



BiH submits application for EU membership

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Arming with knowledge

EUFOR Capacity Building and Training





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### IMPRESSUM

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### Dear readers,

In the first quarter of a new year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the European Union Force's (EUFOR) Mission and highlight our focus for this period.

Following the European Union's (EU) new approach to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2014, the EU Special Representative ensured EUFOR continued to be a part of the BiH comprehensive approach. The relationship between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH has continued to deepen at all levels, and their working relationship with NATO is also delivering coherence in support of BiH's development.

We are working together to move your Armed Forces from a security consumer to a security provider. This supports the need for a safe and secure environment, and delivers the capability required to support you during times of crisis – such as flooding. BiH should be proud of the progress made by its Armed Forces. However, there is still much work to be done. EUFOR will therefore continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with your Armed Forces to ensure they are well supported in achieving their objectives.

The success of EUFOR is only made possible by the commitment of so many people. This includes our Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT). They are the face our Mission, part of your community. The motivation of these teams, and of our Troop Contributing Nations, locally employed staff and contractors are essential in our effective support of BiH.



As I look back over my time as Commander EUFOR, I do so with a real sense of pride. It has been a pleasure to serve in this important Mission, and a delight to meet and work with so many of you. Bosnia and Herzegovina is an extremely beautiful country and it has been a genuine pleasure to serve here.

Yours Sincerely,

**Johann Luif**  
**Major General**  
**Commander EUFOR**

## EUFOR Events

### Commander European Union Force's visit to Director of State Investigation and Protection Agency

On the 12 January the Commander European Union Force (EUFOR), Major General Johann Luif visited the newly appointed Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Mr Perica Stanić.

The Director updated Commander EUFOR on the Agency's current priorities and planned ahead. He stressed the need for a continued uncompromising approach of the BiH authorities to the fight against terrorism.

Commander EUFOR stressed that EUFOR would continue to support SIPA's work and that sustained mutual coordination and the exchange of relevant information is key. He also stated that EUFOR appreciated SIPA's continued efforts against all aspects of crime in and its efforts as a state-level agency to maintain the rule of law in BiH.

The Director Stanić thanked Major General Luif for EUFOR's continued support of SIPA's important mission.

SIPA's mission continues to be the efficient prevention of terrorism, organised crime, serious financial crime and corruption. SIPA protects BiH citizens through the enhancement of their sense of security and trust in the security system, strengthening cooperation with the public and other law enforcement agencies.

#### Remembrance of the Helicopter Crash of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at EUFOR Camp Butmir

Commander European Union Force (EUFOR), Major General Johann Luif, Representative of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Embassy Mr Aleksandar Krstevski, and the EUFOR Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Senior National Representatives Major Igor Nikchevski, gathered on 12 January 2016 at Monument Park in Camp Butmir



General Luif with the new appointed Director of the SIPA, Mr Perica Stanić

to commemorate the death of 11 people from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a helicopter crash 8 years ago.

EUFOR formed a Guard of Honour to pay their respects to the 11 members of the EUFOR contingent from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who lost their lives in this accident.

In his speech Commander EUFOR said: "Today we remember with great sadness the loss of 11 members of EUFOR from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, who tragically lost their lives on 12 January 2008. I hope this commemoration in Camp Butmir adequately reflects our appreciation and understanding of the great loss and enormous pain still felt by their families, and your country. It allows us the opportunity to recall their lives, their exceptional spirit, their professionalism, and their contribution to the cause of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The helicopter was en route from Camp Butmir to Skopje when it crashed due to bad weather on 12 January 2008. The 8 passengers and 3 crew members on-board all lost their lives.



## **NATO's Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command, Naples visited EUFOR**

On 19 January 2016, Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command from Naples, Lieutenant General Alain J. Parent visited the Headquarters European Union Force (HQ EUFOR), Camp Butmir and was met by the Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.

On arrival Lieutenant General Parent proceeded to an office call with Chief of Staff EUFOR. During this call, Lieutenant General Parent was updated on the EUFOR Mission.

The mission of the Allied Joint Force Command in Naples is to prepare for plan and conduct military



**Lieutenant General Parent during his visit to the EUFOR, with the Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza**

operations. Lieutenant General Parent assumed the function of Deputy Commander Naples on 24 July 2015.

## **EUFOR and AFBiH Sign Agreement on Armed Forces Capabilities Development**

On 1 February 2016, the Deputy Chief of Staff for operations of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), Major General Mirko Tepšić and Chief of Staff of the European Union Force (COS EUFOR), Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza signed an agreement which focused on evaluating

and developing the capabilities of the AFBiH. The signing of the Joint Order can be seen as the official start for the Joint Working Groups who focus on the enhancement of AFBiH's capabilities using the 'Capability Based Development Assessment' methodology. This methodology will be instrumental in bringing about firm progress within the AFBiH. This approach facilitates the intent of the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif to provide the AFBiH with the necessary support to ensure improvements in operational readiness for the execution of tasks as defined by law. The ceremony was held at the Joint Staff BiH Headquarters in Sarajevo. EUFOR Embedded Advisory Team members witnessed the signing. High ranking Officers of AFBiH Joint Staff and HQ EUFOR Staff were also assembled in support of the signing of this landmark agreement.



**Chief of Staff of EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza and Major General Mirko Tepšić signing the agreement**

## EUFOR Events

### Visit to Headquarters European Union Force by Commander of Turkish Land Forces

On 4 February 2016, Commander European Union Force (EUFOR), Major General Johann Luif welcomed the Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Salih Zeki Çolak who was on an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the Headquarters of EUFOR in Camp Butmir. During an Office Call the Generals discussed the overall security situation in BiH and the wider region; EUFOR's ongoing Mission objectives; and more specifically recent EUFOR Capability Building and Training (CB&T) activities in support of the Armed Forces of BiH. General Luif thanked General Çolak for Turkey's continued high level of cooperation in the field of Peace Support Operations in BiH, and the important contribution



General Salih Zeki Colak during the office call with the General Luif

of Turkish troops and capability to the EUFOR Mission Operation Althea. Turkey is one of the largest troop contributing nations to the EUFOR Mission. It provides key personnel to essential Staff Officer positions in HQ EUFOR, alongside that of the MNBN and other various commitments in support of EUFOR. Turkey also provides manpower in five of the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) based in Zavidovići, Travnik, Zenica, Livno and Jablanica. Commander EUFOR highlighted the professionalism of the Turkish troops under his Command, and noted the significant contribution and commitment they make to Operation Althea.

### Visit to EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA by the Chairman of the EU Military Committee

The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission Operation (Op) ALTHEA on 4 March 2016. On arrival at the Headquarters of EUFOR in Camp Butmir, he was welcomed by an Honour Guard from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) and greeted by the Commander (COM) of EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif. During an office call with Commander EUFOR, the General was updated on the progress of Operation Althea.

This included details of the ongoing co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) through the Capacity Building and Training Programme.

This programme focuses on EUFOR's continued support and ongoing cooperation in building a sustainable AFBiH. General Kostarakos Chairs the EU Military Committee (EUMC), which is the highest military committee within the European Council. It is responsible for providing the Political and Security Committee (PSC) with advice and recommendations on all military matters affecting the EU.

General Mikhail Kostarakos, visited also the Minister of Defence Ms Marina Pendeš, and the Chief of Joint Staff Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, who both shared their views on the current situation and praised the EU's Operation ALTHEA active role in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina on enhancing its Armed Forces' capacities through Capacity Building & Training.



General Kostarakos with the Chief of Joint Staff Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč and the Minister of Defence Ms Marina Pendeš



## **Friedrich Schrötter becomes new commander of European Union Force - EUFOR**

Major General Friedrich Schrötter became the new commander of the European Union Force – EUFOR during a ceremony in Camp Butmir, on 24th of March 2016.

Major General Johann Luif completed his 15 months tenure as EUFOR Commander. The Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw handed over the command to General Schrötter.



### **Curriculum Vitae**

Major General Friedrich Schrötter joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1982. When he left the Military Academy in 1986 he served as Platoon Leader and Company Commander with the Armoured Infantry.

From 1991 until 1994 he attended the Austrian Armed Forces War College. In 1995 he served as G3 with the 3. Mechanised Brigade and in 1996 was transferred to the Military Strategic Division where he stayed until 1999.

From 1999 until 2000 he commanded the Infantry Battalion 25, the Airmobile Battalion of the Austrian Armed Forces. After leaving the Battalion he resumed responsibility for a main section for force planning of the Military Strategic Division. In this time he also served at a senior level in the development of the Helsinki Headline Goal of the EU.

In 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and appointed as Chief Liaison Officer to the Bundeswehr Operations Command in Germany where he stayed until 2005. In summer 2005 he was assigned for leading the Helsinki Headline Goal Task Force, one

of the permanent working groups of the European Union Military Committee, during the Austrian Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2006. After hand-over to the Finnish Presidency Team he was transferred to the Austrian Joint Forces Command.

From November 2006 until February 2007 he served as Chief of Staff and following until June 2007 as Deputy Commander with the Multinational Task Force North of the European Forces in Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Since June 2008 he served as Director of the Operations C2 Division within the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports and was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

In July 2013 he was appointed as Director of the Operational Requirements Directorate in the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports.

In February 2016 he was promoted to the rank of Major General.

Additional to his national training Major General Schrötter was trained in the field of operations in the USA and UK. He served with Commander Strike Fleet Atlantic/NATO - 2nd Fleet/US as DACOS CJ 5 for about one year; he also attended the NATO Defence College and the EU Senior Mission Leader Course.

He has experience from a couple of homeland missions as well as missions abroad.



# Capacity Building and Training

## Main effort of EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA

The European Union Force's (EUFOR) contribution to building the capacity of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) is an essential element of the European Union's efforts in BiH. EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Division's main effort since 2010 has therefore been advising, assisting and developing capabilities to support AFBiH in becoming a self-sustainable force.

"Since 2010, when the European Union Foreign Affairs Council agreed that Operation ALTHEA shall focus on Capacity Building and Training, EUFOR has continuously provided courses and trainings to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to support them to achieve the highest level of professionalism", Deputy Chief of Staff Capacity Building and Training, Colonel Tayfun Çağan said. He



**Deputy Chief of Staff Capacity Building and Training Division**

added: "A specific branch of the Capacity Building and Training Division – the Joint Military Affairs – also advises, assists and monitors the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of Mine Action activities, Movement Control of Military Ordnance, Ammunition and Equipment, Weapon and Ammunition Storage Management. Additionally, Joint Military Affairs verifies and monitors activities conducted by Defense Industry Factories and provides Mine Risk Education to the local population of Bosnia and Herzegovina".





Colonel Tayfun Çağan explains that the process of Capacity Building and Training is divided in three steps:

1. We train the future instructors of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (this is accomplished by the Mobile Training Teams from EUFOR Troop Contributing Nations);
2. We mentor the instructors as they achieve practical skills (this is done by the Mobile Mentoring Teams from EUFOR Troop Contributing Nations);
3. We monitor the instructors when they are conducting their trainings (this is also done by the Mobile Monitoring Teams from EUFOR Troop Contributing Nations) until the conclusion is made that they are self-sustainable, where the course will be handed over to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.





**Maintenance of signal equipment**

Colonel Tayfun Çağan says that from 2013 onwards EUFOR has also provided Embedded Advisory Teams to Joint Staff, Operational Command, Support Command, the Lessons Learned Section, the Training and Doctrine Centre and all 3 Infantry Brigades. “These teams are advising and assisting the above-mentioned in making decisions as well as in daily routine work. Over the past five years, the Capacity Building and Training Division of EUFOR has been working effortlessly to provide the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina with knowledge and practical skills to reach the highest military standards. Many courses have already been handed over to BiH authorities and a total of 3.236 instructors have been trained since 2010”.

In 2015, the main focus of EUFOR’s CB&T Division was to deliver the trainings requested by the AFBiH at the highest achievable level. Following an up dated

approach, CB&T has started to work on a Capability Development Based Assessment methodology with the AFBiH. Colonel Tayfun Çağan concluded: “This methodology will therefore be an important step for improving capabilities in Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a comprehensive way. The main focus of Capacity Building and Training in 2016 will be placed on the implementation of Capability Development Based Assessment Methodology in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as to continue supporting the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mine Action Activities. To assess the current capabilities of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina a Joint Task Force and Joint Working Groups were formed. By delivering the requested trainings to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina EUFOR’s Capacity Building and Training Division supports the overall effort of the Armed Forces to be highly efficient and professional”.

Disaster relief  
engineers training



# Interview with the BiH Armed Forces Colonel Mario Andrić

**As a part of the EU Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union Force's (EUFOR) Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Division provides BiH authorities with military expertise and technical support by training, mentoring, monitoring and advising the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and Armed Forces (AF) throughout their command structure.**

Through the CB&T program, EUFOR is assisting AFBiH in the improvement of its capacities, mainly in the fields related to doctrine, organisation, operational capabilities, personnel and logistics management.

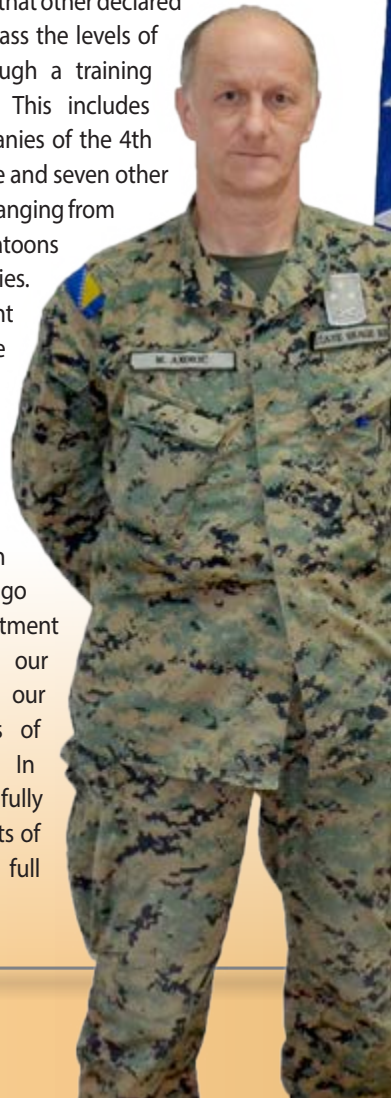
CB&T is one of EUFOR's main objectives, giving the AFBiH the skills and capacity to deploy and contribute to international missions abroad and humanitarian assistance to local authorities at home. In close coordination and cooperation with AFBiH, NATO and Troop Contribution Nations, EUFOR is striving to combine all efforts related to training in order to enhance AFBiH capacities and capabilities.


In an interview given to Teme magazine, Chief of J3/7 of the AFBiH Colonel Mario Andrić talked about the most significant achievements of the AFBiH in 2015, in regard to CB&T activities, dual use of force, and the planned activities of the AFBiH for the upcoming period.

### **In which areas did the AFBiH make the greatest progress in 2015?**

**Colonel Andrić:** "I think that we have been making progress in all areas of work and functioning over the past years, the years characterized with many challenges on both a national and international level. As a result, there is a number of achievements reached by the Armed Forces of BiH. The training

system of the AFBiH is aimed at maintaining and raising readiness to fulfil all our tasks. Very important progress has been made in the evaluation of interoperability of AFBiH units with NATO member countries, not only for the AFBiH, but also Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole. After the 6th Infantry Brigade and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal platoon of the Tactical Support Brigade have been evaluated as "Combat ready" for the participation in NATO-led operations, it is our goal that other declared units will successfully pass the levels of NATO evaluation, through a training programme, by 2018. This includes our two infantry companies of the 4th and 5th Infantry Brigade and seven other units at different levels ranging from teams through to platoons and combined companies. The second important fact that I would like to underline is the continued presence of AF Unit and personnel in the NATO Mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and with the UN Missions in Congo and Mali; a commitment which expresses our readiness to extend our participation in terms of additional capacities. In this way, the AF also fully contributes to the efforts of BiH on its path toward full NATO Membership.





## What does the building and enhancing of the so-called 'Dual use of force' mean for the AFBiH?

**Colonel Andrić:** Taking into consideration that over the past years Bosnia and Herzegovina was hit by catastrophic natural disasters – snowfalls, wildfires and flooding, the AFBiH had and still has an important role in responding to those disasters. In addition to our engagement in the actions of providing support to the civil authorities and population, when we prepare training plans we regularly give priority to the issues of training and equipping units in support of delivering the required operational capabilities and capacities to use in peace support operations throughout the world, at the request of the BiH Presidency. In this way, we build the most important capabilities so that the AFBiH can be used in several missions as envisaged by law.

## What are the most important training events of the AFBiH in 2016?

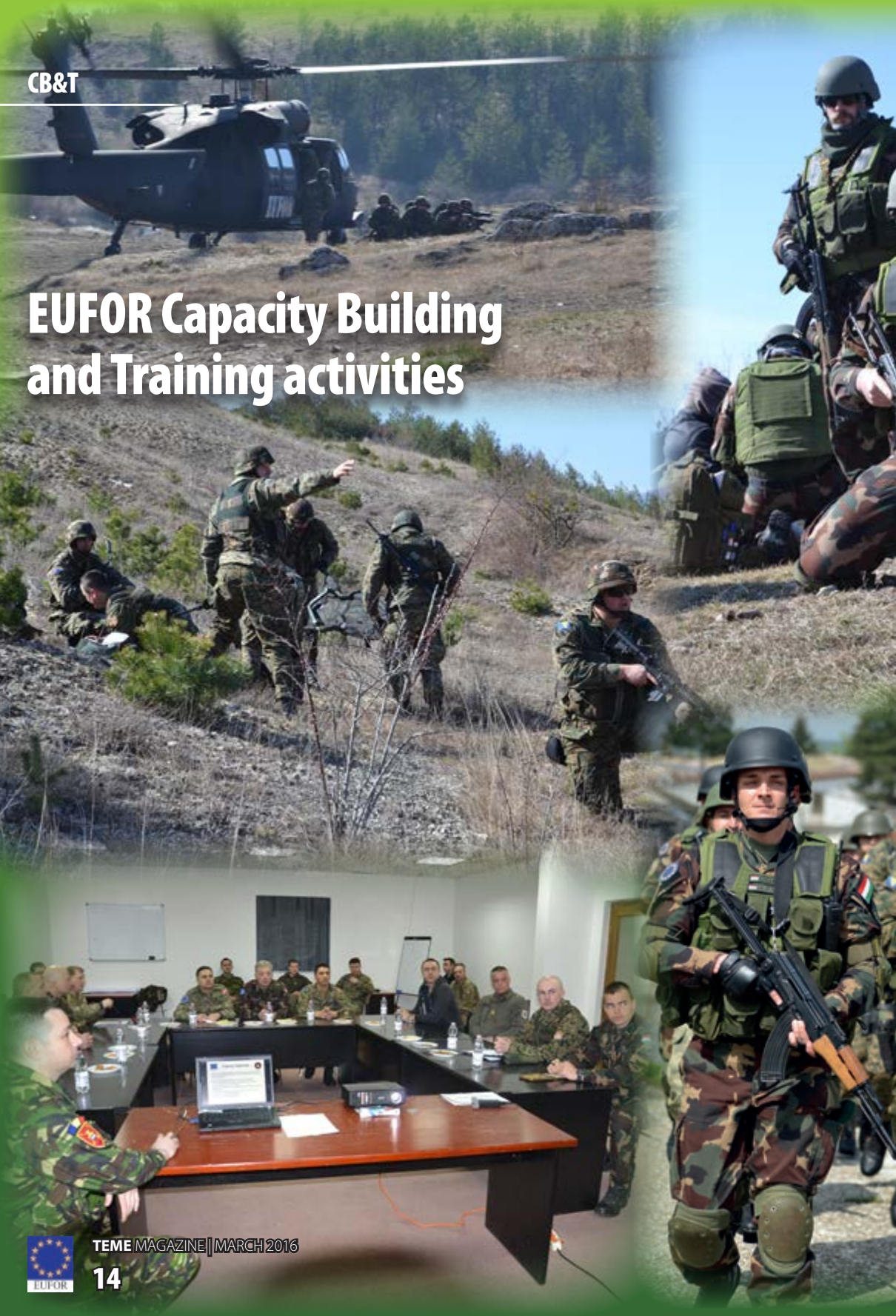
**Colonel Andrić:** Considering the limited resources, training of units and commands in 2016 is planned and will be carried out taking into consideration the priorities, with the comprehensive and coordinated engagement at all levels of command and control (C2). This will also reach full economic viability in implementation of all training events. To this end, the whole series of training events that we carry out through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, or through joint training with EUFOR, is coordinated to make up the whole, through which we engage the least possible resources to build up the necessary capabilities. In addition to the eight planned international military exercises (Germany, Turkey, Serbia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Greece) in which members of the AFBiH will participate, I must highlight three Dynamic Response exercises that will be carried out in BiH. They are computer-assisted command post exercises, followed by field and live fire exercises, which will also include

external evaluation. AFBiH NATO-declared units will attend two of these Dynamic Response exercises. Training will be in accordance with the Operational Capabilities Concept which will also be subject to NATO evaluation. The final Dynamic Response exercise will be an international military exercise. We consider this to be very important for our continued training with EUFOR, as they provide military expertise and technical assistance, monitoring, assistance and advisory assistance in building our necessary operational capabilities. AFBiH and EUFOR have also recently established joint teams which will specially work together on AFBiH Unit's Training assessments.

## What are the biggest challenges facing the AFBiH in the first half of 2016?

**Colonel Andrić:** Among the biggest challenges in 2016 is the planning and execution of the International REGEX 16 Exercise. The aim of this is the assessment and improvement of operational capability of Commands and Units (of a brigade command during a command post exercise and of a battalion-level combat group during a field exercise), and members and units of partner countries participating in the exercise. Their mission is to plan and execute, in real time, a peace support operation in a multinational environment. About 900 members of the AF will participate in the Exercise. Thirteen partner countries have also confirmed their participation. Considering the number of countries sending troops to take part in this exercise, and that at the request of NATO, AFBiH agreed to an obligation to execute the exercise in the first half of this year, we shall do our best during the planning to carry out this exercise to the highest possible standard. It will certainly ensure that all exercise participants, both from the AFBiH and AF from partner countries, confirm in practice their readiness to work in a multinational environment with the aim of building and enhancing global peace and stability.

# EUFOR Capacity Building and Training activities





# Commander EUFOR thanks long-time employees in Camp Butmir





On the 17th of March 2016, Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz used the opportunity to personally thank civilian employees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who have served for 20 years or longer with EUFOR and NATO.

During a ceremony in Camp Butmir in the presence of their family members, Commander EUFOR expressed his high regard and appreciation for

all civilian staff: "I am aware that sometimes not every single work effort may be visible to our eyes, but let me assure you it is essential to the success of this mission."

Being close to the end of his appointment as Commander EUFOR, Major General Luif thanked all members of the civilian staff for their continuous support and effort during his time in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





# **EUFOR and the AFBiH** **"Disaster relief"** Combined Training in Livno

Photos by:  
**Lieutenant Colonel**  
**Dr. Dezső HAJÓS**



First aid been provided to an injured person

**Disaster relief  
mountaineering  
techniques**



**Combined Mountain Rescue Team**



Evacuation by boat





## Military Movement Control Workshop for transportation personnel from AFBiH

Since 2009 many functions and responsibilities in which EUFOR led have been handed to the Armed Forces (AF) BiH or other BiH authorities. One important matter in relation to the Safe and Secure Environment is the Military Movement Control of weapons and equipment. Representatives of the BiH Ministry of Security, and other military and civilian authorities, signed a memorandum in 2009. This allows EUFOR to regulate the approvals for import, export, transit and internal shipment of weapons and military equipment, ammunition, and nuclear material for BiH, and grants responsibility for these matters to BiH institutions. With EUFOR monitoring and advising in this area, there is substantial cooperation with AFBiH. Capacity building and training of the transport structure and personnel

from AFBiH is one of the main tasks of EUFOR. The transport structure must meet current requirements and ensure current and future interoperability.

Practical courses and trainings have been organized regularly for AFBiH personnel within the country and abroad. The aim of these training courses is to train Movement Control Officers and transportation personnel in the field of NATO military transport procedures.

Major Nikolay Tasev, the Movement Control subject matter expert from the Bulgarian Armed Forces, talked to Teme about Military Movement Control (MMC) and Transportation Instructors training, which was held between 25-29 January 2016 in the Polish towns of Oleśnica and Wrocław.



**Capacity Building and Training billboard**

Five participants were trained from the Logistics Command and one participant from the AFBiH Joint Staff J4 (Logistics Group). This included exercises in organizing, planning and executing of tasks related to documents preparation, packing and loading of equipment, transporting and escorting assets and equipment transported within and/or beyond state borders.

**Major Tasev said:** “The courses and training are usually conducted by certified personnel from the EUFOR Movement Control Centre (MCC). Their role is to monitor and mentor the courses, provide consultations and advising with preparations during or after the courses, analyse and discuss the lectures with instructors, participate in practical training exercises and conduct a the final exam”. He also explained the phases of the Workshop: “The first phase consisted of a visit to the Polish Armed Forces Movement Coordination Centre at Oleśnica Camp. Here the training staff gave presentations on the structure, organisation and operating procedures, as well as the equipment used by the MCC in the field. In addition, they gave a demonstration of armored and cargo vehicles convoy movements, with a simulated breakdown of armored carriers and cargo vehicles. They also demonstrated the reality of how such vehicles are recovered by escorted oversize towing vehicles”. In reference to the second

part of the training, Major Tasev emphasized that it included a presentation of Movement Regulation Team deployment with all necessary equipment. It also included a demonstration of the setting up of checkpoints. Major Tasev concluded: “The final stage of training at Wroclaw Air Base was an exercise encompassing planning procedures, packing and preparation of equipment, as well as its loading onto CASA C-295 transport aircraft. All procedures were of great value to the trainees. The experience of learning by doing will result in advanced knowledge and excellent preparedness for finalizing the Instructions concerning movement control and coordination in the AFBiH, as well as their thorough implementation”.

The ultimate aim is for Movement Control Officers, and other AFBiH transportation personnel, to better understand NATO military transport procedures and develop a self-sustainable AFBiH Military Movement Control training system. The training recently organized in Poland has rounded the cycle of AFBiH Joint work with the Polish Monitoring and Training Team, which occurred in close coordination with HQ EUFOR’s Movement Control experts. It produced the desired results in support of a future functioning AFBiH transportation system, and supported the continued training of the AFBiH’s declared logistics company.



## A Joint statement by High Representative Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Hahn on the occasion of BiH submitting its membership application 15 February 2016

Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its application for membership to the European Union. This decision follows months of hard work by Bosnia's leadership and, we believe, addresses the aspirations of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is a day of celebration for all of us: only twenty years ago, it was in the Balkans where one of the most awful pages of the European history was written. Today we celebrate another step towards a united and peaceful continent.

And we need unity in challenging times. As some forces across our continent are questioning the very existence of our Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina's application shows that the need of a united European continent is still strong among our peoples.

The decision to apply belongs to the citizens and government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to them only. But as the European Union – together with our international partners and the international financial institutions – we have strongly invested in strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective. The two of us visited Sarajevo together just one month after the beginning of our mandate in 2014. In a moment when the perspective of an EU path for Bosnia and Herzegovina looked bleak, we decided to renew our Union's approach to the country.

The new approach was based on the decision to put concrete issues first – that is, citizens first. A pragmatic choice and a symbolic one: the *raison d'être* of our Union is to impact on our citizens' life for the better. The achievements of this past year on a broad reform agenda are impressive. In fact, we would not be here today if it

were not for the country's leadership. The country's political system has delivered on its citizens' needs – as long as all leaders and all government levels cooperate towards a common goal.

We must now seize the momentum gained so far, and keep on working hard. The reforms improving economic growth and social justice, the rule of law and the public administration need to be implemented. The functionality of Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions

remains a priority, including through the effective and functioning coordination mechanism on

EU matters. The adaptation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, following the accession of Croatia, will allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to normalise its trade relations with the Union. The country will continue enjoying the benefits of the advantageous trade and investment regime, while protecting its domestic producers in accordance with the Agreement. Finally, we expect that the authorities at all levels will ensure that the

challenges the country faces when it comes to its judicial system are addressed constructively, in a spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding.

Still there are wounds that need to be healed. But together we can help each other to move towards a future of reconciliation. Together, we can build a stronger European continent where all communities live side by side and cooperate beyond ethnic, national and religious divides. Twenty years after the war, it is about time we all looked ahead, towards our common future in a truly united Europe.



## **EUSR and Norwegian Embassy**

### Host Third Education and Jobs Fair in Mostar

The Education and Jobs Fair “Learn, Explore, Network” hosting 160 exhibitors and welcoming several thousand visitors was organised in Mostar, in co-operation of the Office of the EU Special Representative and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Building on the successes of previous fairs held in Zenica and Banja Luka, the Mostar Fair allowed participants – youth, students and unemployed – to identify and develop their own talents in various on-site workshops, explore up to 1,500 jobs and educational opportunities, and establish professional networks.



**Students visiting education fair**

In his opening remarks the Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative in BiH, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark stressed the importance of the Reform Agenda implementation for the BiH business environment. He said: “You may not see the difference yet, but the point of these reforms is to create jobs and opportunities for people like yourselves, for young people of this country. As one can tell from the dynamics here, there is plenty of energy in BiH, in Mostar now and I am pleased to see people want to work and improve their own future. Having the Fair provides hundreds of potential jobs.



**Deputy Head of Mission of Royal Norwegian Embassy, Anne Havnør** said: “Brain drain is a serious threat to BiH’s ambitions of becoming a modern developed European country. To counter this, the conditions for young talent here must be drastically improved – to motivate well-educated and skilled people to stay. We want people – especially youth, women and minorities – to be active participants in society and in the economy. In helping yourselves to succeed, you will also contribute to the well-being of your fellow citizens.”



**Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark  
EU Special Representative**

We are proud of the partnership with the Norwegian Embassy in this exciting and very meaningful event”.

The Fair welcomed businesses, institutions and NGOs that work on the development of the BiH business environment, labour and educational systems, or recruit new talent. They came from Grude, Mostar, Široki Brijeg, Čapljina, Sarajevo, Trebinje, Goražde, Tuzla, Zenica, Banja Luka, Jablanica, Bijeljina, Istočno Sarajevo and Stolac.



EU Program  
za oporavak  
od poplava



## *Now is the time for results*

by the Deputy Head of EU Delegation in BiH, Dr. Renzo Daviddi

2015 marked two decades since the Dayton-Paris Peace Accords, which ended the terrible war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is an opportunity to examine what has been achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to consider the road ahead. People of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I believe, want to be able to look to the future with optimism.

The progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last two decades is important. But there is still need for deep reforms, a subject that the BiH authorities and the European Union are discussing at the moment. BiH leaders and institutions need to pursue constructive policies and genuine socio-economic reforms in the interests of the citizens. If they do so, they will find a willing partner in the European Union.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a European country – its final ‘destination’ is the European Union, we have no doubt. All 28 Member States are committed and convinced that the country has the means to complete its journey to full European Union integration.

We are often asked if the DPA represents an obstacle on the European path of the country. Indeed, the DPA does create inefficiencies – for example: several jurisdictions with unclear division of competences, 3 Prime Ministers, 147 Ministers, and so on. Nonetheless, BiH does work, in its own fashion.

Crucially, and as we have seen in certain cases, provided there is the political will on the side of the relevant authorities, the constitutional set up of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not prevent them from working together on reforms that are beneficial for all citizens. These reforms are what EU integration is all about – reforms that improve the economy, the education system and the environment, and stamp out corruption and make government more efficient and responsive to citizens.

To make the EU accession process objective and transparent, the Member States have set out a number of rules and criteria to help them decide when an applicant country is ready to join the Union and become a member. These criteria are clear: stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, protection of minorities (called political criteria); existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces within the EU (called economic criteria); and the ability to take on the obligations of membership (for example, applying EU legislation).

### **How to do this? The answer is - The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)**

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) that came fully into force on 1 June 2015 was the first real step forward of BiH on its path towards the

EU. The SAA brought BiH and the EU closer together. Through it we build a closer and wider relationship economically, institutionally and politically. The Interim Agreement that has been in force since 2008 has prepared BiH.

The SAA opens a binding agenda for deep reforms that, experience shows, will improve people's quality of life, and get the country closer to EU membership. The next step would be the submission and acceptance of a credible application for EU membership. Real progress on reform is required for that, and this is what the EU's renewed approach is targeting.

The SAA sets out the rules for a comprehensive free trade partnership between BiH and the EU to the benefit of both. The free flow of goods between the EU and BiH created by the SAA means that BiH companies can access the EU's internal market of some 500 million consumers, provide their services across the EU and compete for public contracts. And BiH citizens will benefit from a host of EU product quality and health and safety standards that will be directly applicable in BiH. The SAA makes better quality, safer goods available. I believe that the effort is worth it – being part of the EU has a huge amount to offer. For instance, BiH citizens would join the over 500 million inhabitants – the world's third largest population after China and India. With just 7% of the world's population, the EU's trade with the rest of the world accounts for around 20% of global exports and imports.

And the EU is more than a single market, or an association of countries trading with each other without restrictions or tariffs.

It represents a vision of peace and prosperity on the European continent. It is about values and ideals of peace, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. These values and ideals are common across a continent that, at the same time, is defined by the diversity of its cultures, traditions, and languages.



With each successive enlargement, the EU has been able to extend its benefits to more citizens. Its scope has also grown with the various interests that the countries joining the Union have brought to the table or that circumstances have created, such as external action, the environment, regional policy, and setting up a single market for goods and services.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina has come a long way since 1995, including with international assistance.**

The country has progressed significantly in the past two decades. Yet, it can and must do more. The EU accession perspective which is solidly backed by all 28 Member States – including the reforms that are required to make that accession a reality – , is instrumental in further improving functionality of institutions at all levels of government.

We know that the area where the citizens and the EU perspective demand most improvements is the economy. Citizens' top concerns are jobs, a better economy, fairer welfare – and they do not see politicians addressing that enough. Urgent action is now required by those that are elected by the citizens of this country to better their lives and to move forward on the path towards the EU.

We know the people of this country want an EU future. The EU is ready to do our part. We now need to see all authorities, all leaders and all institutions find consensus, find agreements and make progress. In short, 20 years after the Dayton-Paris agreement it's time for results – it's time for those in authority to step up and take responsibility for a better future.



## On EU assistance to employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina

2015 EC Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina concludes that there has been no progress in the area of employment and social policies.

According to Eurostat's latest figures, BiH now has the lowest GDP in purchasing power parity in Europe and is lagging behind comparable neighbours in the Western Balkans region. As a result, the overall unemployment rate stands at over a quarter of the workforce and the rate of youth unemployment is the highest in Europe. It is time to begin to reverse this trend and offer to all citizens, regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation, real access to good jobs that match their skills and qualifications.

The EU Floods Recovery Programme expands its economic rehabilitation activities, retains and creates 5,500 jobs

The EU Floods Recovery Programme today launched the second phase of support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) affected by the May 2014 floods, to enable them to re-establish and further increase their pre-floods production level.

The first phase of support to SMEs was successfully implemented in 2014 and it included 56 enterprises. Due to efficiencies and operational savings, the Programme extended its support and included additional 61 companies in its grants scheme, bringing the total number of supported SMEs up to 117.

"The grants provided by the European Union to these companies to support their economic recovery has so far generated significant new incomes and safeguarded and created 5,500 jobs. This great success is not only important for the assisted



companies but also for their communities, as their participation in local trade and economy provides further stimulus for development”, said the Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to BiH, Melvin Asin.

The economic rehabilitation component of the EU Floods Recovery Programme is of great importance as it is helping to set communities affected by the floods on a path towards economic growth that is even greater than the one expected prior to the floods.

“Economic recovery and development are our common goals. The EU Floods Recovery Programme which we are implementing is helping achieve that goal by turning devastating blow to economy in the floods affected communities into economic growth and prosperity,” said the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in BiH, Zahira Virani.

The floods had a negative impact on these companies – by hindering their production capacities due to loss of equipment and damage to their facilities, and by hampering their ability to acquire

the necessary raw materials, and as a consequence, jobs were put at risk.

The companies have been selected as recipients of the EU grants after a rigorous application and verification process.

“Had we not received the support of the EU we would have had to shut down our company and leave more than 30 people jobless. The aid we received enabled us to restart our production and to hire 20 more people. We now have some 60 employees and aim to further expand our production and market,” said Rankica Panić, Director of Premijer d.o.o., a textile company from Dobož.

In addition to the SMEs, the EU Floods Recovery Programme, through its economic rehabilitation component is also assisting 1,270 commercial agricultural producers and farmers through an overall investment of EUR 5.26 million.

The EU Floods Recovery Programme worth EUR 43.52 million is funded by the European Union in the amount of EUR 42.24 million and implemented by the UNDP, UNICEF and IOM.





EUFOR Elements

## Novo Sarajevo LOT Supports **Young Scouts Winter Camp**

On 20 January 2016, members of the Slovakian Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) from Novo Sarajevo visited the Mladost Scouts Winter Camp from Ilijaš.

Camping is a great opportunity for children to explore leadership, build skills, and develop a deep appreciation of nature. Whether for a day, a week, or longer, the scout camp gives children an opportunity to grow, explore, and have fun under the guidance of caring, trained adults. Guided by this idea, the president of the Mladost Youth Scout Association from Ilijaš, Mr Nijaz Rastoder, decided to organize a Winter Camp in Vareš for around 30 children aged 7-15, during their winter holidays.

Mr Rastoder said: "The Scouts Association is a non-political organization open to all, from 7 to 77 years old. Our main goal is to involve as many children as possible. We teach them practical life skills and knowledge. This is very important because they can apply this in daily life, especially during natural disasters. We have organized a scout camp for the fifth year in a row. Four of us adults were taking care of 31 children this year, and we were extremely pleased to see them learning, training, practicing but also having fun together". He went on to say: "When we are hit by adverse weather conditions, than we organize different indoor trainings. One of the most interesting this year was the Mine Risk Education (MRE) training. We are very grateful to the EUFOR Slovakian

Liaison and Observation Team from Novo Sarajevo Municipality for organizing the Mine Risk Education for our Scout Camp participants. It is very important that children learn about the mine threat and how to deal with it. It was very useful and educational, not only for children, but also for us adults. I highly appreciate their help and support".

The Slovakian LOT Commander, Captain Peter Krenicky said it was a great pleasure for his team to be a part of this beautiful educational event. As mines will continue to pose a threat in BiH, for a long time to come,

continuous education on this issue is essential to avoid having victims of mines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXO).

Captain Krenicky emphasized: "The safety of children is one of the most important concerns of EUFOR. Throughout our lectures, the children have an opportunity to see how much space is still contaminated and what happens when touching the mines and lethal means. The aim of the MRE is to reduce the risk of landmines and unexploded ordnance for humans and to make BiH a safer and more secure place".

It is estimated that in 9,185 locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are still around 120,000 mines. The suspect area covers 1,176.50 km<sup>2</sup>, which poses a threat to 540,000 people, or about 15% of the population. The EUFOR MICC (Mine Education Coordination Center), and its LOT Houses, are credited with a major role and contribution to different aspects of mine risk education. Over 260,000 persons have attended the educational program over the past years which is certainly a remarkable number.



Following the lectures on MRE given by the Slovakian LOT members, and testing the children's knowledge, all the participants received diplomas, but also some small gifts donated by the EUFOR Mine Information Coordination Cell (MICC), such as caps, workbooks, pencils, and food packages.



# Austrian CIMIC donation to the Football School "Respekt"

### Football for all!

The Respekt Football Academy was founded in 2014 in an effort to create a unique alliance of individuals and groups who share a vision of bringing to fruition the full potential of every child, whether with disabilities or not. Although the legal framework defines the competence of the state (the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in 1989), not much has been realized in practice regarding the children's rights in sports, recreation as well as in the field of active participation in social life of children with disabilities.

It was precisely this fact that spurred Emir Hujdur and Zoran Stjepanović, their friends, and experts in the field of sports, to start a free football academy for children with developmental disabilities. But, also for those children who are excluded from many spheres of social life, i.e. Roma children.

President of the Respekt Football Academy Mr. Emir Hujdur said: "We offer equality and opportunity for all and in the spirit of sport we 'erase' differences among

them". He underlined this by saying: "The vision of the Respekt FA is to reach every child, especially children with disabilities, children who are often excluded from society and discriminated against, or those belonging to the Roma population, living and working in the street. To all of them sport provides companionship, support, sense of belonging and connectedness. Inclusion of these children in sports activities does not normally exist". He went on to say "Unfortunately, children with disabilities and their families live on the margins of society".

Respekt FA trainings in school is held four times a week, in the Vladimir Nazor Center sports hall, then on the artificial turf pitch of the Kick Off Association, as well as on the premises of the SOS Children's Village. President of the Respekt said: "Today, sport is a media used to spread out the message of peace, equality and friendship among people. Regular physical activity is actually one of the key factors for a healthy life. Our football academy primarily serves health and education purposes, and our main goal is to prevent deviant behavior, obesity, but also to





promote socialization of children through sports. Our project staff are qualified experts in different areas, and we have also established cooperation with the Faculty of Sport. Due to the enormous interest on the part of the parents, the Football Academy currently has 64 boys and girls aged between 4 and 14. The target groups are children with disabilities and developmental disorders, children from the Roma population, children without parents, and all others who might be interested. In our school every child is a winner! "

The Respekt Football Academy will try to continue to offer the children a place to play, to engage the children with disabilities in sports activities and to show that inclusion of children with disabilities in sport is not only possible but first of all necessary. President of the Respekt also said: "The purpose is to show that when it comes to their enthusiastic perception of football and sports activities in general, children with disabilities are no different from their peers attending regular school. It is important to let a child be a child, let them be perfect in their imperfections, without reproach, without discrimination. Our objectives and planned activities are already recognizable and unique, that is why we have great support from many sports organizations in the country, but citizens as well. Some of them are members of the Civil-Military Cooperation team of the Austrian contingent of EUFOR. They made a donation of over 90 football strips and five soccer balls, worth 2,850 KM, and I use this opportunity to

thank them once again for their support. Due to the fact that our school is free of charge, we hope that in the near future we will find a way to get the necessary funds for smooth operations. Good people help us to achieve our goals, but it is not enough for full implementation of the planned activities. We expect the involvement and support to come from stable local companies so that our mission, unique in the Balkans, will be successful".

#### **"CIMIC Helps!"**

"That's our motto", says Major Wolfgang Schuh, the head of the Austrian Contingent Civil-Military Cooperation team. Major Schuh went on to say: "The purpose of our activities is to provide help where it is needed most. The financial donation has been provided by generous private donors from Austria. We all know that football has a very positive effect on the development of children, especially those with physical and mental disabilities. The Respekt Football Academy managers have set the goal bar even higher - training and playing in a team strengthens other qualities also, such as team spirit and self-discipline or fair play and ambition. These are the qualities that young people will need when they grow up. What is very important to point out is that training is free of charge. I have had a chance to talk with some parents who say they would not be able to afford it if payment was required. Therefore, we are very glad to be able to support the Academy with this donation".



Answer the questions below



**20 prizes to be won!**

You are invited to  
send your answers  
until 25 May 2016 to:

[TEME@eufor.europa.eu](mailto:TEME@eufor.europa.eu)



This competition is not subject to legal recourse. A EUFOR T-shirt and an USB stick will be awarded to the 20 correct answers drawn from the ballot.

-  **1. What is the nation of your nearest LOT house?**
-  **2. EUFOR serves in BiH under which UN Security Council Resolution?**
-  **3. How many different nations serve in EUFOR?**

You may find the answers on the EUFOR Home page

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