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**DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH
THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

**Doris Pack: Signature of the SAA renews the European
challenge
for Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Strasbourg, 16 June 2008

In a statement for the media, Doris Pack, MEP (EPP-ED, Germany), Chairwoman of the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South East Europe, expressed deep satisfaction for the signature yesterday, 16 June 2008 in Luxembourg, of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"As the European Parliament rapporteur on Bosnia and Herzegovina, I very much welcome this Agreement, we were waiting for it for long. The message the EU delivers to Bosnia's leaders and citizens with the SAA is not that we turned a blind eye on them or the signature of a "chèque en blanc"; I think we renovated our trust in the country's potential as a future member of the Union and signing the SAA means that Bosnia is now indissolubly linked with the European integration progress. This is a big challenge and the political authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have much work to do.

"I would be happy to realize that yesterday's Agreement will definitely reinvigorate the reform efforts, and I hope, in primis, to see very soon concrete signals and initiatives from inside the country for the necessary constitutional reform. We want to have Bosnia and Herzegovina as a modern, democratic, self-sustainable and functional partner".