

ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT BY H.E. Dr MLADEN IVANIC,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
BRUSSELS, 04-05 December 2006**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to express my gratitude to our host for excellent organization of this important event.

I will be very brief and use the opportunity to inform you on several significant issues.

Firstly, Bosnia and Herzegovina associates itself with the statement of Finland on behalf of the EU.

Secondly, the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been one of the largest but also one of the most successful. That Mission has launched defense reform that has been implemented with a great success. It resulted in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Partnership for Peace membership, decided at the NATO Riga Summit.

The OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina should continue its engagement with the same mandate. I would like to underline that Bosnia and Herzegovina wholeheartedly supports the monitoring, carried out by the OSCE Mission to BiH, of the operation of the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court.

Allow me to highlight that it would be of a great importance to keep the same budget for the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina so it can fulfill its mission.

The first elections in the post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina were organized and financed by the OSCE. In 2004, for the first time, local authorities took the responsibility, including organization and financing, and conducted the elections in a very successful manner. The elections were praised by the OSCE ODIHR and Parliamentary Assembly that affirmed that very high election standards have been set up in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cooperation between the local authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE has been outstanding in that regard, and will continue in the future.

At the end, I would like to congratulate to the Belgian Chairmanship and thank them for all their efforts. Also, I wish all the best to our next Spanish Chair-in-Office.

Thank you for your attention.