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Pressemitteilung

Negotiations on Electoral Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina - "Laying the Foundation to Overcome Ethnic Divide"

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The comprehensive reform of the electoral law represents a significant step towards political stabilization and the strengthening of a pluralistic democratic civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The resumed negotiations on electoral law reform must therefore undertake the necessary reform processes to strengthen the electoral process and eliminate existing discrimination.

"Substantial implementation of the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights, such as the Sejdić-Finci ruling of 2009, is absolutely essential in the reform of electoral law. The overriding political goal must be to overcome the country's ethnic divisions. The discussed principle of 'legitimate political representation', on the other hand, would contribute to deepening the division and make the implementation of the rulings more difficult," emphasizes Adis Ahmetovic, member of the Bundestag.

In doing so, however, the current negotiations on comprehensive electoral reform must not lead to the postponement of the October 2022 elections. "Holding the elections next October should be a top priority. They must be fair, transparent and without manipulation. If the negotiations on electoral law reform do not produce a result by the time of the elections that complies with the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights, among others, a new attempt at comprehensive electoral law reform should be made shortly after the elections," the member of the Bundestag said.