

EASTERN ADRIATIC

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- **Officials and local businessmen sign protocol to promote reforms**

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[Announcer] By signing the protocol for prosperity, representatives of the executive and legislative authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina, entities and Brcko District, have marked the end of the first and the beginning of the second stage of implementation of the Bulldozer project. Vesna Stakic has more about that: -

[Stakic] Economic progress is crucial in the process of establishing a single and stable Bosnia-Herzegovina and the challenges can only be faced by means of reforms, states the protocol. It points out that, aware of that fact, the executive and legislative authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its entities confirm they will continue their dialogue with representatives of the civil society and economy. Determined to create the necessary conditions for a favourable economic climate and elimination of red tape, as well for ensuring a proper implementation of reforms, the signatories of the protocol for prosperity expect the processes of the Bulldozer commission to bring about substantial improvement for business people and citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Expressing thanks to businessmen and the OHR [Office of the High Representative] for their initiative, Adnan Terzic, chairman of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Council of Ministers, announced an action plan for the implementation of reforms:

[Terzic] I will cooperate closely with all the relevant ministers, not only at state level but also at entity levels, with the goal of ensuring coordinated efforts.

[Stakic] Merida Kunosic-Vlajic spoke on behalf of the Bulldozer commission:

[Kunosic-Vlajic] Our problem is that we have so many administrative levels, absurd regulations, so much poor legislature,

and unclear and untenable (?compensations), that our economy is at risk. It does not yield anything and it is unable to show progress. Furthermore, it is at risk of producing no results whatsoever.

[Stakic] At the National Museum's botanical garden, where the signing ceremony took place, the signatories of the protocol planted roses, symbolically assigning a pivotal place to economic prosperity in the process of integration of Bosnia-Herzegovina into Europe. Speaking at a news conference held after the ceremony, the prime ministers of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation and the Serb Republic supported the reforms in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are aware that the business climate in Bosnia-Herzegovina is (?separate) for investors, said Dragan Mikerevic, voicing the determination on behalf of the Serb Republic government that reforms be implemented as soon as possible.

[Mikerevic] I consider the second stage of the Bulldozer initiative as the second round of our fight against the old truths and for the adoption of new truths.

[Stakic] Ahmet Hadzipasic, prime minister of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation, called on the international community to lend other kinds of assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Hadzipasic] I call on representatives of the international community to join the action of the governments of the two Bosnia-Herzegovina entities to start buying local products.

[Stakic] After successfully completing the first stage of the Bulldozer process, another deadline of 150 days was set for the second stage. The first set of the first ten priority reforms will be coordinated in a month.

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