

Bosnian authorities need to undertake urgent measures to save PSM

Dear members of the Presidency, Parliamentary Assembly and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are alarmed about the situation of Public Service Media (PSM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and warn Bosnian authorities, should an adequate decision for the financing of PSM not be adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly by the end of June 2017, the system and in particular the national broadcaster BHRT, is at great risk of disintegrating.

A collapse of the national public broadcaster is unacceptable for the country, which is a member of Council of Europe and is entering negotiations for membership within the European Union. BiH would become the only European country without a public service broadcaster, which is against European standards and values.

Therefore, the MEP's call on BiH authorities to fulfil the EU and CoE standards and secure:

- independence of PSM;
- immediate financial sustainability of the PSM system;
- immediate amendments of the existing legislation or its replacement with another appropriate legislation, ensuring immediate and proper interim solutions;
- ensure proper entities' PSM, based on ethnic specifics of the constitutive nations, which will not serve mainly the governments or parties in power and which will affirm the life and the creativity of the population and prevent ethnic divisions, and instigation to hate speech;
- support to the national broadcaster BHRT as factor of synergy, instrument of democratic dialogue between different ethnic groups in BiH and their mutual understanding, trust and affirmation, based on impartial, independent, balanced, professional and highest quality content, prepared by multi-ethnic staff and equally using all language versions in BiH.

The MEP's signatories of this appeal urge the European Commission to take note, supervise and assist in these activities.

Yours sincerely,

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