

Decision removing Mr. Savo Celkovic from his position of President of Executive Board of Vlasenica

To: Savo Celkovic
President of the Executive Board

Sarajevo, November 29, 1999

Dear Mr. Savo Celkovic,

For reasons outlined in the attached Decision, we herewith notify you of the following: under the powers vested in the High Representative, you are removed from public office with immediate effect. In addition, in accordance with the Provisional Election Commission Rules and Regulations, this Decision bars you from being a candidate in the upcoming municipal elections.

It is with great regret that we are forced to acknowledge that during your term in office not only have you failed to show any commitment to the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, but you have also seriously and persistently obstructed its implementation.

Wolfgang Petritsch
High Representative

Robert L. Barry
Chairman of the PEC
OSCE Head of Mission

In the exercise of the powers vested in the High Representative by Article 5 of the Annex 10 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to which the High Representative *'is the final authority in the theater regarding interpretation of [the] Agreement on the civilian implementation of the peace agreement'*;

Endorsing the interpretation of these powers given in paragraph XI, 2 of the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference held in Bonn on 10 December 1997, in particular, sub-paragraph c thereof, by means of which the High Representative is entitled to take actions against persons holding public office who are found by the High Representative to be in violation of legal commitments made under the Peace Agreement or the terms of its implementation;

Noting the reiteration of the acknowledgement of such powers by the Peace Implementation Council in Chapter X of the Annex to the Madrid Declaration of 16 December 1998;

Considering the mandate entrusted with the Provisional Election Commission under Article III of the Annex 3 to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Article 7.10 of the Rules and Regulations adopted thereafter which provides that *no person who has been removed by the High Representative shall be permitted to be a candidate in the elections*.

We hereby issue the following

Decision

To remove Mr. Savo Celkovic from his position of President of the Executive Board Vlasenica and to ban him from being a candidate for the next municipal elections or to hold any executive office at any level, unless authorised to do so.

This Decision has immediate effect.

Reasons for removal

Mr. Savo Celkovic has abused his power by persistently and seriously obstructing the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. By pursuing an extra-legal agenda, he has consistently refused to take ownership of the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In particular,

- Mr. Savo Celkovic, in his capacity as President of the Executive Board Vlasenica, systematically attempted to prevent the establishment of a Property Commission. Mr. Savo Celkovic was extremely uncooperative, refusing to meet to discuss the establishment of the Property Commission.
- Mr. Savo Celkovic finally accepted the establishment of a Property Commission under the condition that two members be appointed by the President of the Executive Board. Not surprisingly, these two members consistently obstructed the Commission's work, especially by repeatedly preventing the eviction of double occupants.
- These two members also repeatedly intervened with the work of the OMI on evictions and made a number of covert threats. This is particularly ominous in view of the subsequent violent attacks aimed at the OMI officer.
- The municipality has passed a number of discriminatory administrative tax laws. When confronted with the issue by the international community, Mr. Savo Celkovic admitted that these laws were designed to penalize Bosniaks. In spite of Mr. Savo Celkovic's agreement to have these discriminatory laws repealed, this has yet to happen.

All of the above establishes a disturbing and unacceptable pattern of deliberate attempts to obstruct the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. For these reasons, we hereby remove Mr. Savo Celkovic from the position of President of the Executive Board Vlasenica. The Decision will be effective immediately and will not require any further procedural steps.

The position left vacant by Mr. Savo Celkovic's removal will be filled by the Municipal Assembly in accordance with the appropriate regulations. In order to protect the institution to which a replacement is to be elected, no further actions are to be taken by the relevant authorities until OHR and OSCE communicate that there are no objections and that the proposed name can proceed further through the appropriate process.

Sarajevo, 29 November 1999

Wolfgang Petritsch
High Representative

Robert L. Barry
Chairman of the PEC
OSCE Head of Mission

Office of the High Representative