

Regional consultation with multiethnic communities

Mostar, BiH
August 28, 2010

(...) in some places it says “region“, in other places you use the word “territory“, and there is also the word “area“. I think that only one word should be used here and make changes to all articles accordingly. (Vasil Sinishtaj, member of the City Assembly Tuzi, Montenegro, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM Statute, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

(...) If from SFRJ comes ‘international’, we don’t need to say regional, but international organization. Regional can be removed. (Mirjana Bilopavlović, Delfin, Pakrac, Croatia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM Statute, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*I think we should edit it to read: (...) “to extend the mandate of the Commission for enabling the Commission to finish its job, but not longer than 12 months“. **An extension of six month is really too short. Or, we should simply think about mandating the Commission for a longer period of time and a possible six-month extension.*** (Vasil Sinishtaj, member of the City Assembly Tuzi, Montenegro, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM Statute, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*‘RECOM’ can extend its mandate for up to six months’. How can RECOM extend its own mandate when it was not self-created? (...) Who will create RECOM, parliaments or the governments of our respective states? We should rephrase this to read, for example: ‘**as suggested by RECOM, its founders of RECOM may extend its mandate for up to ... months**’.* (Mirjana Bilopavlović, Delfin, Pakrac, Croatia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*This article here should be changed to add the missing word: ‘to perform **its** duties as described’.* (Vasil Sinishtaj, member of the City Assembly Tuzi, Montenegro, Regional consultation with multi-ethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*‘**Mentally and physically’ fit may be offending.** This word should be removed because all those nominated will be mentally and physically fit.* (Vasil Sinishtaj, member of the City Assembly Tuzi, Montenegro, Regional consultation with multi-ethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*‘Ministry for human and minority rights and the Ministry of justice confirm...’ – **They don’t confirm**, they give their approval for the selection of members. We do not expect them to confirm, because we don’t want them to have any control over the things that are not their*

intellectual property. (Mirjana Bilopavlović, Delfin, Pakrac, Croatia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*(...) 30 signatures for a candidate for such a serious job is **insufficient** (...) **Who does the candidate report to?*** (Murisa Marić, Don Association, Prijedor, BiH, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*In this article about the constituent session, 'at the first constituent session members of RECOM will try to elect the President of RECOM and adopt the Rules of Procedure' – this has to be changed, **you can't say 'will try'**, it has to be changed to read: 'at the first constituent session members of RECOM **will elect** the President of RECOM and adopt the Rules of Procedure'. Also, the issue of **a two/third majority needs to be defined more clearly**. Also, the way presidential candidates are nominated must be stipulated more precisely so that we don't have a situation where Serbia and Croatia lobby together against the Bosnian candidate. The activity or RECOM implies several thousands of well trained, perfectly coordinated professionals in the states that are ready to cooperate. There are several problems with this plan: first, we can't find that number of trained professionals or the money necessary to pay them provided we have find them, we are unable to coordinate such a huge project because our organizational skills here in the Balkans are not at a level high enough to do it, and our states do not have a flawless communication. If any of this can be solved with donations, let's negotiate with member states to provide financing for the project on a regular basis from state budgets and let's not limit the mandate of the Commission to two years.* (Mirsad Jusufović, coordinator for international cooperation of the Novi Pazar municipality, Serbia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*I think that 30 signatures – that's not enough. **I would suggest 500 signatures** to ensure that it is a proper candidate, willing to work.* (Dr. Azra Pašalić, president of the Municipal Assembly of the Prijedor municipality, Prijedor, BiH, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities, Mostar on the Draft RECOM, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*Article 19, point b) lists the reasons for the termination of the mandate of a member or RECOM. Serbian is not my native language but I see a problem here - that the **conjunction 'and' should be replaced by 'or'** to indicate that it takes one and not all of the listed criteria combined for the termination of the mandate.* (Vasil Sinishtaj, member of the City Assembly Tuzi, Montenegro, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM Statute, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*(...) **individuals who resisted forced mobilization** should be also included in the list of victims RECOM will be focusing on (...) It's those people who fled the conflict-affected areas because they did not want to fight their neighbors and they are mostly Serbs. Then they were found as refugees and mobilized and sent back to their home towns or villages. They deserve some satisfaction because they were treated by their own people as deserters etc.* (Nada Berkoljan, Culture and Information Council of the City of Pančevo Municipality, Pančevo, Serbia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

I believe that the Statute should dedicate at least on article to stipulate that the destruction of property is a crime and that perpetrators of such crimes should also be sought. (Miladin Jakovljević, Serbian National Minority Council, Pakrac, Croatia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

We have a group of people here with no rights whatsoever. They are refugees from Croatia. Some members of that group are in Republika Srpska. They don't have personal documents to prove their identity. We need to deal with that category separately... In addition to all other problems they have – they lost members of their families – now, they can't even prove their identity to obtain citizenship. (Željka Prša, Struga, Bosansko Grahovo, BiH, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).

*For us from Republika Srpska the period to be investigated by RECOM is not acceptable because **the year 1990 is very significant** for us but I think for all other countries in the region, too, in the context of everything that happened. (Mirjana Bilopavlović, Delfin, Pakrac, Croatia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).*

*(...) **forced mobilization** should also be included in the list of crimes to be investigated. Also, what happens with those responsible for covering up war crimes? (...) and as suggested by the participants from Kosovo, we should also mandate RECOM to investigate the kidnappings that happened after the armed conflict. (Mirjana Bilopavlović, Delfin, Pakrac, Croatia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).*

*(...) I think that in case of symbolic reparations we should clearly indicate that it is necessary to build a culture of remembrance by observing days of remembering certain crimes, by building monuments and so on. Therefore, I think that when it comes to **symbolic reparations, we should very precisely define what it means**. One more thing I think RECOM should do is enable a framework for remembering all those positive war-time stories, because there were many of these too, side by side with the horrors of the war. (Ljiljana Spasić, Civic Action, Pančevo, Serbia, Regional consultation with multiethnic communities on the Draft RECOM, Mostar, BiH, August 28, 2010).*