

OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference

BiH Government Still Has A Chance

On Prime Minister's Terzic explicit request late last night — and based on his firm belief that the Council of Ministers would act — the High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, has given the CoM until the end of today to agree to send the draft Law on the Intelligence and Security Agency to the Parliamentary Assembly at the Council's session this Friday.

The Law on the Intelligence and Security Agency would have to be a version in line with European standards.

The High Representative firmly believes that if there is a chance that the Council of Ministers will discharge its responsibility and push the reform agenda forward in a timely manner then this opportunity should be given. The High Representative today awaits confirmation from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and his two Deputies; the Minister of Security, Barisa Colak, and the Foreign Minister, Mladen Ivanic, that the draft Law on the Intelligence and Security Agency will be agreed at the Council of Ministers session on Friday and that it will be sent, in an acceptable form, to the Parliamentary Assembly at that time.

This would be the best indication that the Council of Ministers is are ready to ensure that BiH can take it's place in the fight against international terrorism and crime.