Statement: Official State Visits To Be Arranged With Full Consent of BiH's authorities

The Serbian Finance Minister Mladjan Dinkic is reported to have yesterday announced that the first official visit of the Serbian Government will be to Banja Luka, and that one of the topics for discussion will be a referendum on the status of Republika Srpska.

The OHR welcomes the Serbian Government's intention to travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina, but notes that an official state visit can only be arranged to the sovereign state with the full consent of the relevant authorities – in this case the BiH authorities.

Furthermore, as the OHR and other international organizations and government have said on repeated occasions, there is no legal basis for a referendum on the status of Republika Srpska.

The status of Republika Srpska is clear. Republika Srpska is an entity within the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as such has no jurisdiction to organize a referendum on separation. Any such move would violate the Dayton Peace Agreement.