



Udruženje/udruga “BH novinari”, Kralja Tvrtka 5/5, 71000
Sarajevo Telefoni: 033 223 818, 033 217 302
E-mail: bhnovinari@bhnovinari.ba, WEB: www.bhnovinari.ba

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
(OHR)**

Emerika Bluma 1
71000 Sarajevo

For the attention of Mr. Christian Schmidt, High Representative
Sarajevo, 1 December 2025

Dear Sir,

The BH Journalists Association is addressing you regarding the dramatic and unsustainable situation in which the Radio Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHRT) currently finds itself. The state public broadcaster is in a state of complete financial collapse, facing a real threat of shutdown and the loss of employment for more than 700 staff members.

This situation is the result of long-standing political blockades and the failure to implement existing legal obligations, including the distribution of revenue from the RTV fee. It is unacceptable that the survival of the state public broadcaster depends on political calculations and narrow party interests, while citizens are deprived of their fundamental right to timely, accurate and impartial information.

We remind you that BHRT is an institution of state significance, whose survival directly affects political stability, the protection of the public interest and the functioning of democratic processes in the country. The institutional blockade of BHRT represents an alarming form of pressure on media freedom and threatens to undermine the entire system of public information in BiH.

In line with Annex 10 of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the mandate of the OHR to supervise the implementation of the civilian aspects of the peace agreement and ensure the stability, functionality and integrity of state institutions, we consider this an urgent case requiring your intervention.

We politely but firmly urge you to react immediately and call on the Presidency of BiH, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and the Council of Ministers of BiH to ensure the financial stability of BHRT and enable its uninterrupted functioning, and to take a clear stance that political obstruction of BHRT's financing is unacceptable and contrary to the principles of public broadcasting in democratic societies.

Should domestic institutions continue to ignore their legal obligations, we appeal to you to use your authorities to secure a temporary or permanent mechanism for financing BHRT, and thereby support the establishment of a long-term sustainable, depoliticized and stable model of public broadcasting, in accordance with European standards and the recommendations of international organizations.

Apart from the authorities granted under Annex 10 of the Dayton Peace Agreement, our request is also based on your July 2025 decision to settle the 120 million BAM debt to the private company Viaduct from the state budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even though the public was never transparently informed about how such a large debt arose or who in the Republic of Srpska was directly responsible for it. We also recall your 2024 decision obliging the institutions of the state and legislative authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to assume the responsibilities of founders and “owners” of seven cultural institutions, including the responsibility of the state for their stable financing and sustainability.

Our request for a special decision regarding the survival of BHRT is further grounded in the fact that the Office of the High Representative was the creator of the first Law on the Public Broadcasting System of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, among other, defined the models for collecting and distributing the RTV fee among the three public broadcasters: BHRT, RTVFBiH and RTRS. For years, we have witnessed your office silently observing, without any relevant or legitimate response, and without institutional interest, the violation of the Law on the Public Broadcasting System, even though your mandate includes the powers of an international representative or “intervener” in situations where the civilian aspects of the peace agreement are not being implemented effectively.

Once again, we emphasize your urgent intervention is necessary to prevent the shutdown of BHRT, but also the degradation of the tripartite system of public information - which is a key source of information for the majority of BiH citizens. Shutting down BHRT would constitute an irreparable erosion of media freedoms throughout the entire country, which is why responsible and transparent action by institutions and international actors such as the OHR is of vital importance.

Thank you for your understanding, and we expect your prompt action.

Respectfully,

on behalf of the Steering Committee of the BH Journalists Association:

Borka Rudić, Secretary General