

With Bulldozer to the Future (Easily Promised Speed)

[P. 6] Recently a daily newspaper published headline “50 new reforms by the end of the year”, with subtitle “One economic reform in every four days implemented, which is unprecedented.” Since the day when the news was published, I have been thinking about it. These are reforms of the well-known Bulldozer Committee of the high representative, although one of his close associates recently denied that this was the high representative’s committee and said he did not know who the committee members were or what were its competencies, obviously aware of insufficient seriousness of the “project” i.e. aware of the fact that this is Sisyphus’s work. However, 50 reforms in 187 days plus another 50 reforms during the rest of the year is not a small thing. This really is “unprecedented.” In any normal country, this news would be mocked at, as well as the very name of the committee: “Bulldozer Committee”. In this country, i.e. para-state, such news does not excite anyone. People are tired of “reforms.” They remember the easily promised reforms from the past and all benefits from such reforms. This people knows that in this country not even s... changes every four days. This people knows that this is throwing dust into their eyes again. This people knows what bulldozer is and what it serves for. Only representatives of current authorities are impressed by this move of the high representative. They know well that they are only nominal power holders and that they will remain on their positions only as long as the HR wants them to, as he put them there in the first place. It is not good to mess with him. One failure more or less in this questionable “state” means nothing. And the high representative recently stated: “What has been accomplished in BiH is almost unbelievable. This country is now in a far better situation than it was at the time of signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement.” To state this and stay alive... He forgot that this agreement had been signed almost eight years ago, that the “international community” invested more than \$4 million in reconstruction of BiH and that meanwhile BiH indebted abroad above its possibilities (this generation created debts for their sons and daughters, even grandchildren.) He forgot to ask common citizens what they thought about these achievements during the 8 years. The high representative is certainly not an uninformed man. He knows BiH very well, as it was in 1990, 1995 and today. I do not doubt his

honest intention to have a successful mandate as the high representative, to implement necessary reforms in BiH and put it on the path towards EU and other Euro-Atlantic integrations. But has he chosen the right methods to achieve this? I am afraid not. Did he choose the right people to achieve it with? I am afraid not. Daily rows of young people, and not just young in front of embassies of European countries in Sarajevo who wait for visas to move out of BiH are the best proof of their “trust” in the high representative’s reforms and future of this country. Despite of the “implemented reforms”, the increasing army of the poor, without shame or disgust, daily digs in trash containers looking for anything they can use. There are beggars everywhere. Misery and hopelessness cover this country. Only hopeless optimists still believe in better future of such country and themselves. Roundtables and various gatherings daily organized by NGOs all around BiH warn about the unsustainable situation. It seems as if the “international community” or the high representative are not interested in their proposals. Their proposals are simple and logical and can be reduced to a single request – “we want a normal country.” You have to admit, Mr. High Representative, that BiH is everything but a normal country. Country that has 14 constitutions, 14 parliaments, 14 governments, dozens of ministries and ministers, three armies and dozens of mutually non-harmonized i.e. opposite laws is not normal. Such country is unsustainable, at least from economic and political standpoints. Despite of all Bulldozer reforms. BiH economy, even with substantial help of the “international community” and debts abroad cannot finance such country. Nobody is satisfied with BiH organized in this way, except for international officials who are fantastically paid for their “work” and local political elites that daily “solve” problems. Path towards a normal BiH that many of its citizens want is not unknown or illogical. It leads through development and adoption of a new modern constitution, abolishment of entities, demilitarization of BiH, creation of a real single market on the territory of the whole BiH, introduction of single customs policy and administration and turning customs fees into original state income, VAT introduction on the state level and returning BiH all prerogatives that belong to modern and sovereign countries.

