

**Initiative for stimulation of foreign investments**

## **Paddy Ashdown Requests Proposals from 500 Businessmen**

*The High Representative requests answers to the question what the state should change in order to improve business\* Reform shall succeed if businessmen participate in it*

**[P.4]** Paddy Ashdown shall personally engage in a more efficient removing of roadblocks that make BiH unattractive for businessmen, with a system that does not stimulate foreign and local investors to invest.

As “Dnevni Avaz” found out, at the HR’s initiative, more than 500 businessmen sent forms about ways in which BiH regulations should be changed, what problems have they been faced with so far and proposals for overcoming these problems.

### **Numerous answers**

“Their replies are already arriving, and they expressed their interest to participate in this process. Ashdown’s standpoint is that the reform of this BiH society segment can be successful only if businessmen themselves participate in it. They know best what should be changed and how to do it in details,” Julian Braithwaite, OHR spokesman told Dnevni Avaz. He emphasized that the OHR and Bulldozer Committee should present the first ten measures for stimulation of BiH business very soon.

### **Urgent changes**

“The first ten roadblocks that should be eliminated will be identified, within a system that needs to help, instead of obstructing potential investors. We expect that they be sent to the parliamentary procedure before the New Year and implementation of required changes as soon as possible. OHR and the High Representative shall personally insist on urgent changing of these regulations. BiH has no time to waste,” Braithwaite said. He warns about the issue of decreasing inflow of donations that need to be superseded by systematic solutions and investments that will create the most attractive investment space in the whole region out of BiH.

### **Concrete proposals**

“Among replies we received, they propose, for instance, a comprehensive reform and thorough liberalization of bus traffic regime. Also, we receive proposals for streamlining of tourism fees, resolving the issue of multiple taxation etc. These are detailed issues that most politicians know nothing about,” Braithwaite said.

