

Bicameralism, Democracy and the Role of the Civic Society

3. Meeting of the Association of European Senates

Ljubljana, 28 June 2002

Speech by H.E. Mladen Bosic, Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Slovenia

Mr. Chairman, presidents and speakers of European parliaments, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests,

It is with pleasure that Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted the chance to participate in the third international meeting of the Association of European Senates.

Our special gratitude to the National Council of Republic of Slovenia and its president Mr. Tone Hrovat on supporting our country on its way to reintegration into European institutions.

Bosnia and Herzegovina wants to be present everywhere where democratic processes of Europe are taking place. We are trying very hard to overcome our recent past and consequences of irrational and narrow-minded policies. On that path, we need support. The best support to our country will be accession to European democratic institutions. After recent accession to the Council of Europe, we are very pleased to be present on this meeting today.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has made evident progress in last years. That fact is accepted by the representatives of international community, neighbors of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as its own citizens.

Terrible war is behind us, constitutional institutions are functioning, and considerable number of refugees have come back to their homes. Now we are consolidating self-sustainable state that is functioning on the principles of law. Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina have declared their will to go on the path of European integrations, and that means to implement European standards in its own institutions, and together with other European nations to take their part of responsibility. Global fight against terrorism is the latest example.

Also, we are ready to learn form the older democracies.. Bosnia and Herzegovina has very complex parliamentary structure, as a matter of post war compromises, In different countries it is formed in different ways. According to Bosnia and Herzegovina Constitution, second house of the parliament is called House of Peoples. It is consisted of the representatives of three nations (Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats), and two entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska). The main role of that House is to ensure the culture of compromise. And the culture of compromise and dialog is very important even for the future of multiethnic and multicultural Europe.

So, we are ready to learn democracy on European standards. And this meeting has very important role in finding definitions for those standards.

Thank you.