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**The Impact of
the European Integration on Statehood in
Western Balkan - Case of Bosnia and
Herzegovina**



Main points

- Impact on the statehood - European initiatives in the early post Dayton period, Stabilization and Association Process - EU strategic approach, EU Road Map, Feasibility Study – Program 16, European perspective of B&H - Thessalonica Summit 2003,
- Institutional and public sector building in B&H in the context of the European integration process,
- Future steps: negotiations, signing SAA – contractual relations with the EU



B&H in the EU accession process

- Early post Dayton period – Weak EU policies,
- From the phase of the post conflict management, postwar reconstruction and stabilization – EU Stabilization and Association Process,
- To the institution building and transition period - Thessalonica Summit



Where we were

- State structure weak - three state ministries,
- Internal coordination non – existing,
- Institutions undeveloped,
- Freedom of movement limited,
- Property rights disrupted,
- Political dialog conflictual,
- Strong military, political presence of the International Community



B&H in the European integration process: EU Road Map in 2000

- From 3 to 6 state ministries,
- The Civil Services Agency,
- The State Border Service,
- State Treasury,
- Permanent Secretariat of the Presidency of B&H,
- Single B&H passport,
- Elections Law...



B&H in the European integration process: Feasibility Study and Program 16

- Assumed bigger authority in judiciary, security, tax and customs policy, statistics, human rights, food security, competition, market issues, intelligence, economic planning, veterinary, phytosanitary....
- More than 40 laws adopted, 27 institutions created or reconstructed,
- From 6 to 9 state ministers,
- New mandate of the Prime Minister – non rotating,
- During 2002 OHR imposed 32 laws, 2004 only 3 laws, none from the Feasibility Study,



B&H now as a result of integration to the EU:

- Functional strengthening of the state,
- Freedom of movement secured,
- Illegal immigrants downsized,
- Property rights solved in 99%,
- Konvertible mark (KM) strong,



Examples:

Civil Servant Agency B&H

- Organized 69 public advertisements for 29 state institutions in accordance with the Civil Service Law since 2004,
- Employed 284 civil servants to the state institutions since 2004,
- Trained 793 civil servants in 2004,
- Organized 41 seminar in 2004,
- 10 000 hours of the training in 2004,
- Revised 892 civil servants in last three years,



Examples:

B&H State Border Service

- Fully functional, professional, covering all crossing points,
- 2042 police officers employed,
- Illegal immigration has been decreased from 1117 persons in 2000 to 21 persons in 2004,
- 10.469 foreign persons have not been permitted to enter B&H in 2004,
- In five years time 46.692 foreign persons have not been permitted to enter B&H in 2004



B&H in the EU accession process in the future

- Acquire new authorities in domain of interior affairs, agriculture, economy, strengthen existing institutions...
- From voluntary to the phase of obligatory law harmonisation - SAA,
- European Partnership – building ownership,
- Taking over the responsibility and greater participation in managing the EU funds,



Example – European Partnership

B&H adopted on its own Mid-term priorities:

- 30 general priorities,
- 81 specific priorities,
- 597 planned activities,
- 196 legislative actions are to be taken,
- 102 institutions are planned to take part in its implementation.



Why European accession is important for B&H

- Providing more security and more political stability in B&H,
- European integration is the best exit strategy for the international community from B&H,
- Sharing EU values, rule of law, human rights, market economy,
- Foster regional stability,
- Establish single economic space in BiH - introduce European standards in competition, consumer protection, standards...,
- Reinforce export capacities, more efficient application of free trade agreements,



Would all positive changes be possible in
B&H without European perspective?

Without European future and EU
membership perspective I hardly
believe so