

OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference

Remembering Sven Frederiksen

First let me repeat the sentiments expressed by the the High Representative yesterday following the sad news that EU Police Commissioner for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sven Frederiksen, had passed away.

Sven was respected and much liked – he will not be forgotten by his colleagues and I believe many many citizens of this country will honour his memory. The thoughts of all of us at the OHR are with Sven Frederiksen's family and friends.

HR in Mostar on Tuesday and Wednesday

The High Representative is in Mostar during today and tomorrow. During this visit he will continue his dialogue with citizens, political representatives and leading figures in the city. The High Representative is determined to secure a resolution to the issue of Mostar so that efforts can be made to improve the living standards of the citizens of Mostar and to boost the economy of Herzegovina and BiH as a whole, and so that BiH can join the European family of states.

There are a number of media opportunities planned, details of which you will find in a media advisory which I have left on the tables outside.

Independent Polling Shows Mostar's Citizens Want A United City With Power Sharing Guarantees

Last week the Partner Agency conducted a poll of 1,200 Mostar citizens, 200 from each of Mostar's 6 municipalities, asking them what kind of city administration they want. The results show that the citizens of Mostar are often more moderate and far-sighted than their political leaders.

Most importantly, following the partial referendums showing support for a united city over the weekend, this polling shows that 83% of all Mostarians are against any solution to the problems of Mostar that would allow only one constituent people to rule the city alone. The solution to Mostar can only be built on the interests of all the citizens of Mostar, not just one group. This polling carried out by Partner shows that any solution to Mostar's problems must respect two principles: no more parallelism; and no domination by one people over the others.

I've brought along copies of the results, which you will find on the tables outside.

The High Representative said yesterday "The polling carried out by Partner Agency and published today shows that the citizens of Mostar overwhelmingly want a united city that works for them, with guaranteed power sharing to prevent any one group ruling the city on their own.

"Unlike the referendum carried out in only three of the six municipalities over the weekend, this poll represents the views of the citizens of Mostar as a whole. The results are categorical. 75 percent support the idea of a united city. 83 percent do not believe any one constituent people should rule alone and 81 percent believe that we have waited too long to solve these problems.

"This polling shows that the vast majority of Mostar's citizens are fed up with waiting for a solution to the urgent problems of their city; that they are fed up with their taxes being wasted on bureaucracy instead of spent on vital public services; and that above all they are fed up with politicians putting their own interests above the interests of the citizens."

The Partner Agency surveyed 1,200 people from across all Mostar's municipalities.