

Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America Revival

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Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership

The Heritage Foundation

Washington, DC

Re: Concerns Regarding Testimony of Mr. Max Primorac on the Western Balkans

Dear Members of the Board and Senior Leadership,

On behalf of the **Bosniak Educational and Cultural Community of North America (BECCNA)**, we write to formally express our deep concern regarding the recent testimony of **Mr. Max Primorac**, affiliated with the Heritage Foundation, before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, on the topic of the “Path Toward Stability in the Western Balkans.”

BECCNA represents a community of approximately **300,000 Bosniaks living in the United States**, the overwhelming majority of whom are American citizens or lawful permanent residents. Our community is firmly committed to the constitutional values, security interests, and global leadership role of the United States. Many Bosniak Americans are veterans, first responders, business owners, professionals, and public servants who place **American national interests first**.

It is precisely because of this commitment that we are compelled to object to the substance and framing of Mr. Primorac’s testimony, which we believe **seriously misrepresents the drivers of instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans**, and in doing so **jeopardizes U.S. strategic interests in the region**.

Mr. Primorac’s testimony advances an analytical framework that:

- Shifts responsibility for instability away from **documented secessionist actions and malign foreign influence**, particularly by actors aligned with **Serbia and the Russian Federation**;
- Recasts Bosnia and Herzegovina’s challenges as primarily the result of alleged “Bosniak centralization,” despite clear evidence that institutional paralysis is driven by ethnonationalist obstruction;

- Repeatedly frames Bosniaks through a religious lens rather than as a nationally recognized constituent people, thereby religionizing constitutional governance and undermining rule-of-law institutions.

Most concerning, the policy conclusions advanced in the testimony align closely with **long-standing positions promoted by Croatian nationalist political actors**, including calls for further ethnic territorialization and weakening of international enforcement mechanisms. These proposals, if adopted, would:

- Undermine Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- Reward obstructionist and secessionist behavior;
- Weaken NATO and EU credibility in Southeast Europe; and
- Create strategic openings for **Russian and other authoritarian influence**.

In our assessment, this approach places the interests of **Croatian nationalist agendas ahead of clearly articulated U.S. foreign policy objectives**, including regional stability, deterrence of malign foreign influence, and preservation of post-conflict peace arrangements established with strong American leadership. When testimony presented under the banner of a respected U.S. institution advances such outcomes, it risks conveying the impression that U.S. policy should accommodate ethno-nationalist maximalism rather than defend institutional stability and the rule of law.

We recognize and respect the Heritage Foundation's long-standing role in U.S. policy debates. For that reason, we believe it is essential that analysis and testimony offered under its auspices reflect **rigorous factual standards, institutional neutrality, and clear alignment with American national interests**, particularly on sensitive foreign policy matters with significant security implications.

We respectfully urge the Heritage Foundation to **review the substance and implications of Mr. Primorac's testimony**, and to ensure that future engagements on the Western Balkans are informed by balanced analysis, accurate data, and a clear-eyed assessment of the strategic risks facing the United States and its allies.

We submit this letter in good faith and remain open to constructive dialogue. Our shared interest is a stable, democratic, and sovereign Western Balkans that strengthens—rather than undermines—the security and credibility of the United States.

Respectfully,
Mirsad Mujadzic president