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Why Bulldozer did not discuss the proposal from association "Drvo BiH"?

World Bank and IMF Against Temporary Ban on Export of Logs

Businessmen, entity governments, chairs of BiH Council of Ministers and all six regional bulldozer committees support ban on export of raw wood

[P.15] Although everyone in BiH unanimously support temporary ban on export of raw logs, at the last Bulldozer Committee meeting this proposal was removed from the agenda, due to opposition of the World Bank and IMF representatives.

No good arguments

At that meeting, agreement on this proposal was not reached because representatives of the World Bank and IMF think that measures limiting export cannot be introduced because BiH signed memorandum on joining WTO, Alija Remzo Baksic, secretary of the association "Drvo BiH" that submitted the proposal in behalf of BiH businessmen confirmed this information for Dnevni Avaz. "These arguments are good for nothing because currently 20 WTO member countries have introduced measures banning export. Besides, the whole EU policy is based on limitations and contingents, and no free trade principles are raised here. But when small BiH wants to protect its interests and ban export of raw materials, the question is raised what kind of message is this to foreign investors. Eventually, BiH as a state should not be interested in investors who will only invest in extracting of raw materials," Baksic said.

The association "Drvo BiH" submitted the proposal on temporary ban on export of logs from BiH to the Bulldozer Committee. This proposal was supported by entity governments, chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers and all six regional bulldozer committees.

No giving up

However, at the last Bulldozer Committee session, this proposal was not considered but, after insisting of World Bank and IMF representatives, it was offered that the proposal be changed to intensified customs control. But "Drvo BiH" association did not accept this because this was not their proposal originally, and therefore they decided to vote on this proposal at the next session.

"We will not give up from our requests. The Bulldozer Committee was formed as an institution where local businesspeople will present their requests, which will be respected. If six regional bulldozer committees supported the temporary ban on export of logs requested by businessmen from BiH, I see no reason why someone from aside would come and suspend everything due to their interests," Baksic said.

Suspicious sawmills

Baksic reminds that many in BiH claim that various illegal things are financed from uncontrolled tree cutting.

"For example, BiH media reported that three Karadzic's bodyguards own sawmills," he added.

Hope for the next session

"I hope that we will manage to convince everyone at the next Bulldozer Committee session on 4th of September that the temporary ban on export of logs is in the interest of BiH. Since they did not vote on our request at the last meeting, this means that there is space for further discussion on this issue," Baksic said.

