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## **The EPLO Director's lecture in Sarajevo themed: "The European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EPLO"**

During his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in May, the Director of the EPLO, Prof. Spyridon Flogaitis delivered a lecture on the topic "The European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EPLO", at the University of Sarajevo with which the Organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Professor Flogaitis congratulated the current Bosnia and Herzegovina presidency at the Council of Europe, which was initiated in May: "This is therefore, a historic day. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations and wish plenty of success to the Bosnia and Herzegovina presidency. *This fact meets the unequivocal, permanent and enthusiastic support of Greece to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective and confirms the latter's' steady European course.*"

During his lecture, Professor Flogaitis stated that the EU enlargement policy has played a pivotal role. In particular, the European perspective for the Western Balkan countries that had been shaped in the first EU-Western Balkan Countries Summit, in Thessaloniki, in June 2003, was- as he said-, "a historic and important landmark, that constituted the basis for our everyday work in the context of EU-Western Balkan Countries relations".

Eleven years later, during the Greek EU Presidency on 8 May 2014, perhaps not by coincidence in that same city (Thessaloniki) the Ministerial Conference of the European Union and the Western Balkans countries took place. It confirmed once again the European perspective, also focusing on the interconnectivity of the sectors of Energy and Transportation both among Western Balkan Countries and with the EU Member States" as Professor Flogaitis said. He added "It is well known that Greece, the country that took the initiative to propose to the powers of the world the establishment of the EPLO and has offered to host and support its further development, strongly supports the European and Euro-Atlantic perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is particularly important that all political leaders along with the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, converge towards this common goal. Professor Flogaitis recalled that in 2012, Bosnia and Herzegovina became the tenth full member of the EPLO, conducting the ratification procedure much rapidly than many other countries.

"In this context we have to say that the EPLO has in some way "codified" an already developed and harmonious cooperation with BiH since many years. In fact, the EPLO Brcko Center is honored to cooperate since 2000 with the whole Public Administration of BiH and especially with the Brcko District Authorities, with a common goal to assist the process of unification of the Judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as to contribute to the Institution Building of the Brcko District Assembly".

In achieving these goals, the EPLO cooperated in numerous situations with the International Community, Office of the EU Special Representative, as well as with the Office of the High Representative, and via numerous projects and organized visits to District by international experts, daily work with all relevant stakeholders.



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The truth is, that the Thessaloniki Agenda and the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina built the ideal framework for a strong impetus of the activities of the EPLO” said Professor Flogaitis. He stressed that the EPLO does not only have a history in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the last 15 years, but that he honestly believes that it has a real perspective for an effective future cooperation.