



Inzko: The voice of the people must be heard

"I fully and whole-heartedly support the right of citizens to protest in a democratic and peaceful manner. Citizens are deeply concerned for their future and rightly expect their politicians to listen to them", High Representative Valentin Inzko said today after meeting with representatives of the citizens' plenum and the Cantonal Assembly in Zenica.

"Over the last few weeks, we have heard many legitimate demands regarding the current economic, social and political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The fact that citizens have taken to the streets and are gathering in plenums to express their dissatisfaction shows that democracy has taken roots amongst the people. This is one of the most positive developments in the recent history of this country", Inzko said.

"What I have heard from citizens is that institutions need to function well and should be in the service of the people who pay taxes, not the political party leaders who sometimes seem above the institutions themselves. In short, citizens want a dignified and normal life."

The High Representative stressed that every generation has a role to play in making their country a better place to live. "The role of this generation is to make elected representatives finally listen to the concerns of their citizens. People across Bosnia and Herzegovina are no longer afraid to make their voices heard."

"The messages from Zenica and other towns are clear: the problems corruption, economic inequality and unresponsive public service must be addressed; justice, jobs, adequate health care and a good education system must be available to all and not only the privileged ones. It is high time that the voice of the protesters is heard and that politicians address their justified concerns."

In his meeting with the leadership of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly, the High Representative stressed the need for the institutions to function and to engage in a serious dialogue with citizens.