

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

Efficiency The Key In Resolving Outstanding ITC Law Issues

The High Representative yesterday received a draft Law on the Indirect Taxation System in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Chairman of the Indirect Tax Policy Commission, Joly Dixon.

The High Representative noted that the Commission had set an example of co-operation, consensus and courage. It is an example that can be followed in resolving the most difficult and demanding challenges still faced by BiH.

As you know, two areas of a technical nature have still to be resolved. These are: the location of the headquarters and regional offices of the Indirect Taxation Authority and the means of making decisions on the Governing Board when there is no consensus. The Commission has ensured that the interests of all BiH citizens are protected – the political parties must now ensure that the law is adopted and efficiently implemented.

The political parties represented in the BiH Parliament must now debate the outstanding issues, and a conclusion reached before the Law goes into parliamentary procedure. The High Representative has said that the OHR is willing to give all the assistance it can in resolving these outstanding issues, which, given the fundamental importance of this legislation to prosperity of BiH and its citizens, must not be allowed to spawn complex and unnecessary bureaucracy, or make the law ineffective, or otherwise deprive the people of this country of the benefits that the law is designed to deliver.

Efficiency and efficacy must be underlining philosophy of these discussions.

The High Representative reminded the political parties yesterday that the point of this law is to deliver benefits to citizens, effectively and efficiently. He said the success of the ITP Commission could be repeated by other, similar commissions.