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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the reopening of the Mostar Aluminium factory**

The European Union is greatly dismayed by the remarks made by the former Mayor of West Mostar and present Prime Minister of the Neretva Canton, Mr Brajkovic, at the opening ceremony of the Mostar aluminium plant "Aluminij" on 15 March 1997.

The remarks of Mr Brajkovic give a completely distorted picture of the intentions and efforts of the former EU administration of Mostar, in particular the former Administrator Dr Hans Koschnick, to whom the European Union is greatly indebted. In particular, Mr Brajkovic' remark that "in the end they deserved what happened to them" is completely unacceptable to the European Union.

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