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Declaration by the European Union
concerning the arbitral decision on Brcko

The arbitral decision on Brcko of 14 February is to fill the last gap of the Peace Agreement that was left open. The decision sets in motion a process which should help to heal the wounds of war over time.

The European Union and its Member States will give all possible assistance to the High Representative and his Deputy for Brcko in guiding this process and implementing the goals outlined in the arbitral decision.

Of particular importance in the process are:

- a. the principle of freedom of movement;
- b. implementation of the results of the local elections this summer;
- c. the principle of return of displaced persons and refugees.

The full cooperation of all Bosnian parties will be essential to the success of this process.

It will also need the support of the international community both in terms of personnel and finances. Assistance in the field of police, economic reconstruction and housing is of particular importance.