



Adis Ahmetovic
Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Pressemitteilung

Second speech of Adis Ahmetovic, MdB, in the German Bundestag

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- The spoken word applies -

Dear Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On April 4, 1992, a dark chapter dawned on the history of Europe. It was a war of aggression against a modern European state with dramatic consequences for the country and its people.

- More than 100,000 people died - including grandparents, fathers and mothers
- Brutal war crimes such as the rape of women and murder of children,
- The massacre in Prijedor, the years-long siege of Sarajevo, the genocide of Srebrenica,
- In total, over 2 million people were displaced during almost four years of war.

It was a war against the European values of unity in diversity. In their hour of need, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina hoped for Europe, for Germany.

Among the war refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina - allow me at this point to add something personal - were my parents. Thirty years ago, they fled with my brother from the multi-ethnic small town of Kotor Varos via Zagreb to Hanover. They had to leave everything behind.

Germany has become our home. I was born in Hanover 28 years ago, and now I am a member of the German Bundestag and have the privilege of speaking to you.

I am grateful not only for this, but above all for the historically important signal that we are sending out here today from this free Democratic



place of action through this agreed debate. From the bottom of my heart, I say "thank you" for this, dear democrats.

In recent days, we have been shocked by the horrific images from Butscha. Many speak of the new Srebrenica.

In view of the current brutal war of aggression on Ukraine, we must also ask ourselves what impact this war can have on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entire Western Balkans region? Today, 30 years later - in front of the not fully healed world in Bosnia and Herzegovina - there is new suffering.

Last month, the Russian ambassador in Sarajevo threatened that the country would suffer the same as Ukraine if it decided to join NATO. This is a threat in violation of international law and another attempt to destabilize the Western Balkans, the Mediterranean region and thus Europe.

Ethno-nationalist forces in the region use every opportunity to do so for their own power preservation. Their goal is to destroy hope for genuine democracy and a peaceful future.

Ladies and gentlemen, once again Europe is at a crossroads on the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We need a concrete plan to ensure peace, democracy and prosperity:

1. The Western Balkans must become an integral part of our foreign and security policy agenda.
2. We do not negotiate in back rooms and only with those who are sincere about democracy and a European way.
3. We must stand up for security by strengthening the EUFOR ALHTEA mission.
4. We must support the High Representative Christian Schmidt in keeping out of power and sanctioning those who cause discord and
5. We must offer the countries a clear EU accession perspective. The European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbors must succeed.

Let us be courageous and resolutely show the autocratic forces the red card, ladies and gentlemen.

The majority of people in the Western Balkans think and feel European. Let us take this as a maxim and work and fight together in an alliance of democratic forces for a European future for the people.

Because I have one wish:



In 30 years' time, when the German Bundestag looks back on BiH or Ukraine, there may be a child of Ukrainian refugees born in Germany standing at the speakers podium: I hope that he or she will not be confronted with a new brutal war in Europe as I am today.

It is in our hands to create a Europe of peace and prosperity. Let us do it!

Thank you for your attention.