

## <u>Statement: High Representative To Suspend FBiH Government Appointment Decision</u>

The OHR is concerned that there has been an attempt to manipulate the vetting process.

This manipulation is even more evident given the fact that the OHR had informed FBiH leaders that it was ready to announce the results of the vetting process as early as tomorrow.

Vetting was introduced with the agreement of BiH's political parties to strengthen the systems that scrutinize government and prevent abuses of power.

FBiH President Borjana Kristo requested nominatees to be vetting by the OHR prior to their appointment.

The OHR has repeated the position that that Ministerial appointments must not go ahead until the vetting process is complete. The difference between OHR's commitment to complete the process and today's vote was a matter of days.

This hurried attempt to elect a government after five months of delay is not acceptable. The Federation Government is subject to vetting procedures in the same way as the RS and the Cantons.

The High Representative will issue his decision tomorrow.