

BiH – OHR – Chandler / HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO BE REMOVED FIRST

LONDON, November 14 (SRNA) – Any talk of democratic and human rights in BiH should begin with the removal of the high representative, SRNA was told by British analyst and professor of international relations David Chandler.

“If there was any threat to the Bosnian constitution it is surely the fact that Bosnia is still under the executive rule of a career bureaucrat who is not elected by or accountable to the Bosnian people,” said Chandler, who is a professor at the Centre for the Study of Democracy at Westminster University in London.

He said that it was astounding and depressing to read Bosnia’s internationally-imposed High Representative Valentin Inzko arguing earlier this month that “the Bosnian State and its institutions are still vulnerable without a High Representative there to defend them.”

“The idea that the problems of Bosnia’s constitutional framework mean that the High Representative is needed to ‘defend’ the Bosnian constitution is something that few people with knowledge of the region could agree with,” Chandler said.

Regarding the special EU representative, Peter Sorensen, the British professor said that Sorensen’s statement that he was looking forward, together with high-ranking EU officials, to sitting down with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina “in partnership” makes a mockery of the word.

“There can be no partnership with the EU as there is no relationship of sovereign freedom or of equality. The EU has for over a decade been working both at the highest level of the Bosnian state through its role in appointing its Special Representative as the High Representative as well as operating externally to the Bosnian state through the fiction of integration,” Chandler said.

He added that integration is a fiction as, in reality, Bosnia is “the most integrated state in the EU, everything from its national flag to its government policies are dictated from Brussels.”

Commenting on the fact that no government has been formed in Bosnia 13 months after the elections, Chandler said he was sure the bartering over the allocation of positions would be resolved, in much the same way that similar problems are resolved the world over.

He said that the Belgium government has had similar problems, but this does not herald a major crisis or necessitate EU intervention in their affairs.