

Address by the Member of the European Parliament, Civil Liberties,
Justice and Home Affairs Committee
Tanja Fajon

The impact of the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2002-2012

Seminar on 10 years civilian crisis management in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Western Balkans and lessons learned for the future of CSDP

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

Thank you very much for having me at the closing ceremony of the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM). The Mission in the past 9 and a half years did an exceptional job. Its contribution is of extraordinary importance for the stability and security of the country and one of important elements of the overall EU strategy for BiH. The EUPM projects contribute to the fight against organized crime and corruption and help the BiH law enforcement agencies and judiciary.

As BiH, at this point, is in need of further progress in these areas, generally in the judiciary and in police reform, what remains is a need to transition the work of the EUPM and provide assistance through IPA-funded projects (pre-accession programs), while the strategic function of the EUPM still remains - the role of advisory body in the field of law enforcement and criminal justice under the Office of the EUSR in BiH.

Dear friends,

I do not intend to talk about the details of police and judicial reform in BiH, you are professionals, but I want to emphasize at least several points.

- The need of the state for a necessary participation at the local and federal level, which is the only way to open up the next point
- Reforms and chapters 23/24, as a part of the BiH accession to the EU

I learned so much in recent years as a European politician, especially as the rapporteur for visa liberalization for Western Balkans. In the first place I want to emphasize the key role of EUPM in this process, which is one of the biggest successes of BiH on its path toward Europe. Back then you had a clear road map and clear goals that you successfully achieved. The whole country toiled and strived for this purpose. Why not turn this kind of success story into another success story? The goals now are also clear.

They include:

- Better coordination and cooperation of key institutions in the field of security
- The fight against organized crime
- The fight against corruption and strengthening public confidence in institutions
- Management of seized and confiscated property
- Increase in the capacity of the State Investigation and Protection Agency
- Improving the performance and efficiency of border police, police authorities in the entities and cantons and the Brcko District
- Restructuring of police
- Better cooperation and coordination between the police and judiciary, which would enhance efficiency in the fight against crime
- Better information-sharing and effective use of new technologies

Let me remind you:

The visa liberalization has been offered based on the agreement and under condition that the reforms and police efficiency continue. I don't want to threaten in any way and I hope that it will never happen, but the fact is that today there is already a mechanism for the suspension of liberalization of visa regime. Nobody here, among us, wants this to happen. I believe that even now there is only one requirement: cooperation at all levels of government in the country! To implement this, coordination is paramount!

Structured dialogue on justice has been implemented. I often wonder why there cannot be a structured dialogue on internal affairs at the same time I wonder why only the chapter 23, if we know that chapters 23 and 24 should go in parallel, as they are mutually complementary? The EU and BiH should establish a strategic dialogue for both chapters. Therefore, it is necessary to implement the Sejdic-Finci judgment as soon as possible, so that the Commission could open that part of the dialogue.

The EUPM has made great contributions in the areas covered by these chapters. These chapters are often the biggest challenges for the candidate countries - a chapter on the judiciary, for example, was the last one closed in Croatian negotiations. And even before the full membership of Croatia, a detailed monitoring of progress is still performed.

I think that BiH has the available capacities, but you have many agencies that are fragmented at the federal level and cantonal level. Their coordination and integration into a central agency is necessary.

It is not possible to expect to achieve a greater efficiency of law enforcement agencies under the current institutional arrangement, but the work on reforms is still needed. That is the only way to signing the operational agreement with EUROPOL. Also important and necessary is mutual cooperation between the RS and the Federation in the exchange of information.

I hope that the leaders meeting in Brussels later this month will bring progress and results. The purpose of the meeting is that the main politicians in the country understand that the state at that point is not functional enough to be able to conduct negotiations with the EU and transfer the European legislation into the national legislation. The EU coordination mechanism is what is needed in all sectors, so that the relations between different levels of government can be determined. This is not about a stripping of authorities, but rather that the state by working together could reach the EU standards. In

the law enforcement this means clear channels for cooperation with the EU agencies (EUROPOL and FRONTEX)

At this point I would caution at one more thing that I find extremely important. The necessity of adopting the Internal Security Strategy of BiH. In that case, the EU and the Lisbon Treaty are an excellent example.

Until the Lisbon Treaty we had a number of EU agencies, Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, CEPOL, which were not coordinated with each other, we had different police forces, different approaches to solving problems, but under the Internal Security Strategy, the Lisbon Treaty brought this under one central umbrella.

I urge the BiH politicians of the necessity of progress in the fight against organized crime and corruption.

I am a member and coordinator of a special committee in the EP named CRIM, dealing with challenges coming from the area of organized crime and corruption. We all need to be on alert and at each step desire to solve these problems. This is not just your problem, I must say, this is also the problem of the EU. By this I want to emphasize that the process of getting closer to EU and European cooperation is a continuous effort, which never ends. And it is much more important than narrow “national interests.”

In the end, I would once again like to make it clear: The European Union remains strongly committed to supporting BiH on its road toward European integration with the underlying policy - that the country accelerates the progress towards the EU membership for the benefit of all citizens. If you work together, operate as a single country, it is much more likely to progress and irreversibly head to the EU.

The EU should witness convincing efforts of policy and administration, filing the application for EU membership requires a functional state and government. The year 2012 could be a turning point for BiH to move closer, and demonstrate progress toward the European Union. Half a year has already passed.

Strengthening the functionality of the whole state does not mean the weakening of the entities, but it does mean creating conditions for effectiveness of state administration that is able to prepare the ground for a future EU membership. Better coordination between the entities is a goal that ensures the implementation of reforms.

The future of BiH lies in the European Union and the prospect of EU membership is one of the most important unifying elements among the people in the country.

Do not let them down.

Thank you!

Poštovane dame i gospodo, dragi prijatelji,

Puno Vam hvala što ste me pozvali na ceremoniju zatvaranja Policijske misije Evropske unije u Bosni i Hercegovini (EUPM). Misija je u proteklih 9 i pol godina napravila izuzetan posao. Njen doprinos je od izvanrednog značaja za stabilnost i sigurnost države i jedan je od važnih elemenata ukupne strategije EU-a za BiH. Projekti

EUPM-a doprinose borbi protiv organiziranog kriminala i korupcije i pomažu BiH agencijama za provedbu zakona i pravosudu.

Kako je u BiH, u ovom trenutku, potreban dodatni napredak na tim područjima, generalno reforma pravosuđa i policije, tako ostaje potreba za tranzicijom rada EUPM-a kroz pomoć projektima koji se financiraju iz programa predpristupne pomoći - IPA; ostaje i strateška funkcija EUPM-a - uloga savjetodavnog organa u područjima provedbe zakona i kaznenog pravosuđa pri Uredu specijalnog predstavnika EU u BiH.

Dragi prijatelji.

Nemam namjeru govoriti o detaljima policijske i pravosudne reforme u BiH, vi ste stručnjaci, ali želim istaknuti barem nekoliko tačaka.

- Potreba države za neophodnim sudjelovanjem na lokalnoj i federalnoj razini, koja jedina otvara put sljedećoj tački
- Reforme i poglavlja 23/24, kao dio puta BiH u EU

Mnogo sam naučila u proteklih godina kao europska političarka, posebno kao izvjestitelj za liberalizaciju viznog režima za Zapadni Balkan. Pravo je mjesto istaknuti ključnu ulogu EUPM-a u tom procesu, koji je jedan od najvećih uspjeha BiH na njenom europskom putu. Tada ste imali jasnu Mapu puta i jasne ciljeve koje ste uspješno postigli. Cijela država je radila i disala za taj cilj. Zašto ne ovakvu uspješnu priču pretvoriti u još jednu uspješnu priču? Ciljevi su i sada jasni.

Znači:

- Bolja koordinacija i suradnja ključnih institucija na području sigurnosti
- Borba protiv organiziranog kriminala
- Borba protiv korupcije i jačanje povjerenja građana u institucije
- Upravljanje privremeno oduzetom i zaplijenjenom imovinom
- Povećanje kapaciteta Državne agencije za istrage i zaštitu BiH
- Poboljšanje performansa i efikasnosti Granične policije, policijskih tijela u entitetima i kantonima, te Distrikta Brčko
- Restrukturiranje policije
- Bolja saradnja i koordinacija između policije i pravosuđa, koja bi poboljšala efikasnost u borbi protiv kriminala
- Bolja razmjena informacija i efikasnija upotreba novih tehnologija

Dopustite da Vas podsjetim:

Vizna liberalizacija vam je bila pružena na osnovu dogovora i pod uvjetom da se reforme i policijska efikasnost nastave. Nikako ne želim prijetiti i nadam se da se to nikada neće dogoditi, ali činjenica je da danas već postoji i mehanizam za suspenziju liberalizacije viznog režima. Nitko tu, među nama, ne želi da se to desi. Zato vjerujem da je uvjet i sada samo jedan: suradnja na svim razinama vlasti u državi! Za provedbu toga važna je koordinacija!

Proveden je strukturirani dijalog na području pravosuđa. Pitam se često zašto u istom trenutku, ne može biti i strukturiranog dijaloga za unutarnje poslove? Pitam se, zašto samo poglavlje 23, ako znamo, da idu, odnosno morali bi paralelno ići poglavlja 23 i 24, jer se i međusobno dopunjavaju!? EU i BiH bi trebale uspostaviti strateški dijalog za

oba poglavlja. Zato je potrebno što prije realizirati presudu Sejdić-Finci, da bi Komisija mogla otvoriti i taj dio dijaloga.

EUPM je napravio veliki doprinos u područjima obuhvaćenim ovim poglavlјima. Ta poglavlja su često najveći izazov za države kandidatkinje - poglavlje o pravosuđu, na primjer, zadnje je zatvoren u pregovorima Republike Hrvatske. I pred samo punopravno članstvo Hrvatske, još se provodi detaljni monitoring napretka.

Misljam da BiH ima kapacitet na raspolaganju, ali imate brojne agencije koje su fragmentirane na federalnoj razini, kao i na razini kantona. Neophodna je njihova koordinacija i integracija u centralnu agenciju.

Nije moguće očekivati da bi se mogla postići veća efikasnost agencija za sprovedbu zakona na temelju sadašnjeg institucionalnog uređenja, nego je potrebno i dalje raditi na reformama. Jedini je to put potpisu operativnog dogovora sa EUROPOL-om. Tu je bitno i neophodno uzajamno sarađivanje Republike Srpske i Federacije u razmjeni informacija.

Nadam se da će sastanak lidera krajem mjeseca u Briselu donijeti napredak i rezultate. Svrha sastanka je da glavni političari u državi razumiju da država u tom trenutku nije dovoljno funkcionalna da bi mogla voditi pregovore sa EU i prenositi europsko zakonodavstvo u nacionalni pravni poredak. Mechanizam koordinacije EU-a je ono što je potrebno u svim sektorima, da se mogu utvrditi relacije između različitih nivoa vlasti. Nije riječ o oduzimanju nadležnosti, nego o tome, da bi država mogla zajedničkim radom doći do standarda EU. U provedbi zakona to znači jasne kanale za suradnju s EU agencijama (EUROPOL i FRONTEX)

Na ovom mjestu upozorila bih još na jednu stvar, koja mi se čini od iznimnog značaja. Neophodnost usvajanja strategije unutrašnje sigurnosti BiH. U tom slučaju, EU i Lisabonski ugovor su odličan primjer.

Do Lisabonskog ugovora, u EU su postojale brojne agencije, Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, Cepol, koji nisu bili međusobno koordinirani, imali smo različite policije, pristupe rešavanju problema, ali ispod strategije unutrašnje sigurnosti, Lisabonski ugovor prenio je to pod jedan centralni kišobran. BiH političare bih pozvala i na neophodnost napretka na području borbe protiv organiziranog kriminala i korupcije.

Član i koordinatorica sam posebnog odbora u EP sa imenom CRIM, koji se bavi izazovima koji dolaze iz područja organiziranog kriminala i korupcije. Svi trebamo biti na oprezu i na svakom koraku imati želje za rješavanjem tih problema. To nije samo vaš problem, moram kazati, da je to i problem EU-a. Želim time istaknuti, da je proces približivanja i europske suradnje kontinuirani rad, koji se nikad ne završava. I mnogo je važniji od uskih "nacionalnih interesa".

Za kraj bi željela još jednom jasno kazati.

Europska unija i dalje ostaje jako posvećena potpori BiH na njenom putu prema europskim integracijama sa temeljnom politikom - da zemlja ubrza napredak prema članstvu u EU za dobrobit svih građana. Ako budete radili zajedno, funkcionalnimi kao jedna država, puno je više šansi za napredak i nepovratan put u EU.

EU treba biti svjedok uvjerljivih napora politike i administracije. Podnošenje prijave za članstvo u EU zahtijeva funkcionalnu državu i vladu. Godina 2012 mogla bi

biti prekretica za BiH da se približi, pokaže volju i napredak prema Europskoj uniji. Pola godine je već proteklo.

Jačanje funkcionalnosti cjelovite države ne znači slabljenje entiteta, ali znači stvaranje uvjeta za efikasnost državne uprave koja bi bila sposobna pripremiti zemlju za budući ulazak u EU.

Bolja koordinacija između entiteta je cilj koji osigurava provedbu reformi. Budućnost BiH leži u Europskoj uniji i perspektiva članstva u EU je jedan od najvažnijih čimbenika ujedinjenja među ljudima u zemlji.

Nemojte ih iznevjeriti.

Hvala na pažnji!