

The “Open Parliament” project

- The "Open Parliament" project was initiated in 2005 in order to bring the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and its work closer to BiH citizens through a series of organized group study visits. The project is also aimed at increasing the transparency of the work of the BiH PA and raising awareness about the role this state institution has in the process of democratization in BiH.

- Through this project, the legislative process and other basic functions of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH are presented to a large number of citizens. It is also an opportunity to promote objectives agreed and adopted by consensus that derive from Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspirations to join European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

- Over the course of the “Open Parliament” project, a large number of citizens – mostly high school and university students – have visited the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. The visits can also be organized for other groups of citizens if they are interested.

- The partners in the implementation of the project are the *OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina* and the *NGO Youth Information Agency (OIA)*.

The Visitors' Center

- The Visitors' Center of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly is located on the ground floor in the BiH PA. Visitors can see multimedia presentations about the history, importance and basic responsibilities of the highest level legislative body in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Publications and brochures published by the BiH PA are also available.

- The Visitors' Center is a comfortable place to have meetings and conversations with representatives and delegates.

The Visitors' Center is being equipped with support from USAID – Parliamentary Strengthening Project and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Transparency of work

- The BiH Constitution and the Rules of Procedures of the Houses guarantee the transparency of the work of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. The sessions of the parliamentary bodies are open to media, except those sessions which are dealing with sensitive matters such as defense and security matters, as well as laws which protect the rights of individuals.

- Online monitoring of plenary sessions is available at www.parlament.ba

Visit us!



Should you need any additional information about organized study visits to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, please contact:

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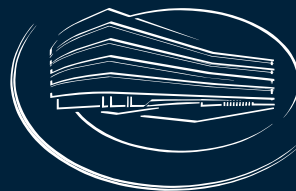
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The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina



“Open parliament”



The Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

- The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established by the Constitution of BiH in 1995 (Annex IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement).
- The BiH PA is the highest level legislative body of Bosnia and Herzegovina and consists of two Houses: the House of Representatives and the House of Peoples. Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH were originally elected to two year terms, but since 2002 MPs have been elected and delegated to four-year mandates.
- **In accordance with the BiH Constitution, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH has the following responsibilities:**
 - Enacting legislation as necessary to implement decisions of the BiH Presidency or enacting legislation needed to carry out the responsibilities of the Assembly under the Constitution;
 - Deciding upon the sources and amounts of revenues for the operations of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and international commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - Approving a budget for the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
 - Deciding whether to consent to the ratification of treaties;
 - Other matters necessary to carry out its duties or are assigned to it by mutual agreement of the Entities.
- The Parliamentary Assembly of BiH confirms the appointment of the BiH Council of Ministers and can vote 'no confidence' when deemed necessary. The BiH Council of Ministers must submit annual reports to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.
- Within the House of Peoples, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH makes decisions on vital interest.

About the Assembly building

- The Assembly building was designed during the Yugoslav Socialist era from 1975 to 1977. In 1980 construction was completed and the building was initially used by the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and some ministries. When the building was designed and built, it was one of the best equipped government facilities in Europe, with approximately 25,000m².
- During the war (1992-1995), the building suffered significant damage, but has been mostly restored in the post-war era. Restoration work remains ongoing.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES consists of 42 members, with two thirds (28) directly elected from the territory of the Federation of BiH and one third (14) from the territory of Republika Srpska.



THE HOUSE OF PEOPLES of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH consists of 15 delegates with 5 Bosniaks and 5 Croats nominated from the Federation of BiH and 5 Serbs from Republika Srpska.

The nominated Bosniak and Croat delegates in the House of Peoples of the BiH are elected by Bosniak and Croat delegates respectively in the House of Peoples of the Federation of BiH, while the delegates from Republika Srpska are elected by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska.



The work of the Houses is managed by the Collegium which consists of the Speaker of the House and the First and the Second Deputy Speakers of the House. The position of Speaker rotates among the members of the Collegium every eight months.

The Committees of the Houses

- The Houses are responsible to establish permanent and temporary committees of their respective Houses as well as to establish permanent or temporary joint committees of both Houses. The tasks and the composition of the committees are determined by conclusions reached in the Houses.
- Permanent committees of the House of Representatives are comprised of nine members while permanent committees of the House of Peoples are comprised of six members. The number of temporary committee members can be smaller. The committees must elect a Chair and First and Second Deputy Chairs from amongst their members. They must be elected from the ranks of the three constituent peoples.
- The joint committees are comprised of 12 members with 6 members from the House of Representatives and 6 from the House of Peoples. Two thirds of the members are to be elected from the territory of the Federation of BiH, while one third must be elected from the territory of Republika Srpska.
- Committees render opinions, submit proposals and reports to the appropriate House(s), as well as exercise other duties as stipulated by the Rules of Procedure. Committees decide on issues that are delegated to them by the appropriate House(s).

Legislative procedure

- A proposed draft law may be introduced by the House of Representatives, the House of Peoples, and any representative, delegate, committee, or joint committee. A proposed draft law may also be introduced by the BiH Presidency and the BiH Council of Ministers within the scope of their respective competencies.



The Rules of Procedures stipulate that proposed draft laws can be considered in the following manner: basic, summary, and emergency procedures. In basic and summary procedures, the proposed draft laws must be considered by the committees and Houses in two readings. When the proposed draft law is given high emergency status, the proposed draft law is considered in one reading and the amendments stage is not envisaged.

- **A draft law shall be considered passed when it has been adopted by both Houses in the identical text**