

## The European family portrait gets wider

### ALDA welcomes the application for EU membership of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA welcomes the application for EU membership submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Although Brussels made it clear Bosnia and Herzegovina must carry out a series of reforms before the application can be considered, the event represents a milestone for the country, as well as for the process of EU integration.

“After the accession of Croatia, my country, in 2013, and the progresses of Montenegro, Serbia, and Albania towards integration, I congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina and all the stakeholders who have made this crucial step possible” said Oriano Otočan, President of ALDA.

“We are all aware that this is the beginning of a long journey of reforms and improvements. However, I would like to quote the words of the High Representatives for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini, who highlighted that this is a great day for the country citizens, who can see that common objectives can be achieved when all levels of governance cooperate” continued Otočan.

ALDA has been working in Bosnia and Herzegovina since its establishment to rebuild trust in the war-torn country. Together with the three Local Democracy Agencies based in Mostar, Zavidovici, and Prijedor, it has accompanied the transition of the country towards democracy, while promoting interethnic dialogue, civic participation, good governance, and development.

**Oriano Otočan**  
**President of ALDA**

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- About ALDA: [www.alda-europe.eu](http://www.alda-europe.eu)
- About the Local Democracy Agency Mostar: [www.ldamostar.org](http://www.ldamostar.org)
- About the Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici: [www.lda-zavidovici.org](http://www.lda-zavidovici.org)
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