

Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has an honor to take participation in the High Level Conference in Copenhagen dedicated to the reform of the European Human Rights Convention System. We express our gratitude to the Danish Chairmanship for organizing the conference and for their dedicated and comprehensive work that have been performed during the last few months.

Our Delegation is glad to share good news here today relating to the expected signature of Protocol 15 to the Convention. It is true that there has been a delay on the part of Bosnia and Herzegovina and we are sorry to be the State that has not signed Protocol No. 15 till today. However, we are glad to be able to inform you that positive developments occurred last month. On March the 13<sup>th</sup> the Presidency of BiH adopted a Decision that Bosnia and Herzegovina is to sign both Protocol No. 15 and 16 and the Permanent Representative of BiH is authorized to sign it on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with the domestic procedure, the Decision of the Presidency has been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is hard to give the exact dates at the moment, but we expect to have both Protocols signed very soon.

Regarding the Draft Declaration, we use this opportunity to support the independence of the Court, binding character of its judgments and the right of individual application as a cornerstone of the Convention system of protection. We also fully understand and support the need to strengthen the capacity of the Court, in order to enable it to continue to develop its jurisprudence in accordance with its unique principles of interpretation. Bosnia and Herzegovina confirm its full commitment to take on and continue to implement in full its part of responsibility in accordance with the notion of “shared responsibility”. In that respect, the implementation of the Court’s judgments is central to the effectiveness of the Convention system. Bosnia and Herzegovina has so far implemented comprehensive set of general measure, with close cooperation with the Department for the execution of the Court’s judgments. The implemented measures contributed directly to improvement of our national legal system in many areas. However, there are still outstanding issues and our national authorities keep put efforts to reach final solutions in line with the Convention standards.

In conclusion, we use this opportunity to confirm our full dedication to the reform process that will keep the Convention mechanism alive and effective for the future generations of the European citizens and Others within our scope of responsibility and jurisdiction.