20. Items relating to the situation in the former Yugoslavia

A. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

During 2018, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted one resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council continued the consideration of this item in the context of semi-annual briefings by the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

In his briefings to the Council in 2018, the High Representative provided updates on the developments covered in his two reports. While noting the positive developments achieved by the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the reporting period, in particular towards the integration with the European Union, the High Representative also expressed concerns regarding the slow pace in implementing urgent electoral reforms and strengthening the rule of law, and regretted the escalation in divisive public rhetoric, in particular in view of the general elections held on 7 October 2018.

During the discussions, Council members emphasized the need for the urgent implementation of key reforms, including the introduction of the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Council members further expressed concerns about the persistence of ethnic tensions undermining the political and social stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as about the proliferation of violent extremism and radicalization in the country. In addition, members of the Council reiterated calls upon the competent authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take the steps required to complete the 5 plus 2 agenda, necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

Following the elections on 7 October 2018, on 6 November 2018, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2443 (2018), in which, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it renewed the authorization of the multinational stabilization force, EUFOR-Althea, and the continued presence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the country for a period of 12 months, starting from the date of the adoption of the resolution. The Council also urged the parties to engage constructively on swift government formation at all levels and to prioritize the implementation of comprehensive reforms, and further called upon the parties to refrain from any polarizing unconstructive policy, action and rhetoric. At the meeting, before and after the vote, the representatives of the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom expressed differing views on the process of drafting the resolution and on the engagement as members of the Contact Group and of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meetings: the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Other documents</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
<th>Rule 39 and other invitations</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.8248 8 May 2018</td>
<td>Letter dated 2 May 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/416)</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia</td>
<td>High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations</td>
<td>All Council members, all invitees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings in connection with the item entitled “Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)”. All meetings took the form of briefings and no decisions were adopted by the Council under this item during 2018. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in the table below.

As in the past, the Council considered the item through briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) further to the reports of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1244 (1999). In 2018, briefings were focused on the increase in tensions between Pristina and Belgrade, the lack of substantive progress and setbacks in the normalization of relations between the two through the European Union-facilitated dialogue and the establishment of the association/community of Serb-majority municipalities.

Speakers at those meetings also focused on the launch of the new enlargement strategy of the European Union for the Western Balkans. The attempt to abrogate the law on the Specialist Chambers by a number of members of the ruling coalition in the Kosovo Assembly was referenced in the discussions of the Council as a cause of concern, as well as the murder on 16 January 2018 of a prominent Kosovo Serb politician and the arrest in March of the Director of the Kosovo office of the Government of Serbia and lead negotiator for Belgrade in the European Union-facilitated dialogue after entering northern Kosovo against the advice of the Kosovo authorities. Council members also focused on the work of UNMIK, which had realigned its focus and priorities towards promoting longer-term reconciliation, as well as the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Kosovo Force. In addition, during the meetings of the Council, certain Council members argued that it was no longer necessary for the Council to receive

---

308 For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

309 For more information on the mandate of UNMIK, see part X, sect. I.