

RS Government

2. SUMMARY

The problems with constituting, that ensue from the complexity of our system, grey areas existing in the Election Law and the Constitution, as well as the lack of political will and readiness for compromise of political scene actors, is something that the Republic of Srpska is not immune to. The first session of the new Government was held only on 03 February 2011, 4 months after holding the General Election.

Compared to the former RS Government, which, in the first post-election year, discussed about 34 items of the agenda per held meeting, on the average, the RS Government, led by the prime minister Aleksandar Dzombic, according to the information available until now, gets even 35% more of the job done, and, at the beginning of its mandate, discusses 46 items of the agenda per session. The government also meets more frequently, and the prime minister is not as often absent from the sessions as this was the case with his predecessor (11 absences in the first half year of 2007 compared to only 2 absences in 2011).

Having said that, the ambitions of the new Government, incorporated into the annual Work Program, are more realistic. In the first year of its mandate, the former RS Government planned even 34% more laws compared to the current Government, also in the first year of its mandate. However, its realization at the end, hardly exceeded 50% (of 123 planned laws, only 63 bills were approved).

The RS Government adopted its Work Program for 2011 in 3rd regular session, on 17 February 2011. It takes only a glance of the so-far practice to see that the election or delays in constituting the government do not really present the problem, the real problem being that a delay in this context represents rather a pattern in behaviour. Having said that, it should not be forgotten that, according to the Rules of Procedures, the Governments in technical mandates are not exempted from their obligations, and are especially not given the right to decide which of their prescribed obligations they may or may not violate.

The Government must have the same approach to the Program, as to the Budget – there are precise deadlines for adoption and no vacuum is allowed. The key documents are designed and adopted by the officials currently in office who cannot stall this using any excuses. Once it has taken office, the new Government may revise the documents in accordance with its goals and the needs and continue working.

Unfortunately, the public, faced with much more serious problems, does not pay attention to this continuing practice of violating the Rules of Procedures, so nothing is being done to remove this anomaly. However, this is not a formal or technical issue – timely and quality planning is a foundation of any efficient work and successful completion of one's obligations, and given the fact that in every year delays take place from the very beginning, it is no wonder that the activities planned by the RS Government were never realized to the full degree in any of the year of monitoring.

The Republic of Srpska Government approved, at the semi-annual level, 41 of 53 planned bills, thus showing a high level of efficiency of 77%. Having said that, it should be noted that of total 41 approved bills from the Work Programme, only 24 were approved in the final

form of the proposal, while 17 laws were discussed and adopted by the Government in draft form by 30 June 2011, which means that the Government's work on them is not complete.

So, more precise information as to the realization of the planned obligations of the Government in the first half 2011, is that the RS Government's job was fully completed with 45% of the planned laws (24 of 53), whereas 32% of them (17 of 53) were completed partly, whereas 22,6% (12 of 53 laws) planned for the realization in the first half of the year, have not been completed by the Government in any form whatsoever.

During this time period, the RS Government approved 9 bills more than planned in the Work Program. Eight of them were approved in the form of bill while one of the law remained in the form of draft law as of the end of June 2011.

The biggest problem presented in the work of the current Government is that of total number of adopted items on the agenda, only 15% relate to the life problems of "common" citizens. At the same time, in the time period before 30 June 2011, only 2.6% of measures were addressed that could actually raise the quality of the life of RS citizens in the year 2011, which is even less than the percentage accomplished by the former RS Government, which, on the average, had between 4 and 5% of such measures in each year of its mandate.

Speaking of the Budget, this year too, it was prepared by the Finance Ministry on time and forwarded to the Assembly for adoption before the end of the previous year. As for the level of the budget, the RS Government maintains the same level of projected funds. Here too, is shown the failure of the Government to make the budget realistic – instead of that, the budget stability is achieved by IMF loans and with funds from the escrow account.

The highest efficiency in the realization of total planned activities in the past half-year was shown by the Ministry of Internal Affairs – 62%. Only the Ministry of Labour and BIZ and MULS are above 50% in terms of realization of planned activities. The lowest level of realization is shown by the Ministry for Economic Relations, Ministry for Transport and Communications, Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons and the Ministry for Industry, Energy and Mining – all below 30%. Having said that, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining is nominally at the third place by the number of the measures accomplished from the Program, with 15 enacted measures (this Ministry is followed by the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, with 19, and by the Finance Ministry, with 17 enacted measures).