

TO THE MEDIA

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PRESS RELEASE

Coalition Pod Lupom: 2018 General Elections in BiH assessed as partially irregular

The Coalition for free and fair elections “Pod Lupom” held a Central conference entitled the “Future of the elections in BiH: How to reach the international standards and prevent election fraud?” and presented the Final Report on the Civic and Non-partisan Observation of the 2018 General Elections.

The incomplete legal framework, non-implementation of the binding verdicts of local and international courts, transparent violation of the Election Law of BiH, a record high number of registered election irregularities, political influence on the election administration and the absence of sanctions contributed to the Coalition’s assessing the 2018 General Elections as partially irregular. This is the first time in the Coalition’s history to assess some segments of the electoral process as irregular.

The opening remarks were made by H.E. Mr. Eric Nelson, the United States Ambassador in BiH, H.E. Ambassador Bruce Berton, the Head of the OSCE Mission in BiH and distinguished Mrs. Elisabeth Tomasinec, the Head of Political Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The conference included two panel discussions on the burning issues: “How to achieve free and fair elections in BiH: Mission impossible or a pressing need” and the “Priorities in improving the election legislation in BiH: Where to start and where to stop?”.

The conclusions that were reached at the conference should serve BiH decision-makers to improve the electoral legislation in BiH:

CONCLUSIONS:

Election fraud and irregularities must be prevented, and perpetrators must be sanctioned so that the electoral will of BiH citizens is never called into question again;

New government in BiH must secure the necessary changes of the electoral legislation in order to conduct free and fair elections in the near future;

Election irregularities and fraud must be sanctioned by the authorized institutions and election administration; the sanctions must be greater, and the work of investigative authorities should be more efficient;

Introducing new technologies in the electoral process is an inevitable step to bring back the citizens’ trust in the elections, and it is also a crucial step that should be implemented in the non-election year;



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The responsibility for administration of elections is on the election authorities, especially on the Central Election Commission of BiH that must be independent and impartial in its future work;

The verdicts of the European Court for Human Rights must be a priority in the implementation of the binding court rulings into the election legislation, together with the rulings of the Constitutional Court of BiH;

The state-level government should launch the initiative to enact the Law on Political Organizations to regulate the work of political parties in BiH;

The Conference brought together more than a hundred representatives of the legislative institutions at all levels in BiH, local election administration, international institutions, academic community, civil society and media. Members of the Central Election Commission of BiH did not respond to the invitation to participate.

For all additional information please contact Nina Zubovic, the Coalition's Public Relations Coordinator by e-mail at pr@podlupom.org or at 033 268 160 and 063 396 534.

