EUROPEAN UNION – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

9TH SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

24-25 FEBRUARY 2026

SARAJEVO (HYBRID MEETING)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING

The recommendations below are structured to reflect the steps from the 2022 Commission communication recommending candidate status to be granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina as short-term priorities that the country must fulfil so that the Council may adopt a Negotiating Framework. Priority recommendations from the annual report are introduced in the beginning of each point for reference.

The drafting of strategies and legislation aimed at aligning with the EU *acquis*/EU standards needs to demonstrate a common vision and countrywide ownership, favour quality over speed, be accompanied by a proper stakeholders' consultation and by the allocation of resources adequate for the implementation of the objectives of the strategy/legislation. Furthermore, the collection of relevant data/statistics should be improved and a monitoring mechanism put in place for the implementation of the strategy/legislation for the whole country.

As the area of Justice, Freedom and Security is part of the fundamentals cluster, the Commission strongly encouraged the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to share any draft legislation covering these topics with the EU Office in Sarajevo through the Directorate for European Integration to ensure alignment with the EU *acquis* and European standards.

1. Judiciary reform and processing war crimes

Priority recommendations from annual report

- Urgently appoint judges to the vacant positions on the Constitutional Court, ensuring its full composition and functioning; and, for the courts in general, consistently appoint judges based on merit, without prevalence of ethnic criteria, and appraise the performance of judges based on quality criteria.
- Finalise and adopt a Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) and a Law on the Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with Venice Commission recommendations, also ensuring the access of the HJPC to all information necessary to perform integrity checks; fully implement the integrity-

related provisions of the Law on the HJPC to establish a robust system of asset declaration verification under close external monitoring.
- Adopt a new justice sector reform strategy; complete the registration of sentences of international criminal tribunals in domestic criminal records; and implement effectively the revised national war crimes strategy, particularly by boosting regional cooperation.

Step 2. *Adopt, as a matter of priority, integrity amendments in the existing Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council.*

- Complete the staffing of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) asset declaration department relevant to enabling judicial asset declaration verifications. (Q1/2026)
- The HJPC should proceed with signing individual Memoranda of Understanding with public institutions to facilitate access to data relevant to asset declaration verification. (Q1/2026)

Step 3. *Adopt a new law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and adopt the law on the Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

- Align the draft law on the HJPC with EU recommendations (notably, guarantee the unhindered right of the HJPC to request additional information, uphold the randomisation of ethnic and gender features, and improve the response to requests of protection from undue influence) and the relevant Venice Commission recommendations, and adopt the law. (Q1/2026)
- Adopt the Law on Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with Venice Commission Opinion recommendations from 2013 and 2023. (Q1 2026)

- Undertake the necessary steps to facilitate the electronic submission and processing of asset declarations, with a view to enhancing efficiency and reducing the likelihood of errors (Q2 2026).
- The HJPC must ensure that external experts are able to monitor asset declarations effectively, as required by law, while the asset declaration department should carefully and fully consider the external experts' recommendations.
- The asset declarations department should perform its function in an effective manner, independently of the HJPC whose members' asset declarations it also verifies.
- The HJPC needs to show commitment to the verification process by respecting the authority and functional independence of the department, and by refraining from restrictive

interpretations of the law and practices which threaten to undermine the effectiveness of the integrity measures.

- Ensure the integrity of the judicial appointments and promotions. To that end, HJPC should apply consistently the improved rules on judicial appointments, including candidate evaluations based on structured interview questions.
- HJPC should adopt criteria to enable balanced consideration of quantitative and qualitative criteria in the promotion of judicial management and judicial office holders. Provide regular initial and continuous training on judicial ethics and integrity, as well as on EU acquis and other relevant international law and standards, all based on training needs assessment and evaluation of training impact.
- HJPC disciplinary bodies should: (i) better select and prioritise disciplinary cases; (ii) improve rules on evidence in disciplinary hearings; and (iii) amend internal guidelines to improve the reasoning and transparency of disciplinary decisions, thus ensuring consistency and (iv) ensure that the severity of sanctions has a deterring effect.
- The transparency of judiciary should be progressively improved through consistent application of the HJPC and judicial communications strategies as well as HJPC guidelines for the publication of judgments and indictments on judicial websites.
- Adopt the new Strategic Framework for the Justice Sector Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2024-2028 and Action plan. (Q1/2026)
- Establish a robust mechanism for monitoring, reporting on progress, and evaluating the impact of the HJPC reform programme for 2024–2026, particularly concerning critical reforms required for EU accession. (Q4/2026)
- Revise the enforcement procedure laws in the entities and Brčko District, especially to reduce the backlog of minor value and utility bill cases by relieving the courts from the burden of uncontested claims and by introducing professional bailiffs.
- Adopt the Mediation Strategy to facilitate access to justice through increased use of this alternative dispute resolution mechanism for alleviating court caseload. (Q1/2026)
- Implement measures to address the issue of excessive delays of judicial proceedings, amongst others by amending civil and criminal procedure codes and by adopting legislation to ensure the right to a judgement within a reasonable time in the Federation entity. (Q1/2026)
- Ensure gradual transition of the entire HJPC staff from IPA funding to the state budget. This budgetary transition should be carried out timely and in a manner which supports HJPC functions and reforms driven by EU accession. (Q1/2026)
- Effectively implement the revised National War Crimes Strategy within the extended timeframe. (Q2/2026)
- Enhance regional cooperation on the processing of war crime cases and finding of missing persons.

- Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Registry of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), complete the process of transposing the sentences of ICTY and its successor into domestic criminal records. (Q1/2026)
- Strengthen the forensic medicine capacities in the country by supporting and strengthening the state level Agency for Forensic Examination and Expertise (AFEE) through an appropriate level of staffing and resources and by establishing department for legal medicine with the AFEE. (Q3/2026)
- Increase the funds available for the support to the work of associations of families of the missing within the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. (Q3/2026)
- Initiate an inclusive discussion aimed at identifying concrete measures that Bosnia and Herzegovina could undertake to achieve progress under Key Priority 5, which may also contribute to the adoption of a countrywide transitional justice strategy, issuance of a formal apology, or a joint visit to pay tribute to all civilian victims of the last war. (Q3/2026)

2. Anti-corruption policy

Priority recommendations from annual report

- Complete the legislative and institutional framework across the country in line with European standards and step up implementation of the rules on prevention of conflicts of interest and the protection of whistle-blowers.
- Demonstrate progress towards establishing a track record of proactive investigations, prosecutions and convictions in high-level corruption; in this context, improve cooperation between the police and prosecutors' offices.
- Professionalise corruption prevention bodies across the country by ensuring their permanent status and upholding their financial and operational independence.

Step 4. *Adopt the law on prevention of conflict of interest.*

- Effectively implement the law on the prevention of conflict of interest at state level, notably by establishing an efficient mechanism for checking the accuracy of asset declarations of public officials. (Q2/2026)

Step 5. *Take decisive steps to strengthen the prevention and fight against corruption and organised crime.*

- Demonstrate progress towards establishing a track record on the repression and prevention of high-level corruption-level corruption cases.
- Significantly improve the track record of proactive investigations, confirmed indictments, prosecutions and final convictions against corruption and electoral fraud cases, notably at high-level. Present detailed track record data, including the relevant articles of the criminal codes.

- Adopt the law on the prevention of conflict of interest at the level of the Federation entity in accordance with European and international standards, such as Venice Commission and GRECO recommendations, and establish an efficient mechanism for checking the accuracy of asset declarations of public officials at all levels. (Q2/2026)
- Align the legal framework for conflict of interest with European and international standards at the state level, in the *Republika Srpska* entity and the Brčko District. (Q4/2026)
- Complete the legal framework on the protection of whistle-blowers at all levels of government in accordance with the standards set out in Directive (EU) 2019/1937. (Q1/2026 for the Federation entity; Q2/2026 for the rest of the country)

- Effectively implement the state-level Strategy for prevention and fight against corruption and ensure effective monitoring of implementation and ensure the professionalisation and effective coordination of corruption prevention bodies at all levels of government. (Q2 2026)
- Ensure that anticorruption strategies are harmonised across the country. (Q4/2026)
- Complete professionalisation of anti-corruption bodies. (Q2/2026)
- Adopt the Budget of Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina providing necessary funds for the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEC) to hire new staff in the CEC's audit department to monitor compliance with political party financing regulations, in line with ODIHR/GRECO recommendations. (Q1/2026)
- Adopt the new Law on Political Party Financing in line with ODIHR/GRECO Recommendations. (Q4/2026)

3. Freedom of expression

Priority recommendations from annual report

- Ensure the protection of journalists and systematic institutional follow-up to threats and violence against them.
- Ensure the financial sustainability and political independence of public broadcasters and harmonise entity legislation with the State-level Law on the public broadcasting system.
- Adopt legislation on both transparency in media ownership and criteria for public advertising; and ensure that defamation is decriminalised across the country.

Step 8. *Guarantee freedom of expression and of the media and the protection of journalists, notably by ensuring the appropriate judicial follow-up to cases of threats and violence against journalists and media workers.*

- Ensure that no steps are taken that would further undermine exercising freedom of expression or that would deteriorate the media landscape.
- Ensure the protection of journalists and systematic institutional follow-up of threats and violence against them, through appropriate country-wide coordination and clear institutional mechanism in place. (Q1/2026)
- Submit to the Commission new draft legislation on the Public Broadcasting Service to ensure its alignment with the EU *acquis*. Fully implement the legislation on public service broadcasting guaranteeing political neutrality, independence and timely appointments of public service broadcasters' management structures (steering boards and directors). Ensuring a sustainable financing model for the public broadcasting system. (Q1/2026)

- Undertake all necessary steps to revert the *Republika Srpska* entity Criminal Code amendments regulating defamation as a criminal offence. (Q4/2026)
- Adopt amendments to criminal legislation to regulate hate offences in line with the ECtHR case-law and the EU *acquis*. (Q2/2026)
- Ensure that the new drafts of the Law on Electronic Communication and the Law on Electronic Media are in line with the EU *acquis*. Adopt legislation on media ownership transparency and criteria on public advertisement. Submit new draft laws to the Commission to ensure its alignment with the EU *acquis*. (Q4/2026)
- Ensure proper implementation of the State-level Law on the Freedom of Access to Information and timely adoption of the bylaws. Establish the Central Data Portal and implement the proactive publication of information. (Q2/2026)

- Amend the State-level legislation with a view of establishing independent and specialised oversight mechanism, including the appeals procedure in the freedom of information matters. (Q4/2026)
- Develop legislation on freedom of access to information at Entity and Brčko District level harmonised across the country and aligned with relevant European standards and EU acquis, by using SIGMA model law on free access to information as a basis for drafting new laws and fulfilling the TAIEX recommendations. (Q4/2026) Submit to the Commission, before the adoption procedure, new draft laws at an early stage of preparation to ensure their alignment with the EU acquis and relevant standards.

4. Fundamental rights

Priority recommendations from annual report

- Implement court rulings to end divided education ('two schools under one roof').
- Ensure full respect, protection and promotion of the freedom of assembly, association and expression, and refrain from actions that may adversely impact the exercise of these freedoms.
- Harmonise and improve legislation against domestic and gender-based violence to meet 7 international standards and align laws across the country with the Gender Equality Law to increase the public and political participation of women.

Step 7. *Ensure prohibition of torture, notably by establishing a national preventive mechanism against torture and ill-treatment.*

- Ensure full operationalisation of the Amendments to the Law on Ombudsman for Human Rights, including a functional National Preventive Mechanism .

- Adopt the Action Plan on Children at the state-level, and ensure coordination at all levels of government. (Q2/2026)
- Harmonise relevant laws in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (including criminal laws, family laws, domestic violence laws, laws related to child protection and laws related to social care). (Q4/2026)
- Develop missing and strengthen existing child-friendly protection mechanisms and structures in line with international obligations. (Q3/2026)
- Ensure that the use of foster care and alternative solutions are further promoted, and that specific measures are undertaken to ban child labour and tackle exploitation of children and child begging. (Q4/2026)
- Ensure inclusive and quality education for all (continuous), and overcome the discriminatory practice of "two schools under one roof" including by implementing the relevant domestic court rulings. (Q4/2026)
- Specify the measures planned to address the serious systemic problems regarding inhuman and degrading treatment of children in institutional facilities and any concrete action taken towards the transition from institutionalised to community-based care of children belonging to vulnerable groups. (Q2 2026)

- Prepare the amendments to the BiH Constitution and BiH Election Law aimed at implementing the ECtHR Sejdic-Finci case-law, in line with the revised Action Plan for implementation of the ECtHR Sejdić-Finci case law. (Q2/2026)

- Improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities, children, LGBTIQ persons, members of the Roma community, detainees, migrants and asylum seekers, as well as displaced persons and refugees in line with the objective of closure of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement. (Q4/2026)
- Adopt a set of countrywide policy frameworks with regard to protection and enforcement of human rights, including non-discrimination, protection of persons belonging to minorities, and transitional justice. (Q2/2026)
- Adopt Roma Action Plan (2026-2030) and ensure its implementation allocating necessary budget (Q2/2026) Ensure implementation of Poznan Declaration commitments on Roma integration, which are an international commitment of the country, as well as conclusions from the 6th Roma seminar (Q4/2026)
- Adopt extension of the Action Plans on the rights of LGBTIQ persons and ensure allocation of necessary implementation budgets. (Q3/2026)
- Develop and adopt Anti-Racism Action Plan in line with EU-Anti-racism Strategy 2026-2030.
- Establish reporting mechanism within the Ministry of Human Rights and Refuges ensuring systematic and timely reporting on Human Rights (Q4/2026)
- Ensure reliable, fully functional, systemic, country-wide statistical data collection, disaggregated by gender and age, on:
    - threats and attacks against journalists and media workers (Q4/2026) and ensure appropriate institutional and judicial follow up;
    - hate offences, including hate speech online, and improve identifying and reporting such cases by law-enforcement agencies, and their effective follow-up (Q4/2026);
    - child poverty rates, violence against children, in particular belonging to vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities, Roma children, and girls (Q4/2026);
    - cases of discrimination, disaggregated by grounds, and socio-economic needs of persons in vulnerable situations (Q4/2026).
- Analyse the collected data and conduct gender impact assessments to feed well-informed and evidence-based policy-making at all levels.

- Adopt the new Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS - UNSCR 1325) for 2024 – 2027. (Q1/2026)
- Adopt all remaining bylaws necessary to implement the Federation entity Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, in line with the Istanbul Convention standards and adopt amendments to the Federation entity Criminal Code with an aim to ensure uniform

regulation and prosecution of domestic violence as a criminal offense. (Q2/2026) Ensure their full implementation.

- Amend criminal codes and domestic violence legislation to address all obligations stemming from the Istanbul and Lanzarote Conventions (Q4/2026)
- Reinforce implementation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Gender Action Plan and Bosnia and Herzegovina UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan at all levels and ensure timely preparations of the Action Plans for the upcoming years, with clear steps, milestones, monitoring mechanisms, and sources of funding. (Q2/2026)
- Address the latest Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) reports' conclusions and recommendations in the laws, national strategies and action plans on gender equality and anti-discrimination. (Q2/2026)
- Improve the institutional response to gender-based violence and harassment, including on protective measures, victim support, legal aid (especially for children and persons in vulnerable situations), and safe accommodation. (Q2/2026)
- Ensure equal access to healthcare services by women and girls, including Roma, LGBTIQ and other minority groups, and ban obstetric violence. (Q3/2026)
- Harmonise healthcare, maternity, paternity and parental leave benefits across the country. (Q4/2026)
- Ensure the full participation at the “Gender and Social Assistance programme” of all relevant institutions.
- Extend the mandate and powers and strengthen the resources and independence of the equality body in line with the EU Directives on minimum standards for equality bodies (Q2/2026).
- Harmonise and align national laws with EU Directives on Equality Bodies (2024/1499/EU) (2024/1500/EU), Equality Framework Directive (2000/78EC) and Anti-Racism Directive (2000/43/EC)

- Improve the status of wartime sexual violence victim by implementing August 2019 UNCAT Decision, requiring provision of compensation, rehabilitation and a formal apology by the authorities. Ensure implementation of the pending UNCAT 2017 recommendations. (Q1/2026)
- Develop and adopt a state-level law prescribing the minimum rights of civilian victims of wartime torture throughout the country, in line with the commitments under the UN Convention on Torture. Substantially improve the system of redress for civilian victims of wartime sexual violence and torture, particularly on subsidiary liability including application of statute of limitations against third persons and imposition and pursuit of court fees in related unsuccessful civil compensation claims, in particular in the *Republika Srpska* entity.

- Establish a budget-funded mechanism for compensation claims of civil victims of war in case of insolvent convicted perpetrators. (Q1/2026)
- Adopt amendments to the *Republika Srpska* entity Law on Victims of Torture to extend the deadline for application for the status of wartime victims, which expired in October 2023. (deadline expired 5 October 2023)
- As a matter of urgent priority, waive court fee charges levied on victims of wartime torture in the *Republika Srpska* entity due to application of statute of limitation to their compensation claims. (Q1 2026)
- Ensure full operationalisation of the Federation entity Law on Civilian Victims of War which entered into force on 1 January 2024. Proceed with drafting of the Federation entity Law on Victims of Torture. (Q2/2026)
- Further strengthen the rights of victims of all crimes, notably the right of access to support services and protection in accordance with victims' individual needs. (Q4/2026)
- Step up the engagement of the Ombudsman Institution in the court proceedings, in line with the Priebe report recommendations. (Q4/2026)

- Harmonise legislation and practices on freedom of assembly across the country in line with the European Commission's recommendations stemming from the peer review on freedom of assembly conducted in May 2018 and the Venice Commission Opinion of December 2019. (Q2/2026)

- Prevent backsliding, promote conducive environment for civil society and improve systemic institutional follow-up to cases of threats and intimidation against members of civil society.
- Adopt a strategic framework for cooperation with civil society at all levels of governance, including by appointing the CSO Advisory Board. (Q2/2026)

5. Fight against organised crime

Priority recommendations from annual report

- Establish specialised multi-agency investigation teams for complex cases; set up an asset recovery office and put in place capacities for the management of crime proceeds at State level; strengthen financial investigations.
- Improve civilian oversight mechanisms over all police forces; consistently appoint police directors based on merit.

- Further align the legislation to combat terrorism, possession of weapons by civilians, and explosives with the EU acquis; establish a firearms focal point; establish a list of criminalised psychoactive substances.

Step 5. *Take decisive steps to strengthen the prevention and fight against corruption and organised crime*

- Demonstrate progress towards establishing a track record of investigations, indictments and final convictions for serious and organised crime, including money laundering and terrorist financing, and fill in the relevant database with information from all levels of governance.
- Establish a firearms focal point. (Q2/2026)
- Align legislation on civil possession of weapons with EU *acquis*. (Q2/2026)
- Establish asset management capacities at the state level and designate an asset recovery office(s) responsible for facilitating the tracing, identification and seizure of crime proceeds. (Q1/2026)
- Improve operational cooperation of law enforcement agencies, harmonise criminal legislation, strengthen institutional coordination and exchange of intelligence.

- Sign the revised Working Arrangement on cooperation with CEPOL. (Q2/2026)
- Actively participate in IPA-funded project EU Police Assistance for Bosnia and Herzegovina on all its aspects, including fight against organised and financial crime.
- Strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies, notably by increasing specialised multi-agency investigation teams for complex cases, including financial investigations, or Joint Investigation Teams (JITs); improving systematic/ standardised access to electronic databases and the secure exchange of information.
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and prosecution services.
- Ease the real-time exchange of criminal intelligence between law enforcement agencies at all levels, including use of crime registries.
- Take measures to strengthen the integrity and accountability of law enforcement agencies.
- Further develop and enhance intelligence-led policing at all levels of government.
- Demonstrate progress in conducting financial investigations in parallel with criminal investigations. (Q4/2026)

- Ensure full cooperation of relevant agencies with the IPA-funded project team working on putting in place the new Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), and make full use of it without delay once the procurement is completed. (Q1/2026)
- Initiate a formal process supporting a more integrated approach on DNA databases as a prerequisite of countrywide coordination and strengthen cooperation with other countries. (Q2/2026)

- Continue the implementation of, and further align, the AML/CFT legislative framework with the relevant EU *acquis* and MONEYVAL Recommendations.

- Introduce registers on beneficial ownership information with timely and unrestricted access for competent authorities and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), in line with the EU *acquis*. (Q1/2026)

- Demonstrate progress on the implementation of the Strategy and accompanying action plans to fight against organised crime. Adopt Action plan at the level of RS Prosecutor's Office.
- Implement the recommendations of the 2025 peer review on organised crime and high-level corruption (Q4/2026).

- Adopt remaining action plans to the Strategy for fighting Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) for 2024-2027 and make progress on setting up a National Referral Mechanism. (Q4/2026)
- Further align the legislation on combating trafficking in human beings with the EU *acquis*.

- Adopt the revised legislation to prevent and suppress the use of narcotic drugs in line with the international standards and EU *acquis* and enhance the mechanisms to fight the use of drugs. (Q2/2026)
- Establish a focal point for monitoring drug related issues for the whole country, the Early Warning System on new psychoactive substances and the Drug Alert System in line with the EU *acquis*. (Q2/2026)
- Conclude the working arrangement with the EU Drugs Agency to support the uptake of EU best practices and approaches in health and security areas with the endorsement from all the ministries involved. (Q3 2026)
- Introduce flexible mechanisms to allow for a regular updating of the list of controlled new psychoactive substances in line with UN Conventions and the EU *acquis*.
- Draft and adopt new National Drugs Strategy and Action Plan (Q2/2026), in line with the recently adopted EU Drugs Strategy that take a balanced and multidisciplinary approach and EU Action plan against drug trafficking.

Further strengthen and align the legal framework on cybercrime with EU *acquis*, and align within the country. (Q4/2026)

- Adopt strategic framework and action plans for fighting cybercrime at the governments' level where the strategies do not exist. (Q4/2026)

- Fulfil all requirements for the application of international agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU on cooperation with Eurojust to enable its full application, including the full implementation of the Law on Data Protection and the signature of the Working Arrangement. (Q2/2026)

6. Counter-Terrorism and Preventing/ Combatting Violent Extremism

- Demonstrate progress on implementing the action plans for countrywide counterterrorism strategy for 2021 to 2026.
- Give high priority to the development of the national roadmap for the implementation of the new Joint Action Plan on Preventing and Countering of Terrorism and Violent Extremism for the Western Balkans signed in November, as well as the actions included in the corresponding bilateral Implementing Arrangement still pending from the previous JAP. Amongst other actions:
  - Swiftly adopt the amendments to the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure stricter sanctions and introduce criminal provisions concerning terrorism, namely training and travelling abroad for terrorist activities as well as abuse of the internet and social media. (Q2/2026)
  - Following the establishment of the Europol Joint National Contact point, continue strengthening a proactive exchange of information regarding terrorism and violent extremism for operational and strategic purposes;
  - Build capacities and implement concrete measures to duly address hate speech and Terrorist and Violent Extremist content on the Internet and Social media, especially among youth, by cooperating actively with among others Europol Internet Referral Unit and Internet Providers to remove this content and provide an alternative narrative;
  - Adopt legislation and guidelines on the protection of critical infrastructure and public places and create a unified threat and risk assessment mechanism covering all critical infrastructure. (Q4/2026)
- Continue to participate and fully utilise, where possible, the newly accessible tools of the Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation and prepare for future alignment with the new EU Agenda to prevent and counter terrorism.
- Improve efficiency of investigations and prosecutions on terrorism financing and specially developing capacities to address the use of new technologies and cryptocurrencies for terrorism financing. (Q4/2026)
- Develop and implement programmes to prevent all forms of radicalisation, especially but not exclusively for youth and adolescents, and facilitate disengagement from terrorism and violent extremism, applying an all of society approach involving – further to security actors – all relevant official bodies like social workers, mental health care professionals, education sectors as well as civil society organisations.
- Increase detection capacities at the borders to avoid possible returning Foreign Fighters' infiltration, and increase data sharing with Europol.
- Ensure a proper management, investigation, prosecution and possible reintegration of returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and their family members, also in view of expected repatriations, and release from camps and prisons:
  - Developing a comprehensive reintegration policy and implementing a whole society approach and multi-disciplinary cooperation; (Q2 2026)

    - adopting a gender-neutral approach regarding prosecution of FTFs. (Q2 2026)
- Develop a coordinated approach between security agencies and local authorities to tackle radicalisation in prisons and prepare the release from prison of terrorism and violent extremism offenders who have served their sentences. Provide post release assistance to help them disengage from violent extremism, while ensuring proper monitoring to avoid false compliance and recidivism cases.

7. Migration asylum and border management

Priority recommendations from annual report

→ Take over responsibility for managing migration, including by adopting and implementing a comprehensive transition plan on migration management and the rulebook on the management of reception centres; guarantee access to quality and effective asylum procedures.

→ Adopt the action plan on fighting trafficking in human beings and amend legislation on migrant smuggling

→ Further align with EU visa policy, in particular for non-EU countries presenting irregular migration or security risks to the EU, develop a passenger data-exchange (API) system, and introduce security measures to better screen visa-free arrivals.

Step 6. *Decisively advance work to ensure effective coordination, at all levels, of border management and migration management capacity, as well as ensuring the functioning of the asylum system.*

- Continue to progressively align Bosnia and Herzegovina visa policy with the EU *acquis;* in particular, as a matter of urgency, progress significantly on alignment with Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 in what concerns third countries whose citizens require visas to enter EU. (Q4/2026)
- Implement additional security measures including a more rigorous screening of visa-free arrivals of third-country nationals.
- Take over management of the temporary reception centres from the international organisations, hence adopt the rulebook on the functioning of the temporary reception centres and adopt a working group for the preparation of the transition plan. Adopt legal framework for putting in function Lipa detention facility in line with the Law on Foreigners. (Q2/2025)

- Continue to implement the EU Action Plan on Western Balkans in the field of migration on all its strands.
- Adopt the new Migration Strategy and Action Plan with dedicated budget for implementation of the adopted to strengthen capacity in the area of migration management. (Q3/2026)

- Set up the Advanced Passenger Information (API) system based on the Border Control Law for more efficient border checks and fight against illegal migration/cross-border major and organised crime. (Q4/2026)

- Intensify establishment of the Passenger Name Records system for more efficient border control and fight against terrorism by starting the drafting the relevant legislation. (Q4/2026)
- Continue efforts by producing new generations of Border Police cadets for raising human resources capacities of the Border Police. (Q4/2026)
- Conclude the Working Arrangement with Frontex. (Q4/2026)
- Continue implementing the EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina status agreement
- Maintain current channels for the exchange of information and ensure more intensive cooperation with the European Commission and its agencies on migration and border management, notably Europol, CEPOL, Frontex and EUAA.
- Address the issue of irregular border crossings on the sub-route passing through Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Continue to strengthen human capacity in the area of asylum, migration, border management, returns and in fighting migrant smuggling.
- Engage with the EU Agency for Asylum to further implement the Roadmap.
- Improve the efficiency of the registration and identification of migrant population and inter-agency cooperation, primarily through additional human resources.
- Continue to ensure unhindered action and cooperate with humanitarian partners and civil society organisations to address the basic needs of refugees and migrants.
- Establish the Asylum Office within the Ministry of Security (Q2/2026)

- Continue implementing the EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Readmission Agreement.
- Intensify implementation of readmission agreements with neighbouring countries on 'shortened' readmission procedure, notably Serbia and Montenegro. (Q4/2026)
- Intensify implementation of readmission agreements with countries of origin and step up efforts to conclude additional readmission agreements with the main countries of origin of irregular migrants and other countries presenting a high migratory risk.

- Intensify information campaigns on the rights and obligations of visa-free travel.

Annex: 14 Key Priorities from the Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the European Union

Democracy / Functionality

1. Ensure that elections are conducted in line with European standards by implementing OSCE/ODIHR and relevant Venice Commission recommendations, ensuring transparency of political party financing, and holding municipal elections in Mostar.

2. Ensure a track record in the functioning at all levels of the coordination mechanism on EU matters including by developing and adopting a national programme for the adoption of the EU acquis.

3. Ensure the proper functioning of the Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

4. Fundamentally improve the institutional framework, including at constitutional level, in order to:

a) Ensure legal certainty on the distribution of competences across levels of government;

b) Introduce a substitution clause to allow the State upon accession to temporarily exercise competences of other levels of government to prevent and remedy breaches of EU law;

c) Guarantee the independence of the judiciary, including its self-governance institution (HJPC);

d) Reform the Constitutional Court, including addressing the issue of international judges, and ensure enforcement of its decisions;

e) Guarantee legal certainty, including by establishing a judicial body entrusted with ensuring the consistent interpretation of the law throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina;

f) Ensure equality and non-discrimination of citizens, notably by addressing the Sejdić-Finci ECtHR case law;

g) Ensure that all administrative bodies entrusted with implementing the acquis are based only upon professionalism and eliminate veto rights in their decision-making, in compliance with the acquis.

5. Take concrete steps to promote an environment conducive to reconciliation in order to overcome the legacies of the war.

Rule of Law

6. Improve the functioning of the judiciary by adopting new legislation on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and of the Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with European standards.

7. Strengthen the prevention and fight against corruption and organised crime, including money laundering and terrorism, notably by:

a) adopting and implementing legislation on conflict of interest and whistle-blowers' protection;

b) ensuring the effective functioning and coordination of anti-corruption bodies;

c) align the legislation and strengthen capacities on public procurement;

d) ensuring effective cooperation among law enforcement bodies and with prosecutors' offices;

e) demonstrating progress towards establishing a track record of proactive investigations, confirmed indictments, prosecutions and final convictions against organised crime and corruption, including at high-level;

f) de-politicising and restructuring public enterprises and ensuring transparency of privatisation processes.

8. Ensuring effective coordination, at all levels, of border management and migration management capacity, as well as ensuring the functioning of the asylum system.

Fundamental Rights

9. Strengthen the protection of the rights of all citizens, notably by ensuring the implementation of the legislation on non-discrimination and on gender equality.

10. Ensure the right to life and prohibition of torture, notably by (a) abolishing the reference to death penalty in the Constitution of the Republika Srpska entity and (b) designate a national preventive mechanism against torture and ill-treatment.

11. Ensure an enabling environment for civil society, notably by upholding European standards on freedom of association and freedom of assembly.

12. Guarantee freedom of expression and of the media and the protection of journalists, notably by (a) ensuring the appropriate judicial follow-up to cases of threats and violence against journalists and media workers, and (b) ensuring the financial sustainability of the public broadcasting system.

13. Improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities, children, LGBTI persons, members of the Roma community, detainees, migrants and asylum seekers, as well as displaced persons and refugees in line with the objective of closure of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Public Administration Reform

14. Complete essential steps in public administration reform towards improving the overall functioning of the public administration by ensuring a professional and de-politicised civil service and a coordinated countrywide approach to policy making.