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Bosnian Serb, Serbian tax offices sign protocol on preventing illegal dealings

**BODY:**

Text of report in English by Bosnian news agency Onasa web site

Banja Luka, 8 February: Directors of the Republika Srpska's RS - Bosnian Serb Republic and Serbian Tax Administrations **Milica Bisic** and Marija Drco Ugren on Saturday 8 February in Banja Luka signed a protocol on cooperation between the two administrations in the fight against illegal actions in the field of tax evasion and money laundering.

The protocol was signed during the visit of Serbian Finance and Economy Minister Bozidar Djelic and the tax administration director to Banja Luka, where they met with RS Finance Minister Simeun Vilendecic and Bisic.

"It has been noticed that part of the RS and Serbian residents open accounts in the RS and Serbia through some banks and use these accounts for illegal activities," Vilendecic told reporters, emphasizing that the protocol will open a possibility to exchange information on such actions and their prevention.

He said the officials also discussed the prevention of smuggling across the RS, that BiH Bosnia-Herzegovina border with Serbia sentence as received .

Vilendecic said they also talked about 20m KM convertible mark of old debts that the RS has towards Serbia in the field of providing health care services, and about launching an initiative before the central monetary authority to enable more efficient conversion of KM into dinars and vice versa.

Djelic said this was his first visit to Banja Luka and a proof that he will work harder in the future on the activation of special links between the RS and Serbia.

"The first goal of my visit is to improve cooperation from the aspect of combating smuggling, money laundering, prevention and sanctioning of 'fictive companies' in the RS and Serbia, so our today's visit to the people who break laws is that we are from now on much better organized to prevent such crimes," Djelic said.

He said another goal of the visit is the exchange of mutual experiences.

Drco Ugren said the signed protocol on cooperation is very important because the establishment of tax administration offices is under way in the RS and Serbia.

She added that these are some of the most important institutions in a country, so the exchange of experience, knowledge and data can only improve their work.

Bisic said the protocol is one of the steps towards rapid and efficient prevention of tax evasion.