

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

RS Government Commits Itself to Unblocking Reforms

As you know, the Principal Deputy High Representative, Larry Butler, yesterday held a meeting here in Banja Luka with RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic and members of his government. The object of this meetings was to assess progress that has been made by the RS Government in a number of key areas where it has obstructed measures that would have direct benefits for citizens or that are necessary for further European integration.

During the meeting, the prime minister and the relevant ministers indicated their support for the BiH laws on Pharmaceuticals and Consumer Protection; they also indicated that they would pursue a constructive way forward in strengthening banking supervision in BiH under the aegis of the Central Bank, in facilitating debt settlement issues, and in providing financial and technical support for the BiH Restitution Commission and the ITA.

The Prime Minister committed himself to ensuring that managers at RS Sume and EPRS identified in the Supreme Auditor's report as being responsible for fraud or mismanagement will be held personally and – where appropriate – criminally responsible. He will provide a report on the measures that the RS Government has taken in this regard by the end of this month,

The RS Government also expressed its full support for the

transfer agreement on defence – the final legislative task in the defence reform process – which will be discussed in the RSNA next week.

And the Prime Minister indicated that his government will comply with the deadline set by the Human Rights Commission of the Constitutional Court to submit a full investigation report to the Commission on the fate of Colonel Avdo Palic by the end of the year.