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Letter dated 11 April 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 8 April 2008, 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 (EUFOR) (see annex). The report covers the period from 1 December 2007 to 29 February 2008.

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*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 8 April 2008 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I attach herewith the thirteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 1 December 2007 to 29 February 2008. I should be grateful if you would transmit the report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

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

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period 1 December 2007 to 29 February 2008.

2. United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007) request that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union (EU) report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR, through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This document is the thirteenth such report.

II. Political background

3. There was progress on police reform during the reporting period. The European Commission assessed that the Mostar Declaration and the Action Plan on police restructuring (both of which were adopted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers on 3 December) together represented progress towards meeting EU conditionality, as a result of which EU Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn initialled the text of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on 4 December.

4. On 26 January, the Main Board of SNSD (Bosnian Serb political party), in its official conclusions, called for an asymmetric federation and claimed the right to self-determination for the Republika Srpska. Following the Kosovo declaration of independence on 17 February, the Republika Srpska National Assembly issued a resolution condemning the independence Declaration and calling on States not to recognize Kosovo, while at the same time stating that, in the event of a "substantial number" so doing, the Republika Srpska would interpret this as a change in international law and practice and claim the right "to determine its legal status within the State through a referendum".

5. In a separate development, SDA (Bosniak political party) reversed its position regarding police reform. In the Council of Ministers working group, SDA adopted a negative position and, in early February, SDA President Tihić announced that his party was not willing to support the draft legislation.

6. The deteriorating political situation has led to increased tension between Serb and Bosniak political actors over the future constitutional makeup of the country and the future role and competencies of the State, and reduced cooperation between competing ethnic parties.

7. On 27 February, the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board decided that transition from the Office of the High Representative towards a strengthened EU Special Representative should continue, but that the most critical issues contained in the workplan of the Office of the High Representative be considered objectives to be achieved by the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities prior to transition. In addition to the five objectives, two conditions were set: signature of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and a positive assessment of the

situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Steering Board expressed concern about both official calls for secession and statements that called into question the existence of Entities.

III. Security situation and activities of the mission

8. Although there were some protests and demonstrations in Republika Srpska as a result of the Kosovo declaration of independence, the overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Local police proved capable of handling the demonstrations. EUFOR was not requested to assist, but remained ready to do so if necessary. EUFOR continues to monitor the situation.

9. The current force of some 2,500 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, Annexes 1a and 2; and contributing to a safe and secure environment, EUFOR continues to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with the EU police mission.

10. In the area of Joint Military Affairs, EUFOR handed over the responsibility for military movement control of weapons and ammunition to Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities on 25 January 2008. EUFOR continued its responsibilities for the inspection of weapons and ammunition storage sites. The draft Law on Civilian Movement Control was submitted in the Council of Ministers. The law is one of the legal preconditions for the full transfer of responsibility for joint military affairs to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities.

11. During the reporting period EUFOR undertook joint training activities with the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to increase local capacity to maintain security and safeguard the safe and secure environment.

12. On 4 December, Major General Ignacio Martín Villalaín succeeded Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer as Force Commander.

IV. Outlook

13. The security situation is expected to remain stable despite the fragility of Bosnia and Herzegovina State institutions and the prospects of continuing political tension.