

Statement: OHR Responds to Press Report in which Mr. Prlic Suggests New Arrangement for RTV Tax Collection

Bosnia and Herzegovina is obliged under the EU Stabilization and Association agreement to implement necessary Public Broadcasting legislation and to introduce the financially sustainable Public Broadcasting System for BiH. The BiH parliament has determined by law that the three-telecom operators in BiH shall collect the RTV tax for the period of the first System license. The details of this legal obligation has been further elaborated in a contract that the three telecom operators signed with the public RTV services on 18 November 2005. Senior Deputy High Representative, Ambassador Martin Ney, was therefore surprised to read that the HT Director, Mr. Prlic, is hoping for the new arrangements with the PBS and CRA, when only recently HT Mostar signed the contract. "I would like to remind Mr. Prlic that paying of the RTV tax is a legal obligation and that the three telecoms in BiH are required by law to carry it out," said Ambassador Martin Ney. Ambassador further stated that the three telecom operators had enough time to prepare their operations to enforce the new contract from 1 January 2006. In addition, Ambassador clarified that the PBS law in no way violates the provisions of the BiH Consumers law.