



**SUBJECT: Text for the European Presidential Conference in Vienna
from February 27. to March 1. 2025.**

As of the date of writing this text, the Bar Association of the Republic of Srpska (hereinafter: Bar Associations) 672 lawyers, of which 465 are men and 207 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 2024 the lawyers in Bosnia and Herzegovina organised a protest and ceased their work in *ex officio* cases after unsuccessful attempt to increase tariffs on the state level of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Soon after the start of the protest, series of meetings were organised with the minister of justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The complete cease of work in *ex officio* cases lasted briefly as the lawyers agreed after the initial meeting with the minister to resume their work and continue negotiations until 15 November 2024, which the Ministry of Justice stated to be a reasonable deadline for adoption of the new Tariff.

After lengthy negotiations it was agreed that the value of one point be raised from 3,00 BAM to 4,00 BAM (original request by the Bar Associations was 5,00 BAM) and that the lawyers whose seat of the office is more than 50 km from the seat of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina be compensated for the time lost during travel. On 12 November 2024 the Minister of Justice Mr. Davor Bunoza announced on his account on "X" that the said amendments to the Tariff had been adopted by the Council of Ministers. The same news was later published on the web site of the Council of Ministers. Decision is published in the Official Gazette and it was take into effect on 1 January 2025.

Similarly to the situation on the state level, the lawyers requested amendment of the Tariff on the Republic of Srpska level. For a long time, the lawyers' requests were completely ignored and the protest in the Republic of Srpska lasted for much longer. After many requests in writing, eventually, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Srpska agreed to provide their approval for increase of Tariff from 2,00 BAM to 3,00 BAM for one point. The protest of lawyers in the Republic of Srpska ceased on 2 November 2024. The new Tariff was adopted by the Bar Association of the Republic of Srpska and was sent to the Ministry of Justice for approval.

It was agreed that the new Tariff would take into effect on 1 January 2025.

Very important steps have been taken in order during the 2024 to improve the status of lawyers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The CCBE intervened and the lawyers of Bosnia and Herzegovina express their utmost gratitude to the CCBE for the support and assistance in achieving the goals that improve the position of lawyers.

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 finished by an official act that exempt the legal profession from application of the Law on Fiscalization.

Our Chamber has good cooperation with all bar associations in the surrounding area, namely, in addition to the Bar Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Bar Association of Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia, but also very good cooperation and communication with international bar associations - CCB, IBA, UIA of which we are members.

In 2024, our bar association became a member of The European Bars Federation / Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe (FBE). Its headquarters are in Strasbourg.

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.

Bar Association of the Republic of Srpska

Banja Luka, February 14, 2025.

President of the Bar Association of the Republic of Srpska

Dalibor Mrša, lawyer

