

Muslic's biggest opponent, SDA's Emdzad Galijasevic, canton's former agriculture minister whose work was praised by a civil society watchdog, claimed that the canton's budget had 2 million KM extra in 2004, during SDA rule, and that those millions disappeared in the meantime. He said that Bihac Canton's debt amounted to 30 million KM.



"That has to be stopped," said Galijasevic on his tour of Bihac's most remote villages.

The reason why SDA has a mayor in Bihac after 12 years was perhaps best explained by Galijasevic after the elections. He said that voters voted for SDP's big promises in 2008.

"Gasification, cargo airport, free internet, investments... literally none of that happened," said Galijasevic, adding that Muslic ignored failed promises and added his own promises on top.

Galijasevic shot several interesting videos for his campaign. One of them features him talking about his plans and images of the lower body parts of an anonymous girl. Muslic's answer to this was a pre-election concert on the last day of the campaign, at which Croatia's pop star Severina appeared. Muslic gave her a red rose, and she sang back: "I believe in you..."

Yet, the support of Severina and Hamdija Lipovaca wasn't enough for a win this time. Muslic won less votes than there were people at the concert.

Galijasevic turned 1,000 votes less than Muslic from last elections into 4,000 more than him in this October elections.

HILLARY'S PARTING SHOT

What Secretary Clinton Should Say on Her BiH Visit

Since becoming Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton has personally engaged on Bosnia policy at a number of junctures - most importantly in Tallinn, when she helped overcome opposition to granting (a conditional) Membership Action Plan

By Kurt Bassuener

But her last visit two years ago was a missed opportunity, finally dashing the residual hopes many (the author included) held that the Obama administration would lead the West to reverse its failing policy toward Bosnia and Herzegovina. Whoever wins the November 6 presidential election, there will no longer be that personal linkage to the belated American-led intervention in the war. For her successor, Bosnia will be just another management problem, as it already is for most bureaucrats on both sides of the Atlantic who are charged with dealing with it.

This Balkan tour is the last opportunity for Secretary Clinton to lay-down a policy marker and redefine the terms of American engagement. The US position has been one of constant retreat in the face of an EU - primarily led by the major continental powers - bid for primacy. That primacy would be fine, even welcome, if the policy behind that bid were credible. But it clearly is not. The central idea is the "carrot" of EU membership would impel progressive and responsible policy on the part of Bosnia's entrenched and Dayton-empowered political elites. There are more than six years of proof that this policy is not working.

In light of these facts, Sarajevo is where Secretary Clinton should make clear to Bosnia and Herzegovina's politicians that she understands what's going on. While the US would like to see Bosnia and Herzegovina in the EU, they clearly do not. They have been given the benefit of the doubt for six years; the EU's "soft power" clearly doesn't move them. So it is time for them to get reacquainted with the "push of Dayton." Until the Dayton constitution is replaced

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with something that actually delivers for the country's citizens, forcing politicians to be accountable, the High Representative and a Chapter 7 military force, stipulated under Annexes 10 and 1A of the Dayton Agreement, respectively, will remain necessary - and be used as needed. Given the proliferation of European heads of mission vis-a-vis Americans in BiH since 1995, the High Representative should now be an American, with a European deputy. Clinton should underscore that RS secession will not merely not be recognized (as she said two years ago), but that US and other signatories are legally bound to prevent it - and will do so. None of the worst fears of any self-defined group would be allowed to come true. At a stroke, this would negate the most potent tool in the politicians' bag of tricks.

This message would be at least as jarring for her wanna-be counterpart, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, as it would be for Bosnia's kleptocrats. It would signal that the US has ceased to hold the direction of its own international obligations hostage to the lowest common denominator within the EU. In effect, Clinton would be stating that the US would veto any closure of the Office of the High Representative until there was real constitutional reform, upending the "5+2" formula - or rather defining the second condition. She would also be making clear that if the EU wishes to divest itself of the responsibility it pushed hard to take on in 2004 from NATO - maintaining a safe and secure environment - that NATO should take this role back.

With such clarity in Washington's position, a recalibration of Western policies in Bosnia is possible. Without it, the downward trajectory will continue. Secretary Clinton must not miss her last chance to make a lasting and meaningful mark in Bosnia.