

24/7/01



Bosnien/Hercegovina (79)

TJK

HAR KONTI

Im. Fl.n.sekr. 20 J.nr.

13 JULI 2001

FLO 24/7-01

Antal bilag Aktnr. 29

Asylafdelingen

137

Udlændinge  
Styrelsen

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Antal sider: 1 (inkl. denne)

### Vedr. Brcko i Bosnien-Hercegovina

Vedlagt fremsendes det for styrelsen foreliggende materiale vedrørende Brcko.

Med venlig hilsen

Lone Kjær Jacobsen



**Press****OHR Brcko Press Release****First anniversary of the establishment of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Address by the High Representative, Wolfgang Petritsch****Brcko, 08 March 2001**

Mayor Kusic; President Djapo; Ambassador Matthews; Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Brcko District's first year has flown by and you have passed many testing times with flying colours. It is a very great pleasure to be here today to congratulate all of you on your dedication and pioneering work in creating what I personally hope is the future Bosnia and Herzegovina in microcosm.

This District already has many successes to its name. You have a working, multi-ethnic government. It did not pass unnoticed how quickly and responsibly the District Assembly acted during the schools crisis in the autumn. The District Assembly has also been very active in adopting legislation in a whole range of important areas: on the police and courts, on health care, education and property. The 23 Laws adopted by your assembly puts the past Entity and State legislatures to shame and I very much hope the new parliaments and governments will follow your energetic example.

Brcko is also a safer place than it was last year. The District is fully demilitarised and law enforcement is the duty of a fully integrated, multi-ethnic police force. The Brcko police took part in Operation "Makro" which helped free 177 women last weekend across the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a real blight in the region, forced prostitution. This is an especially important piece of good news which -- along with the recent tribunal ruling in The Hague, which for the first time punished rape as a crime against humanity - - enables all of us in Bosnia and Herzegovina to mark International Women's Day today in a serious way.

The concrete results of this are clear: over 5,000 refugees and displaced persons have returned to their homes in the District last year compared to 1,200 in 1999. The return figure could be higher and there is still much work to be done to improve Brcko citizens' lives, from jobs to the classroom. So I am very pleased to hear the District is close to establishing a professional judiciary and is looking at ways to revitalise the economy. The District's work to integrate education, giving kids here a firm base on which to build a secure and

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prosperous multi-ethnic community, is important not only for Brcko but for the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Connected to all this is the District's intelligent approach to reforming the Arizona Market, taking out the potential for unchecked criminal activities and putting in its place a thriving centre of business which meets proper safety standards.

What is the recipe for your success? I believe it is your willingness -- the District Government, the District Assembly, the international agencies represented here and above all the citizens of the District -- to cooperate, to work together to build a better life, building on its long past as a crossroads for the region.

Brcko is showing all in Bosnia and Herzegovina the way to a future in Europe. I hope with all my heart that we will see your hard work, after many long, tragic and hard years, repeated across the whole of this beautiful country.

Thank you for listening and happy birthday!

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*OHR Brcko Press Release, Brcko, 08 March 2001*

**Press****OHR Brcko Press Release****Brcko Supervisor Appoints New Brcko District Assembly Councilors****Brcko, 10 April 2001**

The Acting Supervisor of the Brcko District Mr. Gerhard Sontheim today appointed five new councilors for the Brcko District Assembly. These councilors are:

1. Milorad Jovic (SDS)
2. Anto Pranjic (independent candidate)
3. Anto Garic (NHD)
4. Pero Gudeljevic (HDZ)
5. Ilija Pajic (SNSD)

In addition, Milenko Simikic (SDS), a Brcko District Assembly Councilor, was appointed to the position of the Vice-President of the Brcko District Assembly. These appointments were required in order to fill the positions which turned vacant after five other councilors left from their positions as councilors in compliance with the Code on Conflict of Interest for Councilors in the Assembly of the Brcko District. The Code introduces the rule according to which a Brcko District Assembly Councilor may not hold another position financed by the Budget of the Brcko District, or any other public office in either of the Entities or BiH.

The councilors recognized as having Conflict of Interest and who chose to remain in their other position, rather than the one within the Brcko District Assembly, are the following:

1. Miodrag Pajic (SDS)
2. Adela Bozic (independent candidate)
3. Mato Jurisic (NHD)
4. Dragan Pajic (SNSD)
5. Janja Antic (HDZ)

The Acting Supervisor of Brcko Gerhard Sontheim congratulates the newly appointed Councilors to their appointment and expresses his confidence that they will perform their duty in serving the Brcko District Community, bound only by their conscience, the Statute of the District and the interests of all

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people.

Mr. Sontheim also wishes the best of luck to the five former councilors and thanks them for all their hard work and support while holding the seats in the Brcko District Assembly. For more information, please, contact OHR North Public Affairs Officer Suzana Pejic at 049-205-666 or 066-133-526.

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*OHR Brcko Press Release, Brcko, 10 April 2001*

**Press****OHR Brcko Press Release****Statement of the Brcko Supervisor Henry L. Clarke****Sarajevo, 24 April 2001**

It is a pleasure to be in Brcko, and to be able to meet with you so soon after my arrival. The people of this District have achieved a lot since the end of the war. Their achievements are even greater when you consider the bitter disputes over the future of this area left by the war. I can assure you that those achievements are increasingly recognized in many capitals of the world. Brcko has been operating smoothly under its new governmental structure and with a new Assembly for the past year. Now it has a new, restructured judiciary. Brcko's budget has just been enacted, providing a responsible financial framework for government services to the people. Many new laws have been prepared and enacted, and there are more to come. These are major changes and they are great achievements. They reflect the close cooperation between representatives of the people of Brcko District and my predecessors.

Like my predecessors, I am here to help implement the decisions of the Arbitral Tribunal, which created the District, and which mandated a number of reforms necessary to ensure a just and prosperous future for its residents. I also represent the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina here. It is an honor to be able to carry out these responsibilities.

We have a lot of work still to do. While we will be working on many issues simultaneously, I want to mention three areas that will get priority attention: returns of displaced persons, educational reform, and economic reform. Last year, Brcko set an excellent example for the rest of the country by helping 5000 people to return to their homes in the District. This year we should do even better. There have been 1126 returns so far in 2001. But Brcko is not alone. I was told in Sarajevo last week that the numbers of people returning as minorities throughout the country are increasing rapidly. This includes returns to the Federation. I hope this will make it easier for displaced persons now in Brcko who want to return home there.

Returns are an essential part of the process of reconciliation. People whose homes were wrongfully taken should get them back. Displaced persons who may be occupying these homes also have needs which we must address, but they, too, will have to honor valid claims to the property.

The future of every country depends upon education. The children of Brcko District need a modern curriculum and learning conditions that will enable them to succeed in the work, and which will contribute to reconciliation with their neighbors. A great deal of work has already been done in drafting the new law on education and in discussing it with the public. National interests will be respected in those subjects of the curriculum which directly affect such interests. Yet our most important goals in education must serve the needs of our children for the future, and not the politics of the past.

I expect that economic reforms, and promotion of economic development, will deserve a large part of my time. The restructuring of Brcko's governmental institutions was an essential precondition for developing a climate favorable to new businesses, and now is the time to move forward in preparing and enacting new economic laws. Among the key steps we must take are tax reform, to lower the burden on individuals and on businesses, while increasing the efficiency and equitable collection of revenues. Privatization is another key step, to increase the efficiency of public enterprises and to attract investment. We must strengthen Brcko District's large agricultural sector. We must promote small businesses, because that is the surest path to reducing unemployment.

Together with the officials of the District, we have a huge agenda. Yet I am very optimistic. We have had a lot of international interest and support, and I will do my best to encourage more. We will also continue to promote further understanding and cooperation between the District and both Entities to our mutual benefit. Most important, I am sure we will have the kind of close cooperation and public participation that produced Brcko's great achievements in the last few years.

### Biography

Ambassador Henry L. Clarke  
Supervisor of Brcko District

Ambassador Clarke has spent over 35 years in government service. After military service, he became a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State of the United States. During most of his career, he specialized in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and economic issues.

Ambassador Clarke was Chief of the Economic Section of U.S. Embassies in Moscow and Tel Aviv. He was Deputy to the Ambassador in Bucharest and served as the first U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan where he established the first permanent Embassy. He has since served as Senior Advisor for Property Restitution for the Department of State in matters of property wrongfully taken by Nazi and Communist regimes.

Ambassador Clarke holds degrees from Dartmouth College and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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**Press****OHR Brcko Press Release****Declaration ceremony of the Brcko District Judiciary members****Brcko, 02 April 2001**

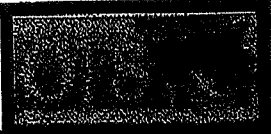
The declaration ceremony of the newly appointed members of the Brcko District Judiciary consisting of the judges of the Basic Court and Appellate Court, Prosecutor's Office and the Agency for Legal Aid has been held today at OHR-North in Brcko.

This declaration ceremony completes the establishment of the independent and unified judiciary of the Brcko District, which represents the third important milestone together with the multiethnic Government and Assembly in functioning of the Brcko District. Establishment of the Brcko District Judiciary is a significant achievement and the result of mutual effort. The laws drafted by the Brcko Law Revision Commission and adopted by the Brcko District Assembly demanded the structural changes whose result is a new independent, fair, accessible, transparent, accountable and efficient judiciary. On March 8, 2001, the Supervisor, in accordance with paragraph 10 and 36 of the Final Award and paragraph 4 of the Annex dated August 18, 1999, issued a Supervisory Order on the appointment of members of the judiciary. To ensure that the activities in the Basic Court, Appellate Court, Prosecutor's Office and Agency for Legal Aid are performed in accordance with the laws and other regulations, a Judicial Commission will be established pursuant to the Law on Judicial Commission. Accordingly, until the Judicial Commission is fully operational and until such time as a code of conduct for the staff working within the Brcko District judiciary is adopted, the President of the Appellate Court, the President of the Basic Court, the Prosecutor and the Director of the Agency for Legal Aid, are directed to draft and adopt an Interim Code of Conduct and Corruption Prevention ("the Interim Code").

Attached hereto are the basic principles of the Interim Code deemed necessary by the Brcko Law Revision Commission. These principles convey the behavior expected of the staff of the Brcko District judiciary, and are in keeping with international standards.

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*OHR Brcko Press Release, Brcko, 02 April 2001*



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## Regional Centre Brčko



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Brčko sits at the crossroads of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its political situation is one of the most complex and politically sensitive in the entire country. The Brčko District straddles the narrow Posavina Corridor, which connects the eastern and western parts of Republika Srpska (RS) and provides the BiH Federation's easiest north-south access route to Croatia and the rest of Europe. The municipality of Brčko was divided in two by the war, with about a third of the area controlled by the RS and the remainder under the control of the BiH Federation. Because of its key strategic location, both BiH entities consider Brčko to be of the highest political and economic importance.

Alfred Lugert,  
Director of Brcko  
Centre

The situation in Brčko was the only major territorial issue in BiH left unresolved by the Dayton Peace Accords of December 1995. While temporarily recognizing the region's divided status, the peace agreement established an arbitration mechanism through which the final status of the region was to be determined. After a lengthy arbitration process, the Final Award decision was announced in March 1999. The pre-war Brčko municipality was awarded to both entities in condominium and is now known as "the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina." The new demilitarized Brčko District is held by both entities simultaneously, with a single, unitary, multi-ethnic, democratic government to be gradually implemented.

In recognition of Brčko's complex political situation, the OSCE Mission to BiH has devoted considerable institutional resources to the region, and the Mission's Brčko Centre enjoys a unique status within the overall Mission field structure. At the same time, however, many of the issues dealt with by Brčko Centre are common throughout BiH.

Property and return issues, for example, constitute a key human rights challenge and a core priority for the OSCE in Brčko, as they do elsewhere in BiH. Because of the dislocation caused by the war, displaced persons and refugees make up well over half of the district's current population, and return issues are consequently at the top of the political agenda throughout the region. As part of the ongoing effort to resolve these issues, the OSCE participates in the local Housing Commission, and also works to help resolve double occupancy cases and cases involving discrimination.

against minority returnees.

Democratization staff from Brčko Centre have also been involved in efforts to build and strengthen linkages across inter-ethnic lines in the region. Under the auspices of the OSCE, for example, the Brčko Women's Roundtable—consisting of Serb, Croat, and Bosniac women—meets regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern, from economics to educational and psycho-social problems. Recently, the Democratization Department has successfully facilitated a series of meetings between representatives of the two major organizations representing displaced persons in Brčko. This has brought together Serbs and Bosniacs to seek common ground on the implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Elections have also been an integral part of Brčko's post-Dayton experience, and a key OSCE activity in the region. OSCE-supervised elections—including national elections in 1996 and 1998, and municipal as well as RS National Assembly elections in 1997—have been particularly hard-fought and controversial in the Brčko area. Both in 1996 and 1997, OSCE election supervisors uncovered widespread cases of voter registration fraud, and extraordinary measures had to be taken to protect the integrity of the democratic process.

Following the release of the Final Arbitration Award and the revised Annex, the OSCE's Brčko Centre continues to work closely with the region's international Supervisor on its implementation. The OSCE has been specifically tasked with supervising the initial District Assembly elections and has also provided advice on elections-related issues for the preparation of the District Statute, installed in late 1999. The OSCE is also lending expertise to the team in charge of legal reform for the District. Other areas in which Brčko Centre can potentially support the establishment and consolidation of the District include judicial reform and independence, training of elected officials, the establishment of an office of the Ombudsperson, media reform, and civil society development.

Twenty-seven people work at Brčko Centre, 23 of whom are BiH citizens. The Centre's international staff come from OSCE member states – currently the international staff of the Centre hails from Austria, Spain and the Netherlands.

For more information on the work of Brčko Centre, contact:

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