## THE PARLIAMENT FBiH JAN-SEPT 2011 - REPORT SUMMARY

From Jan 1 to Sept 30 2011, at 10 sessions held within 15 calendar days of sitting, the House of Representatives realized 98 measures, with almost a half of them being legislations. The House of People, during the same time period, held 9 sessions over the course of 11 days of sitting, and realized 76 measures, out of which 42 were legislations.

Both houses recorded the highest degree of realization in the 3rd quarter of the year, with more than a half of what has been realized belonging to this quarter.

The House of People has been working without its work program. And the 2011 Work program of the House of Representatives was adopted in the form of a proposal on July 26. Both Houses therefore violated the Rules of Procedure, and the House of Representatives practically made this binding document completely senseless by adopting it so late (for now it can't be seen as an annual work program, but the work program for the last five months of 2011).

After this unacceptable delay, the adopted work program was, in fact, taken from the FBiH Government. The whole situation is very similar to that of the first year of the previous term (2007), when both houses of the FBiH Parliament did not have work programs, and called upon, informally, the work program of the FBIH Government.

In addition to this longest delay in adopting the Work program, in comparison with previous years, if we exclude the year of 2007 when the Work program document was not adopted at all, in the first nine months of 2011, the level of the program's realization is extremely low.

Three months before year's end, only nine laws completed parliamentary procedure or 10% of the total number of laws planned in the 2011 work program.

To make it even more absurd, this is only 17% (9 out of 52) in relation to the number of laws planned to be adopted in the first nine months of 2011, according to the Work program adopted at the end of July 2011. It depicts an utterly irresponsible approach to both planning and implementing of the Work program.

The 2011 Budget of FBIH was adopted under the urgency procedure during special sessions that took place at the end of March 2011. Proposal of changes and amendments (rebalance) was considered and adopted at sessions held at the end of July. It was approved in the amount of 1.735.797.000 KM, which is by 36,5 mil KM or 2,15% more in relation to the budget revised. The facts depict undevelopmental character of the budget, planned deficit, and borrowing to cover budget deficit.

From Jan 1 to Sept 30 the FBiH Parliament considered total of 46 laws in different forms. Only 23 laws completed parliamentary procedure (9 planned and 14 unplanned), i.e., they were approved in the form of proposal by both Houses. Two more laws were approved by both houses - in different forms, however, so they need to be harmonized. 15 draft laws were approved by both houses and sent into further procedure. It is interesting that 10 out of these 15 draft laws were sent by the Governemnt to Parliament in the form of proposal, however, the Parliament refused to consider them in that form and considered them as drafts instead, approved them as such and sent to the Government for additional changes. Besides, five laws were approved in the form of a draft by only one House and are pending for approval by the other House; one law was rejected and four laws were withdrawn from the procedure.

By looking at the laws from the perspective of the Government-Parliament relations, one can conclude that the Parliament approved 42% (13 of 31) laws that the FBIH Government approved by Sept 30 2011. In addition, both houses also approved nine draft laws. The remaining nine government's laws (3 proposals and 6 drafts) were either not considered over the course of this period or were considered by only one House.

Similarity between the first year of the current and the first year of the previous government is in the prevailing urgent and shortened approval procedures in relation to regular procedure. Out of 23 laws approved by both houses in the form of proposal from Jan 1 to Sept 30, nine laws were approved under the urgency procedure, 10 under shortened procedure and only four were approved under regular procedure. What should be pointed out is that 10 out of 15 laws approved in the form of a draft were sent into public debate, which was not something that the previous government composition practiced very frequently.

With regards to the individual activity of MPs, 4 of 46 laws considered in the first nine months of this year were, in fact, proposed by MPs of the House of Representatives (Irfan Ajanović and Jasmin Duvnjak).

There was also significant amendment activity in discussions on budget and proposal for its changes (10 representatives and 7 delegates sent amendments to proposed budget rebalancing act ).

During Jan 1 to Sept 30 2011, total of 66 MPs from nine political parties represented in the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament raised 351 questions at six regular sessions, which in average is 60 questions per session. At the same time, delegates in the House of People raised 60 questions and launched 20 initiatives at five regular sessions.

In the end, the FBiH Parliament is still struggling with a high number of unjustified absences from plenary sessions. Discrepancies in the data regarding the number of justified absences and the total

number of representatives/delegates absent from vote speaks in favor of this claim. On average, five MPs were justifiably absent from one session, while during the first vote at the beginning of sessions, the number of absent MPs ranges from 20 to 30.

This problem should be resolved by installing electronic vote system, which, to remind, with complete reconstruction of the FBiH Parliament hall cost 1,850.000,00 KM. The system was never put to work. This situation makes it impossible to document unjustified absences Ps unjustifiably absent from sessions, but also, which is even more important, it deprives public of information how MPs voted on different issues.

Persistent ignoring of this problem questions total transparency of the highest legislative body in FBIH.