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OHR Bulldozer Committee Finishes Job

Front Page Headline

Paddy Ashdown Worries about Possible Lack of Nuts for Baklava

*They shall give a 39-day deadline to BiH authorities to “destroy” 50 legal roadblocks for business development * Bosnia needs atomic shelters?*

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P.10] The Bulldozer Committee warned the state government on Monday about 50 roadblocks for business development in BiH and requested that they “destroy” the roadblocks by changing the law within 39 days.

The High Representative, **Paddy Ashdown** said that businessmen in BiH agree that there are laws in BiH, which “turn off foreign investors and disable business activities.” As an example, Ashdown said that laws did not protect local producers either. “I was told that in two years Bosnia will be out of nuts for baklava if laws are not changed,” he said.

Business roadblocks

The Bulldozer Committee was formed by the OHR last November. In 110 days and after several discussions, they recognized key roadblocks for business development. And what is it that the BiH businessmen request? “Abolishment of atomic shelter fees. This is compulsory at present, according to the Defense Law, inherited from the former Yugoslavia. This law should be abolished,” **Tomislav Grizelj**, Chairman of the FBiH Association of Employers, said. Businessmen are convinced that atomic shelters are not needed in BiH, because there will be no more wars or environmental catastrophes. Just to remind you, many buildings, especially in Sarajevo were illegally built on atomic shelters.

The *Raiffeisen Bank* BiH Director, **Edin Muftic** said that foreign companies should be enabled to open a single representative office in BiH.

“Foreign companies open an office in order to explore the market and decide how much money they would invest in a new project in BiH. But when they have to open two offices, one in the BiH Federation and the other one in the RS, it seems to them as if BiH is divided in two economic spaces,” Muftic said.

Alija Baksic, Chairman of the association DRVO BiH says that wood industry requests that authorities prevent operations of illegal sawmills and protect local fruits and forests that have been endangered for years.

Enough time

The prime minister of BiH Council of Ministers, **Adnan Terzic** said that the 39-day deadline was not short for the new state government.

“Next week, a government commission will be formed, which will consider all recommendations and changes in laws. Bulldozer precisely listed all existing problems in BiH,” Terzic said.

No Bulldozer Ride

On Monday, Paddy Ashdown wanted to drive around Sarajevo streets in a bulldozer, in order to show symbolically that the time has come to remove roadblocks, but he did not do this. No one explained journalists why.

