



**SUBJECT: Text for the European Presidential Conference in Vienna from February 16. to 18. 2023.**

As of the date of writing this text, the Bar Association of the Republic of Srpska ( hereinafter: Bar Associations ) 636 lawyers, of which 445 are men and 191 are women.

Bar Association acts in such a way that the registration in the directory of the Bar Association is done according to the application for registration, and if the candidate fulfills the requirements for registration in the directory of lawyers, a decision is made allowing the registration. We emphasize that when submitting applications for enrollment and deciding on applications, there are no restrictions or distinctions between candidates based on gender, religion or nationality or any other affiliation, and that all candidates have equal rights and opportunities if they fulfill the conditions prescribed by law for enrollment in the Directory.

During the second half of 2022, the Bar Association faced numerous challenges and the need to preserve its autonomy and independence, but also to preserve the powers acquired by positive legal regulations. For example, the Bar Association actively participated in the drafting of the new Family Law of the Republic of Srpska, and in one part of this Law it noticed the notary's intention to include in the text of the future Law provisions on the so-called "notarized divorce", which was an additional blow to the legal profession.

After a series of meetings and public discussions on this Law, the controversial decree was excluded from the final draft of the Family Law, and the Law is in the process of being adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska. Also, the Chamber undertook a series of activities in the procedures carried out by the Republican Administration for Geodetic and Property Legal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska in order to find a solution that would enable quality representation of the interests of citizens of unknown residence or place of residence in the procedures for exposing real estate to public inspection. Namely, the project, which is financed to the greatest extent by the European Union, is directed towards the creation of a single and up-to-date record of real property owners in the territory of the Republic of Srpska therefore, in that direction, it was necessary to analyze the land register and cadastral records, update them, and then consolidate them into a single system, which to the greatest extent required the involvement of lawyers.

In order to avoid favoring certain lawyers at the expense of others, with the Republic Administration for Geodetic and Property Legal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska Bar Association has signed a memorandum of cooperation, that defines the methods of action of this Administration and the equal participation of all lawyers registered in the Directory of Lawyers of our Bar Association, and then an initiative was submitted to change the provisions of the Law on General Administrative

Procedure, which would define the position of a lawyer in the framework of the procedures carried out by the said Administration in a legally regulated manner.

It's continued to maintain numerous contacts with representatives of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council of Europe and the Center for the Education of Judges and Prosecutors, as well as with representatives of international bar associations, of which our Bar Association is a member. At the same time, a meeting with representatives of the Academy of European Law (ERA) was scheduled in Ljubljana for January 27. 2023. with the aim of establishing cooperation with this international association, and a meeting was scheduled for February 18. 2023. with representatives of The European Bars Federation in Vienna.

Our intention is to establish cooperation with these two associations, and to bring our members closer to the legal solutions that are present in the European Union. The holding of a series of seminars organized by the Bar Association in accordance with the Rulebook and the program of permanent general and special training of lawyers continued professional associates for legal affairs and legal trainees, in order to enable members of the Chamber to be constantly educated within the Chamber, and that this process does not only include lawyers, but also associates for legal affairs and legal trainees, which we are bound by national and international legal acts.

We would like to point out that our bar association has good cooperation with all bar associations in the area, that is, in addition to the Bar Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Bar Association of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro and North Macedonia, and that the president of the Bar Association Dalibor Mrša is the winner of the charter of the Montenegrin bar for exceptional contribution to the development and affirmation of the bar, which charter was presented to him by the president of the Bar of Montenegro on December 10. 2022. as part of the Montenegrin Bar Day event.

In an effort for the legal profession in the Republic of Srpska to preserve its autonomy and independence, the Bar Association resolutely opposes the attempt to introduce this activity into the fiscalization system, and this process of resistance continues today, because despite all our activities, we still do not have an official act that would exempt the legal profession from application of the Law on Fiscalization.

Faced with numerous challenges, resolved to preserve the legal profession as an autonomy and independent activity of providing legal assistance to natural and legal persons of the Bar Association, we continue with all the activities started, especially trying to introduce much more discipline in our own ranks.