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CROATIA POSTPONES PROPERTY TAX LAW AFTER BACKLASH 1

Croatia Postpones Property Tax Law after Backlash

After a petition against a proposed law to introduce property taxes attracted over 130,000 signatures, the Croatian government decided to postpone its implementation.

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic announced on Tuesday that the implementation of the new property tax law will be postponed after a sharply negative reaction from the general public.

The decision came after a petition launched by consumer protection NGO Lipa attracted over 130,000 signatures by Tuesday, demanding the law be withdrawn and claiming that "Croats do not want new taxes to be imposed".

"We are listening to what people want to say, although it should be noted that this tax, under the Law on Local Taxes, passed a debate in parliament as part of the tax reform package last year," Plenkovic told public broadcaster HRT on Tuesday night.

The new property tax law, which was originally to be implemented from next January, was to replace the current communal fee collected by local authorities.

The new law would slap bills on people with more than one home, or who do not use their real estate. Many people in Croatia have holiday homes, mostly on the coast.

People also complained about the vagueness of the form they would have to fill in, and about the lack of instructions.