

MEDIA HANDBOOK



European Union





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European Union

MEDIA HANDBOOK





Dear Media Colleagues,

This handbook is designed to be a useful and accessible source of concrete information. I hope it will help you in your coverage of the European Union's work in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards EU membership.

The accession process will have a positive and lasting impact on all sections of society, and it is essential that the facts are presented clearly and honestly. We have to explain steps that are being taken and why they are being taken – and we can only do that by working closely and constructively with independent, critical and committed journalists.

I and my Communications team look forward to strengthening our partnership with media colleagues as we engage in the common endeavour of presenting accurate and timely news about the European Union to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Johann Sattler

Head of the Delegation of the European Union and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

“The European Union is not complete without the Western Balkans and the Member States’ decision to finally start accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia is proof of the geostrategic importance of the region.”

High Representative/
Vice-President
Josep Borrell Fontelles

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THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The EU Member States are independent and sovereign nations that have pooled their sovereignty and transferred some decision-making powers to common EU institutions. The institutions debate, negotiate and regulate on specific issues of common interest at the European level. The EU is therefore a unique body, with more power and influence on the global stage than any individual Member State could achieve on its own.

The key institutions of the European Union are:

- **The European Commission** with a Commissioner from each Member State that seeks to uphold the interests of the Union as a whole.
- **The Council of the European Union** composed of ministers from the national governments of the EU, who may defend and promote their national interests there.
- **The European Council** consisting of heads of state or government of the EU Member States. It defines the general political direction and priorities of the EU but does not perform legislative functions.
- **The European Parliament** directly elected by and representing more than 445 million EU citizens.

New legislation may be proposed by the European Commission; it must be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. After adoption, its implementation is entrusted to the Member States and the European Commission. Other EU institutions include the Court of Justice, which upholds the rule of European law, and the Court of Auditors, which scrutinises the financing of the Union's activities.

The powers and responsibilities of these institutions are laid down in the Treaties, which are the foundation of everything the EU does. The Treaties also lay down the rules and procedures that the EU institutions must follow. The Treaties are agreed on by the presidents and/or prime ministers of all the EU countries and ratified by their parliaments.

The European Parliament



European Parliament

The European Parliament, with 705 members in total, represents the voice of all citizens of the European Union from all Member States. As of 1 February 2020, there are 705 European Parliament Members (MEPs) instead of 751, allowing room for possible future enlargements of the European Union. The European Parliament Members are directly elected by the citizens every five years.

The European Parliament has three main roles:

- debating and passing European laws, together with the Council, through the “ordinary legislative procedure”;
- scrutinising other EU institutions, particularly the European Commission, to make sure they are working democratically;
- debating and adopting the EU’s budget, with the Council.

The Lisbon Treaty expanded the range of policies covered by the new “ordinary legislative procedure”, giving the European Parliament more power to influence the content of laws in areas including agriculture, energy policy, immigration and EU funds. The European Parliament must also give its permission for other important decisions, such as allowing new countries to join the European Union. It has the power to approve or reject the nomination of the President of the European Commission and Commissioners, and the right to censure the Commission as a whole.



The current President of the European Parliament is David Maria Sassoli (Italy).

CONTACT:

EP Spokesperson and Director-General for Communication

Jaume Duch Guillot

Brussels: +32 2 28 43000

Strasbourg: +33 3 881 74705

jaume.duch@europarl.europa.eu

Press Office of the European Parliament: +32 2 2833 000 or <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/contacts-and-services>

For more information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

The European Council

The European Council provides the necessary impetus for the development of the European Union and establishes its general political directions and priorities. The European Council does not perform legislative functions. Most of its decisions are taken by consensus, unless otherwise provided in the Treaties. The members of the European Council (prime ministers and presidents of the Member States) meet at least twice a year. The President of the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice President of the Commission are involved in the work of the European Council.



*The current President of the European Council is **Charles Michel (Belgium).***

CONTACT:

Barend Leyts

Spokesperson of the European Council President

Tel. +32 2 281 51 50

GSM +32 486 22 6865

press.president@consilium.europa.eu

@BarendLeyts

Council of the European Union



The Council of the European Union is the main decision-making institution in the EU, negotiating and bringing in new EU laws, or adjusting them when necessary, with the consent of the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure.

The Council of the European Union is responsible for coordinating Member States' policies, concluding international agreements on behalf of the EU, developing the common foreign and security policy on the basis of strategic guidelines set by the European Council, and adopting the EU budget in coordination with the European Parliament. The presidency of the Council rotates every six months. Currently, the presidency of the Council of the European Union is held by Germany. Portugal will take over the presidency from January to June 2021.

The Council is the EU institution where Member States' government representatives sit, i.e. the ministers of each MS with responsibility for a given area. The Council meets in 10 different "configurations" depending on the subject under discussion (Agriculture and Fisheries; Competitiveness; Economic and Financial Affairs; Education, Youth, Culture and Sport; Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs; Environment; Foreign Affairs; General Affairs; Justice and Home Affairs; Transport, Telecommunications and Energy).

CONTACT:

Press Office Central secretariat

Tel. +32 22816319

Fax +32 22818026

press.office@consilium.europa.eu

For more information:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>

European Commission

The European Commission is the politically independent institution that represents the interests of the Union as a whole. The European Commission proposes new legislation to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, and it ensures that EU law is correctly applied by the Member States. The European Commission is composed of 27 members of the College of Commissioners, including the President and Vice-Presidents and is appointed every 5 years. The Commission is organised into policy departments, known as Directorates-General (DGs), which are responsible for different policy areas. DGs develop, implement and manage EU policy, law, and the funding of programmes.

The European Commission is politically accountable to the European Parliament, which has the power to dissolve it by a vote of censure. The European Commission takes part in all the sessions of the European Parliament, where it must clarify and justify its policies.



*The President of the European Commission is **Ursula von der Leyen** (Germany).*

CONTACT:

European Commission Chief
Spokesperson

Eric Mamer

Tel: +32 2 2994073

Mob: +32 498 99 4073

eric.mamer@ec.europa.eu

@MamerEric

Website for media:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/contact/press-services/press-contacts/press-contacts-spokespersons-service_en

Web sites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/>

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/interim_en

Specialised bodies of the European Union:

- The European Economic and Social Committee represents civil society, employers and employees (<http://www.eesc.europa.eu>)
- The Committee of the Regions represents regional and local authorities (<http://cor.europa.eu>)
- The European Investment Bank finances EU investment projects and helps small businesses via the European Investment Fund (www.eib.org)
- The European Central Bank is responsible for European monetary policy (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu>)
- The European Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration by EU institutions and bodies (<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>)
- The European Data Protection Supervisor safeguards the privacy of people's personal data (<https://edps.europa.eu/>)
- The Publications Office of the European Union publishes information about the EU (<https://op.europa.eu/>)
- The European Personnel Selection Office recruits staff for EU institutions and other bodies (<https://epso.europa.eu/>)
- The European School of Administration's task is to provide training in specific areas for members of EU staff (<http://europa.eu/eas>)

In addition, specialised agencies have been set up to handle certain technical, scientific or management tasks.

POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The EU is actively developing and implementing policies on a wide range of issues, from human rights to transport and trade. What follows is a summary of the EU's actions in areas likely to be of main interest to BiH media.



FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

The European Union has developed its own unique foreign and security policy that allows all of its Member States to speak and act as a single body in international affairs. The role of the EU's foreign and security policy is to preserve peace and strengthen international security, to promote international cooperation and to develop and consolidate democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Overall policy is based on diplomacy backed by trade, humanitarian work, and where necessary by security and defence instruments – to resolve conflicts and bring international understanding.

The ultimate decision-making authority on these issues is the European Council, which has meetings four times a year and defines principles and general policy guidelines. The position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was created by the 2009 Lisbon Treaty which established the European External Action Service (EEAS).



*The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is **Josep Borrell Fontelles** (Spain).*

CONTACT:

Peter Stano

Lead Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mobile: +32 (0) 460 75 45 53

E -mail: peter.stano@ec.europa.eu
@ExtSpoxEU

For more information:

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/area/press_en, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/borrell-fontelles_en

ENLARGEMENT AND EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

EU Enlargement

Enlargement is one of the EU's most powerful policy tools. All European citizens benefit from having neighbours that are stable democracies and prosperous market economies. Enlargement is a carefully managed process which helps the transformation of the countries involved, extending peace, stability, prosperity, democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe.

According to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, any European country may apply for membership if it respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States (Article 6.1 TEU). Accession, however, can only follow if the given European country fulfils all the accession criteria which were set by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993 and reinforced by the European Council in Madrid in 1995.



*The Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement is **Olivér Várhelyi** (Hungary).*

CONTACT:

Ana Pisonero

EEAS Spokesperson for
Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Tel.: +32 2 295 43 20

Mobile: +32 460 75 4320

ana.pisonero-hernandez@ec.europa.eu

@anapisonero

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/varhelyi_en

JUSTICE, CONSUMERS AND EQUALITY

The European Union is founded on a strong engagement to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law worldwide. Sustainable peace, development and prosperity cannot exist without respect for human rights. This commitment underpins all internal and external policies of the European Union. The European Union sees human rights as universal and indivisible. It actively promotes and defends them both within its borders and when engaging in relations with non-EU countries.

Countries seeking to join the EU must respect human rights. All cooperation and trade agreements with third countries contain a clause stipulating that human rights are an essential element in relations between the parties. These are just two examples illustrating how human rights represent a guiding principle for the Union's external action.



*The Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality is **Věra Jourová** (Czech Republic).*

CONTACT:

Christian Wigand

Spokesperson – Justice, Equality and Rule of Law

Tel.: +32 2 296 22 53

Mob.: +32 460 764 700

christian.wigand@ec.europa.eu

For more information:

<http://europa.eu/pol/rights/http://fra.europa.eu/>

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/node/46/announcements_en

SINGLE MARKET AND COMPETITION

Single Market

In the EU's single market (sometimes also called the internal market) people, goods, services and money can move around the EU as freely as within a single country. Mutual recognition plays a central role in getting rid of barriers to trade. EU citizens can study, live, shop, work and retire in any EU country – and enjoy products from all over Europe.

To create this single market, hundreds of technical, legal and bureaucratic barriers to free trade and free movement between the EU's member countries have been abolished. At the same time, with the help of Europe's various competition and regulatory authorities, the EU works to ensure that these greater freedoms do not undermine fairness, consumer protection or environmental sustainability.



*The Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs is **Thierry Breton** (France).*

CONTACT:

Sonya Gospodinova

Spokesperson - Internal Market, defence industry and space

Tel.: +32 2 296 69 53

Mob: +32 460 76 69 53

sonya.gospodinova@ec.europa.eu

@GospodinovaEU

For more information:

https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/single-market_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/breton_en

Competition

The European Commission, together with national competition authorities, adopts rules to ensure fair and equal conditions for businesses, ensuring benefits for the businesses, the end consumers and the European economy as a whole. The EU's rules on competition are designed to ensure fair and equal conditions for businesses, while leaving space for innovation, unified standards, and the development of small businesses. The European Commission monitors and investigates anti-competition practices, mergers and state aid to ensure a level playing field for EU businesses, while guaranteeing choice and fair pricing for consumers. This better functioning means better results and the greatest benefit for companies, consumers and the European economy as a whole.



*The Commissioner for Competition is **Margrethe Vestager** (Denmark).*

CONTACT:

Arianna Podesta

Spokesperson for Competition and Eurostat

Tel.: +32 2 298 70 24

Mob: +32 460 76 03 78

arianna.podesta@ec.europa.eu

@arianna_podesta

For more information:

https://ec.europa.eu/competition/index_en.htm

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/vestager_en

AGRICULTURE

EU farming policy – the common agricultural policy – serves many purposes:

- helps farmers produce sufficient quantities of food for Europe;
- ensures this food is safe (for example through traceability);
- protects farmers from excessive price volatility and market crises;
- helps them invest in modernising their farms;
- sustains viable rural communities, with diverse economies;
- creates and maintains jobs in the food industry;
- protects the environment and animal welfare.

EU farm policy has evolved considerably in recent decades to help farmers face new challenges and also in response to changing public attitudes. Successive reforms mean that farmers now base their production decisions on market demand, rather than on decisions taken in Brussels. EU agricultural policy covers a wide range of areas, including food quality, traceability, trade and promotion of EU farm products. The EU's policy is to give farmers advice on investment and innovation.



*The Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development is **Janusz Wojciechowski** (Poland).*

CONTACT:

Daniel Rosario

Spokesperson for Agriculture and Rural Development, Trade

Tel: +32 2 29 56185

Mob.: +32 460 764 267

daniel.rosario@ec.europa.eu

@danielrosarioEU

For more information:

http://europa.eu/pol/av/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/index_en.htm

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/wojciechowski_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/wojciechowski_en

INNOVATION, RESEARCH, CULTURE, EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Innovation has been placed at the heart of the EU's strategy to create growth and jobs. A European Fund for Strategic Investments was created in 2015, with an initial €21 billion backed by the EU. This will grow thanks to a multiplier effect achieved by attracting private and public investors, triggering investments of more than €315 billion over three years. Already after one year, the plan is expected to mobilise over €138 billion of new investments across the EU, from big companies that employ hundreds of people to local small and medium-sized companies in need of capital to grow their ideas. Given the success of the plan so far, the Commission is committed to doubling the fund and has proposed to increase the target to at least €500 billion by 2020, with a commitment to doubling it to €630 billion by 2022 at the latest.

The EU works to preserve Europe's shared cultural heritage and help make it accessible to all. It also supports and promotes the arts and creative industries in Europe. Support for the arts and creative industries takes the form of: programmes to help them get the most out of digital technologies and the EU market; funding; help with research projects; support for cooperation with EU and non-EU partners. The Creative Europe programme helps European cinema, the arts and the creative industries create more jobs and growth, building on the successful MEDIA, MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes. EU countries are responsible for their own education and training systems, but the EU helps them set joint goals and share good practices. The Erasmus+ programme is designed to tackle youth unemployment by improving young people's skills and employability. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a partner country in the Erasmus+ programme.



*The Commissioner for Research, Science, Innovation, Culture, Education and Youth is **Maryia Gabriel** (Bulgaria)*

CONTACT:

Johannes Bahrke

Coordinating Spokesperson

Tel: +32 2 295 86 15

Mob +32 460 75 86 15

johannes.bahrke@ec.europa.eu

@jb_bax

For more information:

https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/research-innovation_en

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/gabriel_en

ENVIRONMENT, OCEANS AND FISHERIES

The EU has some of the world's highest environmental standards. Environment policy helps green the EU economy, protect nature, and safeguard the health and quality of life for people living in the EU. As a global actor, the EU plays a key role in international efforts to promote sustainable development globally.



*The Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries is **Virginijus Sinkevičius** (Lithuania).*

CONTACT:

Vivian Loonela

Spokesperson

Tel.: +32 2 296 67 12

Mob.: +32 460 76 67 12

vivian.loonela@ec.europa.eu

For more information:

http://europa.eu/pol/env/index_
[https://europa.eu/european-union/](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/environment_en)
[topics/environment_en](http://ec.europa.eu/http://ec.europa.eu/)[http://](http://ec.europa.eu/http://ec.europa.eu/)
[ec.europa.eu/http://ec.europa.eu/](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/sinkevicius_en)
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/sinkevicius_en)
[commissioners/2019-2024/](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/sinkevicius_en)
[sinkevicius_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/sinkevicius_en)

ENERGY

Energy flows freely across national borders in the EU. New technologies, energy efficiency measures and renewed infrastructure help cut household bills, create new jobs and skills, and boost growth and exports. Europe aims to become a sustainable, low-carbon and environmentally friendly economy. It leads the way in renewable energy production and the fight against global warming.



*The Commissioner for Energy is **Kadri Simson** (Estonia).*

CONTACT:

Tim McPhie

Spokesperson

Tel.: +32 2 295 86 02

Mob.: +32 460 75 86 02

tim.mcphie@ec.europa.eu

For more information:

[https://europa.eu/european-union/
topics/energy_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/energy_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/
commissioners/2019-2024/
simson_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/simson_en)

HUMANITARIAN AID AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Since 2010, the European Commission has established a more robust and effective European mechanism for disaster response. A single organisation now deals with both humanitarian aid and civil protection, which is more efficient. The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) handles EU-funded relief.

The Commissioner for Crisis Management is the European Emergency Response Coordinator whose responsibilities include strengthening the Emergency Response Coordination Centre as the EU's single operational crisis response hub and ensuring that the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU) is used to its full potential.

The EU's Commissioner for Crisis Management coordinates work on better prevention and preparedness for emergencies by supporting Member States to develop disaster risk strategies and improve access to early warning systems. Support is also provided to countries most exposed to climate change to adapt and boost their resilience based on the expertise and knowledge of Europe's humanitarian aid work following natural disasters.

The Commissioner promotes and develops an integrated approach to crises so that policies address urgent relief and longer-term solutions. He also advocates globally in support of international humanitarian law.



*The Commissioner for Crisis Management is **Janez Lenarčič** (Slovenia).*

CONTACT:

Spokesperson

Balazs Ujvari

Tel.: +32 2 296 53 22

+32 2 295 45 78

Mob.: +32 460 76 02 96

balazs.ujvari@ec.europa.eu

For more information:


https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/lenarcic_en

OTHER COMMISSIONERS

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission:


Frans Timmermans (Netherlands)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/timmermans_en

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission:


Valdis Dombrovskis (Latvia)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/dombrovskis_en

INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND FORESIGHT

Vice-President of the European Commission:


Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/sefcovic_en

DEMOCRACY AND DEMOGRAPHY

Vice-President of the European Commission:


Dubravka Šuica (Croatia)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/suica_hr

PROMOTING OUR EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE

Vice-President of the European Commission:


Margaritis Schinas (Greece)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/schinas_en

BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner:

Johannes Hahn (Austria)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/hahn_en

TRADE

Commissioner:

Phil Hogan (Ireland)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/hogan_en

JOBS AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Commissioner:


Nicolas Schmit (Luxembourg)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/schmit_en

ECONOMY

Commissioner:

Paolo Gentiloni (Italy)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/gentiloni_en

COHESION AND REFORMS

Commissioner:

Elisa Ferreira (Portugal)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/gentiloni_en

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Commissioner:


Stella Kyriakides (Cyprus)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/kyriakides_en

JUSTICE

Commissioner:

Didier Reynders (Belgium)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/reynders_en

EQUALITY

Commissioner:

Helena Dalli (Malta)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/dalli_en

HOME AFFAIRS

Commissioner:


Ylva Johansson (Sweden)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/johansson_en

TRANSPORT

Commissioner:

Adina Vălean (Romania)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/valean_en

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Commissioner:

Jutta Urpilainen (Finland)

 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/urpilainen_en

SPOKESPERSON'S SERVICE

The Spokesperson's Service (SPP) is the official voice of the European Commission vis-à-vis the media. It provides information about the Commission's political priorities and decisions to the press, organises press events and issues press materials.

The SPP operates under the political authority of the President of the Commission and in cooperation with national representations of the European Commission. The European Commission Chief Spokesperson is the Head of the SPP and is assisted by one Deputy Chief Spokesperson, up to three Coordinating Spokespersons, up to 13 portfolio Spokespersons, and up to 30 portfolio Press Officers. SPP has a Unit in charge of multimedia editing, speeches and liaison with the Commission's Representations in the Member States.

The Representations are in charge of communicating with national and local media in close liaison with the SPP.



The Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission is
Eric Mamer.

Spokesperson

Eric Mamer

Tel.: +32 2 299 40 73

Mob.: +32 498 99 40 73

Email: eric.mamer@ec.europa.eu

For more information:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/contact/press-services/press-contacts/press-contacts-spokespersons-service_en

EU GLOSSARY

Acceding Country:

A country that has met the Copenhagen criteria, completed negotiations and signed the Treaty of Accession to the European Union.

Accession Treaty:

The Accession Treaty of a Member State is signed upon completion of the accession negotiations. Accession does not come automatically as the Treaty has to be ratified by all EU Member States and the acceding country. The Accession Treaty sets out the conditions and arrangements regarding accession, including the rights and obligations of the new Member State as well as adaptations to the EU institutions.

Acquis Communautaire:

A French term denoting the rights and obligations shared by all EU countries. The *acquis* includes all treaties, EU legislation, international agreements, standards, the caselaw of the European Court of Justice, fundamental rights provisions and principles enshrined in the treaties, such as equality and non-discrimination. In short: EU law.

Accordingly, “acceptance of the *acquis*” means incorporating EU laws into the national legislation and ensuring proper enforcement. Acceptance and implementation of the *acquis* are the basis of the accession negotiations which are organised along different policy areas – the “chapters of the *acquis*”.

Avis (Opinion):

Following the analysis of the replies to the Questionnaire forwarded by the country's authorities, the Commission's Opinion may:

- Recommend granting candidate status to the country and the start of negotiations;
- Recommend candidate status but set key priorities as condition for setting the start date;
- Set key priorities as conditions for candidate status;
- Offer other possible options.

Brexit:

The United Kingdom left the European Union on 31 January 2020. For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership_en

Candidate Country:

Refers to the country whose application for EU membership has been officially accepted. Currently there are five candidate countries: Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Before joining the EU, a candidate must meet the Copenhagen criteria for membership and complete the accession negotiations.

Copenhagen Criteria:

At the meeting in Copenhagen in June 1993, EU leaders set three criteria that each candidate country must fulfil if it wants to become an EU member. First, it must have stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and respect for human and minority rights. Second, it must have a functioning market economy. Third, it must adopt the *acquis* and support the objectives of the European Union. These requirements are supplemented by the Madrid criteria.

European citizenship:

The citizens of EU Member States hold both national and EU citizenship.

European Citizens' Initiative:

The European Citizens' Initiative enables one million citizens from at least seven member states of the EU to directly ask the European Commission to propose relevant legislative initiatives in areas of EU competence. Its purpose is to ensure that citizens' initiatives truly represent public opinion in the EU.

European Union:

The EU was established in 1993 by the Maastricht Treaty which extended the scope of the European Economic Community to the area of foreign and security policy, and provided for the creation of a European Central Bank and the adoption of a common currency, the euro. The Lisbon Treaty merged the Community and the European Union into a single political organisation, the Union, covering all areas of co-operation and giving the EU legal personality to allow it to enter into agreements with States and other legal entities in all areas of its competence.

European Integration:

This term means connecting European countries and peoples. Within the European Union, it means that countries unite their resources and jointly make many decisions. Joint decision-making takes place through interaction between EU institutions (Parliament, Council, Commission, etc.).

EEA:

Abbreviation denoting the European Economic Area which is made up of the European Union and the EFTA countries, excluding Switzerland. The Agreement of the EEA, which entered into force on 1 January 1994, gives Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway the benefits of the common market, but without the privileges and responsibilities of the Member States.

EEC:

Abbreviation for the European Economic Community – one of the three European Communities established in 1957 for the economic integration of Europe. The six founding member countries were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. When the 1993 Maastricht Treaty came into force, the EEC was renamed the European Community (EC), which forms the basis of today's European Union.

Enlargement:

The EU now consists of 27 members. Increasing the number of member states is called an enlargement, and it has happened on several occasions:

- 1973 Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
- 1981 Greece
- 1986 Portugal, Spain
- 1995 Austria, Finland, Sweden
- 2004 Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia
- 2007 Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013 Croatia

Eurobarometer:

Department of the European Commission, established in 1973, whose mission is to measure and analyse trends in public opinion in all EU Member States and candidate countries. For the European Commission, it is important to know what the public thinks of EU law-making and decision-making processes and how it assesses the work of the Commission. Eurobarometer uses surveys and focus groups. Eurobarometer surveys are published annually in more than 100 reports.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Eurozone:

This is the unofficial name for the European monetary union comprising the EU Member States which have adopted the euro as their currency and met the euro convergence (or Maastricht) criteria. So far, these are: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. Other EU states (excluding Denmark) are obliged to join once they meet the criteria to do so.

A European Green Deal:

Climate change and environmental degradation are an existential threat to Europe and the world. To overcome these challenges, Europe needs a new growth strategy that transforms the Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where

- there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050;
- economic growth is decoupled from resource use;
- no person and no place is left behind.

The European Green Deal provides a roadmap with actions to

- boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy;
- restore biodiversity and cut pollution.

It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.

The EU will be climate neutral in 2050. To do this, we proposed a European Climate Law turning the political commitment into a legal obligation and a trigger for investment.

Reaching this target will require action by all sectors of our economy, including

- investing in environmentally-friendly technologies;
- supporting industry to innovate;
- rolling out cleaner, cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport;
- decarbonising the energy sector;
- ensuring buildings are more energy efficient;
- working with international partners to improve global environmental standards.

The EU will also provide financial support and technical assistance to help people, businesses and regions that are most affected by the move towards the green economy. This is called the Just Transition Mechanism and will help mobilise at least €100 billion over the period 2021-2027 in the most affected regions.

Four Freedoms:

One of the greatest achievements of the EU is the creation of an area without internal borders, an internal market within which persons, goods, services and capital move freely.

Harmonisation:

Harmonisation is a key concept in the European Union for creating common standards across the internal market and establishing identical rules in still more areas of governance.

All countries aspiring to join the EU need to harmonise their legislation with EU law and ensure its proper enforcement.

Lisbon Treaty:

The most recent reform of the legal and institutional system of the EU was made with the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on 1 December 2009. The Lisbon Treaty established the legal and political framework for the functioning of the EU in the future.

It amends the Maastricht treaty (1993), also known as the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty of Rome (1958), also known as the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEEC). Following Lisbon, the Treaty of Rome was renamed the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

The Lisbon Treaty followed the Nice Treaty, the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Treaty of Maastricht, the Single European Act and the Treaty of Rome. The Lisbon Treaty abolished the European Community and transferred all its powers and institutions to the new "Union", which also acquired legal personality.

The Lisbon Treaty abolished the previous structure with its “three pillars” in the European treaties, which consisted of one pillar of supranational Community law, and two pillars or areas of foreign and security policy on the one hand, and justice and home affairs on the other hand, where member States cooperated intergovernmentally.

Lisbon Strategy/Lisabonska strategija:

Na sastanku Evropskog vijeća održanom u Lisabonu u martu/ožujku 2000. godine, čelnici EU postavili su cilj da EU do 2010. godine postane najdinamičnija i najkonkurentnija privreda svijeta utemeljena na znanju. Lisabonska strategija obuhvata područja poput istraživanja, obrazovanja, pristupa Internetu i *on-line* (internetskog) poslovanja. Do 2010. godine većina ciljeva nije ostvarena.

Lisbon Strategy:

At the European Council meeting held in Lisbon in March 2000, EU leaders set a goal for the EU to become the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010. The “Lisbon Strategy” (also known as the Lisbon Agenda or Lisbon Process) includes areas such as research, education, access to the internet and online business. By 2010, most of its goals were not achieved.

Maastricht Criteria:

There are five criteria set out in the Treaty of Maastricht that must be met by European countries if they wish to adopt the European Union’s single currency, the euro. They are:

- Inflation of no more than 1.5% above the average rate of the three EU Member States with the lowest inflation over the previous year;
- A national budget deficit at or below 3% of gross domestic product (GDP);
- National public debt not exceeding 60% of gross domestic product. A country with a higher level of debt can still adopt the euro, provided its debt level is falling steadily;
- Long-term interest rates should be no more than two percentage points above the rate in the three EU countries with the lowest inflation over the previous year;
- The national currency is required to enter the ERM 2 exchange rate mechanism two years prior to entry.

Madrid Criteria:

Membership criteria also require that the candidate country create conditions for EU integration by adapting its administrative structures, as outlined in the European Council meeting in Madrid in 1995. In addition to requiring that EU law be transposed into national legislation, it is also important that the legislation is implemented effectively through appropriate administrative and judicial structures.

Membership application:

A formal request by a country aspiring to join the EU addressed to the EU Council. The European Commission draws up an Opinion (Avis) on the basis of the country's replies to the Questionnaire. The Council then decides whether to grant the country candidate status and the date for opening the accession negotiations may be set.

Questionnaire:

Following the Council's request, the Commission prepares the Questionnaire with several thousand questions covering all EU policy areas and accession criteria. The authorities of the country that applied for EU membership are required to provide their replies by a set deadline. This exercise aims to establish the level of preparedness of the country in terms of transposition of the acquis and its institutional and administrative capacities.

Opinion on BiH's Application for EU membership:

On 29 May 2019, the European Commission issued its Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU membership application. The Opinion is a milestone in EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina relations, confirming that the EU is committed to guide and support the country in undertaking the necessary reforms on its path towards European integration.

The Opinion identifies 14 key priorities for the country to fulfil in order to be recommended for opening of EU accession negotiations; it provides a comprehensive roadmap for incremental reforms. The key priorities cover the areas of democracy/functionality; rule of law; fundamental rights; and public administration reform – the fundamentals of the EU accession process.

Stabilisation and Association Agreement:

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) is a tool that provides the formal mechanisms and agreed 'benchmarks' that allow the EU to work with BiH to bring it closer to EU standards. Since the signing of the SAA, BiH institutions have been obliged to ensure that existing laws and future legislation are gradually made compatible with the EU acquis. BiH institutions must also ensure that all existing and future legislation is fully

implemented. According to the provisions of the SAA, the Stabilisation and Association Council monitors the implementation of the Agreement and makes recommendations in relation to the necessary next steps that need to be taken in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP). The main elements of the SAA are:

- Promoting the free movement of goods;
- Creating efficient institutions;
- Developing a market economy;
- Reducing crime and corruption;
- Promoting higher education reform;
- Developing democracy, human rights, and an independent media;
- Improving the region's transport infrastructure.

Stabilisation and Association Council:

A body established under the SAA, comprising members of the Council of the EU and members of the European Commission, as well as representatives of the Council of Ministers of BiH, responsible for supervising the implementation of the SAA.

Stabilisation and Association Committee:

A technical level body, comprising experts from the European Commission and the country's government, responsible for implementing reforms required under the SAA. The Stabilisation and Association Committee may establish sub-committees to deal with specific policy areas.

Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee:

A forum for Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and Members of the European Parliament.






Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Skenderija 3a
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

(press/media): +387 33 560 821
(general): +387 33 254 700, +387 33 666 037
(press/media): delegation-bih-interviews@eeas.europa.eu
(general): delegation-bih@eeas.europa.eu

www.europa.ba

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