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## EU SENDS MORE TROOPS TO BOSNIA AS RUSSIA DEFENDS SERB LEADER

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By Una Hajdari

*Moscow supported Milorad Dodik after he banned the judiciary and security forces in Serb-majority regions following his conviction, sparking sharp condemnation from the U.S. and the EU.*

The EU is boosting the size of its peacekeeping mission in Bosnia after recently convicted Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik banned state-level institutions in Serb regions, sparking separatist fears.

The EU will temporarily increase the size of its force, the European Union Force Bosnia Herzegovina, or EUFOR, said in a statement late Friday. This is a proactive measure aimed at assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in the interest of all citizens, it said. EUFOR said the increase will occur in the coming days but gave no details. Local media reports say the EU will add 400 troops to its 1,100-strong force next week.

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