The Influence and Effects of EU Business Law in the Western Balkans

1st EU Business Law Forum

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Compatibility of legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina with EU law in the field of intellectual property rights as a subject of foreign direct investment

(abstract)

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Abstract

Investing technology, that is protected under patents and other intellectual property rights of foreign investors in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), is one of the forms of foreign direct investment. If foreign investors decide to invest their technology that is protected by intellectual property rights, they must be sure that the legislation of the state they invest in is stable and in line with international conventions and in particular with the EU, because the BiH Agreement on Stabilization and Association 2008 took such an obligation.

BiH ratified the 1992 Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States in 1965. The BiH Constitution guarantees protection of the right to property and private capital. The Law on Foreign Direct Investment Policy in BiH was adopted in 1998 and regulates this area and the Law on Foreign Trade Policy of BiH and other laws and bylaws. In the field of intellectual property rights, BiH has ratified the 1992 Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and most other international conventions.

The paper offers an analysis of BiH legislation governing intellectual property rights and foreign direct investment in order to determine whether the legislation BiH satisfactory and whether it is sufficiently compatible with the EU law and therefore attractive to foreign investors.

Key words: intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment, technology, legislation, BiH, EU law.