



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GENERAL ELECTIONS

1 October 2006

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

3 – 7 July 2006



Warsaw
20 July 2006

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**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
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OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

I. INTRODUCTION

In anticipation of an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to observe the forthcoming general elections, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 3 to 7 July to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The NAM included Mr. Vadim Zhdanovich, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Election Adviser, and Dr. Beata Martin-Rozumilowicz, OSCE/ODIHR External Election Expert. The purpose of the NAM was to assess preparations for the upcoming 1 October elections, in line with OSCE commitments, and to make recommendations on the establishment of a possible Election Observation Mission (EOM).

The NAM held meetings in Sarajevo and Banja Luka with representatives from the state authorities, election administration, political parties, media, civil society and the international community (see Annex).

The OSCE/ODIHR is grateful to the BiH authorities for their co-operation during the NAM. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank the OSCE Mission for its assistance during the visit.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Election Commission (CEC) announced on 4 May that general elections are to be held on Sunday, 1 October. All interlocutors with whom the NAM met welcomed international observation of the elections by the OSCE/ODIHR.

The 2006 general elections were characterised by all stakeholders as very important to BiH's future development. Constitutional reform issues are on the agenda, as well as possible accession to various security and political structures. It will be the first election completely administered by national authorities, without international membership on the CEC.

These elections will be held in the context of a revised election law,¹ amended by the state parliament in March 2006 and entered into force on 11 April. Political party representatives with whom the NAM met expressed their support for the current amendments, while recognizing that anticipated constitutional reform following the elections would also entail further changes.

Generally, party representatives expressed confidence in the work of the CEC, which they considered to be professional and unbiased. Thus far, the CEC has met all deadlines set with regard to the election process.

¹ Since its promulgation in August 2001, the BiH election law has been amended 14 times.

Although the election campaign has not formally commenced, political parties have been actively preparing themselves, and all interlocutors underscored that election rhetoric is already rife. While limited concerns were raised regarding the possibility of isolated and sporadic incidents on election day, many stakeholders shared the opinion that the lead-up to the elections could be divisive and tense. There was a general feeling that a fragmented and politicized media might contribute to this atmosphere.

Significantly, these elections will, for the first time, employ a new voter registration system. This system will move the country from active registration to a passive, state-initiated and centralized voter register. Although general evaluations of this reform were positive, some limited concerns remained regarding its implementation and accuracy.

The previous 2004 municipal elections were important as the first post-conflict elections fully funded by the BiH authorities, and the first in which mayors were directly elected. The successful conduct of those elections had been noted by the OSCE/ODIHR to have marked a further step forward for BiH's democratic development. Nevertheless, they remained essentially transitional elections due to BiH's unique institutional structures.

The NAM recommends that a standard OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission be deployed to observe the upcoming general elections. The NAM further recommends that the OSCE/ODIHR requests OSCE participating States to second 20 long-term observers to the mission to follow the election process countrywide from the end of August until the election process is completed. In addition, 220 short-term observers are requested to observe election day procedures, including voting, counting of votes and tabulation of results at all levels of the election administration.

III. FINDINGS

A. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

BiH, as a state, is divided into two separate entities: the Federation of BiH (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS). In addition, there is one separate district (Brcko). Under the unusually complex institutional and electoral system, six distinct electoral races are to take place in this general election.

All voters will elect one of three members to the BiH Presidency, as well as deputies to the BiH House of Representatives (BiH HoR). In addition, those within the FBiH will also elect the FBiH House of Representatives and ten Cantonal Assemblies, while in the RS voters will elect the RS President / Vice Presidents and an RS National Assembly. Voters in Brcko district can opt to vote as either FBiH or RS voters.²

The BiH Presidency is a three-member body rotating every eight months with one member from each of the 'constituent peoples' (Bosniak, Croat, and Serb), elected by plurality to a four-year term. This is done via separate lists, with each voter in FBiH

² Voters in most polling stations will receive four ballot papers for four different contests. The exception is with those who will vote for the FBiH in Brcko District. They will not vote at the cantonal level and will receive only three ballots.

choosing either a Bosniak or Croat candidate and those in the RS electing a Serb candidate. The candidate with the highest number of votes from each list is considered elected.

The BiH HoR is comprised of 42 deputies, also elected to four-year terms; 28 are chosen by voters in the FBiH and 14 by voters in the RS. In the FBiH, 21 of the 28 deputies will be elected in five multi-member constituencies. The remaining seven will be elected from political party compensatory lists. In the RS, 9 of the 14 deputies will be elected in three multi-member constituencies, with the remaining five elected from political party compensatory lists.

Additionally, FBiH voters will elect 98 deputies to their entity-level House of Representatives; 73 from 12 multi-member constituencies and 25 from political party compensatory open lists.³ Ten cantonal assembly elections will also be held, with each canton comprising a discrete unit which elects its deputies from party lists on a proportional basis. The number of delegates elected ranges from 21 to 35, depending on the size of the canton.

In the RS, voters will elect their entity-level President and Vice-Presidents. Voters have one vote in this plurality contest and again, candidates are differentiated by their ethnic identification. The three top finishing candidates, one from each of the constituency peoples, are elected to the Presidency. The top finisher among them becomes the President; the other two become Vice-Presidents.

Finally, in the RS, voters will elect 83 deputies to their National Assembly; 62 of these will be elected in six multi-member constituencies and the remaining 21 will be selected from political party compensatory lists.⁴

Since 2000, each of the legislative (including cantonal) elections utilizes an open list system, which enables voters to indicate the candidate they prefer within a given list. This empowers voters to change the ordering in the lists, as put forward by parties / coalitions. In addition, a 3% threshold is employed in all legislative races, and this threshold will apply to the compensatory mandates for the first time in these elections. Finally, a specific gender rule also applies to candidate lists.⁵ All legislative mandates are allocated using the pure Sainte-Lague method⁶, which tends to favour smaller parties.

Some interlocutors criticized this electoral system for being unduly complex and for having produced fragmented legislatures in the past. All, however, recognized that changes to the electoral system should be based on more fundamental reforms to the current constitution.

³ A four person minimum from each of the constituent peoples (Bosniak, Croat, Serb) must be represented in the FBiH HoR. If a constituent people get less than four mandates in the multi-member constituencies, priority is given to that group when allocating the compensatory seats until the minimum of four is reached.

⁴ Again, each 'constituent people' has a four deputy minimum and if that minimum is not achieved, compensatory seats will be allocated as priority to achieve this minimum.

⁵ Approximately one-third of each candidates list must be of the minority gender, equally spaced on the list.

⁶ The Sainte-Lague method is one way of allocating seats proportionally for representative assemblies with party list voting systems.

In accordance with the election law, elections at all levels are to be held on the first Sunday of October, preceding the expiration of mandates. The CEC is obliged to notify that elections are to be held at least 150 days prior to the day.

B. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Although the election campaign has not yet formally commenced, political parties are making active preparations for the upcoming elections. All interlocutors commented on that fact that policy or programmes are likely to take a backseat in these elections and that voters will be canvassed primarily on the basis of their ethnicity. This trend is perceived as already having begun with a recent statement by the RS Prime Minister calling for a referendum on the RS's independence. In response, certain Bosniak parties have raised the idea of extending the tenure of the High Representative.

As the future ruling coalition will be responsible for shaping BiH's constitutional reform process and negotiating the role that BiH will play in both NATO and European Union structures, all parties are likely to vigorously contest these elections. The issues at stake could lead to a dynamic election campaign.

The Party of Democratic Action (SDA), as one of the leading political parties, is likely to focus its campaign on the constitutional re-integration of the Bosnian state and on the ethnic identity and traditional values of the Bosniak people. It is one of the three main nationalist parties and was able to secure the largest share of seats following the 2002 general elections. Over time, the party's tone has become more moderate. However, it is currently experiencing internal divisions between its more nationalist and centrist wings. The Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina (SBiH), which was formed in 1996 by an SDA co-founder, is also likely to be competing for the same Bosniak electorate.

The Croatian Democratic Union of BiH (HDZ) was founded in 1990 as a branch of the Croatia's own HDZ and is the leading Croat nationalist party. It holds the second largest share of seats. Its campaign is likely to focus on strengthening relations with Croatia and on developing a social market economy. Recently, following the contentious selection of Dragan Čović as HDZ president, his opponents were expelled from the party and have established the HDZ 1990-Croat Unity, which seeks to return the party to its 'roots'. The contest for the Croat vote is likely to be very intensive, with six of the eight certified coalitions seeking to take its share of this electorate.

The Serb Democratic Party (SDS) has traditionally been the main nationalist party for the Serb population and, until recently, has largely held control of the RS. The party has consistently supported entity primacy at the expense of strengthening the BiH state. Its power base, however, has been threatened by the steady rise of the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), which holds the post of RS Prime Minister. The PM's increasingly nationalistic rhetoric (*inter alia*, the call for a referendum on independence) is perceived by some as a tactic to draw votes away from the SDS.

The Party for Democratic Movement (SDP), since its inception in 1990, has striven to present itself as a mainstream European social democratic party. It is also one of the few groupings that engages in cross-entity politicking and can currently boast a diverse

membership, including Bosniak, Croat, and Serb. Nevertheless, the majority of SDP voters continue to be Bosniak.

In total, 48 parties, 8 coalitions, and 12 independent candidates have been certified by the CEC to contest the upcoming general elections. For the first time, two of the nationalist parties (HDZ and SDS) have decided to contest elections in the 'other' entity and, in total, six parties will run at all levels across the country.

With such a profusion of parties, many interlocutors expect that the post-election coalition building process will be a difficult exercise, potentially lasting up to six months. The plethora of parties / coalitions contesting this election has increased concerns about further fragmentation within the parliament. The application of a 3% threshold at all levels may to some extent ameliorate such concerns.

All political entities had until 3 July to submit candidate lists to the CEC, which has until 28 July to certify these lists. The election campaign officially begins on 1 September and continues until 19:00, 30 September, with a 24-hour "silence" period immediately preceding election day.

While political party representatives did not express any particular concerns about the upcoming campaign, they did express apprehension regarding the re-emergence of nationalist rhetoric as a motivating and potentially divisive element in the coming months.

All party representatives were convinced that deploying their own party observers to polling stations could moderate such occurrences and that the presence of international observers would increase trust. Several party representatives pointed to a lack of confidence in the judicial system to provide speedy and impartial redress. All, however, expressed a degree of confidence in the professionalism and neutrality of the CEC.

C. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The 2001 election law, which replaced the provisional rules used for elections in BiH since 1996, provides an essential basis for democratic elections and has significantly improved the framework for elections. However, as noted above, the election law has also established an unusually complex electoral framework.

In BiH, the fundamental basis of the legislative framework continues to be the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement), of which the BiH Constitution is an integral part. The Dayton Agreement has been supplemented by United Nations Security Council resolutions and Peace Implementation Council decisions. This supra-national legal structure confers extensive powers on the international community. In the last year, however, these powers have been significantly less often employed than was the case in the past.

The election law has been amended extensively since its inception, with the latest set of amendments entering into force in April. None of the political party representatives raised these most recent amendments as an area of concern with the NAM. In summary, the amendments establish a cohesive CEC, give responsibility for adjudicating election appeals to the Appellate Division of the Court of BiH while adjusting and shortening

deadlines, focus on the promulgation of a new voter registration system, amend media responsibilities, reduce the maximum campaign spending limits, shorten the campaign period from 60 to 30 days, and reduce the number of domestic observers allowed in polling stations to one from each nominating body.

Initial provisions of the election law limit the eligibility of certain individuals from standing for office, based on decisions of the High Representative, the CEC and other international authorities. This follows a pattern established in the provisional rules. Specifically, Articles 20.9, 20.9A, and 20.9B of the election law exclude certain categories of persons from standing as candidates or from holding public office. The OSCE/ODIHR has expressed concern over these articles due to the lack of appeal on decisions.

While these measures fall within the scope of powers granted to international community officials by the UN Security Council and are consistent with their mandate to promote peace, such provisions would otherwise be irregular by international standards.

In the BiH state, self-identification is taken as the basis for determining ethnicity. However, due to the peculiarities of the institutional structure, citizens who do not identify themselves with one of the three “constituent peoples” (Bosniak, Croat, or Serb) are effectively barred from standing for the BiH and RS presidencies. The OSCE/ODIHR and other bodies have previously commented on the need to reform these provisions. Many interlocutors were particularly critical of this constitutional restriction.

In addition, the suffrage of voters is limited by their place of residence. For instance, RS voters only have the option of electing a Serb candidate, while voters in the FBiH may only vote for a Bosniak or Croat. The same restriction exists in terms of standing for office, so that a Bosniak or Croat registered in the RS cannot run for the BiH presidency. The same is true for a Serb registered in the FBiH. Again, although these provisions are enshrined in the BiH Constitution, they are at odds with accepted international standards. There is a possibility that these questions may arise as issues during the course of the election campaign.

Certain additional inconsistencies exist with regard to signature support provisions, with provisions allowing de-certification or removal of candidates, with re-allocation formulas and their adherence to principles of proportionality, and the right to a public hearing on election appeals. All are elements that would warrant consideration in the course of an OSCE/ODIHR EOM.

D. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The election law establishes a three-tiered election administration structure for all elections. This is comprised of a Central Election Commission (CEC), 142 Territorial Election Commissions (TECs)⁷ and approximately 4,500 Polling Station Committees (PSCs). By law, these PSCs are to be appointed by the MECs no later than 30 days prior to election day.

⁷ Of these, 139 are municipal election commissions (MECs), two are city election commissions (Banja Luka and Mostar) and one is a district election commission (Brcko). All have the same level of responsibility.

The CEC is a permanent body consisting of a chairperson and six members, appointed to a five-year term. The initial composition included one representative from each of the 'constituency peoples' (Bosniak, Croat, Serb, and 'other') as well as three international members. These three have now been replaced with BiH nationals (a Bosniak, a Croat, and a Serb) and thus, for the first time, elections in BiH will be fully administered without international involvement.⁸

The CEC is responsible for the overall conduct of the elections. Under the most recent electoral law amendments, the CEC plays an enhanced role through the provision of training for lower level election officials, which is now compulsory. The CEC is supported in its work by a permanent secretariat of 59 staff. Although the CEC encountered some initial difficulties in filling all posts, CEC representatives informed the NAM that the secretariat is now working efficiently.

Thus far, all electoral deadlines have been met by the CEC. This has included the announcement of elections and the certification of political parties, coalitions, independent candidate lists, and independent candidates. The CEC is now in the process of certifying party / coalition lists, a task which is to be completed by 23 July.

142 TECs have also been established to administer the elections at the local level.⁹ They are composed of either three or five members, depending on the number of voters in the given municipality.¹⁰ TECs are permanent bodies, appointed to five-year terms by the Municipal Council / Municipal Assembly, whose membership is subject to the approval of the CEC. One of the main functions of the TECs is to appoint members to PSCs. During the NAM, CEC interlocutors noted that all TECs are operational.

Political parties and independent candidates enjoy the right by law to nominate members to all PSCs. In meeting with the NAM, all political party representatives expressed confidence in their ability to do so. The deadline for party nominations to MECs is 9 August.

All interlocutors expressed a high level of confidence in the professionalism and neutrality of the CEC. Some concerns were raised regarding the independence of MECs and their ties to local administration, but these were limited in nature.

The election law provides for all election commission meetings to be public and obliges election commissions to notify the public of their meetings in a timely manner.¹¹

E. VOTER LIST

The CEC anticipates that some 2.8 million voters will be registered to vote in the upcoming general elections, although the final voter list will only be available on 17 August.¹² The election will take place in context of a significant reform, from an active

⁸ The international community, however, retains an advisory status within the CEC.

⁹ This figure includes a city commission in Banja Luka and Mostar and a district commission in Brcko.

¹⁰ The ethnic structure of TEC is that of the municipality/city/district according to the 1991 census.

¹¹ The election law allows for exceptions to this obligation, which are to be stipulated in CEC regulations.

¹² The preliminary voter list from 4 May noted 2,644,545 eligible voters. The precise number of out-of-country voters is not yet known.

system of voter registration to a passive, state-initiated centralized voter register from which voter lists will be drawn.

The voter register is based on the CIPS (Citizens Identification Protection System) civil state register database, which is implemented by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Each citizen over 18 years is required by law to register with the system and to obtain a personal CIPS ID card, which has multiple functions (personal identification, driver's license, passport, pension, voter card).¹³ By registering with CIPS, one is automatically entered into the voter register and regular voters will be included in the PSC where they have permanent residence (i.e., on the basis of their CIPS ID address).

Displaced persons (DPs) are an exception to this rule, and in the upcoming election, they will retain previous special voting rights. By law, they can decide whether they would prefer to vote in person or by absentee ballot in their pre-1991 constituency or in their current place of residence (CIPS registration).¹⁴ They have until 18 July to decide, and must approach voter registration centres to advise them of their choice. If no choice is made, they will be assigned the same voting option as for the last election.¹⁵

Most interlocutors commented positively regarding the introduction of this new system. Amongst benefits listed were: the greater ease of registration, taking a large degree of burden off citizens; the presence of a signature on the CIPS card, which will be compared with a voter's signature in the lists on election day as an added security measure; and the possibility of voters deciding to vote as late as election day. This last element was raised by many as potentially increasing participation in general, and among youth in particular, who have traditionally been less inclined to actively register and vote.

Nevertheless, certain drawbacks were also mentioned; among them, whether all citizens would be able to obtain a CIPS ID card in time.¹⁶ Given that no census has been carried out in BiH since 1991, it is extremely difficult to gauge the level of efficiency of the new system. In addition, certain political parties raised the issue of DPs and the element of active registration that exists in their case. They questioned whether DP voters had been adequately informed of the registration procedure.¹⁷ The CEC, on their part, has been running an active media campaign, informing about the details of this process.

Some concerns were also noted regarding the accuracy of street names in CIPS following a protest letter from the Mayor of Srebrenica, but most interlocutors thought that the authorities involved were doing their best to resolve these inconsistencies before the final voter list is released. In addition, questions exist regarding safeguards for the protection of data collected from voters, including how such data is electronically maintained and processed by various governmental agencies.

¹³ A CIPS card can be obtained by anyone reaching 16 years, but becomes mandatory at 18.

¹⁴ The pre-1991 constituency provision is based on the last census carried out in 1991, prior to the war; no accurate figures exist for changes in population since this time. Of note, a process of DP re-registration is currently being conducted by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees.

¹⁵ If not registered to vote before, the default option is to vote in person in the pre-1991 constituency.

¹⁶ Old ID cards became invalid after 31 October 2005. This deadline was set by the Ministry of Civil Affairs for citizens to replace old ID cards with new CIPS IDs.

¹⁷ The precise number of DPs is not known. Most stakeholders thought that less than 100,000 people would be affected.

Citizens living abroad, as well as refugees, are able to vote in the election by post. Some political parties commented negatively on the fact that such potential voters must take more active steps to contact the CEC in order to receive a ballot and vote. Taking into account refugees' difficulties in general, they felt that the current system places them at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the general population.¹⁸

F. MEDIA

Access to media and principles of media coverage during the election period are regulated by a newly amended Chapter 16 of the election law. Public media are required by law to provide 'political entities' with free time for direct address during the 30 days of the election campaign. The details of this access regarding time allocation, duration, and geographic territories are regulated by CEC by-laws and the order of appearance of the political subjects is determined by lottery.

In addition, both public and private media should provide political subjects with paid advertisement during the campaign¹⁹ under equal conditions and at prices not to exceed existing pricelists for a given media outlet. Private media may grant free-of-charge time for direct address, but they must grant this to all political entities on an equal basis.²⁰

The Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA) is tasked by the election law with responsibility for dealing with violations in the broadcast media and penalties may range from a warning issued to the closure of an outlet.²¹ Complaints on content related to the election campaign in the print media are to be dealt with by the BiH Press Council. The CEC decides on substantive appeals in both cases.

Although most interlocutors expressed confidence in the work of the CRA, some raised the issue of the Press Council's limited resources and lack of sanction power to deal with such complaints. Some media outlets also expressed dissatisfaction that they had not been consulted on these provisions during discussion on amendments to the election law.

According to figures provided by the CRA, most citizens get their information from television and there is a diverse range of broadcast media with 187 registered outlets. Of these, more than 40 are televised and most stations work on a commercial basis. Three public broadcast channels are provided by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).²²

The vast majority of interlocutors noted that while a wide range of media is accessible and that a broad spectrum of opinion is covered, the media remains fragmented and politicized. It was stated to be particularly true of the print media. Stakeholders conveyed that they anticipate an intensive and potentially divisive election campaign in which the media will play an important role.

¹⁸ Out-of-country voters automatically receive application forms if they were registered in the previous elections. Citizens that want to vote out-of-country for the first time need to fill out a form available in BiH embassies/consulates abroad (and on the internet).

¹⁹ This is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week (public) and 60 minutes per week (private).

²⁰ In addition, all broadcast media are required by law to air CEC statements and information on all aspects of the election free-of-charge.

²¹ It is of note that the CRA does not envisage carrying out a monitoring of all broadcast media outlets. Rather they rely on complaints from the general public to direct their work.

²² This is one broadcaster for each entity and one state-level broadcaster.

G. INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OBSERVERS

The election law of BiH provides for both international and domestic observers. The CEC intends to issue a separate regulation shortly, specifying the criteria and application procedure for accrediting observers.

The NAM met with representatives from civil society groups such as the Association of Election Officials in BiH (AEOBiH) and the Centres for Civic Initiatives (CCI), which had previously observed elections in BiH. Nevertheless, neither of these groups intends to observe the upcoming general elections on a large scale. Instead, they will be focusing on such issues as the training of political party observers, monitoring party programmes and later implementation, and establishing youth and 'get-out-the-vote' initiatives.

The NAM received information that smaller and more locally-based initiatives may be present in polling stations on election day, but no countrywide domestic observation initiative is anticipated. Political party representatives were confident, however, that they would be deploying their own observers to polling stations.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All interlocutors with whom the NAM met expressed their support for OSCE/ODIHR observation of the upcoming general elections in BiH. The NAM recommends that a standard Election Observation Mission (EOM) be established to observe the forthcoming elections. The NAM further recommends that the OSCE/ODIHR requests OSCE participating States to second 20 long-term observers to follow the election process countrywide from the end of August until the election process is completed and 220 short-term observers to observe election day procedures, including voting, counting of votes and tabulation of results at all levels of the election administration.

ANNEX

List of Meetings Sarajevo and Banja Luka 3-7 July 2006

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Assistant Minister, Head of Multilateral Department
Goran PRANJIĆ, Advisor/Desk Officer for OSCE Relations

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees

Ivica MARINOVIĆ, Assistant Minister

Appellate Division of the Court of BiH

Branko MORAIT, Judge
Lada SIMIĆ, Judge
Nedžad POPOVAC, Judge

Central Election Commission (CEC)

Branko PETRIĆ, Chairperson
Suad ARNAUTOVIĆ, Member
Vedran HADŽOVIĆ, Member
Lidija KORAC, Member
Stjepan MIKIĆ, Member
Vehid ŠEHIĆ, Member
Tihomir VUJIĆIĆ, Member

Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA)

Amela ODOBAŠIĆ, Head of Public Affairs
Gorana IVKOVIĆ, Head of Legal Department

POLITICAL PARTIES

Croatian Democratic Union of BiH (HDZ BiH)

Ilija FILIPOVIĆ, Delegate to the BiH Parliament, House of Peoples
Vlatka KOMŠIĆ, Delegate to the BiH Parliament, House of Representatives
Branko ZRNO, Delegate to the BiH Parliament, House of Peoples

Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina (SBiH)

Munib JUSUFOVIĆ, General Secretary

Party of Democratic Action (SDA)

Amir ZUKIĆ, General Secretary

Party of Independent Social Democrats – Milorad Dodik (SNSD)

Rajko VASIĆ, Executive Secretary

Party for Democratic Movement (SDP)

Svetozar PUDARIĆ, General Secretary

MEDIA

Oslobodenje (Daily Newspaper)

Senka KURTOVIĆ, Editor-in-Chief

TV Pink BH (Independent TV Station)

Lajla TORLAK, Deputy General Manager

Public Broadcasting Service of BiH

Milan TRIVIĆ, Managing Director BHT 1

Amir ZUKIĆ, Head of Information Programme

CIVIL SOCIETY

Association of Election Officials in BiH (AEOBiH)

Irena HADŽIABDIĆ, Executive Director

Centres for Civic Initiatives (CCI)

Samila FUKA, Office of Public Relations

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Council of Europe

Admir KRNJIĆ

Caroline BRENNAN

Embassy of the Russian Federation

Ivan GORBUNOV, First Secretary

Embassy of the United States of America

Dana MURRAY, Political Adviser

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

Niamh O'CONNOR, Country Director

Office of the High Representative (OHR)

Ambassador Christian SCHWARZ-SCHILLING, High Representative and European Union Special Representative for BiH

Ambassador Peter BAS-BACKER, Senior Deputy High Representative

Carin LOBBEZOO, Senior Policy Advisor
Mari KATAYANAGI, Political Advisor

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ambassador Douglas DAVIDSON, Head of OSCE Mission to BiH
Ambassador Vadim KUZNETSOV, Deputy Head of OSCE Mission to BiH
Ans ZWERVER, Chief of Cabinet
Aidan O'LEARY, Head of Administration and Finance
Merce CASTELLS, Election Adviser

OSCE Troika

Ambassador Nataša VODUŠEK, Slovenian Embassy
Stijn MOLS, First Secretary – Head of Bureau, Belgian Embassy
José Ramón GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Spain