



Bosnia and Herzegovina  
The Council of Ministers  
Ms Borjana Kristo, Chairperson, and all Ministers  
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine no. 1  
Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Frankfurt, 9 July 2025

Dear Chairperson Krišto and Honourable Ministers,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the current situation of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, one of our valued member institutions.

Over the past year, we have received troubling reports suggesting that the Library may be at risk of closure due to a lack of funding. Media coverage—including from international sources—has highlighted severe challenges such as unpaid staff salaries and the inability to continue publishing. While we understand that the full details may be complex and not all reports may be fully accurate, the overarching message is a cause for considerable concern.

We wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the fundamental importance of national libraries in safeguarding a country's cultural and intellectual heritage. Institutions such as the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina require a solid legal foundation, long-term structural support, and reliable financial resources to fulfil their mandate effectively.

CENL fully supports your efforts to update and enhance the relevant state-level legislation to ensure the appropriate selection of management structures and the stable funding of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are confident that you share our recognition of the Library as a cornerstone of Bosnia and Herzegovina's cultural identity—an institution that, for eighty years, has preserved and promoted the country's rich heritage with dignity and resilience.

We trust that you remain committed to protecting Bosnia and Herzegovina's (written) cultural heritage. We therefore respectfully urge you to ensure the establishment of a robust legal and financial framework that will secure the future of the National and University Library in Sarajevo.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Scholze', is placed above the printed name.

Frank Scholze  
Director General of the German National Library and Chair of CENL

**CENL Secretariat**

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