



# NEWSLETTER

## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Minister of Foreign Affairs Elmedin Konaković attends the EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Konaković, participated in an informal dinner hosted by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, for the Foreign Ministers of EU Member States and the Western Balkans countries, ahead of the upcoming EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg. On this occasion,

the Minister held constructive talks with Foreign Ministers from EU member states and the Western Balkans countries, emphasizing the importance of regional peace and stability. He also met with the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos, with whom he discussed the reform process in our country as well as ongoing preparations for adopting the Negotiation Framework and holding the First Intergovernmental Conference. The EU's full support for BiH European perspective, stability, and security, rule of law and for strengthening the functionality of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions was highlighted.

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**Deputy Foreign Minister Brkić with NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Shekerinska**

### Deputy Foreign Minister Josip Brkić met with NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Shekerinska

Deputy Foreign Minister Brkić informed Deputy Secretary General Shekerinska on the work and ongoing activities of the Commission for Cooperation with NATO, emphasizing that Reform Programmes of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2023 and 2024 were unanimously approved by the Commission and the Council of Ministers of BiH and subsequently submitted to the Allies. Also, the self-assessment activities for Reform Programmes 2023 and 2024 are underway, as well as the drafting of the Reform Programme 2025. DSG Shekerinska reiterated that NATO stands committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity,

and that NATO will not allow security vacuum. Bosnia and Herzegovina can count on partnership with NATO that should grow further. NATO supports the Berlin plus arrangement and the Euro-Atlantic path of BiH.

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## Foreign Minister Elmedin Konaković participated at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2025

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Konaković, participated in a panel titled “Regional Responsibility for a Prosperous Future in the Balkans” as part of this year’s Diplomatic Forum in Antalya. The panel discussed the Western Balkans as a region enriched by diversity and shared history, as well as opportunities for deepening regional cooperation. Minister Konaković emphasized that for the sake of the future of young people in all countries of our region, we need to respect history and the wealth of differences that enrich European culture.

Minister Konaković also held several important meetings on the sidelines of the Diplomatic Forum.



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## Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina met with the members of European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

Minister Konaković, met with the members of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), namely Ondřej Kolář, the Rapporteur for BiH, Tineke Strik, and António Tânger Corrêa. Minister Konaković emphasized the importance of EU support for peace, stability, and security, both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region, but also emphasized the role and activities of the EUFOR Althea mission.



Minister Konaković with members of AFET

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Meeting of MFAs of WB

## Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Josip Brkić, Participated in the EU-Western Balkans Political Directors Meeting

Deputy Minister Brkić, participated in the meeting of Political Directors of the European Union and the Western Balkans. The meeting focused on cooperation between the European Union and the region in the area of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It was the first meeting with the new mandate of the European Commission and the new team responsible for these issues within the European

External Action Service (EEAS). Participants exchanged views on the status of cooperation in the areas of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), as well as the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), with emphasis on the proposed White Paper on European Defense – Readiness 2030, the European Peace Facility, hybrid and cyber threats and Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its global implications. Participants from the Western Balkans highlighted the significant steps taken to strengthen the Region cooperation with the European Union in the area of CFSP and emphasized the importance of accelerating the European integration process for the Western Balkans. EEAS representatives specifically emphasized the importance of European unity and determination to resolve issues in peaceful means and through cooperation. Also, they emphasized that the Western Balkans region is high on the EU agenda.

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## Meeting of the Joint Commission for the Implementation of the Agreement on European Partnership between the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Government of the Republic of Croatia

The Deputy Minister emphasized that Bosnia and Herzegovina membership in the European Union is a strategic foreign policy goal and priority, and that Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to align foreign

policy positions with the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. The Deputy Minister also held a meeting with State Secretary Andreja Metelko-Zgombić, during which they discussed the dynamics of adopting the reforms set by the European Council, and the significance that each of these steps bring Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to adopting the negotiating framework opening the negotiations.



Deputy Minister Brkić at the meeting

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**Bosnia and Herzegovina has assumed the chairmanship of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5)**

The chairmanship was officially inaugurated with a meeting of the Directors for Foreign Affairs and Defense Policy under the theme "Common Approach to Crisis Management and Strengthening Resilience," held on April 16, 2025, at the Garden City Hotel in Konjic.

The meeting aimed to reaffirm the commitment to strengthening cooperation between NATO and the A5 member states, in accordance with their national policies and priorities, and to present Bosnia and Herzegovina's activity plan during its chairmanship. Bosnia and Herzegovina's chairmanship within the A5 initiative reflects a strong commitment to enhancing security and stability in the region, while actively promoting Euro-Atlantic values and cooperation.

### **A delegation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations Aida Hodžić, held political consultations in Valletta with Malta's Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, headed by Director for European Affairs Annabelle Shawish Mifsud**

The talks focused on strengthening multilateral cooperation and bilateral ties, particularly in the field of science, technology, higher education, sports and culture, with both countries expressing interest in mutual participation in cultural festivals such as the Sarajevo Film Festival and the Malta International Arts Festival. Malta's thriving tourism sector and Bosnia and Herzegovina's rapidly expanding tourism industry present a unique chance for partnership. Both sides agreed to fast-track the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of tourism. A proposal for a direct flight connection, put forward by Bosnia and Herzegovina's non-resident Ambassador to Malta, Amira Arifović-Harms, was seen as essential to boosting tourism and economic links. Malta reaffirmed its strong support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path, offering practical insights from its own experience. The consultations concluded with a shared commitment to deepening cooperation for mutual benefit.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina has assumed the chairmanship of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5)**

Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the chairmanship of the A5 Charter, which serves as a strategic partnership aimed at fostering good neighbourly relations, reinforcing regional security and stability, and promoting democratic values and Euro-Atlantic aspirations among the countries of the Western Balkans. During its chairmanship in 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be focusing on a unified approach to crisis management and enhancing regional resilience while prioritizing the improvement of mutual cooperation, the analysis of challenges, threats, and risks, with the goal of maximizing potential and achieving set objectives.



**Bosnia and Herzegovina has assumed the chairmanship of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5)**



**Political consultations in Valletta**





**Deputy MFA and Managing Director of EEAS**

## Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Josip Brkić, met with the EEAS Managing Director for Europe, Matti Maasikas

The Managing Director emphasized the importance of adopting priority laws, the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and the Law on the Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and appointing the negotiating structure on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for further progress on the EU path, particularly in the context of organizing the first Intergovernmental Conference.

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## The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Josip Brkić, at the Forum EU Meets the Balkans: Reforming for a European Future

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Josip Brkić, on April 17, 2025, participated in the Forum in Sofia, EU Meets the Balkans: Reforming for a European Future. During a panel on growth, he emphasized the shared vision of the EU and the region for a united and prosperous future, highlighted key priorities such as strengthening democracy, economic development, and regional cooperation, with EU support through investments and reforms. He added how the partnership also encompasses strengthening peace, security, and shared European values.

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**Deputy Minister Brkić - EU meets Balkan**

## First Coordination Meeting of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Western Balkans ahead of the Berlin Process Summit 2025

At the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, First Coordination Meeting of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Western Balkans was held on April 7, 2025, with the aim of coordinating activities ahead of the upcoming Berlin Process Summit, which will take place in London, Great Britain, during the first half of October 2025. The meeting was organized by the Deutsche



**Meeting of WB6 MFA Network**

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, in close cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the meeting, participants reviewed the achievements within the framework of the Berlin Process. A significant part of the meeting was focused on preparations for and expectations from the upcoming 2025 Summit, during which the representatives of the Western Balkans countries also presented their proposals for topics that could be discussed at the Summit. Among the topics considered, which represent potential areas of focus for the upcoming Summit, were gender equality, child protection, youth programs, migration, cyber security and cyber diplomacy, regional economic development, strengthening regional cooperation, the fight against corruption, combating hate speech and online violence, the development of creative industries and programs, and issues related to the Green agenda.

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## Bridging Generations: Reflections on the Dayton Agreement and Bosnia and Herzegovina's Foreign Policy

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina had the pleasure of welcoming students and professors from the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Ljubljana, as part of a study visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH was thoughtfully organized by the Young Diplomats Club, with special appreciation to Ms. Samira Trešnja for her exceptional efforts in coordinating the initiative. A group of fifty undergraduate students, accompanied by their esteemed



**Student visit to the MFA BiH**



**Ambassador Dilberović spoke with students**

professors, had the opportunity to attend a lecture and address delivered by the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Edin Dilberović. In his engaging remarks, Mr. Dilberović offered comprehensive and thoughtful insights, addressing students' questions with clarity, depth, and precision. The discussion encompassed a broad spectrum of topics, including the historical context and significance of the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, providing the students with a valuable understanding of its enduring impact on Bosnia and Herzegovina's political and diplomatic landscape.



## Representatives of MFA BiH participated in visit of Western Balkans MFAs to European Union institutions

On April 8 and 9, 2025, a visit of representatives from the Western Balkan Ministries of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the EU affairs, was organized to EU institutions in Brussels, by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), within the framework of the Network of Ministries of Foreign Affairs from the Western Balkans region.

Representatives of the MFA BiH were Acting Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations, Aida Hodžić, and Head of the EU Department, Emina Merdan. During the visit, representatives of the Western Balkans MFAs had meetings with representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), and the Ambassador - Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the EU.



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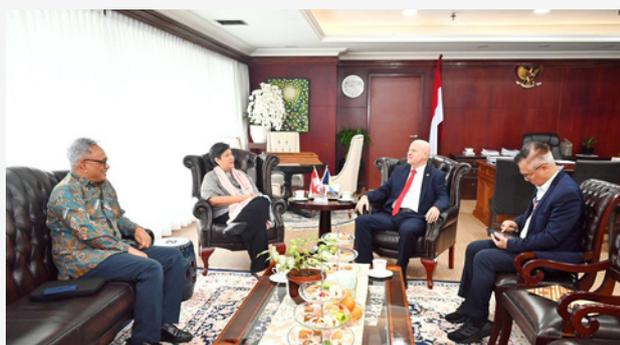
## Ambassador Mlinarević met with Edita Hrda, the newly appointed Czech Government Envoy for the Balkans

Ambassador Mlinarević engaged in a meeting with Edita Hrda, the newly appointed Czech Government Envoy for the Balkans. This significant appointment marks a groundbreaking commitment by the Czech Government to engage with the Balkans actively, underscoring the region's priority status in their foreign policy agenda. The meeting was further enriched by the presence of Tomas Szunyog, the Director for Southern and Southeastern Europe at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside key members from the Department focused on the Western Balkans.

The dialogue was centered around the pressing political dynamics in Bosnia and Herzegovina, strongly emphasizing identifying innovative strategies for enhancing collaboration through Envoy Hrda's office. This proactive engagement fosters diplomatic ties and positions the Czech Republic as a very important player in promoting stability and progress in the Balkans.



**Ambassador Mlinarević with Edita Hrda and Tomas Szunyog**



**Meeting in the Parliament of Indonesia.**

## Meeting with Deputy Speaker of the National Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia

Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Indonesia, Armin Limo, had a meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the National Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Lestari Moerdijat. They discussed the improvement of parliamentary cooperation between the two countries and Indonesia's initiative to expand the equestrian woodcarving element on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage. Also, opinions were exchanged on current bilateral and international topics.

## Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Islamabad and the Office of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan presented a retrospective of films by Jasmila Žbanić

As part of the public diplomacy program, the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Islamabad, in cooperation with the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif, presented a retrospective of films by one of the most prominent and influential directors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jasmila Žbanić at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

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**Embassy organized the films screening**





**Ambassador Mlinarević at the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic**

## Ambassador Martina Mlinarević met with Jan Lipavsky, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic

This meeting marked a pivotal moment in ongoing dialogues involving female ambassadors accredited in the Czech Republic, focused on pressing global political issues. Among the key topics were the empowerment of women in diplomacy and public life, as well as the critical situations facing Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans region. Minister Lipavsky reiterated his unwavering commitment to fostering peace and promoting the enlargement process. He highlighted the Czech Republic's substantial contribution by deploying 150 soldiers to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the EUFOR/Althea mission, underlining the nation's dedication to regional stability.

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## Ambassador Elma Kovačević-Bajtal met with the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Gordan Grić Radman

They exchanged opinions on the current situation and challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina, relations between the two countries and topics of common interest. In order to improve economic cooperation, Ambassador Kovačević-Bajtal presented the initiative to establish a business club between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia.

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**Ambassador Kovačević-Bajtal meeting with the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia**

## A high-level delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Washington, D.C., to attend the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB)

The delegation was led by Zukan Helez, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Defense, in his capacity as Bosnia and Herzegovina's Governor at the IMF. The delegation was welcomed by Ambassador Sven Alkalaj and the staff of the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the meeting, participants discussed ways to strengthen collaboration between the institutions of Bosnia and



**Delegation at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Washington, D.C.**

Herzegovina and its diplomatic and consular missions abroad. Key topics included promoting Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic potential, enhancing the country's investment image, and supporting strategic reforms. Minister Helez thanked the Embassy and the Office of the Military Attaché for their strong support in organizing this significant visit.





**MFA Team at the WEDIN Speed Mentoring Event**

Each mentoring session lasted just three minutes, creating a dynamic and engaging environment filled with insightful exchanges. Representatives of the Young Diplomats Club actively participated as mentees, seizing the opportunity to gain valuable guidance from seasoned professionals. The event fostered intergenerational dialogue, encouraged knowledge sharing, and inspired the next generation of diplomatic leaders.

## Speed Mentoring Event: Empowering Leaders of Tomorrow held at the Europe House

The Women in Diplomacy Network successfully organized a Speed Mentoring event that brought together 18 international mentors and 18 young aspiring diplomats. Among the distinguished mentors were Aida Hodžić, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs, and Mitar Kujundžić, Head of the UN Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



**WEDIN Speed Mentoring Event at the Europe House**



**Ambassador Čohodarević meeting with Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, Convener of the Pakistan-Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Group**

## Ambassador meets with Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, Convener of the Pakistan-Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Friendship Group

Ambassador Emin Čohodarević received on April 17, 2025, at the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Islamabad Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, Convener of the Pakistan-Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Group. During the meeting, Ambassador Čohodarević highlighted the need to bolster parliamentary cooperation and facilitate the exchange of delegations to further reinforce the bilateral relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan.

He also noted that a delegation of faculty and participants from the National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad, will undertake a Foreign Study Tour to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 6–10 May 2025, reflecting the growing institutional and academic engagement between the two nations. Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan emphasized the importance of strengthening people-to-people interactions, expanding trade and business ties, and enhancing inter-parliamentary collaboration to explore new avenues of mutual cooperation. She reiterated Pakistan's solidarity with the victims of the 1995 Srebrenica tragedy and underscored the significance of remembering such historical events to promote peace, tolerance, and justice.

Both sides agreed to intensify mutual cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, science and technology, the defense industry, education, and cultural exchange. They further committed to maintaining regular bilateral interactions, including high-level visits, to consolidate the long-standing and friendly ties between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan.





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## Halal-Bihal Ceremony in Radio Republik Indonesia

Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Indonesia, Armin Limo, participated in the traditional ceremony called "Halal Bihalal" in the premises of the state radio, Radio Republik Indonesia. The ceremony was attended by a large number of members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished domestic and foreign guests. The ceremony is held regularly every year after the end of the month of Ramadan in order to mark the end of fasting and to thank God for the mercy shown to all people. The slogan of this year's ceremony was

"Fostering unity in diversity." On behalf of the diplomatic corps, the ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted the importance of the well-known national slogan "Unity in diversity", which best describes the character, coexistence and tolerance of Indonesian society. He also emphasized the diversity of BiH society and the similarity with Indonesia in this regard.



**Ambassador had an opportunity to address the audience at the Ceremony**



**Bosnia and Herzegovina- People's Republic of China**

## 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the People's Republic of China

Bosnia and Herzegovina and the People's Republic of China mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. To commemorate this milestone, Ministers Elmedin Konaković and Wang Yi exchanged congratulatory letters, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties. Bosnia and Herzegovina values the development of relations over the past three decades, during which both countries have made significant progress in fostering a partnership based on mutual respect, cooperation, and traditionally friendly ties.

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## The Embassy of BiH in Beijing organized the "Conference for the Promotion of Investment Projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

BiH Ambassador to China Siniša Berjan and Executive Vice President and General Secretary of the China-Europe Association Chen Jingyue emphasized the importance of this conference for strengthening economic relations between the two countries. After the introductory remarks, Ambassador Berjan presented in detail BiH, its strategic geographical location, favorable business environment, industrial structure, and projects in sectors such as energy, agriculture, tourism,

infrastructure construction and exploitation of mineral resources. Chen Jingyue noted that the first overseas branch of the China-Europe Association was established in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She expressed hope for further improvement of bilateral cooperation projects in the future.

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**Conference for the Promotion of Investment Projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina**





## THIS IS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Rafting in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rafting in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a perfect adventure, offering thrilling experiences on some of the country's most beautiful rivers. The Neretva River stands out with its crystal-clear waters and deep canyons, allowing adventurers to glide through pristine nature surrounded by forests and cliffs. In the northwest, the Una River attracts many rafters, especially in the Una National Park, where a mix of rapids and serene stretches create an exciting yet tranquil experience. Iconic waterfalls like Štrbački Buk and Martin Brod add to the allure of the Una, making it a must-visit for nature lovers. For those looking for a more challenging rafting experience, the Tara River, with one of Europe's deepest canyons, offers powerful rapids and breathtaking landscapes. Navigating the Tara River's steep cliffs, dense forests, and sparkling waterfalls makes for an unforgettable adventure in the heart of Bosnia's wild, untamed beauty.

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### Citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain can travel visa free to Bosnia and Herzegovina from June 1 to September 30

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Decision on the abolition of visas during the summer season for citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain at its session on April 22, 2025. Citizens of mentioned countries, do not need a visa to enter BiH from in the period between June 1 to September 30. The decision is of a permanent nature and applies to the mentioned period both in this year and in the following years, until the Council of Ministers of BiH changes it.



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The Sarajevo Business Forum 2025 will gather a diverse array of participants from both the Western Balkans and the GCC countries.

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