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Mitglied des Auswärtigen Ausschusses Obmann im Unterausschuss für Internationale Klima- und Energiepolitik

Press release

"Finally checkmate Milorad Dodik"

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"Finally checkmate Milorad Dodik"

Statement by Adis Ahmetović, Member of the German Bundestag, on current developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

"Over the past decades, Milorad Dodik has fatally helped dominate the political game in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Through his recurring tactics of escalation and de-escalation, the current president of the Bosnia and Herzegovina entity 'Republika Srpska' ('RS' for short) has been able to squeeze millions in funding out of the EU time and again, for example. Through these tactics, Dodik has strengthened his autocratic and corrupt network.

With each new stage of escalation, Dodik has become an absolute factor of insecurity not only for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but for the entire Western Balkans. He serves as a stirrup holder for Russia and creates a second potential gateway for unrest and armed conflict within the European continent.

It is time for Germany to finally show leadership together with France within the EU and to impose deep sanctions on Dodik and his henchmen. Dodik's secessionist policy must be met with a clear response: A removal due to corruption, electoral fraud and denial of, among other things, the Srebrenica genocide and the siege of Sarajevo.

I also continue to advocate NATO membership for Bosnia and Herzegovina. This serves not only as a security guarantee for the country individually, but for Europe as a whole. Mistakes like in the case of Ukraine since 2014 at the latest must not be repeated in the Western Balkans.

I call on all pro-democracy Croatian, Bosniak and also Serb forces in the country to free themselves from Dodik's political hostage-taking and finally create a life of peaceful coexistence. Otherwise, even more young



people will flee Bosnia and Herzegovina every year - especially from the entity 'RS'.

In conclusion: I support the intensive work of President Denis Bećirović and President Zeljko Komšič, as well as the latest plans of the HR to prevent Dodik's destruction plans for peace and democracy in BiH."