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Paddy Ashdown Congratulates Bulldozer Committee

“Unparalleled” Speed in Reform Adoption

In average, entity governments and parliaments each adopted one reform every four days

[P.5] The High Representative, **Paddy Ashdown** congratulated on Saturday Bulldozer Committee members and their partners in state and entity governments and parliaments for passing in average one economic reform every four days since the beginning of the initiative with an “unparalleled” speed in this country.

New reforms

The 49th reform concerning the environmental protection was adopted on Wednesday at the FBiH House of Peoples session. The 50th reform concerns abolishment of monopoly of the RS Administration for geodesy and legal-property affairs in land survey. It is currently a subject of a public debate in the RS and it is expected that the RS National Assembly will adopt the reform by the end of May.

The High Representative said that the Bulldozer strategy has been fundamentally different from similar reform efforts, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in other countries. For the first time, economic reform in BiH has been led by businesspeople, not politicians or bureaucrats. The people who know most about job-creation and investment have been directly involved in removing the legal and bureaucratic barriers to economic growth.

The High Representative said: “The tangle of often contradictory business regulations make it almost illegal to run a profitable

business in this country. Thanks to the Bulldozer initiative, many of these job-destroying regulations are being swept aside.”

The High Representative noted that the Bulldozer Reforms were designed by businesspeople themselves and presented to political representatives through a process of open dialogue. They have generated a new type of partnership between political leaders and the private sector.

He also added that the business-focus of this approach had been the key to delivering tangible results.

Removing barriers

“By enacting reforms that remove inter-Entity barriers, by harmonizing legislation, by moving some competencies to the State level, the governments have put the economy first. That means they have put living standards first. They have put jobs first. They have put citizens first,” Paddy Ashdown said, OHR announced.

