

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6554 13 June 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2011/332) Assessment report of the Secretary-General on the status of the negotiations in Cyprus (S/2011/112)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/355)				Resolution 1986 (2011) 15-0-0
6685 14 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2011/746 and S/2011/746/Corr.1)	Draft resolution submitted by China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/771)				Resolution 2026 (2011) 15-0-0

^a For: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: Turkey.

^b For: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: Turkey.

25. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia

A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopting two resolutions. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina briefed the Council four times on the evolving political and security situation and on the current and future challenges facing the country. During the meetings the Council discussed the political situation and role of the High Representative, the multinational stabilization force (European Union Force — EUFOR), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the country as mandated to ensure continued compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in

Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Agreement)⁴⁶⁹ that ended the fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995.

The Council twice extended the authorization of the EUFOR and NATO presence for periods of 12 months each, including authorization for the participating Member States to take all necessary measures to assist both organizations in carrying out their missions.⁴⁷⁰

⁴⁶⁹ S/1995/999.

⁴⁷⁰ Resolutions 1948 (2010) and 2019 (2011). For more information on the mandate of EUFOR, see part VIII, sect. III., “Recognition by the Security Council of the efforts of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of disputes”.

24 May and 11 November 2010: briefings by the High Representative

On 24 May 2010, the Council was briefed by the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. He congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina for its 18 years of membership of the United Nations. In his statement he outlined the progress achieved so far in relation to, *inter alia*, Euro-Atlantic integration, an agreement with NATO on a membership action plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the destruction of unsafe weapons and explosives left over from the war, and regional reconciliation, and he highlighted the contribution of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the work of the Organization as a non-permanent member of the Council. Pointing out the current and future challenges of the country, the High Representative expressed concern over attempts by the leadership of the Republika Srpska to hold a referendum that would seek to repudiate his authority as well as decisions made under the Dayton Agreement. He stated that the country remained afflicted by lack of a basic and fundamental consensus about what sort of country it should or could be — whether a more centralized or a very decentralized State. The situation was exacerbated by a divided Government, a rise in the unemployment level, lack of constitutional reform and ethnic divisions. Referring to the October elections, he urged all parties to use their campaigns to create momentum for positive change. He called upon all parties to respect the Dayton Agreement and to foster a constructive atmosphere of reform. Finally, he praised the continuing commitment of the European Union in accompanying the country on the path to stability.⁴⁷¹

In his statement, the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted the challenges and significant progress achieved during the 18 years since Bosnia and Herzegovina had become a member of the United Nations, including its current status as a non-permanent member of the Council. He highlighted the lack of domestic progress on the “so-called entity voting mechanism” and the systemic violations of the Dayton Agreement. He called on the Council to uphold the commitments of the Dayton Agreement and to remain the guardian of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entire region.⁴⁷²

⁴⁷¹ S/PV.6319, pp. 2-5.

⁴⁷² *Ibid.*, pp. 5-8.

The Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union highlighted European Union initiatives in assisting the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including providing significant financial assistance and expertise. He reiterated its strong support for the High Representative, and called on all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply fully with decisions taken by the High Representative and to respect his authority.⁴⁷³

Many Council members shared the concerns raised by the High Representative in his report. The representative of the Russian Federation, however, stated that the report could not be recognized as objective and balanced and that it suffered from overt anti-Serbian excesses.⁴⁷⁴ Speakers welcomed the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the international and regional spheres, such as efforts towards Euro-Atlantic integration and accession to the NATO membership action plan. They urged all parties in the country to strengthen internal dialogue and cooperation, to achieve genuine reconciliation and make further progress on police reform, internal unity and multi-ethnic stability. Most Council members also voiced support for international assistance to strengthen security and rule of law institutions, while calling on all leaders to exercise restraint during the October elections and refrain from anti-Dayton rhetoric.

On 11 November 2010, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina briefed the Council, stating that the overall political picture in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained complex. There had been some positive developments, including visa-free travel for Bosnians within the Schengen area of the European Union, and progress in reconciliation with Serbia. He noted, however, that there had been basically no progress in the past year regarding key reforms required for Euro-Atlantic integration and NATO membership. He expressed regret that while there had been substantive progress in the first 11 years following the war, in the past 4 years there had been political stalemate and stagnation with the fundamentals of the country and its institutions being challenged on a regular basis. He added that there had been little progress in implementing the objectives and conditions for the transition or the closure of the Office of the High Representative, but indicated that the staffing

⁴⁷³ S/PV.6319, pp. 22-24.

level had been reduced. He also noted that the Bosnian election authorities had conducted the elections efficiently and that international election observation missions had concluded that the elections had been in accordance with international standards.⁴⁷⁵ The Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina commented on the political and economic progress made since the signing of the Dayton Agreement 15 years earlier.⁴⁷⁶

The representative of Croatia noted that Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina were the smallest and most vulnerable group. He stated that they should have equal rights to participate in the decision-making process, especially at the level of the Federation.⁴⁷⁷ Many speakers congratulated the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on his re-election, and welcomed the holding of free and fair elections, the European Union decision on visa-free travel and the improvement in regional relationships. Council members called for the full implementation of the Dayton Agreement and condemned any divisive and anti-Dayton rhetoric, while encouraging the quick formation of new governments at all levels. They expressed support for the extension of the mandate of EUFOR and called for progress to be made in the transition from the Office of the High Representative to a European Union Special Representative.

18 November 2010 and 16 November 2011: extension of the authorization of EUFOR

On 18 November 2010, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [1948 \(2010\)](#), in which it welcomed the increased turnout and orderly conduct of the elections on 3 October 2010 and the European Union decision to grant visa-free entry to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Council renewed the authorization for EUFOR for a further period of 12 months.

On 16 November 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2019 \(2011\)](#), in which it called on political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfil their democratic responsibility and form a new Council of Ministers, refrain from divisive rhetoric and make

further concrete and tangible progress towards European Union integration. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council authorized a further 12-month extension of EUFOR. In addition, the Council welcomed the decision of NATO to continue to maintain a presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9 May and 15 November 2011: briefings by the High Representative

On 9 May 2011, the Council was briefed by the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, who expressed concern at the decision taken by the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska to hold a referendum on central judicial institutions which was in violation of the Dayton Agreement. The High Representative noted that seven months after the general elections, the overall political situation in the country still remained unsatisfactory, preventing the formation of a Government at the State level. He stated that, since his previous report, no progress had been made on completion of the five objectives and two conditions that would permit the closure of the Office of the High Representative. He observed that the need for an international presence with an executive mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina was still evident. He urged the international community to address seriously the deteriorating situation to enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to solve its problems institutionally and move towards full Euro-Atlantic integration.⁴⁷⁸

The representative of the Russian Federation stated that the continuing arbitrary use of the Bonn powers by the High Representative was unacceptable and that the decision taken by the Parliament of Republika Srpska to hold a referendum on the legitimacy of the actions taken by the High Representative was not a direct violation of the Dayton Agreement.⁴⁷⁹ Other speakers shared the High Representative's concern about the proposal for a referendum. They urged all parties to engage in constructive dialogue to achieve genuine reconciliation and pave the way towards the Euro-Atlantic integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴⁸⁰

On 15 November 2011, the High Representative briefed the Council and stated that political stagnation

⁴⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 17.

⁴⁷⁵ [S/PV.6421](#), pp. 2-5.

⁴⁷⁶ Ibid., pp. 5-7.

⁴⁷⁷ Ibid., pp. 19-20.

⁴⁷⁸ [S/PV.6529](#), pp. 2-5.

⁴⁷⁹ Ibid., pp. 8-9.

⁴⁸⁰ Ibid., pp. 9-10 (United Kingdom); pp. 10-11 (Germany); and pp. 11-12 (Portugal).

and instability, as well as challenges to the Dayton Agreement, had continued during the reporting period. One year following the general elections, the State-level budget had not been passed and the Council of Ministers had yet to be established. He reiterated his recommendation that the Office of the High Representative, as well as EUFOR, should remain operational. However, he noted that the Presidents of Serbia and Croatia had continued their policies of positive engagement, resulting in a better regional situation than at any other point since the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴⁸¹

Describing the situation in his country as complex but not unresolvable, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that, given a positive security environment, and with the 2011 economic data showing some signs of improvement, there was a way to overcome the current situation.⁴⁸² The representative

⁴⁸¹ S/PV.6659, pp. 2-5.

⁴⁸² Ibid., pp. 5-6.

of the Russian Federation maintained his belief that any decision critical to the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be taken by the Bosnian people themselves, with broad agreement among the three constituent peoples, namely Bosnians, Serbs and Croats.⁴⁸³ To that end, the representative of Serbia expressed the view that the international community should embark on the process of closing the Office of the High Representative.⁴⁸⁴ The Head of the Delegation of the European Union reported on efforts to strengthen its engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He stated that the European Union had enhanced its political presence with the appointment of a new representative to oversee European Union-related matters in Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴⁸⁵ Most speakers expressed their support for the extension of the mandate of EUFOR for another term.

⁴⁸³ Ibid., p. 13.

⁴⁸⁴ Ibid., p. 20.

⁴⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 19.

Meetings: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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6319 24 May 2010	Letter dated 14 May 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/235)		Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members and all invitees	
6421 11 November 2010	Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/575)		Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina	All Council members and all invitees	

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

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6426 18 November 2010	Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary- General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/575)	Draft resolution submitted by Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (S/2010/582)	Germany, Italy			Resolution 1948 (2010) 15-0-0
6529 9 May 2011	Letter dated 3 May 2011 from the Secretary- General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/283)		Croatia, Serbia, Turkey	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6659 15 November 2011	Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary- General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/682)		Croatia, Serbia	High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members and all invitees	
6661 16 November 2011	Letter dated 3 November 2011 from the Secretary- General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/682)	Draft resolution submitted by France, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, United States (S/2011/713)	Italy, Spain			Resolution 2019 (2011) 15-0-0
	Letter dated 15 November 2011 from the Secretary- General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/717)					