



PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE OF THE NAIROBI SUMMIT ON A MINE-FREE WORLD

WOLFGANG PETRITSCH

In September 2003, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, Austria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, was elected **President-Designate** of the Convention's First Review Conference. This event is being referred to as the **2004 Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World**, given the location of the event and the fact that it will mark the midway point between the Convention's entry-into-force and the first deadlines for States to have cleared mined areas. In this role, Petritsch is charged with leading the substantive preparations for the *Nairobi Summit*, including the development of a concrete action plan to complete the job of eliminating anti-personnel mines.

Prior to his appointment as Austria's Permanent Representative in Geneva, Petritsch served between August 1999 and May 2002 as the International Community's **High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina**. In this role, Petritsch was the final authority on civilian implementation of the 1995 **Dayton Peace Agreement**. While living in Bosnia and Herzegovina – one of the most mine-infested countries in the world – Petritsch witnessed first-hand the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines.

Petritsch's experience in the former Yugoslavia stretches back to 1997 when he was appointed Austrian Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. From October 1998 to July 1999 he served as the **European Union's Special Envoy for Kosovo** and in February and March of 1999 as the **European Union's Chief Negotiator** at the **Kosovo peace talks** in **Rambouillet** and **Paris**. Petritsch's diplomatic career also has seen him serve in Paris and New York.

Wolfgang Petritsch was born on 26 August 1947 in Klagenfurt, Austria. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Petritsch's reflections on international affairs have been published extensively in the world's leading newspapers and he is the author or co-author of several books, including most recently *Bosnia and Herzegovina: From Dayton to Europe* and *the Long Road to Peace: Kosovo and the International Community, 1989-2004*.