

High Representative Appoints the Members of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils at State and Entity Level

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, yesterday issued a Decision to reform the justice system in BiH by appointing members to the three High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils at the BiH and Entity level. These councils will be responsible for strengthening the integrity and independence of the judicial system. A full list of the appointees, comprising prominent local and international judges, prosecutors and legal practitioners, is attached.

The High Representative also issued a Decision today giving the Independent Judicial Commission a new mandate, making it clear that its primary purpose is now to serve as secretariat for the Councils in the selection of the judges and prosecutors in the re-structured judicial and prosecutorial system.

The FBiH and RS Entity Councils will each have sixteen members – both will include the same eight international members, together with six national members from that Entity and two national members from the Council of the other Entity. The BiH Council will have all eight international and the twelve national members of the Entity Councils, plus five more national members, giving a total of twenty-five.

All Councils will be chaired by Judge Jan Erik Oja of Sweden, and the deputy chairperson will be Mr John Peyton, a prosecutor from the USA currently working in BiH.

These reforms will streamline the justice system in BiH. The three new Councils replace the 24 judicial and prosecutorial commissions and

councils set up in 2000.

The Councils are charged with the appointment of all judges and prosecutors in BiH, with some exceptions such as the Constitutional and Minor Offence Courts. They will also conduct proceedings against judges and prosecutors alleged to have committed disciplinary offences.

In addition to appointing and disciplining judges and prosecutors, the Councils will in the future carry out a range of other activities, such as supervising advanced professional training for judges and prosecutors. From the year 2004 the Councils will also make Court budget recommendations to Parliaments to ensure that Courts are properly and independently funded and supported.

Appointments to the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska

High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Zdenko Eterovic FBiH	Judge of the Supreme Court of the
Ms. Alma Tiric	Deputy Prosecutor of the FBiH
Mr. Davorin Jukic Sarajevo	Judge of the Cantonal Court
Mr. Izo Tankic	Cantonal Prosecutor Tuzla
Ms. Danka Vucina	Attorney, Mostar
Mr. Kasim Begic Sarajevo	Professor of the Law Faculty in

High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of the Republika Srpska

Mr. Stevan Savic Judge of the Supreme Court of
the RS

Ms. Svetlana Maric Deputy Basic Public Prosecutor
Banja Luka

Ms. Marica Vucetic-Zelenbabic Judge of the District Court Doboj

Ms. Ranka Mrsic Deputy District Public
Prosecutor Srpsko Sarajevo

Mr. Milorad Ivosevic Attorney, Banja Luka

Mr. Branko Peric Journalist, Banja Luka

International Members to Serve on the High Judicial Councils of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the Republika Sprska

Mr. Silvio
Bonfigli Prosecutor
(Italy)

Mr. Christopher Harland Attorney
(Canada)

Mr. Carlos
Lobo Judge (Po
rtugal)

Ms. Susanne
Moeller Judge (Finla
nd)

Mr. Jan Erik Oja
Judge (Sweden)

Ms. Sylvie Pantz

Judge	(France)
Mr. John Peyton Prosecutor	(United States)
Dr. Axel Schwarz (Germany)	Attorney

**Additional Members of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH
(appointed for a transitional period up until 31 December 2003).**

Mr. Branko Morait	Judge of Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr. Venceslav Ilic Herzegovina	Judge of Court of Bosnia and
Mr. Mirza Jusufovic District	Judge of the Appellate Court of Brcko
Mr. Zekerija Mujkanovic	Public Prosecutor of Brcko District
Ms. Ljiljana Mijovic in Banja Luka	Assistant Professor of the Law Faculty

**International members of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils
appointed as President and Vice President of each of the three Councils.**

Mr. Jan Erik Oja	President
Mr. John Peyton	Vice President