

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union**  
**on Removal of President Poplasen**

The Presidency of the European Union strongly supports today's decision of the High Representative, Carlos Westendorp, to remove the President of the Republika Srpska (RS) from office with immediate effect.

Despite repeated warnings, President Poplasen did not nominate a candidate for the office of Prime Minister who could win the support of the majority of the RS National Assembly. Instead, he tried to dismiss RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik who has the necessary majority in the RS-National Assembly. He further tried to create a crisis in the RS. President Poplasen thus ignored the will of the RS electorate expressed in the September 1998 elections. This misuse of power aimed against the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords could no longer be tolerated.

The December 1998 Peace Implementation Conference in Madrid urged the High Representative to continue to take action against obstruction of peace implementation. The High Representative has acted accordingly based on the authority conferred upon him.

The Presidency of the European Union calls on all authorities – especially in the Republika Srpska – to respect the decision of the High Representative and to continue to work, together with the international community, for the full implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords.