

PRESS RELEASE

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Bosnia and Herzegovina : appeal to the population before the elections**

- On 8 June in its first meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina the EU issued a Declaration setting out the prospects for BiH's closer integration into Europe and the willingness of the EU to help the people of BiH build a modern country that could take its rightful place in the European family of nations. On the eve of the upcoming elections, the EU wishes to address the following message to the population of BiH:

- The elections on 12/13 September represent for you, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a unique opportunity to stay on this path and build yourself a peaceful and prosperous future. By establishing democracy in your country and your communities you will be able to shape your own destiny in a new Bosnia and Herzegovina. Seize this opportunity by choosing responsible leaders who will manage the country's affairs honestly and will pursue the future you want for yourselves and for your children; and who can live up to the challenges of good governance.

- The EU is dismayed at the continuing level of recent violence and appeals to all concerned to stop such violence.