A Public Debate about How to Move Forward



High Representative and EU Special Representative Valentin Inzko held talks yesterday evening with HDZ 1990 President Bozo Ljubic. The meeting was the latest in a series of meetings the HR/EUSR has had with BiH party leaders.

"Clearly, party leaders are under a moral obligation to do everything they can to secure progress rather than intensify problems," the HR/EUSR said, "and I believe that voters will reward the parties that are seen to be constructively addressing citizens' concerns rather than those who do not."

The HR/EUSR said progress could be achieved on two levels.

He said if party leaders focus on practical issues, particularly those that will get Bosnia and Herzegovina back onto the Euro-Atlantic integration path and turn the economy around, the campaign can be turned into a public debate about how to move forward – and this will benefit the entire country and everyone in it.

At the same time, he said, parties can use the remaining five and a half months to enact — even at this late stage — reforms on the EU agenda that at the same time will help revive the economy. "Campaign season does not mean that nothing constructive can be done," he said.