

Statement of High Representative Miroslav Lajčák in reaction to today's statement by Vojislav Koštunica, Prime Minister of Serbia



The Decision of the High Representative does not in any way violate the Dayton Peace Agreement or the Constitution of BiH.

The Decision harmonises the work of the Council of Ministers with the Constitution of BiH.

Prime Minister Koštunica did not present a single fact indicating that this Decision threatens the existence of Republika Srpska. <?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

High Representative presented a credible line of argumentation in ten points, which clearly proves that the Decision is not directed against any of the constituent peoples or entities in BiH.

High Representative Miroslav Lajčák added:

“Given the fact that the Cabinet of Prime Minister Koštunica also received the legal explanation of my decisions distributed yesterday, it is clear that he, as a legalist, knows that his allegations are not true. Why does he have to express such opinions at this moment, in the current situation, when even the RS Government has not yet stated its opinion with regard to the explanation?”

On the other hand, I firmly reject any artificial associations between the Dayton Peace Agreement and Resolution 1244.

My goal is to protect the Constitution of BiH as a part of Dayton Peace Agreement, which includes RS as an integral part of this country. This agreement granted me the mandate, among other things, to take any actions that will contribute to better functioning of central institutions of the state. This should also be Serbia's goal, since it is one of the countries that guaranteed and ratified the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Anything that is contrary can only be dangerous and counterproductive.”