

5 Common Misconceptions about Police Restructuring

MYTH ONE: Police restructuring is a step towards abolishing the Entities.

Fact: No it isn't. Police re-structuring is only about establishing a professional police service and will not abolish the Entities. There is no plan to abolish the Entities.

MYTH TWO: Police restructuring will abolish the RS Ministry of Interior.

Fact: No. There is nothing being proposed that requires the abolition of the RS Ministry of Interior. Anyone who says this is mistaken.

MYTH THREE: The High Representative will impose police restructuring.

Fact: No. He won't and can't. It will be up to BiH's leaders to decide whether to give their agreement. However, police restructuring is an EU requirement: if political leaders say no to it, they will say no to the EU.

MYTH FOUR: It means centralizing policing in Sarajevo.

Fact: No. Police restructuring will have de-centralized local police services responsible for your local area. To help protect local interests, your local area will have its own Community Oversight Council. Also, as with the ITA, there is no reason the location of the new local police service must be in Sarajevo.

MYTH FIVE: There are no EU requirements for police reform.

Fact: Not true. The EU has said clearly that BiH must adopt police restructuring if it is to move forward towards the EU. The 3 key principles must be adhered to and the Police Restructuring Commission report is one way to do this.