

## **BH Parliamentary Assembly**

Comparison with the neighbours, in the context of Euro-Atlantic integrations, is the best evidence of lack of responsibility and competence of BH political elite.

As a reminder, the start was the same for all of us, at least in the formal sense – in 1999 EU proposed the new Stabilization Association Agreement for five countries of Southeast Europe, including BiH. The Council of Europe confirmed the Feasibility Study on negotiations with the Republic of Croatia in 2000, with BiH in 2003 and with Serbia in 2005. So at that moment we were a little behind Croatia and ahead of Serbia. However, already at the next stage – conclusion of the Stabilization Association Agreement – Croatia was far ahead of us and Serbia surpassed us in the very finish (Croatia concluded the Agreement in 2011, Serbia in April 2008 and BiH in June 2008.) And then the gap gets bigger and bigger – Croatia submitted its application for membership in 2003, it became a candidate in the next year, SAA comes into force, the negotiations start, are carried on and concluded. In 2009 Serbia submitted application for candidature, the process of ratification of SAA is ongoing and Serbia expects the approval of the status of a candidate, so the process of pre-accession negotiations starts. On the other hand, BiH did not even submit the application for candidature (according to the explanation provided to it, if at this moment it did submit the application, it would become the first country to be refused), the process of ratification of SAA was put on halt, and because of irresponsible politicians, the country is at constant threat to go backwards instead of moving forward.

Nine months that have been lost so far, during the post-election period, does not mean nine months in just any state, but in the one that is permanently struggling with its own inefficiency, that is to say inefficiency of its authorities. These are practically irreparable losses, which make our position in terms of our neighbours even more inferior. While we are groping in the dark, they are hurriedly going toward the goal. Even when we set off, we don't seem to be in a rush to catch up with them, but instead we act as if we, and not them, had an advantage, so we keep staggering along that road, sometimes going zig-zag, at time going back and forth.

There are many enactments that BiH was supposed to implement during the past years (we will distribute a list of a certain number of them, after the press conference). There are also many those that were adopted but are not being implemented in the right way, for example, improvement of functioning of the customs administration, speeding up the structural reforms and strengthening BH competitiveness, implementation of the Law on Communications, etc.

It took BH PA House of Representatives almost full six months to complete its Constitutive Session, that was held and adjourned on 30 November 2010, and to hold the continued session on 20 May 2011, in which the leadership of the House was to be finally elected. In the first half 2011, only 3 more sessions were held, in June.

The House of Peoples met only in June 2011, in two sessions, and its constituting was practically not finished before 29 June.

None of the BH Parliamentary Assembly homes have adopted work programs for 2011. Neither the budget of BH institutions nor the international obligations for BiH for the year 2011 have been adopted.

In four sessions of the House of Representatives of BHPA that were held in the first half 2011, only 41 items on the agenda were discussed, and in two sessions held of the House of Peoples, during the same period – only 6 items.

Speaking of the legislative activity of BH Parliamentary Assembly during the period covered by this CCI's report, we can say that the BH Parliament did not complete the procedure for adoption of any law.

The House of Representatives of BH PA did not adopt a single law in the second reading and adopted the total of 11 bills in the first reading, and rejected one. The House of Peoples did not even consider any legal solutions during the same period.

If we compare the current assembly of BH PA with the previous one, we arrive at the data that the previous assembly completed the process of constituting much faster and that previous assembly, in the first half of post-election year, adopted 9 laws, and approved 18 more, that had been imposed by the High Representative for BiH.

Comparison with neighbours is even more devastating. While BH PA, in 6 sessions of its homes, did not adopt a single law, the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia adopted a total of 61 law in the first six months 2011, during 56 days of session. The Croatian Parliament spent a total of 47 days in session in the first six months 2011, and adopted a total of 152 laws, which is only by 18 laws less than the number of laws adopted by BH Parliamentary Assembly during the past 4 years.

9-months of idleness only put more spotlight on enormously high salaries of BH Parliamentary Assembly delegates as well as on all their additional benefits, as opposed to very modest results of their work.

And finally – transparency of the work is practically the only bright side of BH PA.