

## **AESI and Sarajevo, a longtime cooperation:**

The history of the AESI regarding the cooperation between diplomacy, universities and military forces was born in the aftermath of Dayton Agreements in Sarajevo, signed by the parties and by US President Clinton, French President Jacques Chirac, British Prime Minister John Major, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Paris on December 14, 1995. These accords put an end to the three and a half year long Bosnian War, with the aim to promote peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It preserved Bosnia as a single state made up of two parts, the Bosnian Croat federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic, with Sarajevo remaining as the undivided capital city. According to the Agreement, the parties had to fully respect human rights and the rights of refugees as well as displaced persons. In addition, the parties agreed to cooperate with all entities, including those authorized by the United Nations Security Council. The process was led by Richard Holbrooke, who was the chief U.S. peace negotiator, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The purpose of the AESI, through a concrete program, was to meet the rectors of the Universities of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Representation of the United Nations Secretary General. In addition, the collaboration with EUFOR through the Commander General Castagnotto was an important opportunity to see the synergy of all the international actors.

“A lot of people were killed; this is not ethical. Nevertheless, compared to how it was before, the situation has improved. Now for our students it is not a problem to go to the other side of the country, because we have two countries in one country. In a few years the situation will probably be completely normal”. - Prof. Boris Tihi (Rector of Sarajevo University).

Furthermore, the Representation of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jacques Paul Klein, thanked Professor Massimo Caneva for his remarkable job, for the Association and especially for his friendly support over the years. “There is a need to re-build the Social fabric, the peacekeepers have allowed the return to normality according to the security system. Now it is necessary to re-establish reciprocity, which is the purpose of our visit here with the University and with many professors, young people coming from different cities, to resume this cultural discourse”. - Prof. Massimo Caneva.

But above all, this program left a mark on the students who took part: "This opportunity helped me, as a person, to become more open and critical towards our reality; it helped me professionally by achieving new knowledges and skills" - Dr. Miroslav Zivanovic (Former Master Student, Sarajevo University)

"This program is very important for students in the crisis areas and the university must cooperate in order to maintain dialogue" Dr. Dragana Dordevic, (Former Master Student, University of Belgrade, Serbia).

Moreover, AESI has built over the years a significant collaboration among the Universities. As matter of fact, Belgrade University Rector recently sent an important message promoting peace, and

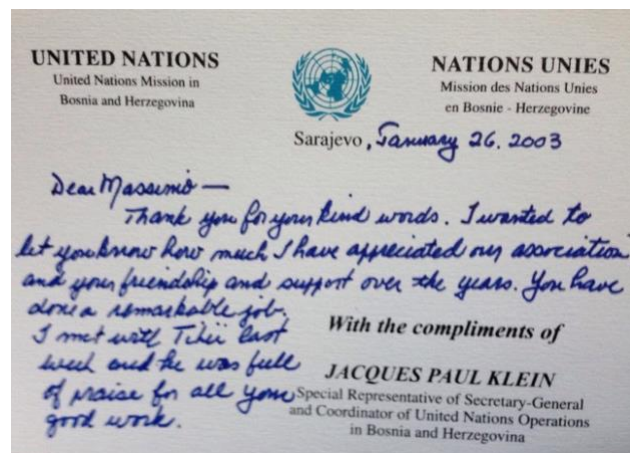
cooperation and dialogue which are the basis of the International relations: “The University of Belgrade is pleased to be part in the Rome International Seminar. We have participated at this event for many years, and we are very committed to peace and reconciliation in all the regions of the world. I think in this time of the pandemic and other social challenges that are affecting our world it is necessary to hear each other and to promote the dialogue and provide tolerance. Together we can work on maintaining a sustainable future for all of us”.

During the program, it was a privilege for AESI to have over 120 students in the Middle East, Israelis and Palestinians who work in politics and in the diplomacy world”, said Professor Caneva during the conference. AESI committed to convince so many people that it is possible together, old and new generations, to lead this world into a peace situation. We are living through an historic period of chance in which conflicts develop in critical areas of the world. Our tools are dialogue and cooperation, starting from the Universities in order to promote the Human Rights, the dignity and identity of the human person.



Prof. Borsi Tihi – Rector of University of Sarajevo and Prof. Maria Bogdavic -Rector of the University of Belgrade – at the HQ Italian Peace Military Forces Tito Barack in Sarajevo (on the left).

Prof. Borsi Tihi and Prof. Maria Bogdavic met again ten years later thanks to AESI and the Italian Commander of EUFOR at the BUTMIR HQ in Sarajevo (on the right).



Ambassador J.P. Kelin Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN in Sarajevo with Professor Massimo Maria Caneva and the message from Ambassador J.P. Kelin Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN in Sarajevo to Prof. Massimo Maria Caneva.

More info:

Past Students - Dr. Miroslav Zivanovic University of Sarajevo / Dr. Dragana Dordevic University of Belgrade VIDEO : [https://youtu.be/ipgopIq\\_c84](https://youtu.be/ipgopIq_c84)

AESI Strategy: <https://youtu.be/hPXGkZc7Nno>

Prove di Pace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LebU97Y7D5A&feature=youtu.be>

Vice Rector of the University of Sarajevo: [https://youtu.be/L6X9\\_SsAAj0](https://youtu.be/L6X9_SsAAj0)

Rector of the University of Belgrade: <https://youtu.be/vI7-5hDPn4M>

Past Students of the University of Sarajevo and the University of Belgrade: [https://youtu.be/ipgopIq\\_c84](https://youtu.be/ipgopIq_c84)

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