

DATE

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BY EMAIL

ulrike.lunacek@ep.europa.eu

REFERENCE

DG/rb/lv

SUBJECT

Bosnia and Herzegovina application for EU Membership

Mrs Ulrike Lunacek, MEP
Vice President of the EP
European Parliament
B-1047 Brussels
ASP 05F358
Belgium

Dear Mrs Lunacek,

Bosnia and Herzegovina has submitted its application for EU membership this week. This is an important act, which demonstrates a strong will of the country to join the European family and share its democratic values carried out through respect of rule of law, human rights and establishment of democratic institutions.

Public service media reflect the quality of national democratic institutions as much as they contribute to them. BHRT, the national public broadcaster, is the only media in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has the mission to reach out to the whole population to inform and entertain. It also has an integral role to play in contributing to nation building and creating social cohesion. To meet European standards, the safeguarding of editorial independence and sustainable funding is essential to provide a truly indispensable service to the citizens.

However BHRT, because of insufficient and insecure funding, its huge debts and the inability to pay its employees is now in total financial collapse. This completely disables its ability to operate and fulfil its role in society.

The European Broadcasting Union has a long track record of providing technical assistance and advice on institutional reforms of public service media as well as supporting governments with regard to developing the legal and technical framework for public service media.

We are ready to provide professional and legal expertise and to join forces with the European Parliament and the European Commission to support the implementation of EU standards in Bosnia and Herzegovina's media system. Urgent actions need to be undertaken to ensure the development of sustainable public service media in the country.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Deltenre
Director General