

DATE

06 July 2016

BY E-MAIL

kabinet@vm.gov.ba

Rt Hon. Denis Zvizdić
Prime Minister
Council of Ministers of
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to request your decisive action and support to resolve the urgent financial crisis that is besetting our Member, the BHRT.

The EBU had postponed its sanction towards BHRT envisaged for 8 June, understanding the severe difficulties that our Member is encountering and hoping that the extra time would allow the authorities to find a solution to its financial difficulties. The EBU, also, did not want to deprive the Bosnian audience from watching the Euro 2016 and deny the broadcaster from all its rights. Unfortunately, we have witnessed only weak improvement and are forced to proceed as outlined in our letter of 1 June.

At the end of June 2016, BiH's debts to the EBU totaled CHF 6.3 million. Additionally, BiH has committed to substantial future FIFA, UEFA and Swimming sports events for the years 2017 to 2022. On top of the current overdue consolidated balance of 6.3m CHF, there is an additional commitment due to EBU in the near term of 1.8m EUR. Given recent developments and failure to establish a payment plan the EBU cannot allow this unacceptable level of indebtedness and future exposure to continue.

Under these circumstances, we will have no option but to impose a Level 3 Sanction on BHRT, which will mean that our Member will no longer be allowed to use any of the EBU Member services, including the news exchange and sports rights. It will also enter a procedure for expulsion from the Union at the next EBU General Assembly.

Given the serious consequences arising from a Level 3 Sanction, I would urge you to take all necessary steps over the coming days to address this matter both internally and at governmental level.

I hope that you, and the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, will find a solution and enable the democratic role of Public Service Media in your country, which would be necessary in the negotiation process for accession into the European Union.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Deltenre
Director General

Copy to: Ismir Jusko, Minister of Transport & Communications (ismir.jusko@mkt.gov.ba)