

**Defending profit and social safety of employees**

## **FBiH Employers Declare War Against FBiH Government?**

*Why do only entrepreneurs from Sarajevo Canton pay fees to the chamber?*

[P.3] Association of employers in FBiH is very surprised by information from the last session of the Federation Government, where they discussed recommendations of OHR Bulldozer Commission among other things, and by the fact that proposals for putting chambers of commerce on a voluntary funding were not supported, which questions their further work, press release from this Association reads.

Let's remind ourselves, employers continue, that the previous government in one of their last sessions (December 30, 2002), after recommendation of the International labor organization adopted changes and amendments to the above-mentioned Law on chambers and sent it to the parliamentary procedure with identical changes.

### **Third arm**

Having in mind that the proposal on changes to the above-mentioned law has not reached the Federation Parliament, employers' associations from municipal up to federal levels restarted the initiative through "Bulldozer", in order to resolve once and for all the issue of voluntary membership fees in all associations. Our opinion is, the press release of the Association of employers reads, that we should abandon practice that chambers continue functioning as the third arm of the state based on pre-war solutions, where they employ useless staff and pay for activities that have little to do with improvement of business and promotion of BiH economy abroad.

Also, we remind about obligations that the state of BiH signed through a large number of conventions of the International Labor Association concerning freedom of joining, tri-partism, social justice etc., and it is obliged to implement them. Therefore, we do not want that wrong decisions cause any consequences and slow down our path towards joining Europe and its integrations that this exhausted people chose to do.

### **And equality?**

Employers are surprised by such standpoints of Federation government, because everyone should know that, regardless of consequences, we shall start a public campaign about non-implementation of the above-mentioned legal obligations concerning mandatory payment of various fees, and we are ready to bear any consequences i.e. pay for them, just like we pay for many other unnecessary things in our country.

Just to remind: mainly entrepreneurs from Sarajevo Canton currently pay membership fees (57%) to the Foreign Trade Chamber, and when you calculate everything, it is not even 20% of what should be collected on the BiH level. RS businessmen paid only 0.44% out of total collected fees to this chamber, which is not sufficient for two average salaries with social benefits of the above-mentioned institution chairman, who comes from the above-mentioned entity. How can we want to keep legal obligation to pay membership fees from gross salaries of the employees in economy, when all businessmen are not in the same position? For ones it is mandatory, and for the others it isn't?

This is why none of employers who pay their obligations to the state and to whom profit is the most important thing wish to pay something for which they do not see a direct connection with their business and survival on the market. This is why we are asking the ministers at the Council of ministers, Federation and RS governments, when they make final decisions about freedom of joining and payment of unnecessary, but mandatory fees to think about it well, the press release of the Employers' Association reads among other things.

