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**Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Government of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Office of the High Representative**  
**Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina & European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

*14 March 2025,*

### **Open letter: Urgent Need to Ensure the Survival and Financial Independence of BHRT**

We are deeply concerned about the alarming situation in which the Radio-Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHRT) currently finds itself. This public service, crucial for informing citizens and preserving media pluralism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is facing serious financial difficulties threatening its survival and operations.

We remind you that the long-standing violation of the Law on the Public Broadcasting System by the Radio-Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS) has pushed BHRT to the brink of financial collapse. The illegal withholding of funds from the RTV fee, which RTRS has not transferred to BHRT since 2017, has resulted in BHRT losing more than 46 million euros, jeopardising the employees' working conditions and the public service's essential functions.

The recent decision by the Federal Government to increase the minimum wage to 1,000 KM has further worsened the situation. While this decision is necessary and fair, BHRT lacks the financial means to implement it, leading to an absurd situation where employees with university degrees and only primary education receive the same salaries. Additionally, BHRT employees have not had their pension contributions paid for years, preventing many from claiming their right to retirement, which directly violates fundamental labour rights.

We therefore urge you to take immediate action to ensure the survival and financial stability of BHRT by:



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1. Ensuring a regular and fair distribution of RTV fees by the law, allowing BHRT to receive the funds it is legally entitled to.
2. Adopting a new law that guarantees BHRT's long-term political and financial independence.
3. Stopping the degradation of the journalism profession and ensuring adequate salaries and working conditions for media professionals and all BHRT employees by applying fair and appropriate job classification system.
4. Enabling the payment of outstanding contributions so BHRT employees can claim their right to retirement.

Additionally, we call on the European Commission to exert further pressure on domestic institutions to accelerate the process of adopting legislative solutions that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the public broadcaster.

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and its Broadcasting Expert Group (BREG) follow the situation closely and support the workers' fight for the survival of the public media service. We consider that working conditions at BHRT are barely tolerable for employees who maintain broadcasting activities by waiving their rights. Respect for their professionalism is the starting point for the proper set-up of the broadcaster. BREG approves and supports the complaint against these implausible conditions.

We are dedicated to strengthening public media services, recognising them as key pillars in media environments in democratic countries.

A public media service is not just an institution but the foundation of a democratic society. Its disappearance would mean the loss of an independent source of information and further degradation of the media space in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, we urge you to treat this issue as an utmost priority.

Sincerely,

**Maja Sever**

President of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)