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

<u>The process of verifying claims for frozen foreign currency</u> <u>savings has begun</u>

On Monday, July 11, 2005 Ministries of Finance in the Federation, Republika Srpska and Brcko District made an announcement, as part of the media campaign, notifying the public that the process of verifying claims for frozen foreign currency savings has begun.

Objective of media campaign is to inform the public about the efforts underway in order to resolve the liability associated with foreign currency accounts frozen more than ten years.

This effort is part of the process of settling the internal debts associated with general arrears of Government, war related claims and claims associated with frozen foreign currency deposits in banks through out BiH at the end of 1991.

Owners of the foreign frozen currency savings accounts are being ask to formally file proof of claims in order that the Governments involved may verify and begin the settlement process.

The process of actually filing claims will begin after a thirty-day media effort to inform the public how and where to file their claims and claims will be accepted during a ninety-day period ending November 10, 2005.

As to the claimants abroad, they will be able to receive the information through the BaH Embassies.

This is a major step forward in settling the internal debts and OHR extends its full support to this effort.