

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the conclusions of the HDZ-led Croat National Congress of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The European Union condemns recent unilateral moves by the so called Croat National Congress of Bosnia and Herzegovina to place themselves outside the provisions of the Dayton/Paris Accords. Such efforts are in vain. They are also to the detriment of the interests of Bosnian Croats, as well as all other people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European Union remains committed to the future of the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has called upon the new government to implement the EU Road Map and thus, as recalled at the Zagreb Summit, take a major step in the efforts to move closer to the Union. The citizens and Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina can, however, only move towards Europe, in the framework of a unified state. Decisions such as those taken by the Croat National Congress will severely impede this process.

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The EU therefore urges all political parties to respect the results of the elections, and expects no further delay in the process of electing delegates to the House of Peoples at the State and Federation levels. It calls in particular on the Bosnian Croat people to work within the legal institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to defend their legitimate interests.

The EU expresses its continued full support to the High Representative in his endeavours to promote the implementation of the Dayton/Paris Accords.
