

Property law implementation in RS extremely slow during the first three months of 2001

Sarajevo, 3 May 2001 – For the first three months of this year, the number of repossessions rose in the Federation of BiH from 34,634 to 40,366 (from a 29% to a 32% implementation rate), in the Republika Srpska from 15,959 to 17,554 (from 13% to 15%) and in Brcko District from 1,116 to 1,335 (from 14 to 17%). This is according to statistics released today by the agencies involved in the Property Law Implementation Plan (UNHCR, OSCE, OHR, UNMIBH and CRPC).

This means that during the same time frame, 5,732 families were able to repossess their properties in the Federation, while only 1,595 repossessions took place in the Republika Srpska. Overall, the rate implementation in most areas rose only 1 to 2% per month. This rate of increase is too slow if full implementation of the property laws is to be achieved within a reasonable time.

In the Federation some municipalities are approaching the resolution of all claims, e.g. Kiseljak, where out of 1,922 claims 1,643 decisions have been implemented. In comparison, in Banja Luka out of 16,133 claims, only 1,792 cases have so far been solved.

The PLIP statistics are a measurable indicator of the commitment of the authorities to implement Annex 7 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. The results of the first three months of 2001 clearly show that the RS Government has so far failed to demonstrate its commitment to Dayton and must therefore make a real and sustained effort to prove that

it stands behind the rule of law.

If concrete and sustained progress can be achieved in some areas of BiH , there is no reason why the RS Government cannot achieve similar results in the RS as a whole.