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Mitglied des Auswärtigen Ausschusses
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Press release

„A fateful day for BiH" - Statement by Adis Ahmetović, MP, on yesterday's constitutional changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina by HR Christian Schmidt

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„A fateful day for BiH" - Statement by Adis Ahmetović, MP, on yesterday's constitutional changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina by HR Christian Schmidt:

"In the past six months, the constitution in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been changed several times by force majeure, namely by the High Representative (HR) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Christian Schmidt. Yesterday's decision by the HR is one of a series of serious interventions in the highest good of a democracy. For such a young democracy as BiH, such actions are profound and have long-term consequences. For this reason, I criticize the manner of this action, because I myself, as a parliamentarian, would never accept such a thing for my country, which I represent.

Guidelines of any constitutional changes that are made in BiH must comply with the Copenhagen criteria, the Venice Commission and the European Court of Human Rights. These must always be followed, instead of sowing doubt through unilateral decisions that the international community is concerned with focusing on the functionality of the entire state and overcoming ethno-nationalism. The impression that partisan politics is being played must never be allowed to emerge, lest important trust be lost.

Bosnia and Herzegovina deserves a European future - and needs a new beginning to achieve it. Social democracy has been given the confidence by the people of BiH to achieve a change of course in the country towards the European Community and to overcome propagated ethno-nationalism. We must and will therefore continue to support these forces, which stand for a strengthening of democracy.

It is now up to the Parliament in FBiH, starting at 2 p.m., to make sustainable decisions. Therefore, at the end, I want to personally address all those responsible:



I am the son of Bosnian-Herzegovinian war refugees. I come from a multi-ethnic family where we celebrate at least four major religious holidays a year. Far be it from me to put people into ethnic-denominational pigeonholes. I was not only brought up according to this principle in my parental home, but I was also socialized in the Federal Republic of Germany. That is one reason why I was ultimately able to become a member of the German Bundestag. These universal values that apply to me are the compass of my work as a German foreign policy expert. They are value-driven, as our Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has also put it.

And I am sure that the majority of people in BiH - whether Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, Serbian Orthodox or non-denominational - want precisely this way of life for themselves as well.

The decisions announced yesterday from the OHR are diametrically opposed to these values. It is up to the parliamentarians of FBiH to decide, especially also to the social democracy of FBiH, my sister party, which future concept they want for BiH, its people in the country and in the diaspora.”