (benchmarks 23-24)

- adoption of a revised strategy and action plan for the fight against corruption
- adoption of law on anti-corruption body
- results in effectively tackling suspected cases of high-level corruption
- results in effective application of special investigative means to corruption cases
- legal and administrative measures taken to implement international standards including outstanding GRECO recommendations and signature of the additional protocol to the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption

Judicial co-operation in criminal matters (benchmarks 25-27)

- implementation of the law on international legal assistance in criminal matters
- training to judges and prosecutors on the new legislation
- measures taken to reinforce qualified staff dealing with mutual legal assistance requests
- progress in cooperation with Eurojust

Law enforcement co-operation (benchmarks 28-32)

- measures taken to introduce systematic cooperation between the different authorities involved in the fight against organised crime (including law enforcement bodies, judiciary, prosecution, but also other relevant structures)
- measures taken to improve international cooperation, including with Europol
- measures taken to implement the two police laws of 2008, in particular appointment of pending directors
- adoption of the draft law on changes to the use of special investigative measures

Protection of personal data (benchmarks 33, 34)

- measures to make the Data Protection Agency fully operational
- measures taken to ensure the implementation of the rules for personal data protection

BLOCK 4 External relations and fundamental rights
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Citizens' rights including protection of minorities (benchmarks 38-42)

- adoption of Anti-discrimination law
- follow up to cases of discrimination and ethnically motivated incidents (police investigations, prosecution and court action)
- progress towards full functioning of the single Ombudsman Office