

# **Gradiska Bridge Reopens to International Traffic**

The International Border Crossing Stara Gradiska – Bosanska Gradiska / Gradiska between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia will reopen to international traffic on

**Wednesday, 3 May, at 13.00 hours**

Senior government officials of both countries, the European Union and the Office of the High Representative will participate in the opening ceremony. The reconstruction of this critical artery supporting trade, traffic and commerce between the two countries was funded by the European Union at a cost of approximately 1.3M Euros. Further, it represents the completion of a major milestone in the plan for reconstruction of most of the bridges across the Sava River by the end of the year 2000.

In conjunction with the opening of the reconstructed bridge, the interim military pontoon bridge at this location will close to traffic on

**Wednesday, 3 May, at 12.00 hours**

Officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Stabilization Force and the Office of the High Representative will preside over the decommissioning ceremony. The closure of this temporary means of access marks the successful completion of a highly coordinated effort of civil-military cooperation between both countries demonstrating specific ways in which the military provides direct benefit to the civilian population. The temporary PMP Pontoon Bridge was constructed last year by military personnel of both countries in coordination with the Hungarian Engineer Contingent of the Stabilization Force.

All members of the media are cordially invited to attend both ceremonies.

The Office of the High Representative, European Union and the Stabilization Force look forward to both of these events and to increased mutual relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia.