



# Media Handbook



Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and  
European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina



*“The future of the Balkans is within the European Union” Thessaloniki Declaration, June 2003*

*Dear media colleagues,*

*I am pleased to welcome you to the EU Delegation/EUSR's Media Handbook - I hope it will prove useful as you research and produce your stories, articles and features on the European Union, and on Bosnia and Herzegovina's European Union integration.*

*European Union integration is a matter for the whole of society, and we see the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina as essential partners in this country's path to the EU. You play a vital role in scrutinising the process and asking questions that matter of Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions, and of the EU institutions. You perform an important public service in doing so.*

*Your questions, comments and coverage are always welcome and I and my communication team look forward to engaging with you through Bosnia and Herzegovina's journey to European Union membership.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lars-Gunnar Wigemark*

*Head of the Delegation and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina*



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# The Institutions of the European Union

The EU Member States are independent and sovereign nations that have pooled their sovereignty and transferred some decision-making responsibility to common EU institutions. The institutions debate, negotiate and regulate on specific issues of common interest at the European level. The EU is therefore a unique body, which on the global stage has more power and influence than each of its Member States could have on their own. The key institutions of the European Union are:

- **The European Parliament** that is directly elected by and represents the EU's 503 million citizens.
- **The European Council** that consists of the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States. It defines the general political direction and priorities of the EU but does not perform legislative functions.
- **The Council of the European Union** composed of ministers from the national governments of the EU, who may defend and promote their national interests there.
- **The European Commission** with a Commissioner from each Member State that seeks to uphold the interests of the Union as a whole.

New legislation may be proposed by the European Commission; it must be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. After adoption, it is up to the Member States and the European Commission to implement them.

Other EU institutions include the Court of Justice which upholds the rule of European law, and the Court of Auditors which scrutinises the financing of the Union's activities.

The powers and responsibilities of these institutions are laid down in the Treaties, which are the foundation of everything the EU does. They also lay down the rules and procedures that the EU institutions must follow. The Treaties are agreed by the presidents and/or prime ministers of all the EU countries, and ratified by their parliaments.



## The European Parliament

The European Parliament with a total of 751 members represents the voice of the 503 million EU citizens from all 28 Member States. Citizens directly elect the Members of the Parliament once every five years. The Parliament has three main roles:

- debating and passing European laws, together with the Council through the so-called “ordinary legislative procedure”;
- scrutinising other EU institutions, particularly the Commission, to make sure they are working democratically;
- debating and adopting the EU’s budget, with the Council.

Under the Lisbon Treaty, the range of policies covered by the new “ordinary legislative procedure” has increased, giving Parliament more power to influence the content of laws in areas including agriculture, energy policy, immigration and EU funds. Parliament must also give its permission for other important decisions, such as allowing new countries to join the EU. It has the power to approve or reject the nomination of the President of the Commission and Commissioners, and the right to vote a censure on the Commission as a whole.

The President of the European Parliament is Martin Schulz (Germany) whose mandate ends in 2019.



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## The European Council

The European Council provides the necessary impetus for the development of the EU and establishes its general political directions and priorities. It does not perform legislative functions. Most of its decisions are taken by consensus, unless otherwise provided in the Treaties. It meets at least every 6 months. Its members are Prime Ministers and Presidents of the Member States, and it has its own President. The President of the European Commission and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission are also involved in the work of the European Council.

The President of the European Council is Donald Tusk (Poland) whose mandate runs until 2019.



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## Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union is the main decision-making institution in the EU, negotiating and bringing in new EU laws, or if necessary adjusting them with the consent of the European Parliament, using the regular legislative process. A common confusion is between this institution and:

- The European Council (see above)
- The Council of Europe (not an EU institution – see [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int))

The Council of the European Union is responsible for the harmonization of policies of the Member States, the conclusion of international agreements on behalf of the EU, development of a common foreign and security policy on the basis of strategic guidelines laid down by the European Council, and the adoption of the EU budget in coordination with the European Parliament.

The Council is the EU institution where the Member States' government representatives sit, i.e. the ministers of each Member State with responsibility for a given area. The Council meets in **10 different “configurations”** depending on the subject under discussion (Agriculture and fisheries; Competitiveness; Economic and financial affairs; Education, youth, culture and sport; Employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs; Environment; Foreign affairs; General affairs; Justice and home affairs; Transport, telecommunications and energy).

Every six months, a different EU member state presides over the Council of the European Union; it chairs meetings at different levels, proposes guidelines and prepares necessary compromises for the Council of the European Union so that decisions can be adopted.

Presidency of the Council of the European Union is held by the Netherlands. From July 2016, Slovakia will take over the Presidency until December 2016.

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## European Commission

The European Commission is the politically independent institution that represents the interests of the Union as a whole. It proposes new legislation to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, and it ensures that EU law is correctly applied by the Member States. The Commission makes proposals to meet its obligations under the EU treaties, or because another EU institution, country or stakeholder has asked it to act.

The European Commission is politically accountable to the European Parliament, which has the power to dissolve it by vote of censure. The European Commission takes part in all the sessions of the European Parliament, where it must clarify and justify its policies.

The European Commission is composed of 28 members of the College of Commissioners, including the President and Vice-Presidents. The President assigns to each Commissioner duties related to a specific policy area.

The current president of the European Commission is Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxembourg), whose mandate expires in 2019.



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In addition to these institutions, the EU has a number of other bodies that play specialised roles:

- The European Economic and Social Committee represents civil society, employers and employees (<http://www.eesc.europa.eu>);
- The Committee of the Regions represents regional and local authorities (<http://cor.europa.eu>);
- The European Investment Bank finances the EU investment projects, and helps small businesses via the European Investment Fund (<http://www.eib.org>);
- The European Central Bank is responsible for European monetary policy (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu>);
- The European Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration by the EU institutions and bodies (<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>);
- The European Data Protection Supervisor safeguards the privacy of people's personal data (<https://secure.edps.europa.eu>);
- The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities publishes information about the EU (<http://publications.europa.eu>);
- The European Personnel Selection Office recruits staff for the EU institutions and other bodies (<http://europa.eu/eps>);
- The European Administrative School task is to provide training in specific areas for members of the EU staff ([http://europa.eu/eas/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/eas/index_en.htm)).

In addition, specialised agencies have been set up to handle certain technical, scientific or management tasks.

## Policies of the European Union

The EU is actively working and implementing policies on a wide range of issues, from human rights to transport and trade. What follows is a summary of the EU's actions in areas likely to be of main interest to BiH media.

### Foreign and Security Policy

The European Union has developed its own unique foreign and security policy that allows all of its 28 members to speak and act as a single body in international affairs. The role of the EU's foreign and security policy is to preserve peace and strengthen international security, to promote international cooperation and to develop and consolidate democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Overall policy is based on diplomacy backed by trade, humanitarian work, and where necessary by security and defence instruments – to resolve conflicts and bring international understanding.

The ultimate decision-making authority on these issues is the European Council, which has meetings four times a year and defines the principles and general policy guidelines. Foreign and security policy has further been strengthened by the Lisbon Treaty (2009) that created the position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and formed the European External Action Service (EEAS), which supports the activities of the High Representative.

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission is Federica Mogherini (Italy) whose mandate expires in 2019.



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# Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

## EU Enlargement

Enlargement is one of the EU's most powerful policy tools. All European citizens benefit from having neighbours that are stable democracies and prosperous market economies. Enlargement is a carefully managed process which helps the transformation of the countries involved, extending peace, stability, prosperity, democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe.

According to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, any European country may apply for membership if it respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States (Article 6.1 TEU). Accession, however, can only follow if the given European country fulfils all criteria of accession which were fixed by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993 and reinforced by the European Council in Madrid in 1995.

## European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) governs the EU's relations with 16 of the EU's closest Eastern and Southern Neighbours. To the South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*, Syria and Tunisia and to the East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Russia takes part in Cross-Border Cooperation activities under the ENP and is not a part of the ENP as such.

The ENP was launched in 2003 and developed throughout 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all. It is based on the values of democracy, rule of law and respect of human rights.

The ENP was last reviewed in 2011, following the 'Arab Spring' uprisings. The objective of the reviewed ENP is to support partners who undertake reform towards democracy, rule of law and human rights; to contribute to their inclusive economic development and to promote a partnership with societies alongside our relations with governments. It also aims to strengthen cooperation in the political and security spheres, to support economic and social development and to create economic growth and jobs.

Under the reviewed ENP, the incentive-based approach ('more-for-more') applies, under which the EU will develop stronger partnerships with those neighbours that make more progress towards democratic reform.

The Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations is Johannes Hahn (Austria).



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## Human Rights

The European Union sees human rights as universal and indivisible. It actively promotes and defends them both within its borders and when engaging in relations with non-EU countries.

The European Union is founded on a strong engagement to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law worldwide. Sustainable peace, development and prosperity cannot exist without respect for human rights. This commitment underpins all internal and external policies of the European Union.

Within EU borders, those principles are embedded in the EU founding treaties, reinforced by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights adopted in 2000, and strengthened still further when the Charter became legally binding with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009.

Outside EU borders, the Lisbon Treaty stipulates that the Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Countries seeking to join the EU must respect human rights. And all cooperation (and trade) agreements with third countries contain a clause stipulating that human rights are an essential element in relations between the parties. These are only two examples illustrating how human rights represent a guiding principle for the Union's external action.

The EU's human rights policy encompasses civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The EU is adamant about protecting the universal nature of human rights when questioned on the ground of cultural or political differences.

First Vice President and Commissioner for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights is Frans Timmermans (Netherlands)



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# Single Market and Competition

## Single Market

In the EU's single market (sometimes also called the internal market) people, goods, services, and money can move around the EU as freely as within a single country. Mutual recognition plays a central role in getting rid of barriers to trade.

EU citizens can study, live, shop, work and retire in any EU country - and enjoy products from all over Europe.

To create this single market, hundreds of technical, legal and bureaucratic barriers to free trade and free movement between the EU's member countries have been abolished.

As a result, companies have expanded their operations. The competition has brought prices down and given consumers more choice:

- Phone calls in Europe cost a fraction of what they did 10 years ago;
- Many air fares have fallen significantly and new routes have opened up;
- Many homes and businesses can now choose their electricity and gas suppliers.

At the same time, with the help of Europe's various competition and regulatory authorities, the EU works to ensure that these greater freedoms don't undermine fairness, consumer protection or environmental sustainability.

The Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs is Elżbieta Bieńkowska (Poland)



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# Competition

The European Commission, together with national competition authorities, adopt rules to ensure fair and equal conditions for businesses this better functioning means better results and the greatest benefit for companies, the consumers and the European economy as a whole. Thus, according to EU rules that promote competition, companies should not restrict competition by fixing prices and L or mutual sharing of markets. Monopoly is permitted in certain circumstances (e.g. natural monopoly or when it comes to public goods) but then monopolistic companies must treat other companies equally and make their services available to everyone, and also profits of public services should not be used to subsidize commercial activities.

The Commissioner for Competition is Margrethe Vestager (Denmark).



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# Agriculture

EU farming policy – the common agricultural policy – serves many purposes:

- helps farmers produce sufficient quantities of food for Europe;
- ensures this food is safe (for example through traceability);
- protects farmers from excessive price volatility and market crises;
- helps them invest in modernising their farms;
- sustains viable rural communities, with diverse economies;
- creates and maintains jobs in the food industry;
- protects the environment & animal welfare.

EU farm policy has evolved considerably in recent decades to help farmers face new challenges and also in response to changing public attitudes. Successive reforms mean that farmers now base their production decisions on market demand, rather than on decisions taken in Brussels.

The most recent reforms, in 2013, shifted the focus towards:

- greener farming practices;
- research and the spread of knowledge;
- a fairer support system for farmers;
- a stronger position for farmers in the food chain.

Other important aspects are:

- helping consumers make informed choices about their food, through EU quality-labelling schemes. These labels – indicating geographical origin and the use of traditional ingredients or methods (including organic farming) – also help make EU farm products competitive on world markets;
- promoting innovation in farming & food processing (aided by EU research projects) to increase productivity and reduce environmental impacts, e.g. using crop by-products and waste products to produce energy;
- encouraging fair trade relations with developing countries – by suspending export subsidies for farm products and making it easier for developing countries to export their products to the EU.

World food production needs to double by 2050 to cater for population growth and wealthier consumers eating more animal products – at the same time as dealing with the impact of climate change (loss of biodiversity, deteriorating soil and water quality).

EU policy is to give farmers advice on investment and innovation, to help them with this task.

The Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development is Phil Hogan (Ireland)



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## Research & Innovation

Innovation has been placed at the heart of the EU's strategy to create growth and jobs.

EU countries are encouraged to invest 3% of their GDP in R&D by 2020 (1% public funding, 2% private-sector investment) - this is expected to create 3.7 million jobs and increase the EU's annual GDP by nearly €800 billion.

The EU initiative Innovation Union focuses Europe's efforts – and its cooperation with non EU countries – on the big challenges of our time: energy, food security, climate change and our ageing population. It uses public sector intervention to stimulate the private sector and remove bottlenecks which prevent ideas from reaching the market – including lack of finance, fragmented research systems and markets, under-use of public procurement for innovation and slow standard-setting.

The EU is also working to create a single European Research Area, where researchers will be able to work anywhere in the EU and cooperation across borders will be supported and encouraged.

In January 2014, the EU launched its latest 7-year research programme - Horizon 2020 - almost €80-bn of EU funding is available up to 2020 in addition to the private and national public investment this money will attract. It combines all research and innovation funding in one integrated programme.

Its goals are:

- to strengthen the EU's position in science (€24.4-bn of funding – including €13-bn for the European Research Council);
- strengthen industrial innovation (€17-bn) - including investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for small businesses;
- address major social concerns, such as climate change, sustainable transport, renewable energy, food safety and security, ageing populations (€24.4-bn).

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also part of the Horizon 2020 programme. The

Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation is Carlos Moedas (Portugal).



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# Environment and Energy

## Environment

The EU has some of the world's highest environmental standards. Environment policy helps green the EU economy, protect nature, and safeguard the health and quality of life of people living in the EU.

Protecting the environment and maintaining a competitive EU presence on the global market can go hand in hand, and environment policy can play a key role in creating jobs and stimulating investment. 'Green growth' entails developing integrated policies that promote a sustainable environmental framework. Environmental innovations can be implemented and exported, making Europe more competitive and improving people's quality of life. Fairness is paramount in all this.

Nature is our life support system, so we need to look after it. We share resources like water, air, natural habitats and the species they support, and we also share environmental standards to protect them.

Europe is working to safeguard these natural resources and halt the decline of endangered species and habitats. Natura 2000 is a network of 26,000 protected natural areas, covering almost 20% of the EU's land mass, where sustainable human activities can coexist with rare and vulnerable species and habitats.

Water, air pollution and chemicals are among people's top environmental concerns. To safeguard people from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing, EU policy aims to:

- guarantee safe drinking and bathing water;
- improve air quality and reduce noise;
- reduce or eliminate the effects of harmful chemicals;
- global challenges.

As the world population continues to expand, with ever greater numbers of city-dwellers, global environmental challenges become more pressing. More action is needed to ensure that:

- air, oceans and other water resources are kept clean;
- land and ecosystems are used sustainably;
- climate change is kept to manageable levels;
- as a global actor, the EU plays a key role in international efforts to promote sustainable development globally.

The Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries is Karmenu Vella (Malta).



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## ENERGY

Europe is facing rising energy demand, volatile prices, and disruptions to supply. We also need to reduce the environmental impact of the energy sector.

To tackle these problems, the EU needs a clear energy strategy.

So the EU energy policy has 3 main goals:

- security of supply;
- competitiveness;
- sustainability.

The Commission has launched plans for a European Energy Union. This will ensure secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy for EU citizens and businesses.

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Energy will flow freely across national borders in the EU. New technologies, energy efficiency measures and renewed infrastructure will help cut household bills, create new jobs and skills and boost growth and exports.

Europe will become a sustainable, low-carbon and environmentally-friendly economy. It will lead the way in renewable energy production and the fight against global warming.

Energy Union will also help Europe speak with a single voice on global energy matters.

Energy Union builds on existing EU energy policy, including the 2030 Energy and Climate Framework and the Energy Security Strategy.

The EU has set itself energy and climate targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050.

Targets for 2020:

- Reducing greenhouse gases by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels;
- 20% of energy from renewable sources;
- 20% energy efficiency improvement.

Targets for 2030:

- 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- At least 27% EU energy from renewables;
- Increase energy efficiency by 27-30%;
- 15% electricity interconnection (i.e. 15% of electricity generated in the EU can be transported to other EU countries).

Target for 2050:

- An 80-95% cut in greenhouse gases compared with 1990 levels. The Energy Roadmap 2050 shows how EU could do this.

The Vice-President and Commissioner for Energy Union is Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia)



The Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy is Miguel Arias Cañete (Spain)



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# Humanitarian Aid

The European Union is committed to helping victims of man-made and natural disasters worldwide. It helps over 120 million people each year. Collectively, the EU and its constituent countries are the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid. Yet EU aid accounts for under 1% of the EU's total annual budget – just over €2 per EU citizen.

The Treaty of Lisbon provides the legal basis for aid. Its purpose is to help people in distress, whatever their nationality, religion, gender or ethnic origin. The EU is committed to a leading role in disaster relief.

Since 2010, the European Commission has established a more robust and effective European mechanism for disaster response. A single organisation now deals with both humanitarian aid and civil protection, which is more efficient.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism operates together with EU funding for humanitarian aid to tackle the needs arising from a conflict or disaster. An example is the Ebola epidemic (2014 on). This mechanism has helped provide emergency supplies from EU countries, while the European Commission has disbursed over €400 million in humanitarian aid (data: February 2015).

The EU works in all major crisis areas, including Syria, South Sudan, Ukraine, Ebola-hit West Africa and the Central African Republic, and in countries facing post-conflict instability, such as the Ivory Coast. It helps save lives, reduce suffering and protect the security and dignity of those affected. The EU has been providing humanitarian aid since 1992 in over 140 countries.

The annual budget for humanitarian operations is now nearly €1 bn. Despite the limited budget, EU aid helps some 120 million people every year.

The EU helps raise awareness of 'forgotten crises' – often protracted crises which have escaped the attention of the media and the international community. Recently, it has helped focus attention on the humanitarian disaster in the Central African Republic.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) handles EU-funded relief. Humanitarian aid is channelled through over 200 partner organisations and agencies on the ground, including:

- non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- international organisations;
- Red Cross societies;
- UN agencies.

The EU provides emergency aid impartially, regardless of people's race, ethnic group, religion, gender, age, nationality or political affiliation.  
The Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management is Christos Stylianides (Cyprus)



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# Culture and Education

## CULTURE

The EU works to preserve Europe's shared cultural heritage and help make it accessible to all. It also supports and promotes the arts and creative industries in Europe.

Support for the arts and creative industries takes the form of:

- programmes to help them get the most out of digital technologies & the EU market;
- funding;
- help with research projects;
- support for cooperation with EU & non-EU partners.

The following EU policies have links with culture:

- education (including language learning);
- scientific research;
- support for IT & communications technologies;
- social policy;
- regional development.

Under regional policy, for example, the EU supports music schools, concert halls and recording studios and funds the restoration of historic theatres (e.g. the Teatro del Liceu, Barcelona, and the Fenice, Venice).

Creative Europe programme helps European cinema, the arts and the creative industries create more jobs and growth, building on the successful MEDIA, MEDIA Mundus and Culture programmes.

With a €1.46 bn budget for 2014-2020, Creative Europe:

- safeguards & promotes Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity & cultural richness;
- contributes to the EU's goal of smart, sustainable & inclusive economic growth;
- helps the arts & creative sectors adapt to the digital age & globalisation;
- opens up new international opportunities, markets & audiences;
- promotes economic development;
- finances arts prizes in the European Union.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the Creative Europe programme.

The EU supports prizes for cultural heritage, architecture, literature and music which highlight Europe's artistic achievements.

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Each year, 2 cities are picked as European capitals of culture.

This enables them to:

- celebrate their European identity;
- step up cooperation with arts organisations at home & abroad;
- boost local arts further;
- Their special status brings proven long-term benefits, both social and cultural.

## EDUCATION

EU countries are responsible for their own education and training systems, but the EU helps them set joint goals and share good practices.

The new Erasmus+ programme is designed to tackle youth unemployment by improving young people's skills and employability. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a partner country in the Erasmus+ programme.

The EU Youth Strategy promotes equal opportunities in education and employment for young people and encourages them to play an active part in society.

### **Erasmus+ programme – education, training youth & sport:**

- Total budget – €14.7 bn (40% up on the previous funding period, which ended in 2013);
- It will help over 4 million people (mostly young) to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad;
- It will also help over 125,000 organisations to work with counterparts abroad on innovating and modernising teaching and youth work practices.

### **Europass – standard CV**

Europass is a set of documents to help applicants present their skills and qualifications in a standard Europe-wide format. This enables employers to understand foreign qualifications and helps workers apply for jobs abroad.

- 
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
  - Language passport - self-assessment tool for language skills & qualifications
  - Europass Mobility - records study time abroad
  - Europass Certificate Supplement - skills demonstrated by vocational training certificates
  - Europass Diploma Supplement - records higher education achievements
  - European Skills passport - comprehensive snapshot of skills & qualifications
  - qualifications – comparability & recognition

The European qualifications Framework makes it easier to compare different national qualifications by linking examinations and education levels to a common reference framework. It is designed to help Europeans study and work abroad.

### **Vocational education & training**

Through the Copenhagen process, European countries (including all EU countries), trade unions and employers cooperate to improve vocational and educational training. The result is the European credit system and quality-assurance network, which help people work and study abroad.

### **Higher education**

The purpose of the Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area is to make it easier to move between education systems within Europe, by promoting mutual recognition of periods of study, comparable qualifications and uniform quality standards.

The Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is Tibor Navracsics (Hungary)



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[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm) [http://](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/navracsics_e)

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# Other Commissioners

## Budget and Human Resources

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## Digital Single Market

Commissioner: Andrus Ansip (Vice-President of European Commission) (Estonia) Web site: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/ansip\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/ansip_en)

## Euro and Social Dialogue

Commissioner: Valdis Dombrovskis (Vice-President of European Commission) (Latvia) Web site: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/dombrovskis\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/dombrovskis_en)

## Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

Commissioner: Jyrki Katainen (Vice-President of European Commission) (Finland) Web site: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/katainen\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/katainen_en)

## Digital Economy and Society

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## Trade

Commissioner: Cecilia Malmstrom (Sweden) Web site: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/malmstrom\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/malmstrom_en)

## International Cooperation and Development

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Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

Commissioner: Marianne Thyssen (Belgium)

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Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs

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Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union

Commissioner: Jonathan Hill (United Kingdom)

Web site: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/hill\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/hill_en)

Transport

Commissioner: Violeta Bulc (Slovenia)

Web site: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/bulc\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/bulc_en)

Regional Policy

Commissioner: Corina Cretu (Romania)

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Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Commissioner: Věra Jourová (Czech Republic)

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The Spokesperson's Service (SPP) is the official voice of the European Commission vis-à-vis the media. We provide information about the Commission's political priorities and decisions to the press, organise press events and issue press material.

The SPP is an integral part of DG Communication, placed under the authority of the President. The European Commission Chief Spokesperson is the Head of the SPP and is assisted by up to two Deputy Chief Spokespersons, up to two Coordinating Spokespersons, up to 12 portfolio Spokespersons, and up to 30 portfolio Press Officers. We have a Unit in charge of multimedia editing, speeches and liaison with the Commission's Representations in the Member States.

The Representations are in charge of communicating with national and local media in close liaison with the SPP.

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# EU Glossary

## AccedingCountry / Zemljapristupnica:

Country that met the Copenhagen criteria, completed negotiations and signed the Treaty of Accession to the European Union.

## Accession Treaty/ Ugovor o pristupanju:

The Accession Treaty of a Member State is signed upon completion of the accession negotiations. Accession does not come automatically, since the Treaty has to be ratified by all EU Member States and acceding country. The Accession Treaty lays out the terms and arrangements of accession, including the rights and obligations of the new Member States and adapting EU institutions.

## Acquis Communautaire / Pravnastečevina:

A French term denoting the rights and obligations shared by all EU countries. The *acquis* includes all treaties, EU legislation, international agreements, standards, European Court of Justice verdicts, fundamental rights provisions and principles enshrined in the treaties, such as equality and non-discrimination. In short: the EU law.

Accordingly, “the acceptance of the *acquis*” means incorporating EU laws into the national legislation and ensuring its proper enforcement. Acceptance and implementation of the *acquis* are the basis of the accession negotiations which are organised along different policy areas - the “chapters of the *acquis*”.

## Avis (Opinion) / Avis (Mišljenje):

Following the analysis of the replies to the Questionnaire forwarded by the country's authorities, the Commission's Opinion may:

- Recommend granting candidate status to the country and the start of negotiations;
- Recommend candidate status but set key priorities as condition for setting the start date;
- Set key priorities as condition for candidate status;
- Offer other possible options.

Member States decide by unanimity on the Commission's proposal.

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## Candidate Country / Zemljakandidat:

Refers to the country whose application for EU membership has been officially accepted. Currently there are five candidate countries: Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Before joining the EU, a candidate must meet the Copenhagen criteria for membership and complete the accession negotiations.

## Copenhagen Criteria / Kopenhaškikriteriji:

At the meeting in Copenhagen in June 1993, EU leaders set three criteria that each candidate country must fulfil if it wants to become an EU member. First, it must have stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, respect for human and minority rights. Second, it must have a functioning market economy. Third, it must adopt the *acquis* and support the objectives of the European Union. These requirements are supplemented by Madrid criterion.

## European citizenship

The citizens of the EU Member States possess both national and EU citizenship.

## European Citizens' Initiative/Evropska građanska inicijativa:

The European citizens' initiative enables one million citizens from at least seven member states of the EU to directly ask the European Commission to propose to them the relevant legislative initiatives in the area of EU competence. Its purpose is to ensure that citizens' initiatives truly represent public opinion of the EU.

## European Union/ Evropska unija:

The EU was established in 1993 by the Maastricht Treaty, which extended the scope of the European Economic Community to the area of foreign and security policy, and provided for the creation of a European Central Bank and the adoption of a common currency, the euro.

The Lisbon Treaty has merged the Community and the European Union into one single political organisation, the Union, covering all areas of co-operation and giving the EU a legal personality to allow the EU to enter into agreements with States and other legal entities in all areas of its competence.

## European Integration/Evropske integracije:

The term means connecting European countries and peoples. Within the European Union it means that countries unite their resources and jointly make many decisions. Joint decision-making takes place through interaction between the EU institutions (Parliament, Council, Commission, etc.).

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## EEA/EEP:

Abbreviation denoting the European Economic Area which is made up of the European Union and the EFTA countries, except Switzerland. The Agreement of the EEA, which came into force on 1 January in 1994, gives Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway the benefit of the common market, but without the privileges and responsibilities of the Member States.

## EEC/EEZ:

Abbreviation for the European Economic Community - one of the three European Communities established in 1957, for the economic integration of Europe. Primary six member countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. When the 1993 Maastricht Treaty came into force, the EEC was renamed the European Community (EC), which forms the basis of today's European Union.

## Enlargement/Proširenje:

The EU now consists of 28 members. Increasing the number of member states is called an enlargement, and it has happened on several occasions:

- 1973. Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
- 1981. Greece
- 1986. Portugal, Spain
- 1995. Austria, Finland, Sweden
- 2004. Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia
- 2007. Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013. Croatia

## Eurobarometer/Eurobarometar:

Department of the European Commission that was established in 1973, whose mission is to measure and analyse the trends of public opinion in all EU member states and candidate countries. For the European Commission, it is important to know what the public thinks of the process of adoption of new legislation, decision-making and in the assessment of the Commission. Eurobarometer uses surveys and focus groups. Eurobarometer surveys are published annually in more than 100 reports. For more information [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

## Europe 2020/Evropa 2020:

“Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” is a strategic document that the EU Member States adopted in spring 2010. It lays out a vision of the European social market economy for the 21st century. It shows in which way Europe can emerge from the crisis stronger and to be able to turn into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy that provides high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

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## Eurozone/Eurozona:

This is the unofficial name for the European monetary union comprising the EU member states which have adopted the euro as their currency and met the euro-convergence (or Maastricht) criteria. So far, these are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Other EU states, except Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, will join once they meet the criteria.

## Flagship Initiatives/Vodeće inicijative:

In strategy Europe 2020, adopted in spring 2010, European Union presented seven main goals:

1. **“Innovation Union”** to improve the framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation to ensure the ability to transform innovative ideas into products and services that create growth and jobs.
2. **“Youth on the move”** to increase the effect of education systems and to facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market.
3. **“Digital agenda for Europe”** to enable rapid expansion of high-speed internet and the use of the advantages of digital single market for households and companies.
4. **“Resource efficient Europe”** with the aim of separating economic growth from resource use, support the transition to the economy which uses small levels of carbon, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernize traffic sector and promote energy efficiency.
5. **“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”** aimed at improving the business environment, especially for small and medium entrepreneurs and the development of strong and sustainable globally competitive industrial base.
6. **“An agenda for new skills and jobs”** with the aim of modernizing labour markets and empower people to develop their skills throughout life with the aim of increasing labour force participation, and better alignment of supply and demand, including through labour mobility.
7. **“European platform against poverty”** in order to strengthen social and territorial cohesion in a way that all can benefit from the advantages of growth and jobs and that people who suffer from poverty and social exclusion provide a dignified life and active participation in society.

## Four Freedoms/Četiri slobode:

One of the greatest achievements of the EU is the creation of an area without internal borders, internal market, within which persons, goods, services and capital move freely.

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## Harmonization/Harmonizacija (Usklađivanje):

Harmonisation is a key concept in the European Union for creating common standards across the internal market and establishing identical rules in still more areas of governance.

All the countries aspiring to join the EU need to harmonise their legislation with the EU law and ensure its proper enforcement.

## Lisbon Treaty/Lisabonski ugovor:

The latest reform of the legal and institutional system of the EU was made with the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force on 1 December 2009. The Lisbon Treaty established legal and political framework for the functioning of the EU in the future. It amends the Maastricht treaty (1993), also known as the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and the Treaty of Rome (1958), also known as the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEEC). Following Lisbon, the Treaty of Rome was renamed into the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

The Lisbon Treaty followed the Nice Treaty, the Treaty of Amsterdam, Maastricht, The Single European Act and the Treaty of Rome. The Lisbon Treaty abolished the European Community and transferred all its powers and institutions to the new "Union", which also possesses the legal personality.

The Lisbon Treaty abolished the previous structure with "three pillars" in the European treaties, which consisted of a column of supranational Community, and two areas of foreign and security policy on the one hand, and justice and home affairs on the other hand, where member States are cooperating intergovernmental.

## Lisbon Strategy/Lisabonska strategija:

At the European Council meeting held in Lisbon in March in 2000, EU leaders set a goal for the EU to become the most dynamic and competitive economy based on knowledge in the world by 2010. The "Lisbon Strategy" (also known as Lisbon Agenda or Lisbon Process) includes areas such as research, education, access to internet and online business. By 2010, most of its goals were not achieved.

## Maastricht Criteria/Kriteriji iz Maastrichta:

There are five criteria set out in the Treaty of Maastricht that must be met by European countries if they wish to adopt the European Union's single currency, the euro. They are:

- Inflation of no more than 1.5 % above the average rate of the three EU member states with the lowest inflation over the previous year;
- A national budget deficit at or below 3 % of gross domestic product (GDP);
- National public debt not exceeding 60% of gross domestic product. A country with a higher level of debt can still adopt the euro, provided its debt level is falling steadily;
- Long-term interest rates should be no more than two per cent above the rate in the three EU countries with the lowest inflation over the previous year;
- The national currency is required to enter the ERM2 exchange rate mechanism two years prior to entry.

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## Madrid Criteria/Madridski kriterij:

Membership criteria also require that the candidate country creates conditions for the EU integration by adapting its administrative structures, as outlined in the European Council meeting in Madrid in 1995. Besides the requirement that the EU law is transposed into national legislation, it is important that it is effectively implemented through appropriate administrative and judicial structures.

## Membership application/zahhtjev članstvo:

A formal request of the country aspiring to join the EU addressed to the EU Council. The European Commission prepares an opinion (Avis) on the basis of the country's replies to the Questionnaire. If the opinion is positive, the country gain the candidate status and the date for opening the accession negotiations may be set.

## Questionnaire / Upitnik:

Following the Council's request, the Commission prepares the Questionnaire including several thousands of questions, covering all EU policy areas and accession criteria. The authorities of the country that applied for EU membership are required to provide their replies within the given deadline. This exercise is aimed to establish the level of preparedness of the country in terms of transposition of the *acquis* and its institutional and administrative capacities.

## Reform Agenda:

Set of reforms agreed by Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities, in consultation with the European Union and International Financial Institutions, aimed at addressing the socio-economic concerns of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensuring jobs and a better perspective. Progress in the implementation of the Reform Agenda will also be necessary for the country's membership application to be considered as credible by the EU.

## Stabilisation and Association Agreement/ Sporazum o stabilizaciji i pridruživanju:

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) is a tool that provides the formal mechanisms and agreed 'benchmarks' that allows the EU to work with BiH to bring it closer to EU standards. Since the signing of the SAA, BiH institutions have been obliged to ensure that its existing laws and future legislation are gradually made compatible with the EU *acquis*. BiH institutions are also obliged to ensure that all existing and future legislation is fully implemented. According to the provisions of the SAA, the Stabilisation and Association Council monitors the implementation of the Agreement and makes recommendations in relation to the necessary next steps that need to be taken in the

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Stabilization and Association Process (SAP). The main elements of the SAA are:

- Promoting the free movement of goods;
- Creating efficient institutions;
- Developing a market economy;
- Reducing crime and corruption;
- Promoting higher education reform;
- Developing democracy, human rights, and an independent media; and
- Improving the region's transport infrastructure.

## **Stabilisation and Association Council/ Vijeće za stabilizaciju i pridruživanje**

The body established under SAA, comprising members of the Council of the EU and members of the European Commission as well as representatives of the Council of Ministers of BiH, responsible for supervision of the implementation of the SAA.

## **Stabilisation and Association Committee/ Odbor za stabilizaciju i pridruživanje**

A technical level body comprising experts from the European Commission and country's government, responsible for implementation of reforms required under the SAA. The Stabilisation and Association Committee may establish sub-committees to deal with specific policy areas.

## **Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee/Parlamentarni odbor za stabilizaciju i pridruživanje**

A forum of the members of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and European Parliament.

## **Structured Dialogue on Justice / Strukturisani dijalog opravosuđu:**

The EU-BiH Structured Dialogue on Justice was launched with a view to supporting reforms of the justice system in the country and bringing it closer to the EU. This platform provides the context to discuss all reforms that are necessary to allow BiH to progress in the alignment of its judicial system with the EU acquis and relevant standards. The goal of this mechanism is the development and consolidation of an independent, credible, effective, efficient, impartial and accountable judiciary. The Dialogue is a bilateral exercise between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The plenary meetings of the Dialogue are open to the participation of relevant high-level practitioners and authorities. More information on: <http://europa.ba/Download.aspx?id=736&lang=EN>



## For more information

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