



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

The Acting Deputy Director-General

Brussels, **15 JUL. 2009**  
JLS/B3+A2/LW D(2009) 10930

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.

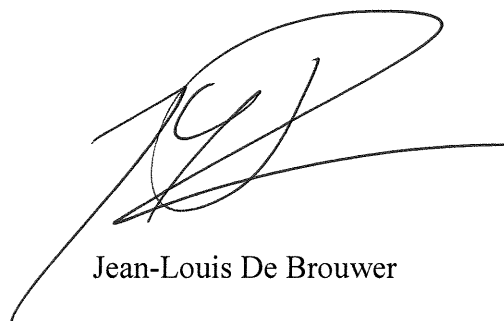
After a review by the Commission services of the second readiness report, I would like to invite you to a further Senior Officials' meeting in Brussels in order to take stock of the progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina and to discuss the next steps, such as the organisation of further field missions 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 a large, stylized 'J' and 'L' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jean-Louis De Brouwer

Annex