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**Conclusions from the Round Table organised by ECRI and
the Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo 19. 11. 2014**

This round table should not be the end, but the beginning for a necessary discussion leading to an inclusive and tolerant society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was our goal in organising this event.

We have used ECRI's last report on Bosnia and Herzegovina as a starting point for this meeting. We have heard that many problems still need to be resolved. It has become clear that a number of recommendations we made have not yet been implemented.

I am glad to have learned that there are strong voices, from the authorities, as well as from the civil society, in favour of an inclusive and tolerant society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would like therefore to summarise some proposals made today for the way forward:

The Anti-discrimination Law has not fulfilled its potential yet. Improving judicial training, in particular on the application of the shifting of the burden of proof, is to be considered and its impact needs to be measured. The enforcement of Ombudsman's decisions needs to be strengthened. The coordination between the judiciary and the Ombudsman Institution remains an issue. Anti-discrimination is not only about the Anti-discrimination Law, but it is an issue to be mainstreamed into all laws. In this regard, the revision of the Constitution is a *conditio sine qua non* for the implementation of the Sejdic and Finci judgement of the European Court of Human Rights.

Civil society's capacity to monitor hate speech, especially on the Internet, to report cases and to promote counter-speech, needs to be supported. To complement the important work done by the Independent Electoral Commission, more efforts should be made to bring cases of hate speech by politicians to court. These will counter the wide spread sense of impunity.

In its recent judgment, the Federation Supreme Court upheld an earlier decision by the municipal court in Mostar against ethnically divided schools. This shows once more that it is due time to overcome the "two school under one roof" system once and for all. Best practices, such as the one in Brcko District, could be used to show that learning together is possible and preferable.

Beyond the law and its application, there is a need to instil a mentality of respect for diversity and tolerance. We should all remember that protection against discrimination concerns not only persons belonging to minority and vulnerable groups, but also members of the majority.

Let me conclude by acknowledging the excellent work done by the three Human Rights Ombudspersons and their office in organising and chairing such event and the active contribution by the authorities and the civil society.