

EAST SARAJEVO

Main Bosnian Serb and Croat Parties Reach Deal on Government Formation

Leaders of the SNSD and Bosnian HDZ met in East Sarajevo to discuss the formation of governments at all levels after the general elections

The parties' leaders said after the meeting that they were more than satisfied with the election results and announced that they would work together to form governments at the canton, entity and state levels. They also "called on legitimate representatives of Bosniaks to take part in the government and work toward solving the accumulated problems."

SNSD leader Milorad Dodik said that political representatives must take responsibility for the processes in the country and work to establish a functional Bosnia. He said the Office of the High Representative must be closed to achieve that and lambasted the international community officials in the country for "foreign patronage".

Dodik said his party is ready to form the government in Republika Srpska by the end of this month, but when it comes to the Federation, the SNSD leader said that he would not allow the formation of the House of Peoples until the Serb club is complete.

"This is not an ultimatum but a constitutional obligation," said Dodik.

HDZ leader Dragan Covic said that it is important to have good cooperation



among the political parties that can ensure a stable majority. He added that there is a clear consensus on Bosnia's bid to join the European Union, but he also said that the key issue to resolve is the issue of amending the election law as to prevent Bosniaks from electing the

Bosnian Croat representatives in the Federation.

"(W)e do not have a Croat member in the Bosnian Presidency; it is reality that needs to be analyzed because such election is unlawful, unconstitutional and illegitimate."



Slavo Kukic, sociology professor: I believe that (Milorad) Dodik is in a hurry to form the government as soon as possible, but (Dragan) Covic is not, because the situation in the country suits him



Semsudin Mehmedovic, BiH Parliament (SDA): The influence of the (Croatian) members of the European Parliament on the policies of the (Bosnian) HDZ is limited by the will of (the government in) Zagreb



Edo Maajka, musician: (Depression) is like a hungry child screaming. You can tell it to stop, but it won't until it is fed. People (with depression) don't discuss it because they are immediately stigmatized

Laws Need to Be Implemented to Achieve Proper Participation of Women



Representatives of the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and the civil society presented a document "How to secure gender equality through EU integration process" and appealed to future decision-makers to achieve a stronger participation of women by implementing the law on gender equality

"We want to contribute to implementation of different laws in BiH towards greater representation of women," said head of communications and Spokesperson of the EU Delegation to BiH Jamila Milovic-Halilovic. Existing mechanisms of gender equality on all levels of government have not managed to affect gender equality policies and implementation of policies and laws in practice. That is why representa-

tives of civil society met with relevant actors in Brussels last week and expressed their concern over lack of participation of women in Bosnian politics. Nine women's civil society organizations gave recommendations in document "How to secure gender equality through EU integration process", directed to the EU Delegation and the European Commission in Brussels. One of the recommendations is to

secure implementation of the Law on Gender Equality through more inspections for constant monitoring to ensure that public and private companies are implementing the law. They believe it is necessary to harmonize the Law on Council of Ministers of BiH, Law on Government of FBiH and Law on RS to ensure that an assembly or government cannot be confirmed without minimum of 40 percent of women in ministerial positions.

"Austrian Century" Lecture Organized in Sarajevo

The second Forum Rotaricum organized by the Rotary Sarajevo International Delta club (RCSID) to mark the 100th anniversary of WW1 ending, centenary of the Republic of Austria and ongoing Austrian presidency of EU, took place on 10 November in Sarajevo where it gathered more than 50 participants who had an opportunity to listen and discuss the lecture titled "Austrian Century" by renowned Austrian journalist and author Hubert Nowak.

In 2017, Nowak published the book "Ein Österreichisches Jahrhundert: 1918-2018" (Molden), in which he traced the downfall of the monarchy and the evolution of the Austrian republic as we know it today, offering insights into often turbulent periods in which a



"small" state had to find adequate place among "bigger" and more influential neighbors to finally become what it is today: a prosperous and responsible democracy, a committed member of the EU and a reliable partner in the international community.

"Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina, both countries want to have a good future together, of course there is still a long way for BiH to become a part of the EU – but history unites and builds on that. Of course a question arises on what one country can learn from the development of the other, difficult phases existed in both countries, here in territory of the ex-Yugoslavia there has been a terrible civil war, and Austria too experienced the war in the first republic and it took years, but people have managed to overcome the conflicts and to find a peaceful democratic coexistence. It was hard and difficult, but it succeeded – but only after the second attempt, in the second republic, after the WWII", said Nowak.