



Security Council

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Letter dated 5 August 2024 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [1575 \(2004\)](#), [1639 \(2005\)](#), [1722 \(2006\)](#), [1785 \(2007\)](#), [1845 \(2008\)](#), [1895 \(2009\)](#), [1948 \(2010\)](#), [2019 \(2011\)](#), [2074 \(2012\)](#), [2123 \(2013\)](#), [2183 \(2014\)](#), [2247 \(2015\)](#), [2315 \(2016\)](#), [2384 \(2017\)](#), [2443 \(2018\)](#), [2496 \(2019\)](#), [2549 \(2020\)](#), [2604 \(2021\)](#), [2658 \(2022\)](#) and [2706 \(2023\)](#), I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 18 July 2024 from the Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell Fontelles, transmitting the fifty-eighth report on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

The report covers the period from 1 September 2023 to 29 February 2024.

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) António Guterres



Annex

In accordance with Security Council resolution [1575 \(2004\)](#) and the subsequent resolutions in which the Council requested that European Union member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activities of European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea), please find enclosed the fifty-eighth such report (see enclosure).

(Signed) Josep **Borrell Fontelles**

Enclosure

Report of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the activities of the European Union military operation (EUFOR-Althea) in Bosnia and Herzegovina covers the period from 1 September 2023 until 29 February 2024.
2. The Security Council, in its resolutions [1575 \(2004\)](#), [1639 \(2005\)](#), [1722 \(2006\)](#), [1785 \(2007\)](#), [1845 \(2008\)](#), [1895 \(2009\)](#), [1948 \(2010\)](#), [2019 \(2011\)](#), [2074 \(2012\)](#), [2123 \(2013\)](#), [2183 \(2014\)](#), [2247 \(2015\)](#), [2315 \(2016\)](#), [2384 \(2017\)](#), [2443 \(2018\)](#), [2496 \(2019\)](#), [2549 \(2020\)](#), [2604 \(2021\)](#), [2658 \(2022\)](#) and [2706 \(2023\)](#), requested that European Union member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR at six-monthly intervals. The present is the fifty-eighth such report.

II. Security situation

3. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm but fragile without imminent threats to the safe and secure environment.
4. The European Council, on 15 December 2023, decided that it would open European Union accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina once the necessary degree of compliance with the membership criteria was achieved.¹
5. Positive developments at the State level were in stark contrast to negative developments at the level of the Republika Srpska entity, affecting the country as a whole, notably legislation and initiatives that ran counter to the pathway of Bosnia and Herzegovina to joining the European Union, including secessionist rhetoric and questioning of the constitutional order of the country.
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina was fully aligned with European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy declarations and decisions, signalling its clear commitment to the European Union path, although the implementation of restrictive measures remained a challenge.

III. Activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

7. EUFOR remained fully operational and continued to implement its mandate.
8. **Core task.** EUFOR continued to implement its core task, consisting of supporting the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a safe and secure environment.
9. **Support of and cooperation with the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities.** EUFOR continued to engage and support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in all areas pertaining to its mandate, especially by overseeing the implementation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina master plan on ammunition, weapons and explosives and humanitarian demining, where progress remained limited.

¹ On 22 March 2024, the European Council decided to open European Union accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

10. **Implementation of the master plan on ammunitions, weapons and explosives.** EUFOR continued to coordinate, support and monitor all related activities. The focus of the operation remained on the second phase, i.e. the reduction of the stockpile of small arms and light weapons, as well as on the marking and registration of the stockpile of small arms and light weapons and of the evidence material of the law enforcement agencies. Regarding the third phase of the master plan, i.e. the reduction of heavy weapons and vehicles, EUFOR successfully completed the 100 per cent technical inventory and assessment of non-prospective heavy weapons and vehicles and handed over the document to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence.

11. **Humanitarian demining.** Progress towards the implementation of the national mine action strategy remained at a low pace. During the reporting period, only 20.85 km² of mine suspected areas (14.64 per cent of the annual objective of 142.4 km²) was demined. The mine action strategy for the period 2018–2025 remains to be revised in order to set more realistic and achievable timelines and objectives. During the reporting period, the second batch of support under the European Peace Facility assistance measure aiming at improving the operational capability of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces demining battalion was fully delivered, including 34 transporters and 34 ambulances.

12. **Monitoring and inspection of weapons and ammunition storage sites of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces, defence industry factories and the export, import and movement of weapons, ammunition and military equipment.** This continued with no irregularities observed. However, EUFOR noted that the overall safety conditions of the weapons and ammunition storage sites had not improved since the previous report. During the reporting period, EUFOR implemented an inspection of the weaponry of the law enforcement agencies. These inspections, conducted in close coordination with authorities at the State, entity and district levels, showed no irregularities.

13. EUFOR continued to plan, organize, coordinate and conduct collective training with the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces in order to enhance their operational capability.

14. EUFOR continued to train its forces, thereby enhancing the interoperability between the in-theatre force and its over-the-horizon reserve forces. In that framework, the yearly EUFOR operation rehearsal exercise was conducted in September 2023, and elements of the intermediate reserve force received training in November 2023.

IV. Renewal of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

15. On 2 November 2023, in its resolution [2706 \(2023\)](#), the Security Council unanimously renewed the authorization of the operation for a period of 12 months.

V. Outlook

16. Operation EUFOR-Althea will continue to adapt and evolve, having in mind that stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not entrenched and that the security situation could be impacted by several internal and external factors of concern. EUFOR tasks will remain under regular review by the Council of the European Union.