

## Cabinet of Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUSUN 2009 and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the executive branch of the BiH government. My name is Michael Ewart, and it will be my pleasure to join you as the Chairman of the Council during the Crisis Simulation. The entire BUSUN staff has been working since January to prepare an engaging and exciting conference for you, and I hope you are as excited as I am to see how it all turns out.

Before going any further, allow me a brief word of introduction. I am a junior at Brown, originally from Victoria, Canada, although since 2004 I have lived, studied, or volunteered in Europe, Southeast Asia, and now the United States. My primary field of study is International Relations, with a particular interest in Peace & Conflict studies, and I also take classes in history, public policy, creative writing, and the Arabic language. Outside of classes I am a Residential Peer Leader in one of Brown's dormitories, a co-coordinator of the Rhode Island Urban Debate League, and a former chair of the Strait Talk Symposium on China-Taiwan-US relations. In 2007 I was the Director of the BUSUN's Organization of Islamic Conference crisis committee and in 2008, I was the Director of the Inter-Connected Crisis Simulation.

As some of you may already know, this background guide is the starting point for your experience at BUSUN 2009. Even more so than with a traditional MUN committee, as a Crisis delegate it is imperative that you come to Brown prepared to accurately represent your character throughout the weekend. With only 12 students in each committee, you will frequently be expected to speak and contribute to our discussions and deliberations 'in character'. Furthermore, while as the Chair of the committee I have the role of approving or vetoing its decisions, it is your job as delegates to take initiatives or respond to events in a manner that advances BiH's national interest and priorities. Thus, an understanding of BiH's recent history and a close reading of relevant news articles in the weeks leading up to BUSUN are essential. The more you know and understand about this fascinating country and region, the more fun the simulation will be.

I hope this guide provides a helpful introduction to several areas that will prove particularly relevant during BUSUN 2009. Please consult the recommended resources at the end of the guide as well, and feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Best Regards,

Michael Ewart  
Chair of the Cabinet of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bosnia.Cab@busun.net

### Committee Format and Rules of Debate

Committee will be conducted in informal debate, similar to moderated caucus in normal Model UN debate. Speaking times will be proposed either by the Chairman or by the members. The Chairman reserves the right to suspend the debate should such a situation arise as the entrance of a guest speaker, or the need of members to discuss issues in a more informal setting or write decisions.

Rather than UN style resolution writing, the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Cabinet will rely on drafting policy decisions. The Chairman of Council of Minister's role is crucial in guiding the decisions and evolving a consensus. Like the other Crisis Committees, the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Cabinet may release press releases to state or private media outlets and diplomatic communiqués to other states.

### Committee History

#### Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### *Executive*

Bosnia's central government is headed by a tripartite presidency, with one representative of each of the three major ethnic constituencies, Bosniak, Serb, and Croat. The chairmanship of the presidency rotates among the three presidency members every eight months within their four-year term as a member. These 3 members of the Presidency are elected directly by the people (the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina votes for the Bosniak and Croat members and the Republika Srpska for the Serb).

- Presidency Chairman (Croat): Zeljko Komsic<sup>1</sup>
- Presidency Member (Serb): Nebojsa Radmanovic
- Presidency Member (Bosniak): Haris Silajdzic

The Chair of the Council of Ministers is nominated by the Presidency and approved by the House of Representatives. He or she is then responsible for appointing a Foreign Minister, Minister of Foreign Trade,

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<sup>1</sup> Current Presidency Chairman as dated 8/5/2009

Source: CIA Publications -  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-b/bosnia-and-herzegovina.html>

and others as appropriate.

#### Current members of the Cabinet

1. Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Chairman of the Committee) - Nikola Špirić
2. Ministry of Foreign Relations – Sven Alkalaj
3. Ministry of Security – Tarik Sadović
4. Ministry of Finance – Dragan Vrankić
5. Ministry of Justice – Bariša Čolak
6. Ministry of Defense - Selmo Cikotić
7. Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations – Mladen Zirojević
8. Ministry of Communication and Transportation – Božo Ljubić
9. Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees – Safet Halilović
10. Ministry of Civil Affairs – Sredoje Nović

#### External members

1. Presidency Chairman (Croat): Zeljko Komsic
2. Presidency Member (Serb): Nebojsa Radmanovic
3. Presidency Member (Bosniak): Haris Silajdzic
4. High Representative (Director of Committee): Valentin Inzko

#### **Legislative**

The Parliamentary Assembly is the lawmaking body in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It consists of two houses: the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives.

House of Peoples: It includes 15 delegates, two-thirds of which come from the Federation (5 Croat and 5 Bosniaks) and one-third from the Republika Srpska (5 Serbs).

House of Representatives: It is composed of 42 Members, two-thirds elected from the Federation and one-third elected from the Republika Srpska.

#### **Judiciary**

The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the supreme, final arbiter of legal matters. It is composed of nine members: four members are selected by the House of Representatives of the Federation, two by the Assembly of the Republika Srpska, and three by the President of the European Court of Human Rights after consultation with the Presidency.

#### **High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The highest political authority in the country is the chief executive officer for the international civilian presence in the country. Since 1995, the High Representative has been able to bypass the elected parliamentary assembly, and since 1997 has been able to remove elected officials. The methods selected by the High Representative have been criticized as undemocratic. However, international supervision is to end when the country is deemed politically and democratically stable and self-sustaining.

#### **Brief History**

Bosnia is one of several small countries that emerged from the break-up of Yugoslavia, a multicultural country created after World War I by the victorious Western Allies. Yugoslavia was composed of ethnic and religious groups that had been historical rivals, even bitter enemies, including the Serbs (Orthodox Christians), Croats (Catholics) and ethnic Albanians (Muslims).

Following World War II and Germany's defeat, Josip Tito reunified Yugoslavia under the slogan "Brotherhood and Unity," merging together Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, along with two self-governing provinces, Kosovo and Vojvodina. Tito, a Communist, was a strong leader but after his death in 1980 and without his strong leadership, Yugoslavia quickly plunged into political and economic chaos.

#### **Bosnian Genocide**

In the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, conflict between the three main ethnic groups, the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims, resulted in genocide committed by the Serbs against the Muslims in Bosnia.

In April 1992, the U.S. and European Community chose to recognize the independence of Bosnia, a mostly Muslim country where the Serb minority made up 32 percent of the population. The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic responded to Bosnia's declaration of independence by attacking Sarajevo, its capital city, best known for hosting the 1984 Winter Olympics. Bosnian Muslims were hopelessly outgunned. The actions of the Serbs were labeled as 'ethnic cleansing,' a name which quickly took hold among the international media.

Despite media reports, the world community remained mostly indifferent. The U.N. responded by imposing economic sanctions on Serbia and also deployed its troops to protect the distribution of food and medicine

to dispossessed Muslims. But the U.N. strictly prohibited its troops from interfering militarily against the Serbs. On February 6, 1994, the world's attention turned to Bosnia in Sarajevo as a Serb mortar shell killed 68 persons and wounded nearly 200. The U.S. under its new President, Bill Clinton, then issued an ultimatum through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) demanding that the Serbs withdraw their artillery from Sarajevo. The Serbs quickly complied and a NATO-imposed cease-fire in Sarajevo was declared.

At this point, some of the worst genocidal activities of the four-year-old conflict occurred. In Srebrenica, a 'Safe Haven', U.N. peacekeepers stood by helplessly as the Serbs under the command of General Ratko Mladic systematically selected and then slaughtered nearly 8,000 men and boys between the ages of twelve and sixty - the worst mass murder in Europe since World War II. In addition, the Serbs continued to engage in mass rapes of Muslim females.

On August 30, 1995, effective military intervention finally began as the U.S. led a massive NATO bombing campaign in response to the killings at Srebrenica, targeting Serbian artillery positions throughout Bosnia. Faced with the heavy NATO bombardment and a string of ground losses to the Muslim-Croat alliance, Serb leader Milosevic decided to sit down to peace talks. After three weeks of negotiations, a peace accord was declared. Terms of the agreement included partitioning Bosnia into two main portions known as the Bosnian Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation. The agreement also called for democratic elections and stipulated that war criminals would be handed over for prosecution.

By then, over 200,000 Muslim civilians had been systematically murdered. More than 20,000 were missing and feared dead, while 2,000,000 had become refugees.

### **Dayton Accords, 1995**

The outcome of Dayton gave the Bosnian Serbs 49% of Bosnian territory and established the Bosnian-Croat Federation to control the remaining 51%. The Bosnian Serbs were also obligated to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal and allow refugees to return to their homes. To this day, they have done neither. While no one criticizes the peace brought by Dayton, many recognize that it is unjust for allowing the Bosnian Serbs to control territory that they took through a brutal ethnic cleansing campaign.

In addition, many commentators criticize the

structure of the constitution created by the Dayton Agreement, which cements an ethnic divide. Given these problems, it is little surprise that Bosnia and Herzegovina presently does not function as a unitary country and that intra-group tensions continue to run high.

### **Present day Bosnia and Herzegovina**

#### Foreign Relations

Within Bosnia and Herzegovina, relations with its neighbors of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia have been fairly stable since the signing of the Dayton Agreement in 1995.

#### *Relations with United States*

After leading the diplomatic and military effort to secure the Dayton agreement, the United States has continued to lead the effort to ensure its implementation. The United States maintains command of the NATO headquarters in Sarajevo. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Support for Eastern European Democracies (SEED) have played a large role in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, including programs in economic development and reform, democratic reform (media, elections), infrastructure development, and training programs for Bosnian professionals, among others.

#### ***Kosovo***

In the late 1980s, a Serbian named Slobodan Milosevic, a former Communist who had turned to nationalism and religious hatred to gain power began inflaming long-standing tensions between Serbs and Muslims in the independent province of Kosovo. Orthodox Christian Serbs in Kosovo were in the minority and claimed that the Albanian Muslim majority was mistreating them. Serbian-backed political unrest in Kosovo eventually led to its loss of independence and domination by Milosevic.

UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) placed Kosovo under a transitional administration, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), pending a determination of Kosovo's future status. On 17 February 2008, the Kosovo Assembly declared Kosovo independent. Since then, over fifty countries have recognized Kosovo. Serbia continues to reject Kosovo's independence and subsequently has sought an advisory opinion with the backing of the General Assembly from the International Court of Justice on the legality under international law of Kosovo's independence declaration.

### ***Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Union***

The accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union is one of the main political objectives of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) is the EU's policy framework. Countries participating in the SAP have been offered the possibility to become, once they fulfill the necessary conditions, member states of the EU. Bosnia and Herzegovina is therefore a potential candidate country for EU accession.

To join the European Union, a state needs to fulfill economic and political conditions defined in the Copenhagen criteria (after the Copenhagen summit in June 1993), which require a stable democratic government that respects the rule of law, and its corresponding freedoms and institutions. Also, each current member state and the European Parliament must agree to any enlargement.

### ***EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM)***

During the 1992-1995 war, the police were a key instrument of ethnic cleansing -- particularly in Republika Srpska (RS) and the Croatian areas of the Federation. The war left Bosnia with three police forces: Bosniak, Croat and Serb, each with its own jurisdictions. Police throughout the country have remained highly politicized, acting at the behest of politicians to obstruct implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords, in particular refugee return, and heavily involved in organized crime.

The EUPM's overall goal was "Europeanising" Bosnian police services and providing that additional ingredient in police matters that would set it apart from the earlier UN Police reform mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this regard, it looked to develop police independence and accountability, fight organized crime and corruption, establish financial viability and sustainability of local police and develop institution and capacity building.

### ***International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia***

This is a United Nations court of law dealing with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990's. Since its establishment in 1993 it has irreversibly changed the landscape of international humanitarian law and provided victims an opportunity to voice the horrors they witnessed and experienced.

While most cases heard at the Tribunal have dealt with alleged crimes committed by Serbs and Bosnian Serbs, the Tribunal has investigated and brought charges against persons from every ethnic background. Convictions have been secured against Croats, as well as both Bosnian Muslims and Kosovo Albanians for crimes committed against Serbs and others. In its precedent-setting decisions on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Tribunal has shown that an individual's senior position can no longer protect them from prosecution.

### ***Constitutional crisis in Mostar***

Mostar, the largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a Croat majority is facing potentially dangerous strains. The International Crisis Group warns that the administration of the city is breaking down, with no mayor, budget or functioning city council since an October 2008 election. The tensions threaten to poison relations between the leading Bosniak and Croat parties -- coalition partners throughout the country.

Mostar's ethnic structure and political landscape are similar to Bosnia's, but with the players reversed. Croats are the majority, and the city is important for their community statewide. The breakdown of Mostar's internationally imposed government shows what happens to a consensus system without inter-ethnic agreement.

### **Conclusion**

#### Personalities and Alliances within the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Politics

When researching your official, I would recommend that you examine specifically whom they support and the kind of under-pressure decisions they have taken in the past. Also, keep in mind that the since each official will be holding a particular portfolio within the Government, you should be well versed with the procedures of your own Secretariat and the manner in which you can specifically contribute to the elimination of crisis in the country.

As you might have noticed, this Crisis committee does not have any particular crisis topics discussed in the Topic guide. Since issues within the country and its relations with the EU are so tense, we feel that the existing political climate is extremely unpredictable.

*You should focus your position paper (only one is necessary) on the issues facing Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are many, so please think carefully about this that your delegate cares about most. Keep in mind ethnic divisions, relations to other countries and bodies, and the governance of the country.*

### Suggestions for further research

A number of news sources and academic essays have been used in drafting this background guide.

1. Bosnia: A test of political maturity in Mostar  
<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6245&l=1>
2. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia  
<http://www.icty.org/>
3. Role of Police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
[http://www.allacademic.com//meta/p\\_mla\\_apa\\_research\\_citation/1/8/0/7/3/pages180733/p180733-1.php](http://www.allacademic.com//meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/1/8/0/7/3/pages180733/p180733-1.php)
4. Current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Balkan Insight  
<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/main/blogs/22330/>
5. Kosovo – CIA World Factbook  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>
6. Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina  
<http://www.baacbh.org/site/en/>