

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2008/130/CFSP**of 18 February 2008****extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 14, 18(5) and 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 7 February 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/87/CFSP ⁽¹⁾ amending and extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- (2) On 18 June 2007, the Council adopted Decision 2007/427/CFSP ⁽²⁾ appointing Mr Miroslav Lajčák as the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- (3) On the basis of a review of Joint Action 2007/87/CFSP, the mandate of the EUSR should be extended for a 12-month period.
- (4) The EUSR's mandate should be implemented in coordination with the Commission in order to ensure consistency with other relevant activities falling within Community competence.
- (5) The EUSR will implement his mandate in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could harm the Common Foreign and Security Policy objectives set out in Article 11 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

*Article 1***European Union Special Representative**

The mandate of Mr Miroslav Lajčák as the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is hereby extended until 28 February 2009.

*Article 2***Policy objectives**

The mandate of the EUSR shall be based on the policy objectives of the EU in BiH. These centre around continued

progress in the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP) in BiH, in accordance with the Office of the High Representative's Mission Implementation Plan, and in the Stabilisation and Association Process, with the aim of a stable, viable, peaceful and multiethnic BiH, co-operating peacefully with its neighbours and irreversibly on track towards EU membership.

*Article 3***Mandate**

In order to achieve the policy objectives of the EU in BiH, the mandate of the EUSR shall be to:

- (a) offer the EU's advice and facilitation in the political process;
- (b) promote overall EU political coordination and contribute to reinforcement of internal EU coordination and coherence in BiH, including through briefings to EU Heads of Mission and through participation in, or representation at, their regular meetings, through chairing a coordination group composed of all EU actors present in the field with a view to coordinating the implementation aspects of the EU's action, and through providing them with guidance on relations with the BiH authorities;
- (c) promote overall EU coordination of, and give local political direction to, EU efforts in tackling organised crime, without prejudice to the European Union Police Mission (EUPM)'s leading role in the coordination of policing aspects of these efforts and to the ALTHEA (EUFOR) military chain of command;
- (d) without prejudice to the military chain of command, offer the EU Force Commander political guidance on military issues with a local political dimension, in particular concerning sensitive operations, relations with local authorities and relations with the local media;
- (e) consult with the EU Force Commander before taking political action that may have an impact on the security situation;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 35, 8.2.2007, p. 35. Joint Action as amended by Joint Action 2007/748/CFSP of 19 November 2007 (OJ L 303, 21.11.2007, p. 38).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 159, 20.6.2007, p. 63.

- (f) ensure consistency and coherence of EU action towards the public. The EUSR spokesperson shall be the main EU point of contact for BiH media on Common Foreign and Security Policy/European Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/ESDP) issues;
- (g) maintain an overview of the whole range of activities in the field of the rule of law and in this context provide the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR) and the Commission with advice as necessary;
- (h) provide the Head of Mission of the EUPM with local political guidance. The EUSR and the Civilian Operation Commander shall consult each other as required;
- (i) as part of the international community's and the BiH authorities' broader approach to the rule of law, and drawing upon the EUPM's provision of technical policing expertise and assistance in this respect, support the preparation and implementation of police restructuring;
- (j) provide support for a reinforced and more effective BiH criminal justice/police interface, in close liaison with the EUPM;
- (k) consult with the Head of the EUPM before taking political action that may have an impact on the police and security situation;
- (l) as far as activities under Title VI of the Treaty, including Europol, and related Community activities are concerned, provide the SG/HR and the Commission with advice as necessary, and take part in the required local coordination;
- (m) with a view to coherence and possible synergies, continue to be consulted on priorities for Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance;
- (n) support planning for a reinforced EUSR office in the context of the closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR), including advice on public information aspects of the transition, in close coordination with the Commission;
- (o) contribute to the development and consolidation of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in BiH, in accordance with EU human rights policy and EU Guidelines on Human Rights;
- (p) engage with relevant BiH authorities on their full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY);
- (q) provide political advice and facilitation in the process of constitutional reform;
- (r) without prejudice to the applicable chains of command, help to ensure that all EU instruments in theatre act coherently to attain the EU's policy objectives.

Article 4

Implementation of the mandate

1. The EUSR shall be responsible for the implementation of the mandate acting under the authority and operational direction of the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR).

2. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) shall maintain a privileged link with the EUSR and shall be the primary point of contact with the Council. The PSC shall provide the EUSR with strategic guidance and political direction within the framework of the mandate.

Article 5

High Representative

The role of the EUSR shall not in any way prejudice the mandate of the High Representative in BiH, including his coordinating role with regard to all activities of all civilian organisations and agencies as set out in GFAP and subsequent Peace Implementation Council (PIC) conclusions and declarations.

Article 6

Financing

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mandate of the EUSR in the period from 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009 shall be EUR 2 900 000.

2. The expenditure financed by the amount stipulated in paragraph 1 shall be eligible as from 1 March 2008. The expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Communities with the exception that any pre-financing shall not remain the property of the Community.

3. The management of the expenditure shall be subject to a contract between the EUSR and the Commission. The EUSR shall be accountable to the Commission for all expenditure.

*Article 7***Constitution and composition of the team**

1. Within the limits of his mandate and the corresponding financial means made available, the EUSR shall be responsible for constituting his team in consultation with the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, and in full association with the Commission. The team shall include the expertise on specific policy issues as required by the mandate. The EUSR shall keep the SG/HR, the Presidency and the Commission informed of the composition of his team.

2. Member States and institutions of the European Union may propose the secondment of staff to work with the EUSR. The salary of personnel who are seconded by a Member State or an institution of the EU to the EUSR shall be covered by the Member State or the institution of the EU concerned respectively. Experts seconded by Member States to the General Secretariat of the Council may also be posted to the EUSR. International contracted staff shall have the nationality of an EU Member State.

3. All seconded personnel shall remain under the administrative authority of the sending Member State or EU institution and shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the EUSR.

*Article 8***Privileges and immunities of the EUSR and his staff**

The privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of the mission of the EUSR and the members of his staff shall be agreed with the host party/parties as appropriate. Member States and the Commission shall grant all necessary support to such effect.

*Article 9***Security of EU classified information**

The EUSR and the members of his team shall respect security principles and minimum standards established by Council Decision 2001/264/EC of 19 March 2001 adopting the Council's security regulations ⁽¹⁾, in particular when managing EU classified information.

*Article 10***Access to information and logistical support**

1. Member States, the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council shall ensure that the EUSR is given access to any relevant information.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).

2. The Presidency, the Commission and/or Member States, as appropriate, shall provide logistical support in the region.

*Article 11***Security**

In accordance with the EU's policy on the security of personnel deployed outside the EU in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty, the EUSR shall take all reasonably practicable measures, in conformity with his mandate and the security situation in his geographical area of responsibility, for the security of all personnel under his direct authority, notably by:

- (a) establishing a mission-specific security plan based on guidance from the General Secretariat of the Council, including mission-specific physical, organisational and procedural security measures, governing management of the secure movement of personnel to, and within, the mission area, as well as management of security incidents and including a mission contingency and evacuation plan;
- (b) ensuring that all personnel deployed outside the EU are covered by high risk insurance as required by the conditions in the mission area;
- (c) ensuring that all members of his team to be deployed outside the EU, including locally contracted personnel, have received appropriate security training before or upon arriving in the mission area, based on the risk ratings assigned to the mission area by the General Secretariat of the Council;
- (d) ensuring that all agreed recommendations made following regular security assessments are implemented and providing the SG/HR, the Council and the Commission with written reports on their implementation and on other security issues within the framework of the mid-term and mandate implementation reports.

*Article 12***Reporting**

The EUSR shall regularly provide the SG/HR and the PSC with oral and written reports. The EUSR shall also report as necessary to working groups. Regular written reports shall be circulated through the COREU network. Upon recommendation of the SG/HR or the PSC, the EUSR may provide the General Affairs and External Relations Council with reports.

*Article 13***Coordination**

1. The activities of the EUSR shall be coordinated with those of the Presidency and the Commission, as well as those of other EUSRs active in the region as appropriate. The EUSR shall provide Member States' missions and Commission's delegations with regular briefings. In the field, close liaison shall be maintained with the Presidency, Commission and Member States' Heads of Mission who shall make best efforts to assist the EUSR in the implementation of the mandate. The EUSR shall also liaise with other international and regional actors in the field.

2. In support of EU crisis management operations, the EUSR, with other EU actors present in the field, shall improve the dissemination and sharing of information by EU actors in theatre with a view to achieving a high degree of common situation awareness and assessment.

*Article 14***Review**

The implementation of this Joint Action and its consistency with other contributions from the European Union to the region shall be kept under regular review. The EUSR shall present the SG/HR, the Council and the Commission with a progress report before the end of June 2008 and a compre-

hensive mandate implementation report by mid-November 2008. These reports shall form a basis for evaluation of this Joint Action in the relevant working groups and by the PSC. In the context of overall priorities for deployment, the SG/HR shall make recommendations to the PSC concerning the Council's decision on renewal, amendment or termination of the mandate.

*Article 15***Entry into force**

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

*Article 16***Publication**

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 18 February 2008.

For the Council

The President

D. RUPEL
