



We cordially invite you to a panel discussion on the topic

The Upcoming Local Elections in the City of Mostar: A Victory of Democracy or Rather a “Dirty Deal”?

Tuesday, 8 December 2020, 4.30 – 6.00 pm



Photo: "Bosnia and Herzegovina Apr-28-2012 243" by CJ, CC-BY-2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Program

Welcome / Introduction

Manuel Sarrazin, Member of the German Bundestag, Spokesperson for Eastern Europe of the Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens, President of the Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Input and Invited Comments (to be Followed by a Discussion on the Panel and with the Audience)

- **Bodo Weber**, Senior Associate and Member of the Board of the Democratization Policy Council in Berlin
- **Ambassador Johann Sattler**, European Union Special Representative and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
- **Ambassador Susanne Schütz**, Director for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey, EFTA States, OSCE and the Council of Europe in the German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
- **Amna Popovac**, Candidate for Mostar Local Elections, Platform for Progress Party / Member of the Women Waging Peace Network, Mostar

Moderation

- **Adelheid Wölfl**, Southeast Europe correspondent, Der Standard, Sarajevo

Topic and Background

On 20 December 2020, the city of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina will hold the first local elections in twelve years. This was made possible by the so-called “Mostar Agreement” between the leaders of the Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ BiH) signed in June 2020. The agreement was a reaction to a ruling of the European Court of Human Rights having set a deadline in order to enable local elections in Mostar. The reactions to the Mostar Agreement are indeed highly polarized. The International Community, having supported the agreement, reacted positively. The High Representative in BiH called it a “celebration of democracy”. Many citizens of Mostar as well as political analysts reacted with criticism, stipulating that the agreement will only enhance both the existing ethnical divide of the city and in general the destructive ethno-nationalism in the country – some even call it a “dirty deal”.

We will provide a forum for an open discussion about the agreement between analysts, members of civil society in Mostar and the International Community active in BiH.

*The event will take place under the **Chatham House Rule**. When a meeting is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.*