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High Representative announced beginning of Bulldozer action in BiH

Front Page Headline

30-day Deadline for 50 Reforms

[P.6] SARAJEVO – “In 110 days, we defined 50 reforms and politicians have 30 days to practically implement the reforms,” the International Community High Representative in BiH, Paddy Ashdown announced yesterday in Sarajevo.

Presenting the 50 reforms under a slogan “50 reforms in 150 days”, established by the “Bulldozer Committee”, Ashdown said at the press conference that “they would result in creation of new jobs and a full economic safety.”

Calling on local politicians to “implement reforms within the set deadline”, he explained that “this is one of three long-term objectives that he set on his arrival to BiH, with the intention to “turn BiH into a space where the business will be easiest in the Balkans.”

“Many problems in this country are caused by laws that are generally good, but contain counterproductive provisions,” the HR said.

As an illustration, he said that changes to the Law on forestry and environment are necessary because, “if the provisions on protection of nut trees are not changed, BiH will be out of nuts for baklava within the next two years.”

Reminding that the Bulldozer Committee gathers representatives from the OHR, USAID, World Bank, EC, IMF and about 20 associations from BiH, Ashdown emphasized that the main objective of this action was to “pave a road for investors and remove as many roadblocks as possible for development of business space and get rid of bureaucratic procedures in order to develop the economy more easily and freely.” He emphasized that within the last 110 days, Bulldozer gathered about 100 proposals from businesspeople and businessmen from the whole of BiH for improvement of business environment in BiH, and 50 recommendations for changes to the existing laws arose from that.

