

# **High Representative offers support to BiH women on occasion of International Women's Day**

The High Representative, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, offers the strongest possible support to the women of Bosnia and Herzegovina and congratulates them on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 08.

The High Representative encourages women to come forward and to take a leading role in the peace-building process, and pledges the backing of OHR for their efforts. The High Representative recognizes the crucial role of women in all aspects of life in Bosnia and Herzegovina – from keeping families together in the face of adversity, and building inter-ethnic, community-based links throughout the country, to increasingly taking their rightful place in the political arena to shape a better future for all citizens of BiH.

The High Representative reaffirms the commitment of OHR to gender equality and a society built on the principles of non-discrimination. He stresses the role that OHR, along with other agencies, has to play in the promotion of non-discrimination in employment, on any grounds including that of gender; in the creation of a legislative environment in which women's NGOs and other organizations can operate free from legal impediment; in the eradication of trafficking of women; and in generally ensuring that the needs and concerns of women are recognized and addressed in those spheres in which OHR is active.