

## RS National Assembly

### 2. SUMMARY

The Republic of Srpska National Assembly adopted the Work Program for 2011 on 23 March 2011, in its 5<sup>th</sup> regular session. As the Rules of the Procedures stipulate that passing of the Program of Work of the Assembly is directly related with passing of the Work Program of the Government, and given the fact that the Government was delayed in passing of its Work Program, which happened only on 17 February 2011, the RS National Assembly functioned without the Work Program during almost all of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2011. As this situation repeats year in, year out, and as it affects the efficiency of work of both institutions, it is high time that something be done to stop that practice.

The RS NA Work Program for 2011, with its 103 planned laws, is more extensive compared to the Work Program from previous 2010, however it is far less ambitious when compared to the Program for 2007, which was the first year after the previous General Election – the difference is even in 44 laws.

RS NA did not manage to distance itself from an unacceptable practice that is widespread in BH institutions, according to which the data is incorporated in the annual work program that relates to the period that is already completed at the time of passing the Work Program. Thus, this year's Program, adopted on 23 March, incorporates 5 laws planned for adoption in the first quarter, all of which had been already adopted on the day of passing the Program. Two of them as long ago as in February.

This sort of "back-planning" casts a shadow on the authenticity of statistical data, because, according to such a concept of the Program, "the realization of the planned obligations" is 100% in the first half of the year. At the same time, the value of all other data, in whichever way connected with the Program, is rendered relative.

According to the Work Program, the plan is to realize 37 laws in the second quarter 2011, 26 in the third and 37 in the fourth quarter. The number of planned activities is increasing, while the efficiency significantly drops compared to retroactively "planned" first quarter. Of 37 laws, planned for realization in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – only 13 were adopted, which is therefore a drop from 100% to 35% of "quarterly" realization.

Only in June this year, one could notice a more serious dynamism in the work of MPs, when, in line with the increased level of sessions, there is an increase in efficiency in the sense of the measures adopted during the meetings held. More precisely, in 2 sessions, during 10 meetings, the MPs adopted 10 bills and even 20 draft laws, which is almost 2 and a half times more compared to the entire past period of the year. Unlike in June, which can serve as an example as to how things should be done, in January i.e. in May the MPs spent only one day in session, respectively, and did not realize a single law.

If we disregard the mentioned irregularities in designing the RSNA Work Program, we can say that, during the first 6 months of this year to which this Report relates, the National Assembly members realized 18 of 42 laws planned for adoption in the first half-year, which is 43% of the planned in this period, but only 17% of the overall annual plan.

Due to poor realization of the planned obligations until 30 June 2011, the number of laws that the RS NA is supposed to realize in the second half of the year, increased to 85. This is the same number of laws that the RS NA in previous mandate had planned to realize in the last year, which it did not fully accomplish.

An increase of almost 40% in already substantial amount of obligations in the second half of the year, as a result of the past poor performance, did not produce any noticeable concern and change of behaviour of RS MPs. They neither urged the Government to pay more

serious attention to the deadlines for passing laws, nor did the MPs abandon the usual comfort that they treat themselves with – on 20 July they left for a usual, too long summer break, which will last by the end of August.

So, if the trend of performance present in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter continues, the Assembly could see the end of the year with only 43% of realized legal obligations from the Work Program, that is to say, with 59 non-realized out of 103 planned laws.

In addition to 18 adopted laws and 9 accepted in the form of draft, contained in the Work Program for 2011, which relates to the period until 30 June, the RS NA also discussed the laws that were not planned in Work Program for 2011, as well as the laws that were planned, but for the second half of the current year. The total number of laws that were in front of the MPs during the first 6 months of this year is 43 – 21 bills were adopted and 21 draft laws, whereas one law, i.e. draft, was rejected.

The RS Government, with its delays in passing the planned measures, has a negative impact on the efficiency of RS NA, i.e., primarily on the degree of realization of its program obligations. The RS NA efficiency, concerning the realization of planned obligations would be by far higher if 10 laws that were approved in the RS Government and planned in RS NA, had been approved and debated earlier, rather than upon the expiry of semi-annual period of the work of both institutions. On the other hand, in this semi-annual period, the RS Government did not discuss 11 drafts that had been accepted by the Assembly, which speaks of certain indolence when it comes to finalization of documents.

A law that has been in the procedure for longest is the Law on Social Protection which was approved in November 2008 in RS NA and then it, so to say, disappeared.

Looking on the whole, the beginning of work of the new Parliament goes in much more tolerant atmosphere compared to the period four years ago. In this new assembly the way the MPs speak to each other also changed and is much more tolerant now compared to the previous assembly, so that during the period from 15 November to 31 December 2010 there were no situations where the MPs spoke to each other without respect nor there were some unacceptable verbal battles between the MPs and the prime minister.

Compared to the previous assembly of RS NA, in this assembly there is 16% more professional MPs, more precisely, there were 53 professional MPs in the previous mandate, whereas this number now is 65.

We could see that there were 4 MPs without any official activities during the first 6 months of 2011, including MPs' questions, discussions, replies or initiatives. (Gavrilo Bobar SNSD, Svetozar Jovanovic, SNSD, Veljko Maric, SNSD, Milenko Padjen, SNSD).