

Hidajet Biscevic: EU sends serious warning to the Balkans

17 October 2012

There will be no postponement of date of Croatia's joining the EU, Biscevic believes

Sarajevo

Journalist: Faruk Vele

Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, (RCC) Hidajet Biscevic feels that the request of six EU countries for abolishment of visa-free regime for countries of the Western Balkans in case of an abuse is a highly serious message.

As a reminder, the request for abolishment of the visa-free regime, submitted by Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Luxembourg will be discussed on 25 October, in a meeting of EU interior ministers.

"I think that this is a very serious issue and, I dare say, a very serious warning. It primarily arises from the strong emphasis of European Institutions and EU members on the rule of law and fulfilment of obligations in countries of our region, especially EU candidates. Therefore, it is a serious warning", Biscevic told Anadolu Agency (AA).

He is adding that it is yet to be seen how this issue will develop further in the context of discussions in the European Institutions.

"I would say that this is a broader political message saying that taking on obligations must become a daily practice and obligation of all administrations in this region. From contacts with the European Institutions in Brussels and EU member countries, I got the impression that many are even disappointed with the way how administrations in this area take on and then easily forget their obligations", Biscevic claims.

When asked if this means that the visa-free regime for countries of the Western Balkans will be cancelled, Biscevic says that "this is certainly serious, but it is hard to foresee what will eventually happen".

"Such a decision, when observed, must be put in a wider political context. It would undoubtedly be a heavy setback and a difficult political decision, especially in the light of the progress report recently announced by the EC", Biscevic feels.

Commenting on the possibility for Croatia not to join the EU on 1 July 2013 as planned, Biscevic claims that the avalanche effect often occurs in the European diplomatic practice, when somebody gives a statement and then everybody has a comment.

"Yesterday, I attended a conference in Podgorica where the EC deputy director for enlargement Joost Korte precisely spoke about Croatia's remaining obligations that this country is aware of, and that the EC knows that Croatia will fulfil these obligations and that there will be no need for postponement of the scheduled date of Croatia's joining the EU.

<http://www.aa.com.tr/ba/headline/91579--hidajet-biscevic-eu-je-poslala-ozbiljno-upozorenje-balkanu>