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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE AND EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, DR. MIROSLAV LAJČÁK
715TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
5 JUNE 2008**

Canada welcomes the High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina back to the P.C. today. We appreciate the update on his work, described in his address. We thank the High Representative for his efforts and congratulate him on the positive role he has personally played in bringing Bosnia and Herzegovina to the point where it can sign the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU on June 16.

While signing the SAA marks a significant step forward, it also represents a new beginning for Bosnia and Herzegovina. A great deal of work remains to be done and it is essential that Bosnians take the leading role in doing it.

Shortly after the SAA is signed, the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council will meet in Sarajevo on June 24 and 25 to consider the next phases of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration. It will be an important meeting and Canada looks forward to participating.

We thank the High Representative for keeping the Permanent Council informed at this critical time for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the comments on his office's valuable cooperation with the OSCE Mission on the ground, as well as with other institutions of the OSCE.