

Bulldozer Committee gave a task to local authorities

Front Page Headline

Ashdown: Authorities Get 40 Days to Remove 50 Roadblocks

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[P.2] SARAJEVO – OHR gave a 40-day deadline to BiH authorities to remove 50 roadblocks for direct foreign investments and creation of jobs. Representatives of the international community and local businessmen, gathered at the Bulldozer Committee identified 50 such roadblocks within the past 110 days. The HR, Paddy Ashdown yesterday gave the list of 50 economic reforms that should be implemented in the following period to Adnan Terzic, Chairman of the Council of Ministers. “In order to accomplish the most important objective set by the international community, it is necessary to adopt 50 changes in 40 days, and the time has already started leaking,” Ashdown said yesterday, looking at his hand watch. As he said, many problems are caused by laws, which are generally good, but certain provisions are counterproductive and should be changed. Bulldozer Committee did an excellent job by identifying roadblocks, and now it is up to the Council of Ministers and entity governments to remove these roadblocks,” Terzic said. When asked how realistic is to remove 50 roadblocks for a bit longer than one month, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers says it is realistic to try. “I think that the Council of Ministers and entity governments will fulfill their obligations in time, and work of parliaments shall depend on dynamics of their session,” Terzic emphasized.

As one of the obstacles for a more successful business, Tomislav Grizelj, Chairman of the BiH Association of employers mentioned some provisions of the Law on defense in FBiH. “When an employer wants to build or expand a warehouse, he needs to pay atomic shelter fee to municipal authorities. This provision was taken over from the former state and it is unnecessary. This is why it should be abolished,” Grizelj said. One of the roadblocks for direct foreign investments, according to Edin Muftic, general manager of the Raiffeisen Bank is the fact that when evaluating the market and business possibilities, foreign investors must register the so-called representative offices in both BiH entities.

“Here one gets the impression that there are totally different markets,” Muftic concluded.

Also, existence of a large number of illegal sawmills that operate in the whole of BiH was emphasized as one of the problems, because they create illegal competition, and the value of goods is reduced both in local and international markets.

Members of the Bulldozer Committee posed for reporters and cameramen yesterday in front of the OHR building in Sarajevo by a bulldozer, with helmets.

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