

RECOMMENDATION 773¹

on the European Union in the Balkans: Althea and other operations²

The Assembly,

- (i) Recognising the important role of the European Union in stabilising Bosnia and Herzegovina and integrating that country into the Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations;
- (ii) Welcoming the European Council Decision of 12 July 2004 to launch Operation Althea whose main objectives are:
 - to provide deterrence and continued compliance with the responsibilities set out in the Dayton/Paris Agreement;
 - to contribute to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with its mandate;
- (iii) Welcoming good cooperation between EU and NATO forces under the terms set out in the Berlin plus agreements which facilitated mission transfer from NATO's SFOR to EUFOR (now in charge of Operation Althea);
- (iv) Concerned about the significant number of institutional, political and economic questions that remain to be resolved in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (v) Underlining the important role of the UN/EU High Representative, Lord Ashdown, in helping forward the political process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- (vi) Taking into account Althea's success in the first 11 months of its operation, particularly in harvesting a significant amount of weapons, aiding the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the capture of indicted war criminals and contributing to the fight against organised crime and corruption;
- (vii) Welcoming effective cooperation between the Althea mission and the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM);
- (viii) Welcoming the agreement reached on police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the forthcoming Stability and Association Agreement with the EU;
- (ix) Considering that political and economic progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina is primarily the responsibility of the democratic bodies in and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that they cannot rely solely on EU initiatives such as Operation Althea,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL INVITE THE WEU MEMBER STATES AS MEMBERS OF THE EU AND/OR NATO TO:

1. Continue their support for Althea, providing it with the necessary human and material assets to accomplish its mandate;
2. Support EU and NATO initiatives to cooperate with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in reforming the security and defence sectors in that country;
3. Support EU police and European gendarmerie capabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
4. Step up efforts to include Bosnia and Herzegovina in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme;

¹ Adopted by the Assembly on 7 December 2005 at the 9th sitting.

² Explanatory Memorandum: see the report tabled on behalf of the Defence Committee by João Mota Amaral, Rapporteur (Portugal, Federated Group), Document 1919.

5. Increase political and economic assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkan region with a view to their integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic community of democratic nations;
6. Take account of the lessons learned from Operation Althea to further develop EU operational capabilities and cooperation on crisis management between the EU and NATO;
7. Intensify cooperation between Operation Althea and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in order to secure the arrest of war criminals on the run.