



# NEWSLETTER

## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



### A Year in Review: Key Diplomatic Achievements and Engagements in 2024

At a press conference held on January 24, 2025, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, Minister Elmedin Konaković highlighted key achievements and provided a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's activities in 2024. Minister Konaković detailed significant progress in international engagement, legal and economic cooperation, institutional advancements, and the enhancement of consular services, all of which have reinforced Bosnia and Herzegovina's diplomatic presence on the global stage.

For a summary of some of the most significant meetings of Minister Elmedin Konaković held in 2024, watch the [video](#) overview.

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**UN General Assembly adopted Resolution on Srebrenica Genocide**  
designating International Day of Reflection, Commemoration



**NATO Partnerships 360 Symposium**  
organized in Sarajevo

Media transparency: 16 press conferences and 556 official press releases in 2024



**European Council decision to open EU accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Adjustment and alignment with the EU visa regime



**North Atlantic Council visit**  
to Sarajevo



**Successful evacuation of Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens**  
from Gaza, Sudan, Syria...

Enhancing diplomatic and consular services for BiH citizens abroad



**Bosnia and Herzegovina's passport position improved 6 places**  
according to Henley Passport Index

Record tourist arrivals and advancements in visa digitalization





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## New Year's Reception for the Diplomatic Corps in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Elmedin Konaković, hosted a New Year's reception on January 24, 2025, for heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited in the country. Marking two years of his mandate, Minister Konaković expressed gratitude for the unwavering commitment of international partners in strengthening diplomatic relations.

Minister Konaković highlighted some of the key institutional reforms, advancements in economic diplomacy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina's active presence on the global stage. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration, Minister Konaković reaffirmed the country's dedication to strong and stable diplomatic ties and attracting foreign investments, with full EU membership as our top priority.

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## Ambassador Alkalaj attends President Trump's inauguration

The event, held on January 20, 2025, marked a key moment in U.S. political history, and Ambassador Alkalaj's participation demonstrated Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to engaging constructively with the new U.S. administration.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ambassador to Washington D.C. Sven Alkalaj's presence underscores the importance of maintaining strong diplomatic ties and friendly relations with the U.S.

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AP Photo/Julia Demaree Nihkinson, Pool

**The inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America**



**Strong and friendly ties with the U.S.**

## Minister Konaković congratulated Marco Rubio and Keith Self

Minister Elmedin Konaković extended his congratulations to Marco Rubio on his confirmation as the United States Secretary of State. The Minister also congratulated Congressman Keith Self from Texas on his appointment as Head of the Subcommittee on Europe within the Committee on Foreign Policy of the United States House of Representatives. Strong and friendly ties between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the U.S. will continue to thrive, as we look forward to working together to further strengthen the partnership between our nations.

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## Czech President Petr Pavel visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Konaković, welcomed Petr Pavel, president of the Czech Republic, and held a brief meeting with him upon his arrival in Sarajevo. During his official visit to Sarajevo on January 23 and 24, 2025, President Pavel engaged in several high-level meetings, with the members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and heads of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Czech President visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) at Camp Butmir, and also attended the Bosnia and Herzegovina - Czech Republic Business Forum in Sarajevo, held and organized by the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the Czech Association of Industry.



**Minister Konaković greeted President Pavel at the Sarajevo International Airport**





## Bosnia and Herzegovina participates in the “Ukraine - Southeast Europe” meeting in Kyiv

During his presentation at the plenary session of the ministerial meeting, Deputy Minister Josip Brkić emphasized that Bosnia and Herzegovina respects and supports the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. He noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina deeply sympathizes with the suffering of the Ukrainian people, considering that it was going through conflicts and the difficult path of post-war recovery, pointing out that in 2025 Bosnia and Herzegovina will mark 30 years since the end of the devastating war concluded by the Dayton Peace Accords.



**Bosnia and Herzegovina's representative Deputy Minister Josip Brkić at the meeting in Kyiv**



**President Volodymyr Zelensky with Deputy Minister Josip Brkić**

As part of the working visit to Ukraine, the participants of the meeting from the Southeast Europe countries met, in separate meetings, with Ukrainian officials, President Volodymyr Zelensky, President of the Verkhovna Rada Ruslan Stefanchuk, Prime Minister Denis Shmihal and Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Sibih.

Deputy Minister Brkić expressed the hope that Ukraine will achieve peace this year - the one that will preserve its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, which will enable it to chart its future within the Euro-Atlantic family of nations. This presented a great opportunity to exchange opinions on options for increasing joint efforts to restore peace and stability to the European continent in view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as to define priorities in solving common threats and challenges facing Southeast Europe.

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## Minister Elmedin Konaković meets with Anžej Frangeš, the special envoy of the Republic of Slovenia for the Western Balkans

Minister Konaković and Special Envoy Frangeš met in Sarajevo and discussed the commitment to strengthening pro-European forces and advancing Bosnia and Herzegovina's European integration process. Importance of implementing the reform agenda and aligning national legislation with the *acquis* was underlined, while Special Envoy Frangeš reaffirmed Slovenia's support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path, emphasizing that there is no alternative to membership in the European Union and that this remains the only viable course for Bosnia and Herzegovina's future development and stability.

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**Slovenia strongly supports the EU path of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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**Empower. Integrate. Grow.  
Conference in Montenegro**

## Deputy Minister Josip Brkić participates in the High-Level Conference on Regional Economic Integration

Organized by the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, the achievements in regional cooperation were discussed with a focus on planning key steps towards the improvement of trade and economic cooperation with the aim of complete integration into the single market of the European Union. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Josip Brkić emphasized the importance of exchanging opinions on achievements in regional cooperation and planned perspectives. Brkić pointed out that the full membership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the European Union is the main strategic goal and foreign policy priority.

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## EU integration - capacity building support: Bosnia and Herzegovina rises level of utilization of EU support to capacity building

In addition to completing the EU-led process of developing a National Action Plan (NAP) in line with EU methodology and the EU CBRN Action plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina has significantly increased its participation in EU funded projects through the EU Initiative of CBRN Centres of Excellence (EUCBRN CoE Initiative).

Between 2014 and 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in 28 projects focused on building and strengthening institutional capacities for CBRN risk mitigation, particularly in border security and internal safety. Competent ministries and other governmental authorities have actively coordinated and implemented newly available EU CBRN projects 2023 – 2027.



**P-100 project: Training of trainers in Sarajevo**



**Marta Kos** ✓  
@MartaKosEU

Following

I welcome today's adoption of two EU-related laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina: the Law on Border Control and the Law on Personal Data protection in House of Peoples 🇧🇦.

It is proof that the EU 🇪🇺 path remains a priority that different political actors share. EU remains an aspiration of the people in BiH and an answer to many challenges the country and the region face.

**The adoption of two new laws highlighted the latest efforts and achievements in Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path in January 2025**





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## Diplomatic Training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Enhancing quality and capacity for effective diplomatic engagement

Training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held for new diplomats, organized by the Office for Diplomatic Training.

The lecturers for our new colleagues were high-ranking MFA BiH diplomats, heads of sectors, heads of departments, former BiH ambassadors and colleagues from the Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The honourable guest speaker was the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jana K. Lolić Šindelková, who provided insight into the importance of international relations and cooperation in the 21st century and offered a unique perspective on diplomacy and its role in public administration.

The lectures, enriched by the valuable experiences of the lecturers, included topics focused on the competences, structure and work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as on the basics of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Upon completion of the training, Head of the Office for Diplomatic Training Sanja Vidović, in recognition of the successful participation and attendance of this important educational program, awarded official certificates to all participants. During the certificate awarding ceremony, Mrs. Vidović underlined the importance of continuous education and professional development of Bosnia and Herzegovina's diplomats. This training is a part of programs and procedures focused on raising the quality of work and strengthening capacity for efficient diplomatic performance in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



**“Commitment remains firm  
– EU progress is our priority.  
Grateful for continued support!”**

Foreign Minister **Elmedin Konaković** met with ambassadors of **European Union** member states, **Türkiye**, **USA**, **UK** & **Japan** to discuss **Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path**.



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**Ambassador Bronza  
with Prince Hans-Adam II**

## Ambassador Boro Bronza meets with Prince Hans-Adam IIs

The meeting took place during the New Year reception organized by Prince Hans-Adam II for the diplomatic corps, government and officials of Liechtenstein. Ambassador Bronza, on behalf of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all citizens of our country, conveyed New Year's greetings to the ruler of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Prince Hans-Adam II, Crown Prince Alojz and Princess Sofia.

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## Prime Minister of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands welcomes the honorary consulate of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Honorary Consulate of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been opened in September 2024 in the city of San Cristobal de la Laguna on Tenerife Island.

Honorary Consul Quintero said that there are many opportunities for economic and cultural exchange.



**Opportunities for economic  
and cultural exchange**



Minister of Economy of Sarajevo Canton Zlatko Mijatović, Director of Services of Sarajevo International Airport Vedrana Vikić Musić and the representative of the Visit Sarajevo Canton Tourist Board Faruk Čaluk, visited Madrid. Together with Vesna Andree Zaimović, the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of Spain, they held a series of working meetings and conferences, promoting touristic potentials and destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Visit Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina at the FITUR fair in Madrid

The FITUR tourism fair in Madrid, one of the largest events of its kind in the world, was an opportunity for a series of activities aimed at promoting tourism exchange between Spain and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Spain is one of the strategic destinations, especially for direct air routes with Sarajevo International Airport, the first of which is scheduled to start in April 2025, connecting Girona and Sarajevo. Tourists from Spain, as well as those arriving from Latin America via Spain, demonstrate a growing interest in visiting Sarajevo, Mostar, Međugorje and other touristic destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sarajevo International Airport proudly announced that in 2025, with the support of the Government of Canton Sarajevo and Visit Sarajevo Canton Tourism Board, will connect the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina with as many as 39 European and global destinations.

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## Ambassador Martina Mlinarević meets Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky

The meeting took place during the New Year meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs with ambassadors accredited in Prague.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavsky confirmed Czech government's strong commitment to the European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and expressed satisfaction with the bilateral relations between the two countries.

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**Ambassador Mlinarević  
with Minister Jan Lipavsky**



**Bosnia and Herzegovina - Czech Republic  
Business Forum in Sarajevo**

## 50 companies attend the Bosnia and Herzegovina - Czech Republic Business Forum

The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Czech Industry Association organized a business forum and B2B meetings during the official visit of H.E. Petr Pavel, Czech President to Sarajevo in January 2025. The event brought together 50 companies from industries such as defense, metal, automotive, energy, infrastructure, and transport. Steady growth in trade between the two countries highlights various opportunities for collaboration in energy, IT, agriculture, green transition, and other sectors. President Pavel, addressing the Forum, emphasized the potential for stronger business and political cooperation, reaffirming support for European integration.

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## 2025 Calendar of Fairs and Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Association of Fair Organizers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has published the 2025 Calendar of Fairs and Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This comprehensive resource provides a detailed and chronological overview of the most significant business events in the country. By offering all essential contacts in one place, the calendar serves as a key tool for businesses, exhibitors, and visitors looking to participate in trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences, congresses, and other promotional activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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CALENDAR OF FAIRS AND MANIFESTATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2025.



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**Welcome to Bosnia and Herzegovina Ambassador Li Fan**

## Ambassador of the People's Republic of China presented copies of letters of credence

On Friday, January 3, 2025, the head of the Department for Diplomatic Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mirsad Bešić, was handed in Sarajevo copies of letters of credence by the newly appointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Li Fan.

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## Ambassador Čohodarević meets Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai

Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Emin Čohodarević met with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai in Islamabad on the sidelines of the International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities. The Conference has been organized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan under auspices and attendance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting Ambassador Čohodarević discussed with Ms. Yousafzai matters related to the significant challenges in ensuring equitable access to education for girls in Muslim communities. He pointed out that the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina presented a donation to the Islamabad Model School for Girls.



**Malala Yousafzai with Ambassador Emin Čohodarević**

Ms. Yousafzai said that she is excited to join Muslim leaders from around the world for a critical conference on girls' education, stating that rights for all girls to go to school must be protected.



**Strengthening the Bosnia and Herzegovina - Indonesia relations**

## Ambassador Limo met with the Chairman of the Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation of the Parliament of Indonesia

Ambassador Armin Limo met with the Chairman of the Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the House of Representatives of the Indonesian Parliament, Mardani Ali Ser. Bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Indonesia were discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that the Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation in the House of Representatives of the Indonesian Parliament would send an official invitation to the Friendship Group for Asia of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's Parliamentary Assembly to visit the Indonesian Parliament.

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## THIS IS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### The 14th Winter Olympic Games (ZO184)

The fourteenth Winter Olympic Games were held in Sarajevo from February 8 to 19, 1984. They were, as judged by the then president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the best organized Winter Olympic Games. The dream of the most beautiful winter fairy tale has been dreamed for a long time, sports employees have been developing their plans for a long time to finally announce their candidacy, win the Games, and organize them in a magnificent way. **Vučko- the wolf** is the Olympic Mascot of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games, created by Slovenian painter whose creation won the competition for the official mascot among 836 participants. Since then Vučko is winning our hearts.

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We once again celebrate the Olympic spirit and Sarajevo's rich Olympic heritage! Across six locations, enjoy ice and snow sports, musical performances, film screenings, panels, and conversations with legendary Olympians, creating memories for all generations. Sarajevo Olympic Week welcomes sports enthusiasts, culture lovers, and anyone who cherishes the Olympic legacy of Sarajevo.

**Be part of a story that inspires, connects, and keeps the Olympic flame in Sarajevo alive.**

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