

## **Bulldozer Committee Presents Roadblocks**

Front Page Headline

# **Politicians Get 39 Days To Implement 50 Recommendations**

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**[P.8] SARAJEVO – The International community High Representative and Bulldozer Committee members presented results of their work during the past 150 days.**

The subject is 50 recommendations of the Committee for changes of the existing law regulations. The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown reminded about objectives that he said he would advocate at the beginning of his mandate: to make a legal space in BiH with the highest level of trust, to arrange political space and make BiH a space where it would be easiest to do business. However, the most important objective is the one that will result in new jobs, economy development and economic safety, Ashdown said. This is the aim of the 50 recommendations.

### **Laws make business difficult**

These changes include collected opinions of businessmen from BiH about what should be done in order to facilitate business operations. Numerous public gatherings took place in all larger towns – Sarajevo, Mostar, Zenica, Travnik, Bihac, Banja Luka, Tuzla and Breko. It was found that

most business problems are caused by the existing laws. In some cases laws are good, but they also have contradictory and counterproductive provisions. “Some laws make business operations difficult, discouraging investors and disabling creation of new jobs,” HR said, adding that there are also laws written by non-professionals. During the last 110 days, the Bulldozer Committee made 50 recommendations for law changes. Some will affect lives of each individual citizen, Ashdown emphasized.

“If laws in forestry and environment, and especially fruit-growing don’t change, in two years there will be no more nuts even for baklava,” the HR said. He especially pointed out the fact that recommendations were made based on opinions and suggestions from employers. The above-mentioned recommendations for law changes shall remove unnecessary bureaucratic procedures for business in our country. “These recommendations should be implemented within the next 39 days. Businessmen did their part of the work. Now, it is politicians’ turn. If managed to perform this task – 50 reforms in 150 days, now it is

politicians' task to implement this

### **Foreign investments – development key**

Chairman of the BiH Federation Association of Employers, Tomislav Grizelj mentioned that the Bulldozer Committee consists of representatives of five international organizations and 20 local organizations from various fields. Speaking about recommendations, Grizelj said that the law provision saying that each company should have an atomic shelter is still effective. It was concluded that such provision has no basis any longer and that it should be abolished. He also said that entities and Brcko District currently implement different criteria for establishment of an l.t.d. (d.o.o.), and according to one recommendation, they should be harmonized. They also recommend allowing of company establishment with smaller capital amount, for example KM 2000, provided that each shareholder has at least KM 100 of foundation capital. It was emphasized that, among other things, they recommended simplification of the whole procedure for company establishment. It was said that foreign investments are key for development of our country, but also that legal procedure for instance for opening of representative offices of foreign companies is very complicated. Besides, if a representative office has been opened in one entity, it means nothing in the other entity, and special approvals are required. On the other hands, this leaves the impression about existence of two separate markets. They also said that among numerous sawmills in BiH, less than 20% operate legally. Besides, even noble wood is exported as logs, instead of engagement of local wood-processing capacities.

further,” Ashdown said.

### **Ashdown: BiH should look up to Hungary**

Finally, the HR said that BiH should look up to Hungary that already implemented reforms that are yet waiting for us. The full text of Bulldozer recommendations was submitted to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, who attended yesterday's presentation. Terzic said that the government must try to implement Bulldozer recommendations. “I am glad that the OHR and the Committee who made recommendations let legal institutions in BiH try to remove all existing barriers. In the middle of the month, we shall have a coordination body that will consider the document and give tasks to both Council of ministers and entity governments how quickly and in which way these issues should be resolved,” Terzic said. When asked about the 39-day deadline, Terzic said that he could not say precisely whether it would be met, because he was not acquainted with working dynamics of BiH Parliament for this month, but that the Council of Ministers and entity governments would do their best to meet their deadlines. Although some media announced that the HR would drive around in a bulldozer that was parked in the OHR yard, there was no such ride. Himself and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic just sat in the vehicle, symbolically showing their support for the Bulldozer project.

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5. str.

## **POLITIČARIMA 39 DANA ZA** **PROVEDBU 50 PREPORUKA**

