Statement on the forthcoming municipal elections

There appears to be a great deal of speculation about the forthcoming municipal elections. Let me make it clear. The Elections will proceed as scheduled on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 of September.

These elections will give you, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the chance to be heard and to take the future in your own hands.

Those who try to prevent you from voting are depriving you of a fundamental right. The right to choose your own leaders. Those who are best suited to lead you on the path of lasting peace and prosperity.

No-one in a democracy should countenance anyone who would boycott elections simply to maintain the monopoly of power. Let us be clear. Those who favour elections only when they are sure to win, are not true democrats!

The International Community is here to enable you to freely express your political choice. It has invested heavily; over 2500 monitors, more than 14 million dollars and additional SFOR personnel; to provide extra security and the freedom for you to vote in the elections.

History has served the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina badly. You deserve better. You have had few opportunities to express your own political views. The time is now. Take it!