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**THE OFFICIAL LAWLETTER OF THE REPUBLIC
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Year I - Number 18 Wednesday , October 7 , 1992. Sarajevo

In accordance with the Amendments LI point 5. paragraph 3. to the Constitution of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina , upon a proposal of the Government of the Republic Of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted this:

**DECREE WITH LEGAL POWER ON THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOWINA**

I - GENERAL PROVISION

Article 1.

This decree shall establish conditions for acquiring and termination of the citizenship of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegowina (in further text : citizenship of the R B and H)

II - ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP OF THE R B and H

Article 2.

Citizen of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegowina may also have foreign citizenship (double citizenship).

Article 3.

Citizenship of the R B and H shall be acquired:

1. by origin
2. by birth on the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegowina (in further text : the Republic),
3. by naturalization
4. upon international agreements

Article 4.

Citizenship by origin shall be acquired by a child :

1. whose both parents at the moment of birth were citizens of the Republic,
2. whose one of the parents at the moment of birth was citizen of the Republic

and the child was born within the Republic,

3. whose one of the parents at the moment of birth was citizen of the Republic, another one was person without citizenship, and the child was born

abroad.

Citizenship shall also be acquired by origin by a child with foreign citizenship or without citizenship if he/she was adopted in accordance with the international regulations by the citizens of the Republic with the effect of the complete adoption.

Article 5.

A child that was born abroad whose one of the parents at the moment of birth of the child was the citizen of the Republic shall acquire citizenship by adoption if up to age of 23 he/she was applied for citizenship of the Republic at the competent body in the Republic or abroad or if he/she stays longer in the Republic for educational reasons.

A child that was born abroad, whose one of the parents at the moment of birth was citizen of the Republic shall acquire citizenship of the Republic despite of the fact that he/she does not meet any of the requirements mentioned in the paragraph 1. of this article if he / she would otherwise remain without citizenship.

Article 6.

Persons that acquire citizenship of the R B and H in accordance with the provisions of the art. 4. and 5. of this decree shall be considered to be citizens of the Republic from the moment of their birth.

Article 7.

Citizenship of the R B and H shall be acquired by a child that was born or found on the territory of the Republic whose both parents are unknown or have unknown citizenship or are without citizenship.

Citizenship of the child mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article shall terminate if up to his/her age of 14 it shall be established that his/her parents are foreign citizens.

Article 8.

A foreign person may acquire citizenship of the R B and H by naturalization if he/she meets following requirements:

1. That he/she reached age of 18,
2. That he /she has dismissal foreign citizenship, or if he/she presents evidence that he/she will get one upon admission into the citizenship of the R B and H,
3. That up to the application he/she has continually had reported domicile at the territory of the Republic,

4. That he/she has secured permanent sources for covering living costs at the level that permits material and social security,

5. That he/she was not punished by security measure of expulsion of the foreigner from the country or by security measure of deny access to the territory of the Republic,

6. That he/she has not been sentenced for the crimes against the fundamentals of the social system, against the humanity and international law and against the armed forces.

Requirement mentioned in point 2. paragraph 1. of this article shall be considered to be met if the person that had applied for admission to the citizenship of R B and H is without citizenship or he/she will lose it in accordance with the laws of the country whose citizenship he/she has automatically upon naturalization.

If the foreign country does not permit dismissal from citizenship or puts requirements that cannot be met, the statement of the person that applied for admission to the citizenship shall be sufficient to consider that he/she upon acquiring citizenship of R B and H leaves foreign citizenship.

The body competent to decide on admission to the citizenship of R B and H shall refuse the application for admission even if the requirements mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article had been met if it is necessary for the reasons of the security or defence of the country.

Decision mentioned in paragraph 4. of this article does not to have given reasons for its undertaking.

Article 9.

The emigree from the Republic and his/ her descendants in the straight line may acquire citizenship of the R B and H by naturalization without meeting requirements mentioned in article 8. paragraph 1. point 2. and 3. of this decree.

Foreigner that is married to the citizen of the Republic may acquire citizenship by naturalization without meeting these requirements.

Adolescent adoptee of the citizen of the Republic may acquire citizenship without meeting requirements from article 8. paragraph 1. point 2 and 3 of this decree.

In the sense of paragraph 1. of this article, emigree is considered to be a person that had emigrated from the Republic with intent for permanent life abroad.

Article 10.

Foreigner whose admission to the citizenship of the R B and H would be of interest for the Republic, may acquire citizenship of the R B and H by naturalization without meeting requirements mentioned in article 8. paragraph 8. points 2. and 3. of this decree.

Foreigner mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article shall be admitted to the citizenship of R B and H upon previous opinion of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Article 11.

Minor child shall acquire citizenship of the R B and H:

1. whose parents had acquired citizenship of R B and H by naturalization,
2. whose one of the parents had acquired citizenship of R B and H , and he/she has domicile within the Republic

Article 12.

Person that acquired citizenship of R B and H shall become citizen of the Republic upon the day when the decision on the acquiring citizenship comes into force.

Article 13.

Decision on the admittance of the citizenship of R B and H may not be cancelled , terminated , changed or declared null if the person that acquired citizenship of R B and H upon that decision would remain without citizenship.

III - TERMINATION OF THE CITIZENSHIP OF R B AND H

Article 14.

Citizenship of R B and H shall terminate:

1. by dismissal
2. by leaving
3. by denial
4. upon international agreement

Article 15.

Dismissal from the citizenship of R B and H may be granted to a person that applied for it and meets following requirements:

1. That he/she reached the age of 18,
2. That there are no obstacles concerning military service,
3. That he/ she had settled all the obligatory taxes and other obligations to the state and other legal persons in the Republic,
4. That he she has regulated legal property obligations concerning marital status and relation of parents and children to the citizens of the Republic.
5. That he/she is not submitted to the criminal procedure within the Republic for a crime that is prosecuted ex officio or if sentenced to jail in the Republic that he/she had served that sentence.
6. That he/she has foreign citizenship or has proven that he/she will be admitted to the foreign citizenship.

Body competent for making a decision on the dismissal from citizenship of R B and H shall deny dismissal even if the requirements have been met if it is of security interest or reasons of the defense of the Republic or for reciprocity or other reasons concerning foreign affairs.

In the decision mentioned in paragraph 2. of this article competent body does not have to state reasons for such decision.

Person that is being dismissed from the citizenship of the R B and H shall lose citizenship upon the day of coming into force of the decision.

Article 16.

Decision on the dismissal from the citizenship of R B and H shall be put out of force upon the demand of the person that was dismissed , if such a person does not acquire foreign citizenship within one year from the delivery of the decision and continue to live in the Republic.

Decision on the dismissal from the citizenship of the R B and H shall be put out of force by a special decision upon a demand of the person that was dismissed and emigrated from the Republic if he/she within three years from the day of emigration does not acquire foreign citizenship, and he/she has reported that to the diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic or body in charge of the decision on dismissal within following three years .

Article 17.

Citizenship shall terminate to the child under 18 upon a request:

1. of both parents whose citizenship had terminated by dismissal,
2. of one of the parents whose citizenship of R B and H had terminated by dismissal , if another parent does not have citizenship of R B and H,
3. of one of the parents that execute parental right and his/her citizenship had terminated by dismissal , if another parent that is citizen of the Republic agrees.
4. of adopter whose citizenship of R B and H had terminated by dismissal , if there is a complete adoption established between adopter and adoptee.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1. of this article the citizenship of R B and H shall terminate upon a day of effectiveness of the decision.

If the adopters are married couple , agreement of other adopter that is citizen of R B and H is required.

Article 18.

Adult citizen of the Republic that was born and is living abroad , and also has foreign citizenship may leave the citizenship of SR B and H.

Statement on leaving the citizenship of the R B and H in the sense of paragraph 1. of this article shall be submitted to a diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic abroad or to the Ministry of Interior.

For the persons mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article whose statement on leaving the citizenship of the R B and H is accepted by a competent body citizenship shall terminate upon the day of the effectiveness of the decision on the termination of

citizenship.

For minor person the citizenship of the R B and H shall terminate at the request of both parents whose citizenship had terminated by leaving or at the request of one parent whose citizenship of R B and H terminated by leaving or if another parent does not have the citizenship of R B and H.

Article 20.

Citizenship of the R B and H may be denied to a citizen of the Republic if he/she behaves in a way that damages international or other interests of the Republic.

Behavior that is considered to damage the interests of the Republic shall be:

1. if the person is a member of an organization whose activity is directed to overthrowing the constitutional system of the Republic,
2. if the person as a member of a foreign intelligence service through his/her work within the state bodies or organizations of the foreign country in a way that damages the interests of the Republic,
3. if the person mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article is actively involved in activities of an organization whose goals are opposed to the general acts of the UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Decision on the denial of citizenship may be made without a previous opinion of the citizen in cases when the domicile or residence of the citizen of the Republic is unknown.

For the person that has been denied citizenship it shall terminate on the day of the effectiveness of the decision. If the delivery of the decision is not possible, citizenship shall terminate on the eighth day after publishing the decision in the "Official Lawletter of R B and H".

Article 21.

Person whose citizenship had terminated during his/her minor status may acquire again the citizenship of R B and H in accordance with the provision of articles 17. and 19. of this decree if he/she has domicile within the Republic and if he/she submits a request for new acquiring of the citizenship before age 25.

IV - CITIZENSHIP DECISION PROCEDURE

Article 22.

Request for acquiring or termination of the citizenship of the R B and H shall be submitted through the police station at the place of domicile or residence of the applicant.

Request mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article may be submitted also through diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic abroad.

For a minor person the request shall be submitted by his/her parents or adopters

and if the child is older than 14 , his/her agreement is also required .

Article 23.

Decision on acquiring or termination of the citizenship as well as the decision on establishing citizenship of R B and H shall be made by Ministry of Interior.

Decision mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article is final , and the administrative litigation may be initiated against it.

Decision mentioned in par. 1 of this article shall be delivered also to the Ministry of Defense as well as to a competent body in charge of birth registers.

Article 24.

Evidence on the citizens of the Republic shall be kept in birth registers for the citizens of the Republic that have been registered on the territory of the Republic or in the diplomatic or consular mission abroad.

Evidence on persons that have acquired the citizenship of the R B and H or whose citizenship terminated shall be kept by the Ministry of Interior.

Article 25.

Certificate on the citizenship of the R B and H shall be issued by a body in charge of keeping birth registers .

Certificate on the citizenship of R B and H based on the evidence on the citizens of the Republic that was kept in accordance with the previous regulations shall be issued by a body that keeps that evidence.

Article 26.

Citizenship of the R B and H shall be proven by a valid identity card or passport.

Citizen of the Republic that has no documents mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article shall prove his citizenship of R B and H by a certificate on citizenship or by an excerpt from the birth register.

V - TRANSITIONAL AND CLOSING PROVISIONS

Article 27.

Person that had citizenship of the R B and H in accordance with the previous regulations shall be considered citizen in the sense of this decree.

Article 28.

Citizen of the Republic that also has foreign citizenship on the territory of the Republic shall be considered exclusively as the citizen of the Republic.

Article 29.

Person that is citizen of another republic of the former SFRY shall be considered as citizen of the R B and H if he/she was born on the territory of the Republic and that had permanent residence on the territory of the Republic before April 6, 1992 for at least five years if within 6 months after cessation of the state of war gives statement on accepting citizenship of the R B and H and submits a document on the termination of the previous citizenship.

Upon requirements mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article citizen of the another former Yugoslav republic shall be considered to be citizen of R B and H if he/she had domicile on the territory of the Republic before April 6, 1992 for at least ten years.

The statement mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article shall be given to the Ministry of interior that shall after checking requirements from the paragraphs 1 and 2 issue a decision on establishing citizenship of R B and H.

Article 30.

Minister of the Interior shall issue a form and contents of the form of evidence mentioned in article 24. paragraph 2. of this decree as well as modalities of keeping that evidence and also the form and the contents of the certificate on citizenship.

Minister of Interior upon agreement with the Minister of Foreign Affairs shall issue the form of the certificate on citizenship of the R B and H that is for use abroad.

Obstacles to the dismissal from the citizenship of R B and H concerning military duty (article 15. par.1 point 2.) shall be provided by the Minister of Defense.

Regulations from par. 1.,2. and 3. of this article shall be issued within 60 days from the day this decree is put in force.

Article 31.

Procedures initiated upon the Law on Citizenship of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Lawletter of SR B and H " no. 10/77) shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of this Decree.

Article 32.

Supervision over the application of this Decree shall be conducted by the Ministry of Interior.

Article 33.

On the day of the coming of this decision into force following regulations shall be put out of force: Law on the Citizenship of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Lawletter of SR B and H no. 10/77) and Law on Citizenship of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (" Official Lawletter of SFRY" no.58/76) that upon the article 1. chapter II - "The area of state administration and the judiciary" point 2. "The Interior" subpoint 2. of the Decree with legal power on the reception and

application of the federal laws that are applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina as the laws of the Republic (Official Lawletter of the R B and H no. 2/92) that was recepthed as the law of the Republic.

Article 34.

Until adoption of the regulations mentioned in article 30 of this Decree The Rules on modalities of keeping evidence of the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and citizens of the SFRY , form and the contents of the form of the evidence on citizenship ("The Official Lawletter of the SR B and H " nos. 1/79 and 14/87

APPLICATION OF THE DECREE DURING THE STATE OF WAR OR IN CASE OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

Article 35.

Decree with legal power on citizenship of the R B and H shall be applied during the state of war or state of emergency.

Article 36.

During the state of war or state of emergency dismissal from the citizenship of the R B and H shall not be given ,and the statement on the leaving the citizenship of the R B and H shall not be accepted.

Article 37.

Against the decision on the dismissal from the citizenship or admittance to the citizenship of R B and H an appeal may be submitted the Government of the Republic .

Against the final decision mentioned in paragraph 1. of this article administrative litigation may not be initiated.

Article 38.

In the case when a person , within the procedure for realization of certain rights and executing obligations is not able to present an evidence on the citizenship of the R B and H ,or that evidence may not be acquired ex officio , he /she may at presence of the two witnesses that possess the identity card , give a statement on citizenship to the police station at the place of domicile or residence.

Article 39.

The police station in the case of establishing citizenship of the R B and H in a way provided in article 38. of this decree shall keep special evidence.

Evidence mentioned in the paragraph 1. of this article shall contain : number , name,name of one of the parents ,date and place of birth , domicile , date of giving statement and personal data (name and surname and i.d. number) of the witness.

Article 40.

This Decree shall become effective upon the day of its publishing in the "Official Lawletter of the R B and H.

Based on the Amandement LI point 5. paragraph 3. to the Constitution of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, upon proposal of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted :

**DECREE WITH A LEGAL POWER ON CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTS TO
THE DECREE WITH LEGAL POWER ON THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Article 1.

Within the Decree with Legal Power on the Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Lawletter of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina nr. 18/92) in the article 6. the word "his" shall be replaced by a word "theirs".

Article 2.

In the article 9 . after the paragraph 4. a new paragraph 2 shall be supplemented as follows:

"Member of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina who is not a citizen of the Republic , shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by naturalization even if he/she does not meet the requirements mentioned in the article 8. of the Decree".

Article 3.

In the article 24. after paragraph 1. a new paragraph 2. shall be supplemented as follows : " For the persons that had not been registered within the evidences mentioned in paragraph 1 of that article , the evidence on the citizens of the Republic shall be kept in the citizen registers in a way provided by an act that shall be issued in the sense of the article 30. paragraph 2. of this Decree".

Previous paragraph 2. shall become paragraph 3.

Article 4.

In the article 27. the word "Citizen" shall be replaced by the words "is also".

Article 5.

Article 29. shall be changed as follows:

"Person that on the day of April 6, 1992 had citizenship of the former SFRY and domicile on the territory of the Republic.

Article 6.

Within article 30 . in the paragraph 1. after number 2. words shall be added "and 3"

Article 7.

This Decree shall be put in force on the day of its publishing in the "Lawletter of B and H".

PR Nr. 1494/93

President of Presidency

April 23, 1993

Alija Izetbegovic

Sarajevo

**DECREE WITH LEGAL POWER ON THE CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTS TO
THE DECREE WITH LEGAL POWER ON THE CITIZENSHIP OF BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA**

Article 1.

Within the Decree with legal power on the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Lawletter of R B and H nr. 18/92 and 11/93) after article 8. a new article 8 a shall be supplemented as follows:

"Article 8 a.

Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina may also be acquired by a person that meets the requirements mentioned in article 8. paragraph 1. points 5. and 6. of this decree, if he/she had not participated or assisted aggression on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and if he/she gives a written statement that he/she feels as the citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the state of war, the competent body or diplomatic or consular mission may refuse admission to the citizenship of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and when there is founded suspicion that the applicant had participated or assisted to the aggression on the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Decision on the application mentioned in the paragraph 1. of this article shall be issued by a competent body or the diplomatic or consular mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article 2.

In the article 10. paragraph 1. at the end, the words: "2 and 3 shall be replaced by the words: '1 to 4'.

Paragraph 2. article 10. shall be changed as follows:

"the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina may also be acquired by a spouse of a person mentioned in par. 1. of this article that had acquired citizenship of R B and H even if he/she does not meet the requirements provided by article 8 par. 1. points 1 to 4 of this decree.

Article 3.

After the article 39. a new article 39.a shall be added as follows:

"Article 39a

Minister of Interior, Minister of Justice and Administration and the Minister of Foreign Affairs shall issue an instruction on the application of art. 8a and 10 of this

Decree".

Article 4.

This Decree shall be put in force on the day of its publishing in the "Official Lawletter of the R B and H"

PR Nr 1604/93
December 16, 1993

The President of Presidency
Alija Izetbegovic

**THE LAW ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON CITIZENSHIP OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Article 1.

Within the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("The Official Lawletter of the R B and H, nr. 18/92 ,11/93,27/93 and 13/94) in article 8 paragraph 5 shall be deleted.

Article 2.

In the article 15. paragraph 3. shall be deleted.

Article 3.

In the article 24. after the paragraph 3. new paragraphs 4. and 5. shall be added as follows:

"Evidence mentioned in paragraph 2. of this law shall be kept by a registrar at the place of domicile of the person that is being registered.

Within the register of births , the fact of the citizenship of R B and H may be registered without a special explanation , upon certificate on citizenship if the registrar or authorized person in the diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic establishes that the person in accordance with the provisions of art. 4.,5.,6., and 29., of this law is the citizen of the Republic."

Article 4.

In the article 25. in paragraph 1. after the word "born" the period shall be deleted and the words added " and registers of citizens of the Republic".

Article 5.

In the article 36. after the paragraph 1. new paragraph 2. shall be added as follows:

" Exceptionally from the paragraph 1. of this article , the dismissal from the citizenship of the R B and H may be given to a person that , except the requirements mentioned in art. 15 and 17. of this law meets also following requirements:

1) That he/she was abroad on the April 8, 1992.

2) That he/she is not under military draft or is older than 50(men) or 45 (women).

if he/she was continually abroad longer than 15 years or longer than 10 years if married to a foreign citizen.

Article 6.

After the article 37. a new article 37 a. shall be added as follows

"the fact of citizenship of the R B and H for the person mentioned in article 24.paragraph 2. of this law whose domicile is on the occupied territory of the Republic or registration of the fact that it is not possible to execute due to communication obstacles shall be temporarily registered at the police station at the place of residence of the person."

Article 7.

This law shall be put in force on the day of its publishing in the "Official Lawletter of RB and H"

President of the Assembly

Miro Lazovic

Based upon Amendments LXXIII point 1. paragraph 7. to the Constitution of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina , the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted

**PROCLAMATION OF THE LAW ON SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAW ON PASSPORTS
OF THE CITIZENS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

The Law on Supplement To the Law on Passports of the citizens of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina that was adopted by the Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina on June 22 , 1994. is herewith proclaimed.

**LAW ON THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAW ON PASSPORTS OF THE
CITIZENS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Article 1.

Within the Law on Passports of the Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Lawletter of Bosnia And Herzegovina" nr. 4/92,17/93 and 13/94) in the article 49b the period shall be deleted and the words added : "taking into account that this term might be extended for two more years."

After the article 1. new paragraph 2. shall be added as follows:

"The procedure of the extension mentioned in par.1. of this article shall be conducted in the same way as for issuing the passport."

Article 2.

This law shall be put in force on the day of its publishing within the "Official Lawletter od R B and H"

President of the Assembly

Miro Lazovic