

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 30 December 2024 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [1575 \(2004\)](#), [1639 \(2005\)](#), [1722 \(2006\)](#), [1785 \(2007\)](#), [1845 \(2008\)](#), [1895 \(2009\)](#), [1948 \(2010\)](#), [2019 \(2011\)](#), [2074 \(2012\)](#), [2123 \(2013\)](#), [2183 \(2014\)](#), [2247 \(2015\)](#), [2315 \(2016\)](#), [2384 \(2017\)](#), [2443 \(2018\)](#), [2496 \(2019\)](#), [2549 \(2020\)](#), [2604 \(2021\)](#), [2658 \(2022\)](#) and [2706 \(2023\)](#), I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 20 December 2024 from the Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, transmitting the fifty-ninth report on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 August 2024.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António **Guterres**



Annex

In accordance with Security Council resolution [1575 \(2004\)](#) and the subsequent resolutions in which the Council requested that European Union member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea), please find enclosed the fifty-ninth such report (see enclosure).

(Signed) Kaja **Kallas**

Enclosure

Report of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the activity of the European Union military operation (EUFOR-Althea) in Bosnia and Herzegovina covers the period from 1 March until 31 August 2024.
2. The Security Council, in its resolutions [1575 \(2004\)](#), [1639 \(2005\)](#), [1722 \(2006\)](#), [1785 \(2007\)](#), [1845 \(2008\)](#), [1895 \(2009\)](#), [1948 \(2010\)](#), [2019 \(2011\)](#), [2074 \(2012\)](#), [2123 \(2013\)](#), [2183 \(2014\)](#), [2247 \(2015\)](#), [2315 \(2016\)](#), [2384 \(2017\)](#), [2443 \(2018\)](#), [2496 \(2019\)](#), [2549 \(2020\)](#), [2604 \(2021\)](#), [2658 \(2022\)](#) and [2706 \(2023\)](#), requested that European Union member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR at six-monthly intervals. The present is the fifty-ninth such report.

II. Security situation

3. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm, without imminent threats to the safe and secure environment.
4. Following the European Commission's recommendation in its report of 12 March 2024 on progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Council decided on 21 March 2024 to open accession negotiations with the country. The European Council invited the Commission to prepare the negotiating framework with a view to its adoption by the Council the moment all relevant steps set out in the Commission's recommendation of October 2022 were taken. Progress on the European Union path enhanced the political dynamics in Bosnia and Herzegovina and contributed to security and stability in the region.
5. The Republika Srpska entity continued with legislation and initiatives that ran counter to the European Union path of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including secessionist rhetoric and questioning of the constitutional order of the country.
6. On 23 May, the General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 11 July as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica, to be observed annually.
7. Divisive rhetoric intensified across the political spectrum as Bosnia and Herzegovina approached its local elections in October.
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to submit a final reform agenda to the European Commission.
9. Bosnia and Herzegovina was fully aligned with European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy declarations and decisions, demonstrating its clear commitment to the European Union path. However, the implementation of restrictive measures continued to pose a challenge.

III. Activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

10. EUFOR remained fully operational and continued to implement its mandate.

11. **Core task.** EUFOR continued to implement its core task consisting of supporting the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

12. **Support of and cooperation with the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities.** EUFOR continued to engage and support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in all areas pertaining to its mandate, especially by overseeing the implementation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina master plan on ammunition, weapons and explosives and humanitarian demining, where progress remained limited.

13. **Implementation of the master plan on ammunitions, weapons and explosives.** EUFOR continued to coordinate, support and monitor all related activities attached to the three phases of the master plan on ammunitions, weapons and explosives and to the establishment of a sustainable life cycle management. The reduction of the ammunitions stockpile of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces, which is the first phase of the master plan, continued, with the destruction of 54.17t of ammunitions (17.76 per cent of the set 2024 objective) and 90t still to be processed. Regarding the second phase, namely the reduction of the stockpile of small arms and light weapons, EUFOR continued to monitor the implementation, which was limited during the reporting period as notably the disposal of small arms and light weapons via sales faced a limited number of potential buyers and delays in the approval processes by the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities. EUFOR also continued with the marking and registration of the small arms and light weapons stockpile and evidence material of the law enforcement agencies. Regarding the third phase of the master plan, i.e. the reduction of heavy weapons and vehicles, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence launched the decision-making process to evaluate the disposal method of heavy weapons and vehicles based on the technical inventory and assessment of non-prospective heavy weapons and vehicles handed over by EUFOR.

14. **Humanitarian demining.** The already very limited progress towards the implementation of the national mine action strategy further slowed down. Since the beginning of 2024, only 6.88 km² of mine-suspected areas (4.83 per cent of the annual objective 142.4 km²) had been demined. Demining activities remained very limited due, notably, to the lack of available funding and personnel. The revision of the mine action strategy for the period 2018–2025 was finally launched by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre.

15. **Monitoring and inspection of weapons and ammunition storage sites of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces, defence industry factories and the export, import and movement of weapons, ammunition and military equipment.** This continued with no irregularities observed. However, EUFOR noted that the overall safety conditions of the weapons and ammunition storage sites had not improved since the previous report.

16. EUFOR continued to plan, organize, coordinate and conduct collective training with the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces (at company or battalion level) in order to enhance their operational capability.

17. EUFOR continued to train its in-theatre troops and over-the-horizon reserve forces. In view thereof, elements of the strategic reserve force were activated and deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina in April. EUFOR also implemented a series of exercises in the run-up to its exercise Quick Response 2024, which took place from 26 August to 10 September.

IV. Renewal of the mandate of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

18. The Security Council resolution is up for renewal in early November 2024.¹

V. Outlook

19. Operation EUFOR-Althea will continue to adapt and evolve, having in mind that stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not entrenched and that the security situation could be impacted by several internal and external factors of concern. EUFOR tasks will remain under regular review by the Council of the European Union.

¹ On 1 November, the Security Council resolution [2757 \(2024\)](#) was adopted.