



Maritime Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Established in 2007/RU648/07 of the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina

No. 08/2025

Sarajevo, April 21, 2025

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

I am writing to inform you about last discussion and conclusions of the Assembly of Maritime Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina (citizens' initiative) held on April 16, 2025, related to major political, institutional, economic and social crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We agreed that this crisis arose as a consequence of the plans of the leadership of the Republic of Serbia (RS) and the leadership of the Entity Republic Srpska (ERS), which was definitively and publicly presented by the adoption of "The Declaration on the Protection of National and Political Rights and the Common Future of the Serbian People" (Declaration) on June 8, 2024 in Belgrade. The Declaration was formally signed by the two presidents, Aleksandar Vučić and Milorad Dodik, and then adopted by both governments and parliaments of the ERS and the RS.

The concept presented, mandated by the Declaration, completely contains all activities to reject the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina and endorses the ERS as an integral part of the RS state, using ethnic nationality (people) and religious affiliation. The above procedure for adopting and signing the Declaration, as an international agreement, at the highest level of the signatory bodies (ERS and RS), with the blessing of the Serbian Orthodox Church, is contrary to: the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, legal regulations and decisions of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. (See attachment)

The competent bodies of the ERS do not have the legal right to negotiate, adopt and sign international agreements, which also applies to the Declaration. The actions of the responsible officials of the competent bodies of the ERS, in this case constitute abuse of position and authority, which is characterized as a criminal offense according to the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The RS has a great responsibility in this case, because it has become involved in the internal affairs of the sovereign and independent state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is contrary to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, special Article 10 (*"The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina recognize each other as sovereign independent States within their international borders. Further aspects of their mutual recognition will be subject to subsequent discussions."*)

The final conclusions are: (a) The Declaration is legally untenable, (b) It is necessary for the OHR and PIC to thoroughly review the Declaration from a legal perspective, (c) The Declaration should be repealed and its implementation banned in BiH, and (d) The judicial and prosecutorial authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina must hold accountable the leading officials of the ERS and other participants in this process.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could give this matter your immediate attention.

Respectfully yours,

Izet Bajrambašić Ph.D., president of the Maritime Association

Copy: PIC members