

Performance of the Government of the Republic of Srpska Jan 1 to March 31, 2013

Current political moment in the Republic of Srpska

There has been a shift in the government of Republic of Srpska. The prime minister's position held by Aleksandar Dzombic was assumed by the first woman-president of the Government of RS, Željka Cvijanovic, whose election was affirmed at the 14th session of the National Assembly of Republic of Srpska on March 12, 2013.

The key documents

Work program for 2013 was adopted in a form of a draft on Feb 7, 2013 at the 101st session. It was approved in a form of a proposal on the 103rd regular session from Feb 21, 2012, following the harmonization with the Assembly's work program (approved on Feb 14, 2013 during the 24th regular session). The Government's work program anticipates endorsement of 82 laws, four more than in 2012. The lower planning intensity was stopped.

The Government's work program is structured as follows: 82 laws, 19 regulations, 14 strategies, 78 reports, 128 different information, 17 orders, 6 action plans, 2 codes, 2 analyses, Framework budget document, 30 plans with financial plans, 14 work programs, 1 decision and 9 other policies.

The total number of the policies planned in 2013 is 409, 23 more than in 2012.

Budget

The Budget for 2013 is increased by 135 mil KM in comparison with the rebalance from 2012, and the funds were expected from the IMF tranches.

The signs of serious problems in terms of stability and maintaining the budget have long been a subject of parliamentary discussions. There are two completely opposite stands. While the ruling parties are offering unconvincing explanations that there are no serious problems with the budget flows, the opposition is using every opportunity to highlight that the Government's performance is poor and that citizens are in a rather difficult situation due to government's poor governance and policies.

The Finance minister Zoran Tegeltija said in his introductory speech on the occasion of the budget approval for 2013:

"Macroeconomic environment in which the budget for 2013 is created is significantly worse than in 2012. Global economy is still unstable and vulnerable, economic growth is slower than in 2010 and 2011. All of the implemented policies aimed to increase economic growth and find solution to the debt crisis have not yet provided the results expected".

Sessions and their scope

In the first quarter of 2013, the Government of RS held 9 regular sessions under the leadership of the former president Aleksandar Dzombic and 4 regular and 2 working sessions under the leadership of Zeljka Cvijanovic.

The government planned to discuss 423 points of the agenda; however, it discussed a significantly higher number - 537 points. On average, the government members discussed 41 agenda points during a regular session, which is still significantly less in comparison to the first quarter of last year, when the Government discussed 586 points of the agenda or 44.8 per session.

The Government and ministers spent total of 34 hours or approx. 6 days in session.

The analysis of the sessions provides us with information that has become somewhat of a rule. The Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Education and Culture are taking up the largest burden; they proposed 40% of all policies considered.

Ministry for Refugees and Displaced persons, Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance and Ministry of Trade and Tourism had the smallest number of activities, which does not mean that it is about poor performance; it is possible that these departments did not have the obligations like some other departments did during the first quarter.

Characteristics of the RS Government's performance in the first quarter of 2013

The Government of RS, according to its Work program for 2013, was supposed to realize 45 laws in the first three months of 2013. Out of 45 laws, 18 were supposed to be endorsed in a form of a draft, and 27 were programmed in a form of a proposal. From Jan 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013, the government endorsed 15 law proposals and 7 draft laws, which is 49% of the plan for the first quarter of 2013. By looking at the annual work plan, the government realized

27,5% of the total legislative plan, which is essentially a good information, should the pace be maintained over the next three quarters. It should be emphasized that the number of legislative obligations in the third and fourth quarter is significantly smaller.

The Ministry of Finance had the largest amount of work in the legislative part of the Work program. The ministry had a task of preparing 20 laws in the first quarter, both in a form of a draft and a proposal.

The Ministry of Finance realized 65% of the plan, Ministry of Administration and Local Self-governance completed 100% of its quarterly plan based on two laws, as well as the Ministry of Labor (based on 1 law). Ministry of Industry, Energy and Coal Mining realized 75% of the laws planned, Ministry for City Planning, Construction and Ecology realized 50%. Ministry of Justice realized 33%, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management realized 20% of it plan in the first quarter, however, there is still enough time to correct itself, because the entire annual plan is in essence the plan for the first quarter.

The Ministry of Trade and Tourism did not realize any of its 2 programmed laws, nor did the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport and Communication and Ministry of Education and Culture. The three ministries had only one law to realize according to the Government's work Program.

The other ministries did not program any laws for the first quarter, while the Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons did not plan any laws in 2013.

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The Government's obligation was to work on thematic issues. According to the Work program for 2013, it should have determined 106 thematic issues. The ministries were supposed to define 91 issues, while the other 15 thematic issues were supposed to be realized by different public organizations and companies. The ministries realized 57 or 62%, while the overall quarterly realization, together with thematic issues is 60% (64 out of 106). The total quarterly realization of the programmed policies is at 57%.

Executive-Legislation relationship

Out of 27 laws programmed by the Parliament for the first three months of 2013, the government sent 7 laws into parliamentary procedure by Dec 31, 2012, and 15 laws were endorsed by the Government in the first quarter of 2013. The National Assembly adopted 11 programmed proposals; it endorsed 9 drafts, while two laws were withdrawn from the procedure as requested by the proposers. In the first quarter of 2013, the Government of RS endorsed 2 law proposals from the Assembly's work program, however they were approved by the Parliament in April,

because the Government endorsed the Law on Renewable Energy Sources and Efficient Co-generation on March 28, 2013, while the Law on Planning and Construction building was endorsed on March 21, due to which it was not possible to consider them against the quarterly plan of the National Assembly.

Insufficient number of measures tackling existential issues in 2013

Out of the total number of agenda points discussed in the first quarter of 2013, 91 measures were connected with the problems of citizens, or 17%. Only 19 measures have more significant connection with the real problems of the citizens.

Transparency

The government of RS uses selective approach to publicizing information on its web site. The web site contents lacks the minutes from the sessions, which is opposite to practices used not only abroad, but even by some BiH institutions, for example the Parliamentary Assembly BiH, which has impeccable transparency. The Government of RS can see good practices in its closest surroundings, in Serbia.

The Government of RS submits to CCI the shortened versions of the session minutes upon the end of the quarter, which significantly hinders CCI's monitoring efforts in terms of the quality of information and its timely presentation, as expected by the public.

One of the Government's tasks in 2013 is to increase its transparency.

PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA JAN 1 - MARCH 31, 2013

In the first quarter of 2013, the MPs spent 14 working days and they realized 65 agenda points. It is worth mentioning that the MPs spent only 7 working days over the same period last year.

The Work program was adopted on Feb 14, 2013. In 2013, the Assembly planned to approve 83 laws, which is 2 laws more than in 2012. It is not a drastic increase in terms of programming; however it is important because over the past several years there has been no increase in the number of the programmed laws. Out of the total number of laws, 43 will be new texts of laws, while the other 40 laws will be amendments and changes to the existing laws. Thematically, the work program contains 87 issues to be approved this year. In the first quarter of 2013, the National Assembly realized 40.7% of its programmed laws and the general impression is that the results were solid.

The reasons why the results were not better in terms of efficiency is the crisis that occurred in the executive government that brought the change in the Government of RS .

Including the thematic issues, the National Assembly ended the first quarter with 45% of realized activities.

The National Assembly - Government Relations

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The Government of RS approved 2 law proposals from the Assembly's work program; however the proposals were approved by the Parliament in April, because the Government endorsed the Law on Renewable Energy Sources and Efficient Co-generation on March 28, 2013, while the Law on Planning and Construction was endorsed on March 21, due to which it was not possible to consider them against quarterly Assembly's work plan.

In addition to the laws from the Work program, the Government of RS endorsed 2 non-planned laws in a form of proposal.

The government of RS attends the sessions of the National Assembly according to the Rule of Procedure of the National Assembly and the ministers take part in discussions regarding their departments.

In the first three months of 2013, the MPs sent 115 questions addressing them to the government ministries or 57,5 per session. Most of the questions were addressed to the Ministry of Labor and Veteran Care (18). 17 questions were addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, 7 to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, 2 to the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of City Planning, Ministry of Family, Sport and Youth, and 1 to the Ministry for Refugees, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Trade.

No questions were addressed to the Ministry of Science and Technology or Ministry for Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation.

MP with the largest number of questions were Diana Cekic PDP -20 questions, and it is visible that she spends a lot of her time with citizens, because most of the questions relate to individual rights of citizens. MP Ljiljana Bogdanović SDS and Branislav Borenovic PDP posed 5 questions, while 4 questions were posed by MP Lazar Mirkić SDS, Velimir Sakan PDP and Ilija Tamindija SNSD.

A significant number of MPs, 30 of them or 36% did not pose any questions during the first quarter.

Incomes of MPs

Incomes of professionally engaged MPs in the National Assembly amount to 2,450 KM on average, while the MPs who do not have professional status receive 1,650 KM. The President of the Assembly has the highest income -- around 3,500 KM, while his deputies receive around 3,100 KM.

In addition to this "raw" data regarding the salaries, the public should know that the total incomes are significantly higher, once the compensation for past service years, per diems for official trips, allocation of funds received by MPs Caucuses and some other privileges are added to the amounts mentioned.

Good practices and initiatives

Vukota Govedarica, Chief of Caucus sent the draft law on investigating the origin of the property, with an accent on citizens whose property exceed 500 000 KM. The National Assembly approved the draft. The initiative was also well accepted in the public. There was also a professional discussion about the initiative in order to eliminate shortcomings as indicated by the SNSD Caucus. Political will to approve such a law was expressed during the voting, and it is now expected of the ruling party to show the same level of political will during the discussion about the law proposal. The second example is a discussion initiated by Kostadin Vasić, who has pointed out to the situation in the public company Birac in Zvornik, emphasizing that financial funds have been taken out of the company and that the police should enter the factory and examine the company's operations. Vasic said that he forwarded the request to the newly elected minister of Interior Radoslav Jovicic, and former minister Cado, who said, on several occasions, that the Ministry of Interior would not be dealing with rumors and speculations. The new Interior Minister responded differently, he sent his operation teams to Birac, and many misdeeds were discovered. Currently, the company is undergoing bankruptcy procedure.

The National Assembly's Work Program and the RS Budget

The overall work program consists of 83 laws and 87 thematic units. In 2013, the MPs face a plan with 170 policies and the trend of increase in programming as opposed to the scarce plan from 2012 that included 157 policies.

The Finance Minister Zoran Tegeltija said in his introductory speech:

"Macro-economic environment in which the budget for 2013 is created is significantly worse than in 2012. Global economy is still unstable and vulnerable, economic growth is slower than in 2010 and 2011. All of the implemented policies aimed to increase economic growth and find solution to the debt crisis have not yet provided the results expected".

In his speech, the minister confirmed that the RS is going through the debt crisis.

Transparency

The objection addresses the lack of TV broadcastings and the picture of the Assembly's transparency is really not clear. The citizens do not know what other issues are being discussed by the Assembly. The other segments of transparency are increasing, the minutes are uploaded on the official web site, as well as questions posed by MPs, announcements, etc.