

Reactions of the BiH CEC to the inaccurate media reports and comments

The BiH CEC will, in accordance with the law, protect the election process, which includes reacting to all untrue information directed to causing harm by undermining the trust of citizens in it.

The BiH CEC expects the media and media workers to act in accordance with the codes prescribed by the Communications Regulatory Agency of BiH and the Press Council in BiH.

The BiH CEC will strive to regularly update this document in response to all inaccurate and untrue information that, by their nature, can seriously jeopardize the trust of citizens in the election process, all in order to protect the integrity of the election process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

False 	True 
<p>Media outlets : “Dnevni avaz”, “Večernji list”, “Večernje novosti”</p> <hr/> <p>Headline: “SIPA and investigators of BiH Prosecutor’s Office in the BiH CEC”, “SIPA investigating removal of Croat by-mail votes”, “SIPA is going through the documents”</p> <hr/> <p>Date of publication: May 18-19, 2021</p> <hr/> <p>- These media outlets published the news that “SIPA members had entered the premises of the Central Election Commission of BiH and went through all the documentation, and it is insinuated that by-mail request applications were massively rejected followed by rejection of the by-mail ballots.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>The BiH Central Election Commission informed the public through a press release that this is not a "raid" of SIPA in the BiH CEC, but that investigators of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH and SIPA have been in contact with the BiH CEC for several weeks regarding certain criminal reports that they, as investigators, are obliged to investigate.</p> <p>The acting prosecutor had by a letter ask the BiH Central Election Commission to make certain documentation available for inspection, which will be provided to investigators according to the established procedure.</p>

	<p>The BiH Central Election Commission has, in its work so far, submitted information and requested documentation at the request of any prosecutor's office or police agency, and will continue to do so in the future.</p> <p>According to the information available to the BiH Central Election Commission, pre-investigation activities are being carried out, based on criminal reports related to the by-mail voting.</p>
<p>False </p>	<p>True </p>
<p>Political entity : SNSD</p> <hr/> <p>Headlines: “CEC continues creating a chaos”</p> <hr/> <p>Date of publication: November 3, 2020</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - False claims of SNSD spokesperson that "the BiH CEC continues to manipulate and to create general chaos" and this statement was published by certain media outlets in BiH. - He claims that the proposal for the Covid-19 positive citizens to send their medical reports to the BiH Central Election Commission is unsustainable, confusing and complicated. - Similar claims were made by other individuals from SNSD. 	<p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>The Rulebook amending the Rulebook on conduct of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina prescribes in detail the procedure for exercising the right to vote of voters who are COVID-19 positive and/or voters who are in isolation or hospitalized.</p> <p>In order to exercise the right to vote, a COVID-19 positive voter and/or a voter who is in isolation or hospitalized must no later than 72 hours before election day in person (by e-mail, fax or telephone applications qualified to receive documents i.e. photos of documents) or by a proxy, submit to the election commission (municipal / city) a request to vote by tendered ballot, i.e. medical report confirming that the voters is COVID-19 positive and/or an act of the competent authority ordering isolation or hospitalization.</p>

	<p>A voter found COVID-19 positive after the expiry of the 72-hour period before the election day, or on election day itself, must submit a request to vote no later than on the election day.</p> <p>Also, the procedure for appointing a special mobile team and the manner of work of that mobile team is clearly prescribed, and within the competence of the election commissions of the basic constituencies.</p> <p><i>Do not jeopardize election integrity based on false and inaccurate information!</i></p>
<p>False </p>	<p>True </p>
<p>Media outlet: mojabanjaluka.info</p> <p>Headline: “Unheard theft of votes: Broken OCV list (word play)”</p> <p>Date of publication: 27.10.2020</p> <p>- False allegations: “The Central Election Commission of BiH ignored the applications of voters who had almost a month ago filed complaints to the preliminary list of voters who vote outside BiH!” In other words, the Central Election Commission has decided to rig the elections and annul the will of the voters.”</p>	<p>***</p> <p>Immediately after learning about possible abuses in the process of submitting the by-mail request applications the BiH CEC was actually the one to reach and inform the public thereof. The CVR for voters voting by-mail was for the first time published on the BiH CEC website, and all voters who had found that someone registered them to vote outside BiH without their knowledge and against their will were invited to submit a certified Statement about that.</p> <p>The Central Election Commission of BiH also informed the public that if after the conclusion of the Central Voters' Register the name of one of such voters remains on the Excerpt, those voters exercise their voting right</p>

	<p>at the polling station by tendered ballot in municipality/city of their permanent residence in BiH, and the voting package delivered by mail from abroad on their behalf will not be counted.</p> <p><i>Do not jeopardize election integrity based on false and inaccurate information!</i></p>
<p>False </p>	<p>True </p>
<p>Political entity: People and justice</p> <hr/> <p>Headline: Press release</p> <hr/> <p>Date of publication: 27.10.2020</p> <hr/> <p>- False allegations "People and Justice express concern for the integrity of the election process, given that the Central Election Commission has not yet submitted criteria with instructions for the selection of polling station committee members, which may ultimately result in having the entire election process compromised."</p>	<p>***</p> <p>The BiH Central Election Commission had on May 5, 2020 adopted a consolidated text of the Rulebook on Determining Qualifications and the Procedure for Appointing Polling Station Committee Members and it was immediately published in the Official Gazette of BiH and on the website of the Central Election Commission of BiH. The Rulebook specifies in detail the procedure for appointing members of polling station committees. The BiH Central Election Commission had in its by-laws paid special attention to the reserve composition in case of insufficient number of proposals for members of polling station committees from political entities (which is submitted to all political entities), and the statements signed by candidates for members particularly emphasize obligation to regular attendance at the PS in order to prevent the occurrence from the last elections in BiH when members massively gave up their membership in the polling station</p>

	<p>committee even on the day of the elections.</p> <p><i>Do not jeopardize election integrity based on false and inaccurate information!</i></p>
<p>False </p>	<p>True </p>
<p>Media outlet : Dnevni avaz</p> <hr/> <p>Headline: “BiH CEC is an accomplice in election fraud ?!” and “After the writing of Avaz, the new decision made: BiH CEC will still ask for help to check voters outside BiH”</p> <hr/> <p>Date of publication: 26, 28 and 29.10.2020</p> <hr/> <p>- False information refers to the submission of the Excerpt from the Central Voters' Register for voting outside BiH to the BiH Council of Ministers, the BiH Ministry of Justice and other state bodies, as well as the alleged session of the BiH Central Election Commission held on September 23 this year with the proposal to seek international legal assistance.</p>	<p>***</p> <p>Contrary to incorrect allegations, Article 4 of the Decision on the BiH CEC's operations aimed at ensuring the truthfulness, timeliness and integrity of the Central Voters' Register for voting outside BiH, as well as preventing abuses related to voting outside BiH, stipulates that the BiH Central Election Commission initiates international legal assistance in criminal matters by submitting a letter of request to countries where voters are registered to vote outside BiH.</p> <p>It is already clear from the above that the BiH Central Election Commission is not the body conducting the investigation, and is not authorized to submit a request to the state authorities as falsely published in the article of October 26, 2020.</p> <p>The Conclusion on the actions of the Central Election Commission of BiH in case of indications of criminal offenses in the election process was adopted unanimously at the 70th (urgent) session held on October 28, 2020 based on the Decision on the BiH</p>

	<p>CEC's operations aimed at ensuring the truthfulness, timeliness and integrity of excerpts from the Central Voters' Register for voting outside Bosnia and Herzegovina and preventing abuses related to voting outside Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Central Election Commission of BiH adopted on 19.10.2020, as well as on the basis of the Law on Provision of International Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters ("Official Gazette of BiH, No. 53/09 and 58/13).</p> <p><i>Do not jeopardize election integrity based on false and inaccurate information!</i></p>
<p>False </p>	<p>True </p>
<p>Media outlet : Dnevni avaz</p> <hr/> <p>Headline: “Shameful / The beginning of the printing of ballots revealed numerous dangers / Everything is ready for a new election theft”</p> <hr/> <p>Date of publication: 26.09.2020</p> <hr/> <p>- There is no adequate, effective independent oversight, control or record of the polling material printing.</p>	<p>***</p> <p>Contrary to incorrect allegations, the multiple control and supervision over the process of ballot printing and packaging in this case is confirmed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request to enter the printing house by Dnevni Avaz reporters - Records of entry and exit of Dnevni Avaz reporters with personal data and exact time of entry - Print screen photo from video surveillance that recorded the reporters entire visit to the printing house <p>The process of printing ballots is under 24-hour video surveillance, which the BiH CEC accesses at any time without the obligatory physical presence on the</p>

	<p>company's premises. Special commissions formed by the BiH CEC continuously monitor and supervise the procurement, delivery, storage and use of watermarked paper, as well as the process of ballot printing and packaging.</p> <p><i>Do not jeopardize election integrity based on false and inaccurate information!</i></p>
<p>False </p>	<p>True </p>
<p>Media outlet: RTRS</p> <hr/> <p>Headline: “The CEC continues to undermine its own credibility”</p> <hr/> <p>Date of publication: 26.09.2020</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The BiH CEC's Instruction requires additional millions of marks for protective equipment during a pandemic from local communities, entity or BiH authorities - The instruction is not only late, but, according to many, it is vague, inaccurate and excessive. There is neither money in the budgets, nor time for announcing tenders to meet the "wishes" of the BiH CEC." 	<p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pursuant to Article 2.9 paragraph (1) , point 2 of the Election Law of BiH, the BiH CEC issues administrative regulations for the implementation of the Election Law of BiH - The BiH CEC adopted the mentioned Instruction on June 26, 2020, and it came into force on July 11, 2020, which is almost two months before the publication of the report on RTRS. <p><i>Do not jeopardize election integrity based on false and inaccurate information!</i></p>