

Schwarz-Schilling Disappointed at Cancellation of HOR Session and Possible Delay of Government Formation

The High Representative and EU Special Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, expressed disappointment at the cancellation of tomorrow's session of Bosnia and Herzegovina's newly inaugurated House of Representatives.

"The cancellation of tomorrow's session of the House of Representatives and the reasons for its cancellation are unacceptable, given the extent and importance of the workload ahead of this institution," the High Representative and EU Special Representative said.

"While there are linkages between party representation in the parliament and on the Council of Ministers, the functioning of the legislative branch of government cannot be held hostage to coalition negotiations.

"The holding of coalition talks in Sarajevo yesterday was a positive step, even though they broke down without delivering any results.

"By contrast, it is an impossible proposition that the conclusion of coalition talks should await the formation of the Federation House of Peoples. This could delay the formation of a State Government by weeks or months, a delay that Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot afford."

"The citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the international community expect coalition formation to move forward in a spirit of cooperation and without delay. I will

personally convey this message to the party leaders concerned," Mr Schwarz-Schilling concluded.