



High Representative: Time to advance party talks so Mostarians can vote

High Representative Valentin Inzko today met with nine political parties from Mostar at their request to discuss the implementation of the ruling of the BiH Constitutional Court concerning the City of Mostar's electoral system.

The High Representative welcomed the discussions the parties have been holding and encouraged them and the other political parties, most notably the SDA and HDZ BiH, to intensify their talks to reach an agreement that can be submitted for adoption by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. "I encourage all parties to speed up their efforts and to develop concrete proposals to implement the ruling of the BiH Constitutional Court concerning the City of Mostar. I remind them of the position of the PIC Steering Board that Mostar remains a single, coherent, multi-ethnic unit of local self-government, with some level of local authority/administration below that of the city," the High Representative said.

The High Representative repeated his longstanding offer to the parties to provide assistance to their efforts to reach an agreement, but stressed that the proposals for implementing the ruling of the BiH Constitutional Court should come from the parties. "What we now need to see is a readiness to negotiate in good faith. This will require a softening of attitudes and a basic level of political will that has so far been missing."

"I continue to believe that a breakthrough can be made that is in the interests of all the citizens of Mostar so that they can finally be empowered to enjoy their basic right to elect their local representatives. This is what we look forward to seeing in the near future," the High Representative said.