

OSCE Head of Mission, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes visits Gospic

Return of refugees and their property runs smoothly

GOSPIC – The Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, paid a visit to Gospic, which followed the visit to Saborsko and some other places in Lika-Senj County, and met Gospic Mayor, Milan Kolic and Lika-Senj Prefect, Milan Jurkovic. In a joint statement to the journalists, they all expressed their satisfaction with the past level of co-operation.

“We introduced Ambassador Fuentes to the situation in our county and I believe he is satisfied,” Prefect Milan Jurkovic said. “We have informed him about economic developments in this area, of which we are proud, but also tackled some unsolved problems. Luckily, in the last four years there have been no ethnic incidents in this county and the return process is in its final stage. According to the latest information there are still about twenty such unsolved cases and I am convinced they will be solved by the end of the year. Former co-operation with the OSCE has been very correct to the mutual benefit and we anticipate more work with regard to development. That is also the sort of help that we expect from the OSCE because without the actual projects and programs our vision cannot be realized,” said Jurkovic.

His words were also confirmed by Mayor Kolic who introduced Ambassador Fuentes to the situation in the territory of the Town of Gospic. “We are monitoring and assisting the process of the return of refugees and their property with the help of all relevant factors. I think we have done a lot in that field and we practically do not have open issues, so the process that started should be completed. Also, I emphasize that we have accomplished quality co-operation with the OSCE Field Office in Gospic,” the Mayor of Gospic said.

Ambassador Jorge Fuentes joined the good wishes for the continuation of co-operation between the local authorities and the OSCE and believes the first contacts in the field are very useful and important for the continuation of what have been commenced.

“These meetings were very illustrative and worthy of attention. The Mayor and Prefect informed me about very important facts and the situation in the field. I will leave this town with much more information than when I arrived. I previously spoke with the President, Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. We will all work on a general prosperity and make an effort that Croatia starts negotiations with the EU as soon as possible. Introduction to the problems and situation in the field is very important for all of us because the OSCE will continue to co-operate and assist,” the Head of OSCE Mission to Croatia, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, concluded.