

# Bosnia a. H. Watch: Political agreement on principles for a functional B&H

Yesterday in Brussels, political representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) in the presence of EU representatives (Mr. Michel and Mr. Borrell), adopted the political agreement on principles for ensuring a functional B&H.



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## Encouraging agreement of B&H political leaders with EU representatives

The **final version of the agreement on the principles for ensuring a functional B&H i.e. making further steps on the path towards the EU, has been adopted yesterday in Brussels** in the presence of leaders of the political parties represented in the Parliamentary Assembly and the members of the Presidency of B&H as well as President of the European Council, Mr. Charles Michel, and the High Representative of the European Union, Mr. Josep Borrell. **This agreement underlined key priorities put in front of B&H political leaders:**

- **Full adherence to all binding international and domestic court decisions** with the objective of ensuring compliance with European standards;
- **General Elections 2022 need to be organized efficiently and conducted in an orderly manner** with a fair campaign, free from divisive and hateful rhetoric;
- Urgent adoption of: Law on B&H High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) and Law on Courts; Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest; Public Procurement law; Reform of Election Law - **not later than 6 months from the formation of governments at all levels.**

However, the president of the Croat Democratic Party Mr. Dragan Covic was not part of the high level meeting in Brussels due to his opposition against the format of negotiation, where once again he underlined that the current Election Law is not acceptable for him and his party. Also, within the preamble of this agreement, it stated that all participants **recognize** the importance of the political moment and responsibility towards all citizens of B&H, bearing in mind the **"United Nations General Assembly resolution on the aggression against Ukraine", adopted on 2 March 2022**. However, the representatives from RS once again call for a discussion and adoption of the decision on the situation in Ukraine at B&H Presidency level, which is not surprising since they previously advocated for a neutral stance.

The Brussels agreement in the Election year came as moral commitment of political leaders in B&H to focus, once again, on the importance of implementing reforms within

**Asja GRDJO**

*Analyst*

+387 33 287-645

asja.grdjo@raiffeisengroup.ba

**Ivona ZAMETICA**

*Analyst*

+387 33 287-784

ivona.zametica@raiffeisengroup.ba

14 key priorities set out in the Commission's Opinion in order to **strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's European integration path**. Hence, this agreement should be viewed in a broader context because talks on the candidate status of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova have been announced for 23 June 2022 within the EU structures, so after agreement of B&H political leaders, **there is a possibility that B&H will be on the EU agenda**.

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Thomas Sternbach Legal and Compliance Raiffeisen Bank International AG Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Wien Tel: +43-1-71707-1541 Fax: +43-1-71707-761541 [thomas.sternbach@rbinternational.com](mailto:thomas.sternbach@rbinternational.com)

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## Contacts

### GUNTER DEUBER

📍 Austria ,  
✉ [gunter.deuber@rbinternational.com](mailto:gunter.deuber@rbinternational.com)

### GOTTFRIED STEINDL

📍 Austria ,  
✉ [gottfried.steindl@rbinternational.com](mailto:gottfried.steindl@rbinternational.com)

### PETER ÖHLINGER

📍 Austria ,  
✉ [peter.oehlinger@rbinternational.com](mailto:peter.oehlinger@rbinternational.com)

### FJORENT RRUSHI

📍 Albania ,  
✉ [Fjorent.Rrushi@raiffeisen.al](mailto:Fjorent.Rrushi@raiffeisen.al)

### ASJA GRDJO

📍 Bosnia Herzegovina ,  
✉ [asja.grdjo@raiffeisengroup.ba](mailto:asja.grdjo@raiffeisengroup.ba)

### EMIL KALCHEV

📍 Bulgaria ,  
✉ [emil.kalchev@raiffeisen.bg](mailto:emil.kalchev@raiffeisen.bg)

### ZRINKA ZIVKOVIC-MATIJEVIC

📍 Croatia ,  
✉ [zrinka.zivkovic-matijevic@rba.hr](mailto:zrinka.zivkovic-matijevic@rba.hr)

### LEVENTE BLAHÓ

📍 Hungary ,  
✉ [levente.blaho@raiffeisen.hu](mailto:levente.blaho@raiffeisen.hu)

### DOROTA STRAUCH

📍 Poland ,  
✉ [dorota.strauch@raiffeisen.pl](mailto:dorota.strauch@raiffeisen.pl)

### IONUT DUMITRU

📍 Romania ,  
✉ [Ionut.Dumitru@raiffeisen.ro](mailto:Ionut.Dumitru@raiffeisen.ro)

### STANISLAV MURASHOV

📍 Russia ,  
✉ [stanislav.murashov@raiffeisen.ru](mailto:stanislav.murashov@raiffeisen.ru)

### SERHII KOLODII

📍 Ukraine ,  
✉ [serhii.kolodii@aval.ua](mailto:serhii.kolodii@aval.ua)

### CASPER ENGELEN

📍 Austria ,  
✉ [casper.engelen@rbinternational.com](mailto:casper.engelen@rbinternational.com)

### ANNE VALDER

📍 Austria , German,  
✉ [anne.valder@rbinternational.com](mailto:anne.valder@rbinternational.com)

### BRISIDA BUZI

📍 Albania ,  
✉ [Brisida.BUZI@raiffeisen.al](mailto:Brisida.BUZI@raiffeisen.al)

### ARISTEA VLLAHU

📍 Albania ,  
✉ [Aristea.Vllahu@raiffeisen.al](mailto:Aristea.Vllahu@raiffeisen.al)

### IVONA ZAMETICA

📍 Bosnia Herzegovina ,  
✉ [ivona.zametica@raiffeisengroup.ba](mailto:ivona.zametica@raiffeisengroup.ba)

### ANA LESAR

📍 Croatia ,  
✉ [ana.lesar@rba.hr](mailto:ana.lesar@rba.hr)

### HELENA HORSKA

📍 Czech Republic ,  
✉ [Helena.Horska@rb.cz](mailto:Helena.Horska@rb.cz)

### GERGELY PÁLFFY

📍 Hungary ,  
✉ [gergely.palfy@raiffeisen.hu](mailto:gergely.palfy@raiffeisen.hu)

### NICOLAE COVRIG

📍 Romania ,  
✉ [Nicolae.Covrig@raiffeisen.ro](mailto:Nicolae.Covrig@raiffeisen.ro)

### ANASTASIA BAYKOVA

📍 Russia ,  
✉ [ABAIKOVA@raiffeisen.ru](mailto:ABAIKOVA@raiffeisen.ru)

### LJILJANA GRUBIC

📍 Serbia ,  
✉ [Ljiljana.grubic@raiffeisenbank.rs](mailto:Ljiljana.grubic@raiffeisenbank.rs)

### OLEKSANDR PECHERYTSYN

📍 Ukraine ,  
✉ [oleksandr.pecherytsyn@aval.ua](mailto:oleksandr.pecherytsyn@aval.ua)

### MATTHIAS REITH

📍 Austria ,  
✉ [matthias.reith@rbinternational.com](mailto:matthias.reith@rbinternational.com)

### FRANZ ZOBL

📍 Austria ,  
✉ [franz.zobl@rbinternational.com](mailto:franz.zobl@rbinternational.com)

### VALBONA GJEKA

📍 Albania ,  
✉ [valbona.gjeka@raiffeisen.al](mailto:valbona.gjeka@raiffeisen.al)

### OLGA ZHEGULO

📍 Belarus ,  
✉ [olga.zhegulo@priorbank.by](mailto:olga.zhegulo@priorbank.by)

### MIRZA ZORNIC

📍 Bosnia Herzegovina ,  
✉ [mirza.zornic@raiffeisengroup.ba](mailto:mirza.zornic@raiffeisengroup.ba)

### ELIZABETA SABOLEK-RESANOVIC

📍 Croatia ,  
✉ [elizabeta.sabolek-resanovic@rba.hr](mailto:elizabeta.sabolek-resanovic@rba.hr)

### DAVID VAGENKNECHT

📍 Czech Republic ,  
✉ [david.vagenknecht@rb.cz](mailto:david.vagenknecht@rb.cz)

### ZOLTÁN TÖRÖK

📍 Hungary ,  
✉ [torok.zoltan@raiffeisen.hu](mailto:torok.zoltan@raiffeisen.hu)

### ANDREEA-ELENA DRAGHIA

📍 Romania ,  
✉ [Andreea-Elena.DRAGHIA@raiffeisen.ro](mailto:Andreea-Elena.DRAGHIA@raiffeisen.ro)

### GREGORY CHEPKOV

📍 Russia ,  
✉ [grigory.chepkov@raiffeisen.ru](mailto:grigory.chepkov@raiffeisen.ru)

### TIBOR LORINCZ

📍 Slovakia ,  
✉ [tibor\\_lorincz@tatrabanka.sk](mailto:tibor_lorincz@tatrabanka.sk)

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