



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Olli Rehn
Member of the Commission

Brussels, 21.2.2005
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Dear Prime Minister, *Dear Adnan,*

First, I would like to congratulate you on continuing reform and your undoubted progress towards an ever closer relationship with the European Union. There are, however, still a number of challenges that need to be addressed. I would here like to highlight the issues of co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and reform of policing structures.

The Commission has always seen the ICTY as an essential element of rule of law, and as a contribution to reconciliation in the region. The transfer of an indicted, Savo Todovic, from Republika Srpska a few weeks ago was a welcome move. But clearly more will be needed to make "significant progress".

Another critical issue is police reform. As you know the European Commission's Feasibility Study requires "structural police reform with a view to rationalising police services". This is important not least because the citizens of BiH deserve a rational and well-functioning police service. To reach this goal I believe that all legislative and budgetary competencies must be vested at state level and applied in functional areas, so as to achieve technically efficient policing. Furthermore, there must be no political interference in operational policing.

In the context of the Feasibility study, significant progress in police restructuring will be achieved when reform of policing structures has been adopted. Mr Martens, the chairman of the police commission, now has presented his conclusions and I find the proposals on the table a good basis for further discussion. I encourage BiH politicians to seize this opportunity to move forward and agree on a solution that serves the citizens of the country and provides the EU with effective law enforcement counterparts in BiH.

Mr Adnan Terzic
Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina

As you are well aware, significant progress on the above-mentioned issues, as well as on the other 14 singled out in the context of the Feasibility Study, is a pre-condition for a European Commission recommendation to open negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union. I hope to be able to make such a recommendation this spring, but it all depends on BiH and your capacity to deliver. Let me wish you every success in this challenge.

I am copying this letter to RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic and FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic.

Yours sincerely, Bert wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bert", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.