

Country/entity	Bosnia and Herzegovina Yugoslavia (former)
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Vienna Agreements
Date	11 May 1994
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Former Yugoslavia

The disintegration of former Yugoslavia post cold war saw conflicts which became mediated and produced peace agreements in Slovenia (where the brief independence conflict was mediated by the EC Troika in 1991), Croatia (between Croatian and Serb populations 1991-1995), in Bosnia (between Croatian, Serb and Bosniak populations 1992-1995), in Macedonia (where mediation played a key pre-emptive role in preventing large scale conflict in 2001), in Kosovo (between Kosovar Albanians and Serbian population and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), but also between FRY and NATO, 1998-1999), and a conflict in the Presevo Valley (between Albanians in South Serbia and FRY, 2000-2001). The continued fall-out of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia also saw mediated agreement and ultimate dissolution of the Union between Serbia and Montenegro.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In 1991, after nationalist parties won the first multi-party elections in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a violent process of disintegration commenced. With its mixed population, Bosnia-Herzegovina became the centre of the following civil war that began in 1992 between the newly formed army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mostly Muslim Bosniacs), and the parastatal forces of self-declared Bosnian Croat (Herzeg-Bosnia) and Bosnian Serb (Republika Srpska) entities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported by Croatia and Serbia, with various, often short-lived, coalitions. The General Framework Agreement (Dayton Peace Agreement), signed in 1995, split the country into two ethno-federal entities, the Bosniak-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska, and included continued peacekeeping and institutional administration by international actors.

Kosovo

The conflict between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians has a long history and always involved territorial disputes as well as ethno-political, cultural and linguistic factors. The most recent phase of the conflict began in November 1997 when the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA or UCK) began their campaign for the independence of Kosovo from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY – then Serbia and Montenegro). The subsequent war lasted until the NATO intervention, which undertook bombing campaigns of Belgrade and other places in Serbia during spring 1999. The main agreements solving the conflict were internationally driven and, finally, a UNSC resolution imposed a post-conflict arrangement in the wake of what was essentially a NATO military victory. In February 2008, Kosovo's parliament declared independence, but independence is still internationally disputed.

Close

Balkan Conflicts (1991 - 1995) (1998 - 2001)

Stage

Framework/substantive - partial

Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Bosnia peace process
Parties	Krešimir Zubak Haris Silajdžić
Third parties	-
Description	Collection of agreements signed in Vienna on the 8th and 11th of May 1994. Provides for criteria to determine the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, principles of canton formation, and division of responsibilities within the federation government between Bosniaks and Croats.

Agreement document [BA_940511_Bečki sporazumi_tr.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [BA_940511_Bečki sporazumi_CR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
[Summary] This agreement extensively provides for federal and municipal territorial power-sharing arrangements between Bosniak and Croat populations. See territorial power-sharing for full provisions.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 10.

A joint parliamentary (mixed) commission of Bosniak and Croat representatives shall be established to accurately determine and mark the borders in accordance with the above principles.

Page 3, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, I.

A proposal shall be submitted to the Constitutional Assembly that the first Federation president during the 6 - month transition period shall be from the Croat people, while the Federation vice - president for the same period shall be from the Bosniak people. After this 6 - month period, the presidency shall be held by a member from the Bosniak people, while the office of the vice - president shall be held by a member of the Croat people. The first Federation president after the transition period shall be a member of the Bosniak people.

Page 3, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, II.

During the reconstitution of the Government, it shall be guaranteed that the duty of the prime minister will be carried out by a member of the Bosniak people, while the deputy prime minister shall be from the Croat people. The deputy prime minister shall head the Ministry of Defence.

There shall be a proposal on the Law on the Federation Government calling for the Federation Government to consist of a president, a vice - president, 11 cabinet ministers and 4 ministers without portfolios.

Ministers who are Bosniaks shall head the following ministries: Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Transport and Communications; Ministry of Energy and Industry; Ministry of Spatial Planning, Resources and the Environment; Ministry for Refugees and Social Policy; Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

Ministers who are Croats shall head the following ministries: Ministry of Defence (deputy prime minister); Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Business; Ministry of Health. Out of the 4 ministers without portfolios, one shall be a Croat.

Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, IV.

The Federation of BiH shall have two cantons with a special status: the Central Bosnia Canton and the Neretva Canton (these are working names for the cantons). Following the above, it is suggested that the Constitution of the Federation is amended to correspond with the decisions of the Federation, so that the equal status of all constituent peoples within the Federation of BiH is guaranteed...The presidents of these two cantons cannot be from the same constituent people at the same time.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1, Criteria for determining the territory of the Federation of BiH, NOTE:
...
c) It is agreed that, with the help and authority of the international community, refugees and displaced persons will return to their original place of residence within the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is an essential part of the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	<p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, VII. The signatories agree that they will suggest that the Constitutional Assembly of the Federation of BiH shall make decisions within their jurisdiction in accordance with this agreement.</p> <p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite) Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, V. The signatories to the Agreement agree that they will immediately start appointing municipal governmental bodies in accordance with the Constitution of the Federation of BiH...</p> <p>Page 3, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, II. During the reconstitution of the Government, it shall be guaranteed that the duty of the prime minister will be carried out by a member of the Bosniak people, while the deputy prime minister shall be from the Croat people. The deputy prime minister shall head the Ministry of Defence.</p> <p>There shall be a proposal on the Law on the Federation Government calling for the Federation Government to consist of a president, a vice - president, 11 cabinet ministers and 4 ministers without portfolios.</p> <p>Ministers who are Bosniaks shall head the following ministries: Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Transport and Communications; Ministry of Energy and Industry; Ministry of Spatial Planning, Resources and the Environment; Ministry for Refugees and Social Policy; Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.</p> <p>Ministers who are Croats shall head the following ministries: Ministry of Defence (deputy prime minister); Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Business; Ministry of Health. Out of the 4 ministers without portfolios, one shall be a Croat.</p> <p>Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→Temporary new institutions Page 3, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, I. A proposal shall be submitted to the Constitutional Assembly that the first Federation president during the 6 - month transition period shall be from the Croat people, while the Federation vice - president for the same period shall be from the Bosniak people. After this 6 - month period, the presidency shall be held by a member from the Bosniak people, while the office of the vice - president shall be held by a member of the Croat people. The first Federation president after the transition period shall be a member of the Bosniak people.</p>
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.

**Traditional/
religious leaders**

No specific mention.

**Public
administration**

No specific mention.

Constitution

Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making

Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, IV. The Federation of BiH shall have two cantons with a special status: the Central Bosnia Canton and the Neretva Canton (these are working names for the cantons). Following the above, it is suggested that the Constitution of the Federation is amended to correspond with the decisions of the Federation, so that the equal status of all constituent peoples within the Federation of BiH is guaranteed. The agreed text of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Federation of BiH is part of this agreement.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition
Sub-state level

Page 3, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, I.
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There shall be a proposal on the Law on the Federation Government calling for the Federation Government to consist of a president, a vice - president, 11 cabinet ministers and 4 ministers without portfolios.

Ministers who are Bosniaks shall head the following ministries: Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Transport and Communications; Ministry of Energy and Industry; Ministry of Spatial Planning, Resources and the Environment; Ministry for Refugees and Social Policy; Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.
Ministers who are Croats shall head the following ministries: Ministry of Defence (deputy prime minister); Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Business; Ministry of Health. Out of the 4 ministers without portfolios, one shall be a Croat.

Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, IV.
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Power sharing→Political power sharing→Form of 'veto' or communal majority
Sub-state level

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 9.

The borders between cantons shall not be amended without a decision by the Federation Parliament, which must take into account the principle of vital national interest in decision-making.

Territorial power sharing

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Federal or similar sub-divided government
[Summary: The agreement in its entirety provides for the criteria of territorial delimitation, principles of decentralization, and division of responsibilities of the Federation of BiH.]

Page 3, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, III.
The Federation territory shall be determined according to the mutually agreed criteria enclosed with this agreement. Maps showing the Federation territory and its cantons are an essential part of this agreement.

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Local/municipal government

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 1.

Cantons are the form of territorial organisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 2.

Cantons are federal units and are the form of decentralisation of the state.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 3.

Cantons shall be named solely after the cities which are the seats of the respective Cantonal governments or after regional geographic features.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 4.

Cantons shall be living areas shared by their constituent peoples and citizens.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 5.

Cantons shall be territorially organised according to principles of ethnicity, economy, geography and communications.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 6.

Cantons shall consist of municipalities which, according to the 1991 census, had a majority Bosniak and Croat population.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, 8.

Municipalities where the majority population is not the same as the canton majority, shall have special status in accordance with the Federation Constitution.

Page 2, Principles of Canton Formation, NOTE:

A separate agreement – an annex to this document – shall resolve the issue of areas which were not previously organised as municipalities, but where there are now reasons for creating municipalities, in order to exercise rights outlined in Chapter 5, Article 2.2 of the Federation Constitution.

Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, IV.

The Federation of BiH shall have two cantons with a special status: the Central Bosnia Canton and the Neretva Canton (these are working names for the cantons). Following the above, it is suggested that the Constitution of the Federation is amended to correspond with the decisions of the Federation, so that the equal status of all constituent peoples within the Federation of BiH is guaranteed. The agreed text of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Federation of BiH is part of this agreement. All municipalities in cantons with special status will have the authority outlined in Chapter 5, 1,2(2) of the Constitution of the Federation BiH, if they request such status. The presidents of these two cantons cannot be from the same constituent people at the same time.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

**Intelligence
services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces** No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of
foreign forces** No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

**Crime/organised
crime** No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons Page 4, Agreement on the Division of Responsibilities within the Federation of BiH, VI. A parity commission will be established for tracing disappeared persons.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

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