



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Debate  
on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tuesday 12 May 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta  
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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Mr. President,

I wish to thank High Representative Christian Schmidt for his briefing and his latest report and thank him for his dedicated engagement all these years. I also welcome the presence of H.E. Mr. Denis Bećirović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the representatives of Croatia, Serbia and the European Union.

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina's unity and political stability, with full respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, represents a major achievement and a hard-won gain for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the international community over the past three decades. This achievement must not be underestimated or called into question.

The Dayton Peace Agreement remains the foundation of this achievement and needs to be preserved and respected by all sides. Greece will continue to support strong and effective democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which contribute to the country's stability, cohesion, and development. Greece remains firmly committed to the Dayton Peace Agreement and to its Institutions, including the Office of the High Representative. We look forward to the designation of a new High Representative by the Peace Implementation Council (PIC), with a view to concluding the remaining objectives of the 5+2 agenda.

We will also continue to unequivocally support the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Political actors from all sides must demonstrate sincere willingness to promote meaningful and genuine dialogue, guided by mutual respect, cooperation, and adherence to the rule of law. Moving away from divisive narratives and separatist rhetoric remains essential for strengthening trust and promoting reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the run up to the October 2026 general elections, we urge all parties to refrain from divisive rhetoric or incitement of animosity. We stress the importance of conducting an electoral campaign and process that is competitive, free, fair and democratic for the benefit of the country and its peoples.

Mr. President,

A renewed momentum in Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession process, firmly anchored in meaningful and substantial reforms, must be pursued by all political leaders in the country. The European Council's March 2024 decision to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina marked a pivotal moment. A sustained commitment, by both entities, to implementing reforms and advancing the accession process remains essential. Implementation of the Reform Agenda under the Growth Plan for the Western Balkans is crucial for unlocking benefits and continuous economic and social progress. We urge all political actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina to concentrate their efforts in promoting the necessary reforms and achieving tangible results for the benefit of all its citizens.

Twenty-three years ago, the adoption of the Thessaloniki Declaration affirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans. That commitment was renewed in April this year with the adoption of the Delphi Declaration on the European Integration of the Western Balkans, highlighting that the region remains firmly committed to the irreversible path towards EU accession. It is a recognition of the promotion of democratic values, peaceful coexistence, regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations, stability and shared prosperity.

In addition, EUFOR Althea is a tangible demonstration of the European Union's lasting commitment to the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region, by contributing to maintaining a safe and stable environment, building trust and strengthening unity. Greece has actively participated in Operation EUFOR Althea since its inception and remains fully committed to supporting peace and security in the broader neighborhood.

Mr. President,

Full respect of the Dayton Peace agreement and institutional balance within the country, as well as effective cooperation in implementing reforms that help advance Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU accession process, is what is needed today from all actors involved, in order to ensure stability and economic development for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region.

I thank you.