

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## MEDIA REPORTS

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### Deputy Federation Parliament Chariman Josip Merdzo: We will call a discussion on BH Steel and Agrokomerc

Vecernji list  
By Zoran Kresic

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Instead of reaching an agreement, at its last very thunderous meeting the Federation Government once again delayed solving the Aluminij issue, in spite of an earlier agreement between Federation Prime Minsiter Ahmet Hadzipasic and Aluminij Director Mijo Brajkovic.

A new committee was formed to harmonize the deal that had already been reached with Aluminij, while the Federation Parliament will have the final say. During the last meeting, Croat and Bosniak ministers debated for three hours whether the agreement to settle the Aluminij ownership structure should be adopted. Although HDZ and SDA enjoy a majority in the Federation Government, Party for BiH ministers once again came out on top, as they wish to either destroy Aluminij or at least stifle its development.

Deputy Federation Prime Minister Gavrilo Grahovac, of Party for BiH, barely accepted, after much convincing from Premier Hadzipasic, to be a member of the negotiating committee with Aluminij. Agriculture Minister Marinko Bozic asked during the debate why the Government did not pay nearly as much attention to the sale of BH Steel, to which Energy Minister Izet Zigic, of Party for BiH, nervously replied that he has nothing against reexamining that case.

Zigic's willingness will most likely be called upon by Federation Parliament representatives, since not all of the details from the Zenica sale are publicly available. At the very least, it is odd that the transaction was carried out via the Dutch Antilles. On the other hand, a large number of employees lost their job, while in the rundown portion of the gigantic complex that remained under state ownership, Croats were the largest group of employees.

Deputy Federation Parliament Chairman Josip Merdzo emphasized that the possible debate over Aluminij will surely lead to a debate on BH Steel, Agrokomerc, etc.

“There is no need for Parliament to debate this. Should the Government throw the ball into our court, it can be assumed that there will be a discussion on BH Steel, Agrokomerc and other privatization issues,” stated Merdzo for Vecernji list. Merdzo added that he considers a postponement of a solution for Aluminij a political method for preventing its final resolution.

He stated that it was expected the Government would propose a final version of the agreement for the benefit of the company, workers, and the state.