

OHR's Statement at the International Agencies' Joint Press Conference in Banja Luka

Tourism and Forestry Can Create Jobs

The High Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, will present awards tomorrow evening at the Hotel Aqua in Sarajevo at the conclusion of an international cross-country ski championship sponsored by the German State of Hesse.

Among other things, the High Representative will stress that international events such as this represent just the tip of the huge economic potential that BiH's Alpine tourism resources represent - if they are properly developed. It also touches on the huge benefits that BiH can derive from the proper management of its vast forestry resources. As we know, serious failings in forestry management have been uncovered by a series of audit reports.

The High Representative's message will be that if BiH can start to organize its tourism sector in a rational way - coordinating strategy and international marketing, supporting tourism entrepreneurs and operating an efficient and effective tourism resources management policy - then thousands of new jobs can be created in this sector. Likewise, if the auditors' recommendations on ending corruption and mismanagement in the forestry sector are fully implemented, then the livelihoods of forestry workers can be protected. At the same time, related industries such as furniture production, which were once a staple of the BiH economy, can be revived.