

Police directors are not political appointees

In response to media reports and speculation that political parties are discussing a new appointment of the SIPA Director as part of the distribution of political appointments, the OHR wants to make clear that this is contrary to the Law on Police Officials.

Continued speculation along these lines or attempts to change existing provisions to allow political appointments for police directors would be contrary not only to the law but also to best practice for ensuring professional policing in BiH with adequate protections against improper political control.

The Law on Police Officials has explicit provisions to ensure that police directors are selected only from currently serving police officials having the highest ranks with the necessary skills and years of experience and for fixed term mandates. These provisions are designed intentionally as barriers to improper political control of police. Police directors are not subject to reappointment on the basis of election cycles.