

**Intervention by the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Dmitry Iordanidi at the Concluding Meeting of the 28th OSCE Economic and
Environmental Forum.**

Thursday, 10 September 2020

**14:30 – 16:00 Session I: Preventing and combating corruption through digital
technologies**

Length: 2-3 minutes

Order: DHoM registered as speaker #3 during plenary discussion

- Thank you to all speakers for your contributions to this highly insightful and thought-provoking session. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly update you on the work of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in preventing and fighting corruption.
- Speaking at this year's First Preparatory Meeting, our Head of Mission, Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, outlined the Mission's wide-ranging support in this crucial area. This includes assisting in the development of key anti-corruption legislation and strategies, strengthening co-ordination between different institutions and bodies at all levels, building the capacities of more than 1350 civil servants, monitoring the judicial response to corruption in criminal cases and promoting the use of innovative ICT tools such as publicly-accessible registries and databases.
- Allow me to provide some recent examples of our interventions in this field.
- In the area of prevention and following notable success in Sarajevo Canton, the Mission recently supported the launch of Registers of Public Employees and Appointees in Brčko District. Whilst still in the test phase, the registers will help to ensure that appointment procedures and the use of public funds are transparent, thus increasing citizens' trust that public officials and institutions work in their best interest.
- Recognising the increased opportunities for corruption presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mission called upon governments at all levels to develop and adopt action plans for preventing corruption in public procurement, humanitarian aid, and employment. We are happy to report that the state-level agency for fighting corruption along with eight cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina have since adopted action plans; a commendable and systemic response at this crucial time.
- The Mission has also been supporting the development and adoption of legislation aimed at preventing conflicts of interest, including laws that provide the grounds for identifying and managing such cases. Our efforts are comprehensive, extending to the

state, entity, and Brčko District levels. We will continue to push for the adoption of these laws as an essential component of the country's fight against corruption.

- In the area of repression, this autumn, the Mission will publish its third public report on the monitoring of corruption cases. These reports are produced as part of the Mission's Project on Assessing Needs of Judicial Response to Corruption through Monitoring of Criminal Cases, launched in October 2016 with the support of the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.
- The recommendations issued in the Project's reports have been endorsed by the national authorities and used to inform or shape several measures, including legislative changes, changes in the criteria for the evaluation of judicial performance and in designing tailored trainings for judges and prosecutors.
- The Mission will continue to be a strong supporter of anti-corruption efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the interest of all citizens. We remain available to the relevant authorities to assist as far as our mandate allows.
- Thank you.