Basic information

2025/2018(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina **Subject** 8.20 Enlargement of the Union 8.20.01 Candidate countries **Geographical area** Bosnia and Herzegovina	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	KOLÁŘ Ondřej (EPP)	14/11/2024
	Shadow rapporteur NEMEC Matjaž (S&D) TÂNGER CORRÊA António (PfE) STURDZA Şerban Dimitrie (ECR) BRANDSTÄTTER Helmut (Renew) STRIK Tineke (Greens/EFA) GEORGIOU Giorgos (The Left) FROELICH Tomasz (ESN)	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/01/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/06/2025	Vote in committee		
12/06/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0108/2025	Summary
08/07/2025	Debate in Parliament		
09/07/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0156/2025	Summary
09/07/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/2018(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/10/01782

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE769.995	03/03/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE772.209	14/04/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A10-0108/2025	12/06/2025	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T10-0156/2025	09/07/2025	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2025)09	12/09/2025	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
BRANDSTÄTTER Helmut	Shadow rapporteur	AFET	21/05/2025	Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union
KOLÁŘ Ondřej	Rapporteur	AFET	13/05/2025	Christian Schmidt Christoph Schwegmann Quirin Lutz
KOLÁŘ Ondřej	Rapporteur	AFET	20/02/2025	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
KOLÁŘ Ondřej	Rapporteur	AFET	19/02/2025	Western Balkans Division at the European External Action Service

2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina

2025/2018(INI) - 09/07/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 495 votes to 130, with 63 abstentions, a resolution on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Commitment to EU accession

Parliament **reaffirmed its support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession** through a merit-based process based on the Copenhagen criteria, grounded in unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and equality among its citizens. It welcomed the European Council's decision to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of the new geopolitical reality following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. It welcomed the adoption of several key laws in the run-up to this decision, but regretted that the positive reform momentum had stalled.

Members called on the legitimate political leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels to take all relevant steps set out in the Commission's recommendation of 12 October so that the Council can adopt the negotiating framework once these conditions have been met. They reaffirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession process must be based on functioning democratic institutions, the rule of law, the fight against corruption and organised crime, and respect for the fundamental rights of all citizens and constituent peoples, regardless of their ethnic, religious or other affiliation, without discrimination.

Members called on all political actors to uphold BiH's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and to refrain from all divisive rhetoric and acts, including secessionist rhetoric and acts, incitement to ethnic, religious and racial intolerance, denial of genocide and other war crimes, and the glorification of war crimes and their perpetrators.

Parliament welcomed BiH's formal full alignment with the EU's common foreign and security policy, including restrictive measures in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and urged the effective implementation of these measures. Members strongly supports BiH's sustained aspirations towards Euro-Atlantic integration and NATO membership. On the other hand, they remain concerned by malign foreign interference and disinformation campaigns by foreign actors in BiH, notably **Russia** and **China**. Members also condemned the increase in **Iran's** malign influence in the country and in the Western Balkans.

Democracy and the rule of law

Members regretted that the BiH authorities have not been able to unite society or to create a just and functional system in the country, but rather have largely contributed to deepening divisions. The EU and its Member States are called on to initiate a **transparent and inclusive reform process** that would enable a sustainable transformation of the Dayton Peace Agreement into a constitution, fully in line with European standards and principles, with a view to ensuring a functional, accountable, representative, and popularly legitimate governance system, to overcome ethno-nationalistic divisions and achieve sustainable progress on the path towards the EU.

Parliament noted the limited progress on justice reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in relation to the independence, professionalism, efficiency and accountability of the judicial system. It called for urgent measures to accelerate reforms in these areas, ensuring full alignment with EU standards and strengthening the capacity of the judiciary to effectively serve justice and uphold the rule of law.

Members called on the relevant authorities to take a more resolute stance in the **fight against corruption,** particularly high-level corruption. They also stressed the need to strengthen the system for managing conflicts of interest of persons holding high-level executive functions and to step up the fight against organised crime.

Fundamental freedoms and human rights

Parliament strongly condemned all forms of discrimination, violence, and hate speech against any minority. It called on the authorities to improve access to social services, housing, education, and healthcare for all minorities and vulnerable groups. It also called on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to align their policies, legislation, and practices to **combat sexual and digital violence** against women and girls.

Members stressed the importance of **quality education for all**, including the right to education in the mother tongue, and called on Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutions to adopt legislation ensuring the effective and equal use of its three official languages, Croatian, Bosnian, and Serbian. They urged Bosnia and Herzegovina to guarantee freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, allowing for the participation of civil society in policymaking. They condemned political pressure and SLAPPs against journalists and media workers.

Lastly, Parliament highlighted the importance of **reconciliation** in Bosnia and Herzegovina and urged all authorities to actively promote and ensure access to truth, justice and inclusive reparations, including the adoption of a national law defining minimum rights for war victims across the country.

2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina

2025/2018(INI) - 12/06/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Ondřej KOLÁŘ on the 2023 and 2024 Commission reports on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a candidate country and the clear majority of its citizens aspires to Euro-Atlantic integration for sustainable peace, democracy and prosperity. 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement, which continues to form the foundation of BiH's institutional set-up and that was intended as a safeguard for the equality of its three constituent peoples. 30 years after the end of the war, BiH remains dysfunctional and finds itself again in a deep political and security crisis, with attempts at secession, and a high degree of corruption.

BiH's EU path is increasingly targeted by malign foreign actors, notably Russia and China, which exploit ethnic divisions and institutional fragility to obstruct reforms, undermine the constitutional order and erode public trust in the EU.

Commitment to EU accession

Members welcomed the European Council's decision to open accession negotiations with BiH in the context of the changed geopolitical reality following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and welcomed the adoption of several key laws in the run-up to this decision but regretted that the legislative process has been marred by a lack of transparency and limited access for key stakeholders. The report noted the recent adoption of the Laws on Border Control and on Personal Data Protection and called for their thorough implementation. It called for preparations to establish the institutional and financial basis for this enlargement to ensure sustainable EU integration.

Members called on all political actors to uphold BiH's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and to refrain from all divisive rhetoric and acts, including secessionist rhetoric and acts, incitement to ethnic, religious and racial intolerance, denial of genocide and other war crimes, and the glorification of war crimes and their perpetrators.

The report welcomed BiH's formal full alignment with the EU's common foreign and security policy, including restrictive measures in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and urged the effective implementation of these measures. Members strongly supports BiH's sustained aspirations towards Euro-Atlantic integration and NATO membership and called on all political actors to take concrete political action to achieve them. On the other hand, they remain concerned by malign foreign interference and disinformation campaigns by foreign actors in BiH, notably **Russia** and **China**, as well as their transmission through local media and political structures. Members also condemned the increase in **Iran's** malign influence in the country and in the Western Balkans, which poses a threat to security for the EU and its Member States.

Democracy and the rule of law

Members regretted that the BiH authorities have not been able to unite society or to create a just and functional system in the country, but rather have largely contributed to deepening divisions. The EU and its Member States are called on to initiate a **transparent and inclusive reform process** that would enable a sustainable transformation of the Dayton Peace Agreement into a constitution, fully in line with European standards and principles, with a view to ensuring a functional, accountable, representative, and popularly legitimate governance system, to overcome ethno-nationalistic divisions and achieve sustainable progress on the path towards the EU.

The report noted the limited progress on justice reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in relation to the independence, professionalism, efficiency and accountability of the judicial system. It called for urgent measures to accelerate reforms in these areas, ensuring full alignment with EU standards and strengthening the capacity of the judiciary to effectively serve justice and uphold the rule of law.

Fundamental freedoms and human rights

Members strongly condemn discrimination, violence and hate speech against all minorities. They called for the effective prosecution of such incidents and urged BiH to promote and safeguard the human rights, non-discrimination and protection of all minorities. They called on BiH to guarantee the freedoms of assembly, association and expression, enabling the inclusion of civil society in policymaking.