

About the Building

The Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina building, with a circa 25,000 square meter surface area, was designed between 1975 and 1977. Construction was completed at the end of 1980 and the building was initially used by the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and certain ministries of the Executive Council of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When this structure was designed and built, it was one of the best equipped government facilities in Europe.

During the 1992 – 1995 war, the building suffered significant damage and devastation, but has mostly been restored since the war.



The Visitor Centre

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Visitor Centre is fully functional and is located on the ground floor of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina building. Visitors can see multimedia presentations on the history, importance and basic responsibilities of Bosnia and Herzegovina's highest-level legislative body. The publications and brochures produced by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina are also available.



The Visitor Centre is a comfortable place to meet and speak with representatives and delegates.

The "Open Parliament" Project

In order to bring the significance of the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to citizens, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated the "Open Parliament" project in May 2005. The project aims at increasing the transparency of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina work through a series of organized group study visits; raising awareness of the role this State institution has in the process of democratization in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Through this project, the legislative process and other basic functions of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina are presented to large numbers of citizens. It is also an opportunity to promote those objectives, agreed upon and adopted by consensus, that derive from Bosnia and Herzegovina's European and Euro-Atlantic membership aspirations.

Through the "Open Parliament" project, thousands of citizens – mostly high school and university students – visit the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina every year. Visits can also be organized for other groups of citizens.

Visit us!

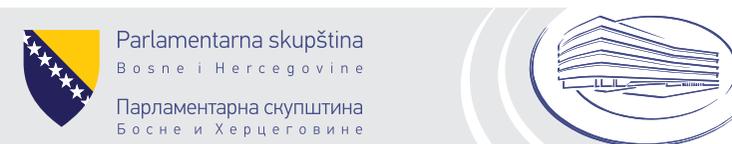
Should you need any additional information about organized visits to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, please contact:

**The Parliamentary Assembly
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Public Relations Section
Trg BiH 1, Sarajevo**

**Phone: +387 (0)33 28 44 41
Phone/fax: +387 (0)33 28 44 47
E-mail: press@parlament.ba**

**Additional information
is also available on the website at:
www.parlament.ba**

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**Parliamentary Assembly
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
THE "OPEN PARLIAMENT"**

THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established by the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995 (Annex IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement).



It is the highest-level legislative body in Bosnia and Herzegovina and consists of two Houses: the House of Representatives and the House of Peoples. Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina were originally elected to two year terms but, since 2002, MPs have been elected to and delegated four-year mandates. In accordance with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina has the following responsibilities:

- Enacting legislation as necessary to implement the decisions of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina or enacting legislation needed to carry out the responsibilities of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Constitution;
- Deciding upon the sources and amounts of revenue for the operating costs of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the country's international commitments;
- Approving a budget for the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Deciding whether to consent to the ratification of treaties;
- Other matters necessary to carry out its duties or as assigned to it by mutual agreement of the Entities.

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina confirms the appointment of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and can take a vote of 'no confidence'. The Council of Ministers must submit annual reports to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Within the House of Peoples, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina makes decisions of vital interest to the Bosniak, Croat and Serb Peoples.

Transparency of work

The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Rules of Procedure of the Houses guarantee the transparency of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina's work. Parliamentary bodies' sessions are open to the media, except those dealing with sensitive matters such as defence and security, as well as laws which protect the rights of individuals.

Online monitoring of plenary sessions is available at www.parlament.ba

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House of Representatives consists of 42 members, with two thirds (28) directly elected from the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and one third (14) from the territory of the Republika Srpska.



THE HOUSE OF PEOPLES

The House of Peoples consists of 15 delegates with five Bosniaks and five Croats nominated from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and five Serbs from the Republika Srpska.

The nominated Bosniak and Croat delegates are selected by Bosniak and Croat delegates respectively in the House of Peoples of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while delegates from Republika Srpska are selected by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska.



The work of the Houses is managed by the Collegium which consists of the Speaker of the House and the First and the Second Deputy Speakers of the House. The position of Speaker rotates among the members of the Collegium every eight months.

The Committees of the Houses

The Houses are responsible for establishing permanent and temporary committees of their respective Houses as well as for establishing permanent and temporary joint committees of both Houses. The tasks and the composition of the committees are determined by the conclusions reached in the Houses.

Permanent committees of the House of Representatives are comprised of nine members each while permanent committees of the House of Peoples are comprised of six members each. The number of temporary committee members can be smaller. The committees must elect a Chair and First and Second Deputy Chairs from amongst their members. They must be elected from the ranks of the three constituent peoples.

The joint committees are comprised of 12 members with six members from the House of Representatives and six from the House of Peoples. Two thirds of the members are to be elected from the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while one third are to be elected from the territory of the Republika Srpska.

Committees render opinions, submit proposals and reports to the respective House(s), as well as exercising other duties as stipulated by the Rules of Procedure. Committees decide on issues delegated to them by the respective House(s), however the committees cannot be delegated the competency to adopt laws.



Legislative procedure

A proposed draft law may be introduced by any representative, delegate, committee, or joint committee of the House of Representatives, the House of Peoples, the Presidency or the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Citizens may submit an initiative to the authorized proponents for adoption of new laws and amendments to existing legislation.

The Rules of Procedures stipulate that proposed draft laws can be considered in the following manner: basic, summary, and emergency procedures. In basic and summary procedures, the proposed draft laws must be considered by the committees and Houses in two readings. When the proposed draft law is given high emergency status, the proposed draft law is considered in one reading and an amendment stage is not envisaged.

A draft law shall be considered passed when it has been adopted by both Houses in identical text.