

LAW ON THE CESSATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW ON ABANDONED APARTMENTS

(Official Gazette of the Federation BiH, Nos. 11/98, 38/98, 12/99, 18/99, 27/99, 43/99, with incorporated amendments proclaimed by the High Representative Decision of the 4 December 2001 (in underlined text bellow) and published in the Official Gazette of the Federation BiH, No. 56/01 of the 21 December 2001)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

The *Law on Abandoned Apartments* ("Official Gazette of RBH" no. 6/92, 8/92, 16/92, 13/94, 36/94, 9/95 and 33/95), *Decree on Use of Abandoned Apartments* (Official Gazette HZHB 13/93) and the regulations passed thereunder, as well as other regulations regulating the issue of abandoned apartments passed between 30 April 1991 and the entry into force of this Law which are being applied on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the Federation) shall cease to be applied on the day of the entry into force of this law.

Following the entry into force of this Law, the authorities of the Federation and other bodies in the Federation shall refrain from undertaking any new actions by which apartments will be declared abandoned or occupancy rights cancelled until after the occupancy right holder has been reinstated in his/her apartment in accordance with this Law.

The competent bodies referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article shall decide about the rights of occupancy right holders to repossess their apartments which have been declared temporarily or permanently abandoned and the rights of temporary occupants of the abandoned apartment.

Article 2

All administrative, judicial and any other decisions enacted on the basis of the regulations referred to in Paragraph 1 of Article 1 of this Law terminating occupancy rights shall be null and void.

All administrative, judicial and any other decisions enacted on the basis of the regulations referred to in Paragraph 1 of Article 1 of this Law in which rights of temporary occupancy have been created shall remain effective until cancelled in accordance with this Law. Persons who moved into apartments on the basis of acts which have expired shall be considered to be temporary users. Article 3, Paragraph 3 of this Law shall not apply to such persons.

Any occupancy right or contract on use made between 1 April 1992 and 7 February 1998 is cancelled. A person who occupies an apartment on the basis of an occupancy right which is cancelled under this Article shall be considered a temporary user for the purposes of this Law.

A temporary user referred to in the previous paragraph who does not have other accommodation available to her/him has the right to a new contract on use to, or an extension of temporary use of, the apartment, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, when the occupancy right of the former occupant is cancelled under Article 5 of this Law or a claim of the former occupant to repossess the apartment is rejected by the competent authority in accordance with this Law.

An occupancy right holder to an apartment as at 1 April 1992, who agreed to the cancellation of her/his occupancy right and who subsequently received another occupancy right which is cancelled under this Article, is entitled to make a claim for repossession of her/his former apartment in accordance with this Law.

Article 2a

The provisions of this Law shall also apply to contracts on exchange of apartments, where the exchange took place between 1 April 1992 and 7 February 1998 in accordance with the Law on Housing Relations (FBH OG 11/98, 38/98, 12/99, 19/99) (hereinafter "ZOSO").

In the event that each party to the contract on exchange filed a claim for repossession before the expiry of the deadline set out in Article 5, the competent authority shall process the claims according to this Law. Notwithstanding, the competent authority in each municipality shall deem the exchange valid, if both parties give a statement reconfirming the contract on exchange, and shall revalidate the contracts on use pursuant to Article 18c paragraph 2, point 4 of this law.

In the event that neither party to the contract on exchange filed a claim for repossession before the expiry of the deadline set out in Article 5, the competent authority in each municipality shall revalidate the contracts on use pursuant to Article 18c paragraph 2 point 4 of this Law.

In the event that only one party to the contract on exchange filed a claim for repossession before the expiry of the deadline set out in Article 5, the competent authority shall inform in writing the corresponding competent authority in the municipality where the exchanged apartment is located of the claim. The receiving competent authority shall then deem a claim to have been filed, before the expiry of the deadline set out in Article 5, for the exchanged apartment within its jurisdiction and process the claim according to the Law.

In case of a dispute as to the validity of the contract on exchange, the competent authority shall suspend proceedings and shall refer the parties to the competent court according to the provision of the Law on Administrative Procedures (FBH OG 2/98) regulating preliminary issues, in order to rule on the allegation. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Law on Civil Procedures (FBH O.G. 42/98), the burden of proof shall lie upon the party claiming to have acquired rights to the apartment through the contract on exchange to establish that the transaction was conducted voluntarily and in accordance with the law. Where one of the exchanged apartments is located in the territory of another republic of the former SFRY, the burden of proof shall lie upon the party claiming that the contract on exchange was not conducted voluntarily and in

accordance with the law to demonstrate that the status of the parties prior to the exchange shall be restored.

Article 3

The occupancy right holder of an apartment declared abandoned or a member of his/her household as defined in Article 6 of the ZOSO (hereinafter the "occupancy right holder") shall have the right to return in accordance with Annex 7 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be applied only to those occupancy right holders who have the right to return to their homes of origin under Annex 7, Article 1 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Persons who have left their apartments between 30 April 1991 and 4 April 1998 shall be considered to be refugees and displaced persons under Annex 7 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Holder of occupancy right in the apartment which is inhabited by a person using the apartment without legal basis or which is vacant as of the date this Law enters into force shall be able, without any restrictions, to repossess the apartment in which he has an occupancy right. Persons using the apartment without legal basis shall, ex officio, be evicted immediately or at the latest within 15 days and the competent authority shall not be obliged to provide alternative accommodation to such persons.

A temporary user of an apartment who is required to vacate the apartment pursuant to the provisions of this Law and to whom Article 7A and Article 11 or Article 11A of this Law apply shall be obliged to move out from the apartment that he/she has been using within 15 days of the date of delivery of the Decision from Article 6 of the Law confirming the right of an occupancy right holder to the relevant apartment.

A temporary user of an apartment who is required to vacate the apartment pursuant to the provisions of this Law and who is entitled to alternative accommodation pursuant to this Law, shall be provided with accommodation within the same canton by the administrative authority on the territory of which she/he had his/her latest residence. The temporary user shall be obliged to move out of the apartment within the deadline set in Article 7 of this Law.

The standard of alternative accommodation provided shall be one or more rooms which provide shelter to the user from adverse weather conditions and protects his or her furniture from damage, with a minimum of 5 square meters/person. Such accommodation may be in the form of business facilities or a co-tenancy.

In case that the administrative authority of the territory of which the temporary user has his/her latest residence is unable to provide alternative accommodation, other competent bodies including other municipal organs, state-owned companies or firms, and cantonal and Federation authorities shall be obliged to make available facilities which are at their disposal for the purposes of providing alternative accommodation under this Law.

As an exception, if the temporary user's 30 April 1991 house or apartment is uninhabitable or occupied, on the written request of the temporary user and pending the reconstruction or vacation of the 30 April 1991 house or apartment, the authority responsible for providing temporary accommodation shall be the competent authority responsible for housing affairs in the municipality where the 30 April 1991 house or apartment is located.

In all cases in which the current occupant remains in the apartment, all moveable property of the occupancy right holder found in the apartment must be returned to him/her upon his/her request.

In no event shall the failure of the competent bodies to meet their obligations under this Article operate to delay the ability of an occupancy right holder to enter into possession of the apartment.

Article 3a

As an exception to Article 3, paragraph 1 and 2 of this Law, regarding apartments declared abandoned on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the disposal of the Federation Ministry of Defence, the occupancy right holder shall not be considered a refugee if on April 30, 1991 s/he was in active service in the SSNO (Federal Secretariat for National Defence) - JNA (i.e. not retired); and was not a citizen of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina unless s/he had residence approved to him or her in the capacity of a refugee, or other equivalent protective status, in a country outside the Former SFRJ before 14 December 1995

A holder of an occupancy right from paragraph 1 of this Article will not be considered a refugee if s/he remained in the active military service of any armed forces outside the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina after 14 December 1995, s/he has acquired another occupancy right outside the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

II. THE PROCEDURE FOR REPOSSESSION OF AN APARTMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF THE OCCUPANCY RIGHT HOLDER

Article 4

The occupancy right holder as defined in Article 3, Paragraph 1 of this Law shall be entitled to claim the repossession of an apartment.

A claim for repossession of an apartment shall be presented to the municipal administrative authority competent for housing affairs, unless otherwise determined by cantonal law.

The claim shall be submitted in writing signed by the occupancy right holder or orally, in person by the occupancy right holder or an authorised representative.

A claim should include:

1. information on the apartment;

2. any evidence that the claimant is the holder of an occupancy right or a member of the latter's household;
3. the date when the occupancy right holder intends to reoccupy the apartment, but not later than one year from the date of submitting the claim; and
4. information on the place of residence of the occupancy right holder and the members of the occupancy right holder's household at the time the claim is filed.

Article 5

A claim for repossession of the apartment must be filed within fifteen months from the date of the entry into force of this Law.

Exceptionally, the deadline for submission of claims for repossession of apartments under Article 2, paragraph 5 and Article 18b paragraph 1 of this Law, and Article 83a. para 4 of the *Law on Amendments to the Law on Taking Over of the Law on Housing Relations* (Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 19/99) shall be 4 October 1999.

If the occupancy right holder does not file a claim to the competent administrative authority, to a competent court, or to the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees (hereinafter "CRPC"), within the appropriate time limit, or a request for enforcement of a decision of the CRPC within the deadline specified in the Law on Implementation of the Decisions of the CRPC (FBH OG 43/99, 51/00), the occupancy right is cancelled.

Article 6

Upon the receipt of a claim for return of the apartment to the occupancy right holder, the competent authority shall decide on the claim by a decision within 30 days from the date of receipt of the claim. The claim shall be solved in the chronological order in which it was received, unless specified otherwise in law.

The competent authority shall not reject a claim on the basis of provisions of the ZOSO, other than for failing to fall within the definition of member of household set out in Article 6 of the ZOSO. The competent authority also shall not reject a claim on the basis of a foreign citizenship acquired by the claimant since 30 April 1991.

Article 7

The decision referred to in the preceding Article by which the claim of the occupancy right holder is accepted, shall contain:

1. a decision confirming that the claimant is the holder of the occupancy right as defined in Article 3, paragraph 1 of this Law;

2. a decision on repossession of the apartment by the occupancy right holder if there is a temporary user in the apartment, or if the apartment is vacant or occupied without legal basis;
3. in cases where there is a current user, a decision on whether the current user is using the apartment without a legal basis (“illegal user”) or is a legal temporary user;
4. a decision on termination of the right of temporary use of the apartment, if there is a temporary user in the apartment;
5. a time limit for vacating the apartment by a temporary user or another person occupying the apartment;
6. a decision concerning whether the temporary user is entitled to accommodation in accordance with this Law;
7. an explicit warning that the current user will be subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code if s/he removes objects from, or otherwise damages, the apartment; and
8. an explicit warning to a current user who is a multiple occupant that s/he is subject to the fines set out in Article 18f, Paragraph 3 of this Law.

Article 7a

The deadline for vacating the apartment, referred to in Article 7, Paragraph 1, Point 5 of this Law shall be 15 days from the date of delivery of the decision and the decision on entitlement to accommodation under Article 7, Paragraph 1, Point 6 of this Law shall be negative, unless the current user is a temporary user as defined in Article 2, paragraph 3 of this Law and:

1. The temporary user is not a multiple occupant, as defined in Articles 11 and 11a of this Law; and:
2. The temporary user left his/her apartment or residential private property in the territory of Bosnia & Herzegovina between 30 April 1991 and 4 April 1998; and:
 - (a) In the case that the apartment or residential private property s/he left is occupied, s/he or a member of his/her 1991 family household has applied to the competent administrative authority, court or CRPC for repossession of that apartment within all deadlines prescribed by law, or for repossession of that residential private property within 60 days of this provision coming into force and is awaiting a decision on that claim; or
 - (b) In the case that a decision on a claim for repossession or CRPC certificate has been issued with respect to the apartment or residential private property s/he left, s/he or a member of his/her 1991 family household has requested enforcement of that decision or CRPC certificate within 60 days of this

provision coming into force or within 60 days of being legally entitled to seek enforcement, whichever is later; or

- (c) In the case that the apartment or residential private property s/he left is damaged or destroyed, s/he or a member of his/her 1991 family household has applied for return and reconstruction or is awaiting reconstruction assistance.

In case the current user fulfills the criteria set out in Paragraph 1 of this Article, the deadline for vacating the apartment shall be not more than 90 days from the date of the delivery of the decision. If a temporary user ceases to fulfill the conditions in this paragraph and a decision setting out a 90-day deadline to vacate has already been issued, the competent authority *ex officio* shall immediately issue a new decision specifying a deadline to vacate 15 days from the date of its delivery and then a conclusion on enforcement.

In exceptional circumstances, the deadline referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Article may be extended to up to one year if the municipality or the allocation right holder responsible for providing alternative accommodation in accordance with Article 3 of this Law provides detailed documentation regarding its efforts to secure alternative accommodation to the cantonal administrative authority competent for housing affairs, and the cantonal authority finds that there is a documented absence of available housing which shall be agreed upon by the Office of the High Representative. In each individual case, the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols must be met, and the occupancy right holder must be notified of the decision to extend the deadline and the basis for the decision 30 days before the deadline has expired.

The current user shall be required to demonstrate that s/he meets the conditions for entitlement to alternative accommodation under this Law; including providing claim or decision numbers for the repossession of the current user's 1991 home. If the current user cannot demonstrate that s/he meets these conditions, the competent authority shall proceed in accordance with the Law on Administrative Procedures in order to determine relevant facts.

Article 8

The competent administrative authority shall deliver the decision within 5 days from the date of issuance of the decision to:

1. the occupancy right holder;
2. the occupant of the apartment;
3. the allocation right holder.

Any appeal against a decision must be submitted by the claimant or current user to the cantonal ministry competent for housing affairs within 15 days from the date of receipt of the decision. Any appeal shall not suspend the execution of the decision.

In the event of an appeal, the competent authority shall retain copies of documents or take any other steps as necessary to ensure that the decision can be executed, notwithstanding the initiation of an appeal. If an appeal against a positive decision is not determined within the time period specified in the *Law on Administrative Procedures*, the decision of the first instance body, and therefore the claimant's occupancy right to the apartment, shall be deemed to be confirmed.

In case the cantonal ministry competent for housing affairs annuls the first instance decision, the annulment shall be considered partial under Article 236, paragraph 3 of the *Law on Administrative Procedures*, such that the annulment shall be related only to the decision on the rights of the current occupant unless there are grounds to annul the decision on the right of the claimant. If the competent authority again confirms the occupancy right of the claimant, the deadline set for vacating the apartment pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 1, point 5 of this Law shall run from the date of delivery of the original decision that was partially annulled.

Article 9

The handing over of the apartment to the occupancy right holder shall be witnessed by an official of the competent authority.

The handing over of the apartment and its contents shall be recorded in the minutes including, among other things, a detailed description of the current state of the apartment and its contents.

If minutes are unavailable from the time when the apartment was abandoned, the competent authority shall conduct an inspection of the apartment at the time the decision is made pursuant to Article 6 of this Law. The authorities are obliged, pursuant to their duties under the Criminal Code, to seek the prosecution of a current user who illegally removes property or fixtures from the apartment, or who willfully causes damage to the apartment, when s/he vacates the apartment either voluntarily or by eviction. The competent authority shall include a notice or warning to a current user about the aforesaid criminal sanctions for such action pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph 1, Point 7 of this Law.

The competent authority shall record such information in the minutes, and distribute the information recorded therein, as well as other information regarding repossessed or vacant and sealed apartments, as is defined by instruction of the Federation Ministry of Urban Planning and Environment. Information distributed and received in this manner is to be stored, processed, distributed and used only in a manner consistent with and necessary to the purpose of promoting property law implementation in accordance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

Article 10

Proceedings in the cases initiated by the claims referred to in Article 4 of this Law shall be considered urgent.

Article 11

If the person occupying the apartment fails to voluntarily comply with a decision ordering him/her to vacate the apartment, the competent administrative authority shall employ compulsory enforcement in accordance with law.

The enforcement shall be carried out at the request of the occupancy right holder.

Exceptionally, the competent administrative authority shall, ex officio, or upon the request of a person who has a legal interest in the procedure, pass a decision to vacate the apartment immediately in cases where the current user is a multiple occupant. The affected person has the right to file an appeal against the decision, but the appeal does not suspend the eviction.

A multiple occupant includes, among others, a current user who uses an apartment and who:

1. holds an occupancy right to or is using more than one apartment; or
2. has a family house or a apartment, in cases where the house or apartment is sufficiently intact, or can be made so with minimal repairs, to provide for basic living conditions (basic protection against weather; access to water and electricity; a heating source; basic privacy and security of belongings); or
3. is in possession of the house or apartment in which s/he lived on 30 April 1991 (hereinafter: "1991 home"); or where a member of his/her family household is in possession of his/her 1991 home; in cases where his/her 1991 home is sufficiently intact, or can be made so with minimal repairs, to provide for basic living conditions; or
4. has already been provided with alternative accommodation by a competent authority; or
5. has a member of his/her family household who has accommodation anywhere on the territory of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina or in the same city or municipality as the 1991 home anywhere else in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina; or
6. has a legal right to return into possession of his/her 1991 home; and his/her 1991 home is sufficiently intact, or can be made so with minimal repairs, to provide for basic living conditions, as explained in this paragraph; and it is possible for him/her to return into possession of his/her 1991 home; or
7. whose accommodation needs are otherwise met, as defined in Article 11a of this Law.

The minimum standard for alternative accommodation set out in Article 3, Paragraph 6 of this Law shall only apply to Points 4, 5, and 7 of Paragraph 4 of this Article.

In cases where a claim has been filed under this Law for an apartment which is vacated by a multiple occupant, and no decision has been issued at the date of vacation, the competent authority shall immediately issue a decision on the claim.

For the purposes of this Article, “family household” shall mean all members of the family household as of 30 April 1991; or, if they were not members of the family household as of 30 April 1991, any spouse, parents, children; or other persons registered together with a temporary user.

Article 11a

A temporary user whose accommodation needs are otherwise met shall include, among others:

1. a temporary user who voluntarily sold the real property in which s/he lived on 30 April 1991; or
2. a temporary user who voluntarily exchanged the real property or apartment in which s/he lived on 30 April 1991 and who is in possession of the apartment or real property or has transferred it to a third party; or
3. a temporary user who refuses alternative accommodation offered in writing by the competent authority, or refuses assistance in the reconstruction of his/her residence of 30 April 1991. The competent authority shall inform the temporary user of the consequence of refusing alternative accommodation or reconstruction assistance; or
4. a temporary user who resides in the same municipality as s/he did in 1991, unless s/he can provide evidence as to why he or she cannot return to his or her 1991 home; or
5. a temporary user who was a sub-tenant in 1991; or
6. a temporary user who has sufficient disposable income, including assets, to provide for his/her own accommodation. Sufficient disposable income shall be defined as one-fourth of the applicable breadbasket, as calculated by the competent statistical institute, per current family household member, plus 200 KM; or
7. a temporary user, in a case where the occupancy right holder provides him/her with a different accommodation as a tenant within the same canton, unless the temporary user agrees in writing to another municipality elsewhere, for at least six months. The standard of accommodation shall be that set out in Article 3, Paragraph 6 of this Law; or
8. a temporary user who left his/her apartment or residential private property in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina between 30 April 1991 and 4 April 1998 and there was a claim for repossession of that apartment or residential private property filed, if the claim for repossession is subsequently withdrawn; or

9. a temporary user who has been allocated any state-owned, including formerly socially-owned, land since 6 April 1992, more than 150 days from the date the allocation issued pursuant to a waiver granted by the Office of the High Representative, unless s/he cancels the allocation within 60 days of the date of the confirmation or of the date this provision comes into force, whichever date is the later; or
10. a temporary user who, unless a waiver application is pending before the Office of the High Representative, has been allocated any state-owned, including formerly socially-owned, land since 6 April 1992, unless s/he cancels the allocation within 60 days of the date this provision comes into force; or
11. a temporary user who has received housing credits, building materials, or any other form of housing construction/purchase assistance, more than 150 days from the date of receipt of the assistance or the date of receipt of the first installment of the assistance, unless s/he cancels the assistance within 60 days of receipt of the assistance, or the first installment of the assistance, or within 60 days of the date this provision comes into force, whichever date is the later.

For the purposes of points 9 to 11 of paragraph 1 of this Article, the competent authority shall inform the temporary user of the consequences of not canceling the land allocation or housing construction/purchase assistance, whichever is applicable.

For the purposes of this Article, the term 'temporary user' shall include all members of the family household as defined in Article 11, Paragraph 7 of this Law.

Article 12

The competent authority may temporarily allocate for use as alternative accommodation by a temporary user entitled under this Law an apartment in cases where a decision has been issued under Article 6 and delivered to the occupancy right holder in accordance with law, and where:

1. the current user voluntarily vacates the apartment within the deadline stated in the Decision and the occupancy right holder, a member of his/her 1991 household, or an authorised proxy fails to collect the keys of the apartment within 30 days from the day on which s/he receives written notification from the competent authority that the apartment is vacant; or

2. the current user vacated the apartment following compulsory enforcement and the occupancy right holder, a member of his/her 1991 household, or an authorised proxy fails to collect the keys of the vacated apartment within 30 days from the day on which s/he receives written notification from the competent authority that the apartment is vacant.

In case the current user does not vacate the apartment within the deadline stated in the Decision and the occupancy right holder fails to initiate enforcement proceedings within 30 days after expiration of the deadline for the current user to vacate, the competent authority shall ex officio evict the current user if s/he is not entitled to alternative accommodation pursuant to this Law. The competent authority may then

temporarily allocate the apartment for use by the current user, if they are entitled to alternative accommodation under this Law, or to another temporary user entitled to alternative accommodation under this Law or the Law on Cessation of the Application of the Law on Temporarily Abandoned Real Property Owned by Citizens (FBH OG 11/98, 29/98, 27/99, 43/99), as amended. The competent authority shall set out fully for the claimant, in any decision on enforcement or notification that the apartment is vacant and sealed, her/his obligation to collect the keys or face the possibility of the use of the apartment for alternative accommodation pursuant to this Article.

Only once the occupancy right holder, a member of his/her 1991 household, or an authorised proxy collects the keys, shall the provisions of the ZOSO, with the exception of Article 44, Paragraph 1(6), Articles 47 and Article 49, apply to the occupancy right.

Article 12a

The competent authority must allocate the apartment referred to in Article 12 in accordance with Article 18d, and with the standard set out in Article 3, paragraph 6, of this Law to the temporary use of a person who is:

1. entitled to alternative accommodation in accordance with Article 7a, 11, and 11a of the Law; and
2. currently a temporary user of an apartment or real property; and
3. required to vacate that apartment or real property following a decision on a claim for repossession under this Law or the Law on Cessation of Application of the Law on Temporary Abandoned Real Property Owned by Citizens, or a request for enforcement of a decision of the CRPC.

The temporary permit shall not be extended if the occupancy right holder, a member of his/her 1991 household or an authorized proxy requests to collect the keys. The competent authority shall immediately evict the temporary user at the end of the current 6-month period and hand the keys over to the occupancy right holder, a member of his/her 1991 household or an authorized proxy.

If a cancellation procedure has been initiated before the court, and has not yet resulted in a final decision, the procedure shall be suspended. The competent authority shall send notice to the claimant that s/he, a member of his/her 1991 family household or an authorized proxy may collect the keys and repossess the apartment.

If the occupancy right holder, a member of his/her 1991 household or an authorised proxy does not request to collect the keys before the expiry of the deadline specified in Article 18d of this Law, the disposal of the apartment shall be regulated pursuant to Article 13 of this Law.

Article 13

Upon the cancellation of an occupancy right under Article 5, including an occupancy right for which a claim for repossession was rejected or withdrawn, the allocation right

holder may regain control over the apartment only once the deadline specified in Article 18d of this Law for the administration by the administrative authority in charge of housing issues of such apartments has expired.

The return of apartments under the administration of the administrative authority in charge of housing issues to the allocation right holder upon the expiry of the deadline specified in Article 18d of this Law shall be regulated by an instruction of the Federation Ministry for Urban Planning and Environment.

Any allocation or other use of an apartment in contravention of Paragraph 1 of this Article and Article 18d of this Law is null and void.

III. CLAIMS TO THE COMMISSION FOR REAL PROPERTY CLAIMS OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES

Article 14

A party affected by a decision made under Article 7 may at any time file a claim with the CRPC. In the event that such a claim is filed, all proceedings, including execution of decisions or orders, shall be stayed pending the final decision of the CRPC but only in cases where the competent authority has rejected the request of the claimant on formal or material grounds, and where suspension has been requested by the CRPC.

A decision of the CRPC is final and binding.

Following a decision of the CRPC, the rights and obligations of the party referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be the same as if the decision of the CRPC was a decision of the competent authorities made in accordance with this law.

IV. PURCHASE OF APARTMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED ABANDONED

Article 15 – repealed

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 16

Contracts on the use of apartments declared abandoned in accordance with the regulations referred to in Article 1, paragraph 1 of this Law, as well as other decisions on allocation of apartment for use issued after 7 February 1998 are null and void.

Provision referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to contracts on the use of apartment if they were concluded before 7 February 1998 but their beneficiary did not move into the apartment.

Any person who uses an apartment on the basis of a decision or contract referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be considered to occupy the apartment without legal basis.

Article 17

The Federation Minister of Urban Planning and Environment shall pass an instruction on the application of Article 4 of this Law within 30 days from the date of the entry into force of this Law.

Article 18

The procedure for the return of apartments to the possession of the occupancy right holders determined by this law shall be carried out in accordance with the Law on Administrative Procedures, unless otherwise stipulated by this law.

Article 18a

A person whose occupancy right was cancelled under Article 2 of this Law, who spent his/her personal funds on necessary expenses for the apartment, shall be entitled to recover those funds under the *Law on Obligations* (Official Gazette SFRJ, 29/78 and 39/85, Official Gazette RBiH 2/92, 13/93 and 13/94). Proceedings under the Law on Obligations may be commenced from the date when the previous occupancy right holder regains possession of the apartment.

Where the court has awarded compensation to the person referred to in Paragraph 1, the occupancy right holder may recover that sum from the competent authority or allocation right holder under the *Law on Obligations*.

The competent authority shall be liable for all damage to the apartment from the time it was abandoned by the occupancy right holder until the time it is returned to the occupancy right holder or a member of his/her 1991 household pursuant to this law. Any repairs carried out by the occupancy right holder or a member of his/her 1991 household to restore the apartment to the state it was in prior to its abandonment shall be deemed "funds with which the holder of occupancy rights removed war damage" for the purposes of the *Law on Sale of Apartments with Occupancy Right* (FBH OG 27/97, 11/98, 22/99, 27/99, 7/00, and 32/01).

Article 18b

The provisions of this Law shall also apply to the apartments that have not been declared abandoned in terms of Article 1 of this Law, including damaged and destroyed apartments, provided that the occupancy right holder lost possession of the apartment in question before 4 April 1998.

All final judicial decisions ordering repossession of the apartment by the occupancy right holder shall be executed by the court. The initiated judicial proceedings for repossession of the apartment shall continue, while new claims shall be filed with the administrative authority in charge of the housing issues.

Article 18c

Where the temporary user has the right to a new contract on use of apartment under Article 2 Paragraph 4 of this Law, the administrative authority in charge of housing

issues shall be authorised to conclude the contract on use of apartment in accordance with the ZOSO.

The temporary user shall have the right to a new contract on use of the apartment under Article 2 Paragraph 4 of this Law if s/he obtained the occupancy right in any of the following circumstances:

1. through transfer of the occupancy right to him/her as a spouse or as a member of the family household following the death of the previous occupancy right holder, in accordance with the ZOSO; or
2. through transfer following his/her divorce from the previous occupancy right holder; or
3. s/he was the first occupancy right holder of the apartment following its construction; or
4. through a valid contract on exchange of apartments, in accordance with the ZOSO and Article 2a of this Law.

In no case shall the temporary user have the right to a new contract on use of the apartment under Article 2, Paragraph 4 of this Law if s/he is a multiple occupant as defined in Article 11, Paragraph 4, Points 1 to 6 or Article 11a, Paragraph 1, Points 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, or 11 of this Law or if s/he is not entitled to alternative accommodation under Article 7a, paragraph 1, Points (2) (a) or (b) of this Law.

As an exception to Article 11, Paragraph 7 and Article 11a, Paragraph 3 of this Law, the criteria set out in the previous Paragraph of this Article shall apply only with regard to the temporary user and his or her family household as of 30 April 1991 for the purposes of this Article.

Any revalidation of a contract on use or allocation concluded in contravention of this Article shall be void.

The procedure by which the temporary user's right to revalidate a contract on use of the apartment is determined shall be regulated by instruction of the Federation Ministry for Urban Planning and Environment to be issued within 30 days of this Law coming into force. The competent public defender shall supervise the procedure and control the conformity of revalidations of contracts on use and allocations, as well as purchases of apartments based on such revalidations or allocations, with this Article, pursuant to his/her duties as set out in the Law and by instruction.

Article 18d

An apartment from Article 13 of this Law shall be administered by the administrative authority in charge of housing issues and used for the purpose of temporary use until all claims for the repossession of private property, made within 90 days of this provision coming into force, and for socially-owned property, made as defined in Article 5 of this Law, in that municipality are resolved. Upon expiration of this period,

the apartment shall, after six months, be returned to the control of the allocation right holder pursuant to Article 13 of this Law. This paragraph shall apply to all apartments, whether or not they were declared abandoned.

The right to a temporary use of apartment in terms of the previous Paragraph shall be given to a person referred to in Article 3 Paragraph 5 of this Law or in Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the *Law on Cessation of Application of the Law on Temporary Abandoned Real Property Owned by Citizens*, in accordance with the standard set out in Article 3, paragraph 6 of this Law.

A temporary permit granted under this Article shall be given for a period of not longer than six months. A temporary user may apply for an extension of the temporary permit, for a period of not longer than six months, to expire at the latest by the deadline specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article.

In deciding on the claim for extension of the temporary permit, the competent authority must determine in a procedure whether the temporary user continues to be entitled to alternative accommodation pursuant to this Law. The competent authority can either issue a new temporary permit or indicate on the previous permit that the permit has been extended for another six months, including the expiration date of the permit. If the competent authority decides that the temporary user is not entitled to alternative accommodation, it shall order the temporary user to vacate the apartment within 15 days.

If the temporary user at any time ceases to meet the conditions for entitlement to alternative accommodation in accordance with the Law, the competent authority shall *ex officio* issue a decision canceling the temporary permit and ordering the temporary user to vacate the apartment within 15 days.

Exceptionally, in respect of apartments at the disposal of the Federation Ministry of Defence, where an occupancy right to an apartment is cancelled in accordance with Article 5 or Article 12, or where the claim is finally rejected in accordance with this Law, the competent body of the Federation Ministry of Defence may issue a new contract on use to a temporary user of an apartment in cases where s/he is required to vacate the apartment under this Law to enable the return of a pre-war occupancy right holder or purchaser of the apartment, provided that his/her housing needs are not otherwise met.

Article 18e

As an exception to Article 5 of the Law, the occupancy right holder may file a claim for repossession of a destroyed or damaged apartment within six months of this Law entering into force.

Article 18f

The competent administrative authority shall be fined 1000 to 5000 KM for the following minor offences:

1. if it does not take into account the presumption that persons who have left their apartments between 30 April 1991 and 4 April 1998 shall be considered to be refugees and displaced persons under Annex 7 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as set out in Article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Law;
2. if it does not order the vacating of the apartment within 15 days in accordance with Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Law;
3. if it fails to process an eviction request because one of the parties filed an appeal against the prior Decision, as set out in Article 8, paragraph 3 of the Law;
4. if it fails to hand over the apartment in accordance with Article 9 of the Law;
5. if it is required to take action against a multiple occupant, as set out in Article 11, paragraph 3, or if it fails to issue a decision according to Article 11, paragraph 6, of the Law.

The responsible person in the competent administrative authority shall be fined 200 to 1000 KM for a violation of paragraph 1 of this Article.

In addition to the above, a person who is a multiple occupant, as defined:

1. in Article 11, paragraph 4, Items 1, 2 or 7 of the Law and who fails to comply with the deadline to vacate specified in a decision issued pursuant to Article 6 of this Law shall be fined 500 to 5000 KM;
2. in Article 11, paragraph 4, Items 3 to 6 of the Law and who fails to comply with the deadline to vacate specified in a decision issued pursuant to Article 6 of this Law shall be fined 250 to 1000 KM.

Penalty proceedings according to paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article shall be carried out in accordance with the Federation Law on Minor Offenses Violating Federation Regulations (FBH OG 9/96). The local competency shall be determined pursuant to the aforementioned law.

Article 19

This law shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the "Official Gazette of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina".