

legitimate, but when it comes to the internal order of BiH – that should be discussed by the Croatian parties in BiH,” he continued.

Zeljko Komsic, the current Croat member of Bosnia’s state-level presidency, has also dismissed talk about a third entity.

Some say that if Croatia really wants to help the Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian businesses should invest more in the economy in those areas where they live.

Professor Kukic says the most efficient way for Croatia to help Croats in Bosnia would indeed be investment.

“I don’t think money should be given as a present, of course,” he said, “but if Croatian companies invested here, the benefits would be mutual and multiple.”

Kurt Bassuener, a Sarajevo-based analyst with the US Democratization Policy Council, told Balkan Insight that Croatian policy towards Bosnia remained confused.

“We have heard that Croatia wants to take a ‘principled approach’ towards BiH but it’s not at all clear what that means,” he said.

“I don’t see the government [there] as advocating a third entity,” he added, “though there is a propensity to view the political and social dynamics in BiH through the lens of ‘the Croat question’, which I believe handicaps those Croatian officials who genuinely want to be helpful.”

While the politicians in Croatia and Bosnia mull and dispute the options, there is not much sign of a third entity appearing on anyone’s actual political agenda.

An international experts group, formed in the Federation, which aims to change the entity’s constitution, has not addressed Croat demands for a third entity at all.

Nor has it even dealt with the demand to cut the number of cantons in the Federation, as many had expected.