Breaking the Logjam: Refugee Returns to Croatia ICG Balkans Report N°49, 09 November 1998

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Also in mid-June 1998, the government invited international representatives (principally the OSCE, the UNHCR and US representatives) to advise on how to improve the programme. The international agencies insisted that the part of the programme dealing specifically with the procedures and the organisation of returns be separated from the other sections dealing with the historical background and the reconstruction needs. They would only give advice on the part of the text dealing with the mechanisms of handling the returns. Intensive consultations followed, leading to the adoption of the programme, which was approved by the government on 22 June 1998 and accepted by the Sabor four days later. The head of the OSCE mission in Croatia, Tim Guldimann, declared that he was satisfied with the document, while stressing that the key point was that the programme should be implemented. The Foreign Minister, Mate Granic, visited Bonn and London (Britain held the EU presidency until the end of June 1998) to present the plan, which also received a cautious welcome in Brussels.²⁶

²⁶ Jutarnji list, 26 June 1998.