

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

PDHR Calls for More Support for SMEs from Regional Development Agencies

Regional development strategies are a key element in transforming the BiH business environment, the Principal Deputy High Representative, Larry Butler, will tell a meeting in Sarajevo today – but he will emphasise that paper strategies must be turned into tangible programmes that help new businesses go from start-up to profitability in the shortest period of time.

Ambassador Butler will be speaking at a conference marking the third anniversary of the Sarajevo Economic Regional Development Agency (SERDA). He will note that the RDAs are now offering concrete support to some SMEs, but a huge amount remains to be done.

Ambassador Butler will call on SERDA and the other RDAs to lobby the BiH authorities for faster reforms in business legislation, including the enactment this year of a BiH Law on Obligations that will replace the Socialist-era commercial code with regulations that correspond to the demands of the global economy in the 21st century.

I have brought along copies of Ambassador Butler's speech.

PDHR to Visit Ravno and Trebinje Promote Regional Development, SMEs

The Principal Deputy High Representative, Larry Butler, will

visit Herzegovina on Thursday 18 May. Ambassador Butler will meet with regional entrepreneurs. Discussion will focus on removing investment roadblocks and improving the prospects for business expansion and job creation in BiH through regional development and SME development. In other countries this strategy has proved effective in stopping mass migration away from the countryside and from smaller towns.

After Ambassador Butler's meeting with regional entrepreneurs press statements will be organized:

at 14:00 on Thursday 18 May

at the Lastva, restaurant "Bijela Ladja"