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Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

## Press release

"Changing the constitution on election day is unprecedented worldwide" -  
Adis Ahmetovic, MP, on the actions of the High Representative

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### **"Changing the constitution on election day is unprecedented worldwide" - Adis Ahmetovic, MP, on the actions of the High Representative**

"The people of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) cast a clear vote on October 2nd this year, a vote for the European Union and for more democracy. Two of the three recently elected members of the new state presidency belong to the progressive and social democratic camp. The majority of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially a large part of Bosnian Croats, Bosnian Serbs and Bosniaks in FBiH, clearly voted for democratic and European forces, for a peaceful life in democracy and prosperity.

However, these achievements are destroyed, for example, by the intervention of Christian Schmidt on election day. The political actions of the German High Representative not only damage the reputation of the OHR and thus BiH, but also explicitly Germany. To make changes to the constitution of the entity FBiH and the electoral law on the holy day of democracy without informing the population in advance is unprecedented globally and, moreover, incompatible with OSCE guidelines. Trampling on the sovereignty of a country and its voters in this way is met with great incomprehension and resentment by the people of BiH and in the European Parliament. From Croatian government circles and the environment of the HDZ it is heard that the enforced changes of the High Representative were formulated by Zagreb. The High Representative is thus clearly gambling away trust in the democratic process and also credibility in the independent institution OHR.

The action also counteracts the position of the German government and the Bundestag. In a comprehensive resolution passed by the SPD, CDU/CSU, Greens and FDP in the Bundestag in July 2022, the German position on Bosnia and Herzegovina is clearly outlined:



We as the Federal Republic reject further ethnic division of the country, oppose the principle of legitimate representation, and want the swift implementation of the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights. We reject any deals with secessionists - this includes Cović and Dodik, according to the resolution of the Bundestag.

We must take a clear position, especially with regard to the upcoming Berlin process, and play our role in the transatlantic alliance in a united manner. Otherwise, we risk others deciding the future of parts of Europe over our heads.

I therefore believe it is necessary for our Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock to criticize Schmidt's actions in the strongest possible terms and also to approach the USA proactively with the demand that the changes made by Schmidt be reversed and that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina finally be given a path to a free and democratic civil state.

As for the recent statements by my colleague in the Bundestag, Mr. Juratović: he represents an individual opinion that has no majority in either the Government or the traffic light coalition. It is a pity for him that after 16 years of work as an MP and merely managing the status quo in BiH, he now, surprisingly for many, represents many of the positions of HDZ Prime Minister Plenkovic. This is disappointing.

In conclusion, I call on the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina - whether Catholic, Serb Orthodox, Muslim, whether Croat, Bosniak or Serb - to stand strong against further ethnic division of BiH. Only cohesion, peace and mutual respect can be the way out of the permanent crisis.“