
From: SanctionChristianSchmidt [REDACTED]
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Subject: As BiH Elections Approach, Scrutiny of Former OHR Christian Schmidt Grows

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SANCTION CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT **NOW!**



As BiH Elections Approach, Scrutiny of Former OHR Christian Schmidt Grows

As Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) heads into general elections on October 4, scrutiny is growing over Christian Schmidt's treatment of Bosnian Serbs during his tenure as U.N. High Representative. On August 31, U.S. Representative Celeste Maloy [asked](#) the U.S. Department of the Treasury to investigate whether Schmidt and members of BiH's Central Election Commission engaged in sanctionable conduct under the Global Magnitsky program. The [allegations](#) include interference in the democratic process in Republika Srpska, the country's Serbian-majority entity, through the

illegitimate removal of former President Milorad Dodik and broader efforts to disenfranchise Bosnian Serbs.

Brussels Report editor-in-chief Pieter Cleppe recently [examined](#) the allegations against Schmidt, including his controversial intervention in the 2022 BiH elections. The record, as Cleppe describes, paints a picture of an unelected, foreign official operating with impunity against BiH's Christian populations:

- *"Until recently, Christian Schmidt, a former German Agriculture Minister, occupied the [High Representative] position. He stepped down in May 2026, apparently in part due to pressure from the United States, after a sharp confrontation with Milorad Dodik, the President of Republika Srpska at the time. Dodik had been indicted for passing legislation that defied decisions by the High Representative. In 2023, Schmidt had amended the criminal code, introducing a measure whereby failing to carry out or obstructing his decisions became an official offence."*
- *"Dodik's presidential mandate had been revoked in August 2025 following a court verdict sentencing him to one year in prison and a six-year ban on holding presidential office. In April 2025, Schmidt had also suspended the disbursement of public funds for Dodik's political party. In protest, Dodik cited the lack of Schmidt's authorisation by the UN Security Council, also stating: 'How is it that other parties will receive those funds and we won't?'"*
- *"The whole episode followed an earlier bombshell during the previous general elections, on October 2022. Then, right after the voting booths were closed, Schmidt imposed changes to the Election Law of BiH as well as 21 amendments to the Constitution of the Federation of BiH."*
- *"Writing for Verfassungsblog.de, Constitutional law Professors Jens Woelk and Maja Sahadžić comment on this, noting: 'This caused widespread anxiety in parts of the country and demonstrations in front of the Office of the High Representative building in Sarajevo. Dark premonitions were soon dispelled when the High Representative seemingly changed his mind and imposed only technical changes to the Election Law. Visibly under pressure, the High Representative even had an outburst in front of cameras but maintained that he may impose further changes as well.'"*

Schmidt left the OHR in May, but the consequences of his decrees may outlast his tenure. Before stepping down, he made further [sweeping changes](#) to BiH's electoral laws, including the purchase of new voting machines with software that has been implicated in

fraudulent elections in Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Philippines. Schmidt also [imposed](#) biometric identification software and cameras at polling stations—measures that raise concerns about voter intimidation and reprisal against Bosnian Serbs

Worst of all, these sweeping changes came [without](#) any approval from the U.N. Security Council or BiH's ethnoreligious communities. As BiH's elections approach and Bosnian Serbs continue to suffer the consequences of Schmidt's illegitimate and oppressive regime, it's time for the international community to hold Schmidt accountable.

The U.S. must [Sanction Schmidt NOW!](#)



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2000 K St NW Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006

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