

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 8/8/2011

GAIN Report Number: BK 1108

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Post: Sarajevo

Farmers Protest Today in Sarajevo and Block Borders

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

More than 3,000 farmers began protesting today in front of the Federation Government building in Sarajevo, and blocking three border crossings with Croatia: Izacici, Kamensko, and Doljani. The farmers are demanding that Federation Agriculture Minister resign due to the government's failure to pay farm subsidies for the last quarter of 2010 and the first two quarters of 2011.

General Information:

More than 3,000 farmers began protesting today in front of the Federation Government building in Sarajevo, and blocking three border crossings with Croatia: Izacici, Kamensko, and Doljani. The farmers are demanding that Federation Agriculture Minister Jerko Lijanovic resign due to the government's failure to pay farm subsidies for the last quarter of 2010 and the first two quarters of 2011.

The Minister agreed to pay 2011 subsidies very soon, but claims that subsidies for the fourth quarter of 2010 cannot be paid from the 2011 budget. Farmers traveled from several regions to participate in the protests and claim that blockades will continue until their demands are met.

In addition to unpaid subsidies, farmers are not happy with sharply decreased 2011 agricultural support levels, especially for grain and fruit production, as well as reduced subsidies for capital investment and support for rural development. Farmers also want the Federation Government to introduce a minimum price for milk and wheat, so they can sell their products to registered dairies and mills for a guaranteed price.