

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
6 January 2006

Original: English

**Letter dated 5 January 2006 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004) and 1639 (2005) (see annex), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 16 December 2005, which I received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting the report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 16 September to 30 November 2005.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

Annex

**Letter dated 16 December 2005 from the Secretary-General
and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security
Policy of the European Union to the Secretary-General
of the United Nations**

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004) and 1639 (2005), I attach the fourth three-monthly report on the activities of the EU military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from 16 September to 30 November 2005. I would be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier Solana

Enclosure**Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina****Introduction**

1. The present report covers the period 16 September to 30 November 2005.
2. In its resolutions 1575 (2004) and 1639 (2005), the Security Council requests that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the EU, report to the Council on the activity of EUFOR, through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This document is the fourth such report to the Council.

Political background

3. Overall, during the reporting period, the political and military situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has remained stable. The period was marked by important progress in relation to the EU stabilization and association process and on 25 November the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina officially launched negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The speed of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress will depend primarily on how quickly it adopts and implements the necessary reforms. It is Bosnia and Herzegovina's intention to conclude the Stabilisation and Association Agreement within one year.
4. ICTY cooperation improved in 2005. However, five indictees remain at large, including Karadzic and Mladic. During the reporting period there were no further arrests or transfers to The Hague.
5. On 22 November, eight leaders of the major political parties of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a declaration in Washington, D.C., committing themselves to carry out constitutional reforms aimed at establishing a more economical and effective State government. Although the leaders were not yet able to agree to the content of such reform, they committed to making the changes by March 2006, i.e., in time for the October 2006 National Elections.

EU stabilization and association process

6. As reported previously, Bosnia and Herzegovina had already made commendable progress on a number of priority reforms set out in the European Commission's Feasibility Study. The last remaining difficult condition — police restructuring — was resolved on 5 October when the Republika Srpska National Assembly voted in favour of an Agreement on Police Restructuring that meets the principles set by the European Commission. The agreement was endorsed by the Federation Parliament and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers, thereby paving the way for the European Commission to recommend the opening of negotiations on a stabilization and association agreement. The Council authorized the Commission to proceed and the negotiations were officially launched on 25 November 2005 — just in time for the tenth anniversary of the Dayton peace process.

7. The pace and conclusion of negotiations will depend in particular on Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in developing its legislative framework and administrative capacity, the implementation of police reform in compliance with the Agreement on Police Restructuring of October 2005 and the European Commission's principles, the adoption and implementation of all necessary public broadcasting legislation and full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

8. Defence reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains on track; the Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliament endorsed the draft laws on 5 October 2005 and the reforms will take effect from 1 January 2006.

EUFOR activities

9. EUFOR's current strength stands at around 6,200 troops, from 22 EU member States and 11 third countries,^a which are deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in three multinational task forces. Cyprus and Malta also contribute to the common costs of this operation.

10. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with its mandate, to provide deterrence, ensure continued compliance in relation to its responsibility to fulfil the role specified in annexes 1a and 2 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace and to contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

11. The multinational task forces have continued to conduct a variety of operations including: patrolling, to demonstrate EUFOR's presence, particularly in sensitive and remote areas; local liaison and observation team activities, which are key to maintaining "situational awareness", and promoting cooperation with the local authorities and specific operations to ensure compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace and prevent anti-Dayton activities. Information operations complement these other activities.

12. Harvest operations to collect and remove illegally held weapons from the community have also continued. Between 1 September 2005 and 30 November 2005, almost 650 small arms, over 115,000 rounds of ammunition, and 1,431 hand grenades and mines have been collected or turned in. The opportunity to detect and collect weapons exists in almost all EUFOR operations. Specific operations, however, are conducted, based on sound intelligence, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, to either collect voluntarily surrendered arms and ammunition, under amnesty conditions, or if necessary, to collect weapons and ammunition in directed operations. Harvest operations are also supported by information operations.

13. The force level and the tempo of operations have been sufficient to accomplish the desired effects of reassurance/deterrence/maintaining a safe and secure environment. Routine liaison has continued to provide support and advice to the local police and other law enforcement agencies, such as the State Border Service and the Indirect Taxation Authority.

^a Countries contributing to EUFOR: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Morocco, Norway, New Zealand, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey.

14. Over this reporting period, EUFOR's main effort has been to assist the local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment. Several EUFOR operations have been dedicated towards targeting organized crime and corruption, with the main effort focused on disrupting and preventing illegal logging and fuel smuggling. These operations resulted in several potential prosecutions and there are clear indications that criminal activities in some areas have been reduced.

15. EUFOR has continued to develop its cooperation with local authorities. Reports from different operations and activities have confirmed that local agencies and authorities, such as the police and State Border Service, are performing better with the support and encouragement of EUFOR. EUFOR has been proactive in conducting a series of well-coordinated operations throughout the theatre. The operations have been balanced but assertive and have further strengthened EUFOR's profile with the Bosnia and Herzegovina population, as well as supporting the Office of the High Representative's Mission Implementation Plan.

Outlook

16. On 6 December 2005, the Force Commander, Major General David Leakey (United Kingdom) will hand over command of EUFOR to Major General Gian Marco Chiarini (Italy).

17. EUFOR activities will continue in a similar vein to those of the previous period and valuable information and lessons will continue to be captured and assimilated for future operations. EUFOR will continue its comprehensive and inclusive approach as part of the overall EU action in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The implementation of defence reforms from January 2006 and resultant capacity-building in the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence should allow EUFOR progressively to hand over its Joint Military Affairs tasks to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces during 2006.
