

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Brcko

The European Union welcomes the fact that a decision has been reached by the Arbitral Tribunal on the award for the Brcko area.

Under the existing international supervisory regime significant achievements were made. Families of refugees and displaced persons have returned in the hundreds. A multi-ethnic administration, judiciary and police was created. A stable framework is also indispensable for potential investors. Their commitment is urgently required for the economic revitalisation of the area.

The European Union reminds the parties to the arbitration – the Federation and the Republika Srpska - that, in accordance with provisions of the Dayton Peace Accords, the Arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding, and the parties shall implement it without delay. Bosnia and Herzegovina's State and Entity leaders reaffirmed at the December 1998 Peace Implementation Conference in Madrid their commitment to respect and implement any further decision by the Arbitrator in 1999.

The European Union calls on the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in neighbouring countries to live up to their commitment and to seize the opportunity to build a self-sustaining peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the benefit of all citizens.