



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA ITEM: *SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA*

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. MR. FEODOR STARČEVIĆ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

New York, 23 November 2009

Mr. President,
Distinguished members of the Security Council,

Let me, first of all, welcome H.E. Mr. Nikola Špirić, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and H.E. Mr. Valentin Inzko, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a neighbouring country, desirous of sincere good-neighbourly and friendly relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia is following the development of the overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with due attention. Being a signatory and a guarantor of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in accordance with the SC Resolution 1031 (1995) on its implementation, Serbia is firmly committed to the full respect of the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a matter of principle. Also, Serbia supported the candidature of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a non-permanent member of the Security Council, and I wish once again to congratulate it on its election.

The position of my country includes a concrete support of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of European integration and we regard the membership of all the countries of the South-East European region in the EU as a common goal. Serbia is of the view that regional economic cooperation, both bilateral and intraregional (CEFTA) gives a particular impulse towards a permanent stabilization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as of the region as a whole.

My country supports the processes of internal political reforms aimed at advancing institutional capacities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and welcomes all political initiatives to intensify these reforms. We take note of the fact that the representatives of all political parties from both entities and all three constitutive peoples placed certain reservations upon the solutions recently proposed by the representatives of the European Union and the United States within the so-called Butmir process.

The Republic of Serbia will honor every agreement reached by the acceptance on the part of the representatives of two entities and by the consensus of all three constitutive peoples, containing sustainable solutions in the spirit of contemporary democratic values. We encourage all participants of this process in Bosnia and Herzegovina to do all that is necessary for such agreement to be reached. Also, Serbia views the ongoing process of the transition of authority of OHR on EUSP in accordance with the principles of consensus (2+3).

In conclusion, let me say that the Republic of Serbia agrees with the assessments presented in the OHR report and the conclusions of the EU Council of 17 November concerning the role and the contribution of EUFOR ALTHEA in maintaining the security in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We therefore support the proposal of OHR to extend the mandate of this mission.

Thank you Mr. President.