

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 16/3/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on March 16, 2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
HVIDRA criticizes Kubura sentence	SCG: No plan for genocide	RS NA resume 32 nd session
7 th anniversary of Leutar murder	Int. media lost interest for lawsuit	Cavic with SiCG Ambassador to BH
HNC: Teachers still on strike	SCG to meet EU deadline	Milosevic to be buried in Pozarevac

TV news broadcast on March 15, 2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
ICTY on BiH Army commanders	Kubura & Hadzihasanovic sentenced	Verdict for Hadzihasanovic, Kubura
FBIH HoR in session	NATO action in Prnjavor	Milosevic's remains in Belgrade
BiH Presidency in session	BiH Presidency session	Milosevic's funeral in Pozarevac
BiH HoP Commission in session	FBIH HoR session	Who will attend Milosevic's funeral?

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
EUFOR/NATO raid in Prnjavor	ICTY convicts two BH Army officers	USA Congress passes a Resolution
Del Ponte to go to Belgrade	Pensioners in FBIH swindled again	HR meets PIC political directors
Milosevic to be buried in Pozarevac?	Protest of 'Spreca' workers	Vasic's facilities raided
Book of condolences in Lukavica	Market inspection at work in SA	Jurcevic on Nezavisne N. allegations

Oslobodjenje	It is time for BiH to become a state (US Congress adopts resolution on const. changes in BiH)
Dnevni Avaz	Support to single and stabile state of BiH (US Congress adopts resolution on const. changes in BiH)
Dnevni List	Disgraceful sentence passed by The Hague Tribunal (sentence to Hadzihasanovic, Kubura)
Vecernji List	Rebellion in The Hague (ICTY indictees rejecting food from kitchen in Scheveningen)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Rest in cinema after heart surgery (opening of private clinic in Tuzla)
Nezavisne Novine	Money under review (On NATO/EUFOR/RS police raid in Prnjavor)
Glas Srpske	To put an end to the issue of cooperation with The Hague
EuroBlic	Funeral in courtyard of family house in Pozarevac (On Milosevic's funeral)
Vecernje novosti	Grave under lime-tree (On Milosevic's funeral)

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

SCG legal team claim there was no plan for destruction of Bosniaks	BH Radio - The main hearing in the BiH's lawsuit against SCG before the International Court of Justice came to its last day. SCG legal team was trying to prove that there was no plan to destroy Bosniak people in BiH. SCG representative, British lawyer Ian Brownlie stated that Serbia never took part in fall of Yugoslavia, claiming that this responsibility lies on someone else.
RSNA adopted audit report for 2004 budget/Draft budget for 2006 yet to be discussed	BH Radio - The RS National Assembly continued its session on Thursday by adopting the audit report for 2004 budget. Only 8 out of 32 budgetary beneficiaries passed audit with a positive note. Out of 1.073 billion KM, RS Government did not report on 5.5 million KM. Most irregularities are noted in the RS Defense Ministry. Also reported by RTRS .

Milosevic's death/update

Milosevic's body transported to Belgrade/Funeral in Pozarevac on Saturday	FTV - The airplane transporting remains of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic landed on Wednesday afternoon at Belgrade airport, where it was met by high-ranked members of Socialist Party, as well as several dozens of citizens. Although Milosevic's legal representatives announced on Tuesday evening that the burial would take place in Belgrade, Milosevic would be buried in his hometown Pozarevac on Saturday and this was confirmed by SPS Vice-President Milorad Vucelic . Milosevic's remains would be exhibited in Belgrade next two days, but the exact location is not yet known [speculations say that he would be exhibited before the SCG Assembly building]. Also reported by RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS, Oslobođenje pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'Burial place in backyard of family house in Pozarevac' Dnevni Avaz pgs 21-22, mentioned on cover 'Butcher brought back to Serbia, mother of his crimes', EuroBlic cover pg splash, pg 6 'Funeral in courtyard of family house in Pozarevac' by <u>Z.Vasic</u> , Vecernje Novosti cover pg splash 'Grave under lime-tree', pgs 12-15 (dedicated to Milosevic), Nezavisne Novine pg 6, announced on cover 'Funeral in POzarevac' by <u>D.Vidakovic/P.Klincov</u> , Vecernji List, Slobodna Dalmacija also dedicate 2 pages with similar contents.
Milosevic's wife will not attend funeral	FTV - Slobodan Milosevic's widow Mirjana Markovic will not come to the funeral of her husband, confirmed the representative of the Lower House of the Russian Parliament. Nevertheless, the Belgrade District Court forwarded detailed directions to the Border Police in Belgrade to take out a warrant that will oblige Markovic to turn in her passport upon entering the country, stated Serbian Minister of Interior Dragan Jocic . Also reported by RHB, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS
Russian Parliament asks for abolishment of ICTY, blaming ICTY for Milosevic's death	FTV - The Russian State Assembly Duma unanimously adopted the document, severely criticizing the work of the ICTY and calling on its abolishment. " <i>We should not forget that almost 80 % of indicted persons, or those under the investigation, are Serbs</i> ", stated Konstantin Kosachev , Chairman of the International Affairs Committee with Duma. Duma blames ICTY for Slobodan Milosevic's death, because he was not allowed to undergo the medical treatment in Moscow. At the same time, the team of Russian specialists expressed satisfaction with the work of Dutch doctors, saying that they agree with the diagnosis that Milosevic died of myocardial infarction. RHB, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS also reported.
ICTY Chairman Pocar asks for lifting protective measures from certain materials on Milosevic	FTV - ICTY Chairman Fausto Pocar ordered the ICTY Trial Chamber to consider the issue of lifting protective measures over certain materials in the Slobodan Milosevic case, the ICTY announced on Thursday. Also reported by RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS .
BiH will not send delegation to Milosevic's funeral	BHT1 - BiH will not send an official delegation to attend Slobodan Milosevic's funeral. Serb member of the BiH Presidency Borislav Paravac said that he would attend the funeral as a member of an official state delegation, but he refused to comment if he would attend it as a private person as well. RS President Dragan Cavic stated that he is not going to attend the funeral, but not for political reasons but because he already had other plans for that day. BiH Minister of Foreign Affairs Mladen Ivanic said earlier that he does not see any reason to go at Milosevic's funeral. However, many citizens from the RS plan to go to the funeral [speculations say that about 7 buses would departure from the RS]. Hayat - Paravac stated that he would attend the funeral if it was organised by the state but if it was a private funeral than his attendance is a matter of his privacy. RHB, FTV, Vecernji List , pg 7 'Paravac: I am going to Milosevic's funeral', by <u>H carry Paravac's statement</u> .
NNop-ed critical of enormous mourning after Milosevic	Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Short memory' by <u>Pero Simic</u> - The author is sarcastic of the conduct of some officials, including Socialist Party from Serbia and supporters of Slobodan Milosevic's life', also criticising other politicians for mourning the death of Milosevic so deeply as if they forgot how much pain he had brought to the Serb people. He also expresses astonishment over the level of engagement of Russia in this matter, noting that a man cannot get rid of the impression that Milosevic, being adroit and competent, has taken part in creation of this end of his.

SD: Milosevic still has plenty of supporters in Serbia and RS	Slobodna Dalmacija , pg 16, mentioned on front 'After Sloba - Sloba', by <u>Petar Milos</u> - carries a comment in which the author underlines that ideas Milosevic was practicing during his lifetime still have plenty of supporters both in Serbia and RS.
Intl press: Milosevic hailed as national hero by his supporters and reviled as tyrant by his victims/Mass grief for Milosevic worst message to West	International Press covered confused feelings in Serbia with regard to return of Slobodan Milosevic 's body back to Belgrade, where " <i>he was hailed as a national hero by his supporters and reviled as a tyrant by his victims,</i> " as Daniel McLaughlin writes for Guardian . Describing possible dangers that international justice could face after death of Milosevic, Guardian columnist Marcel Berlins writes: " <i>Milosevic has left disastrous legal legacy, one which has already been of immense help to one of his principal beneficiaries, Saddam Hussein. He has shown the world that a defendant accused of the greatest crimes can play with the criminal justice system, make it look foolish, and by doing so undermine the very principles of international justice.</i> " New York Times article 'Funeral a Political Issue' by Nicholas Wood reads that it is expected thousands of supporters to pay last respect to Milosevic, adding: " <i>Scenes like that are something the Serbian government is hoping to avoid. For the last six years Serbia has struggled to convince the West that it wants to integrate with European and Atlantic institutions after years of war... A mass outpouring of grief for the man widely blamed for the loss of as many as 250,000 lives and the destruction of Yugoslavia would be the worst message to the West.</i> " BBC, Telegraph, Independent, Times, Washington Post and World Street Journal also covered the issue.
ICTY Chief Prosecutor Del Ponte in Belgrade on March 27	Oslobodjenje pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Milosevic tricked us' - ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte announced her visit to Belgrade for March 27, stressing once more that death of Milosevic will not influence SCG cooperation with ICTY, carries French daily <i>Le Monde</i> . Commenting on Milosevic's death, Del Ponte said: " <i>He tricked us.</i> " Hayat - Daily newspapers Blic also carries that according to its source close to the ICTY, del Ponte , is coming to Belgrade in order to once more increase pressure against Serbian authorities to extradite Ratko Mladic . Blic also carries that Del Ponte suddenly decided to go to Belgrade because she is in panic after Slobodan Milosevic death. PINK - also reported.

War crimes/ Coop. with ICTY/ BiH's lawsuit agst SCiG

NATO raided facilities owned by N. Vasic suspected for supporting war crimes' indictees	RTRS - EUFOR and NATO members raided facilities owned by Nemanja Vasic , former SDS representative in the RSNA, suspected of supporting war crime indictee Radovan Karadzic . Vasic claims that EUFOR took 100,000 Euros from his house and a pistol, he had permission for. Vasic could not say what more NATO members took in three black boxes. EUFOR members did not want to give any comments. " <i>I could not give any details on what exactly is going on, our results so far are encouraging</i> ", said the Head of EUFOR Unit seated in Banja Luka Tim Warrington . Vasic denies allegations on supporting war crime indictees. Seized items will be sent to forensic analysis in Butmir HQ in Sarajevo. Commenting on the raid, the RS President Dragan Cavic said that SDS and its eminent members were hostages of international politics towards the ICTY. RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'House and two firms of Nemanja Vasic raided' by <u>D.Colic-E.Sarac</u> Oslobodjenje pg 10 'NATO soldiers raided house of Nemanja Vasic' <u>not signed</u> , Dnevni List , pg 6, mentioned on front 'Network of aides to ICTY fugitives is being dismantled', by <u>Danijela Kozina</u> , Vecernji List , pg 3 'Raids in BiH because of Karadzic', by <u>H.</u> and pg 6 'Houses of N. Vasic searched', by <u>B. S.</u> , Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'Money under review' by <u>D.C.</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 5, announced on cover 'EURO 100 thousand taken away' by <u>D.Risojevic</u> , EuroBlic pg 1, announced on cover 'Vasic suspected of aiding Karadzic' by <u>Mirna Soja</u> also reported on the raid. EuroBlic RSp pg 1 'Cavic: Who knows what can happen to anybody' carries Cavic' statement.
---	--

BiH Prosecutor Jurcevic confirms that they are investigating on writing of NN/ RS President Cavic denies all accusations saying that if they were true he would be imprisoned	BHT1 – BiH Chief Prosecutor Marinko Jurcevic confirmed that the BiH Prosecution launched investigations on several persons from the RS who are suspected of organised crime and providing help to fugitive ICTY indictees, but he refused to comment on concrete names. Some media speculated that RS President Dragan Cavic is also subject of this investigation. Cavic rejected such speculations and announced that he would seek protection by a court. RS Minister of Interior Stanislav Cadjo confirmed that some internal controls are going on in RS Mol, but like Jurcevic, he also refused to provide more detailed information. RTRS – Cavic called on Jurcevic to take stance on ‘Nezavisne Novine’ allegations on the aforementioned issue. Jurcevic condemns the fact that NN were talking about names. <i>“The articles started dealing with names which the Prosecution still has not defined”</i> , said Jurcevic. On the other hand, Cavic claims that the allegations are false and added that journalists had the right to write and speak whatever they want, but that they had to bear responsibility for what they were doing and he added that he is going to ask for protection through court. Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘Jurcevic should give stance on investigation’ by <u>N.N.</u> , EuroBlic RS pg 2 ‘To get to the truth even at the Court’ by <u>R.R.</u> Dnevni Avaz pg 10 ‘Cavic: If allegations on investigation are true, I should be in prison’, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Court is the right address’ by <u>M. F.</u> carry Cavic’s statement.
ICTY: Former BiH Army Commanders Hadzihasanovic and Kubura sentenced for war crimes over Croat and Serb civilians	BHT1 – The ICTY sentenced former high-ranked officers of R BiH Army Amir Kubura and Enver Hadzihasanovic to 2,5 and 5 years in prison respectively. They have been found guilty of not preventing and punishing the crimes that the troops under their command committed in the Central Bosnia in 1993, including mujahedin troops. This is the first ICTY sentence that deals with crimes committed by foreign soldiers. Kubura and Hadzihasanovic have been acquitted of most charges filed against them. Representatives of Croat and Serb associations of war victims harshly criticized the sentence against Hadzihasanovic and Kubura, claiming that the verdicts are too mild. RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 2, mentioned on cover ‘Hadzihasanovic five, Kubura two and half years in prison’ by <u>Asim Beslija</u> , Dnevni Avaz pg 3, mentioned on cover, carries article under same title, Slobodna Dalmacija , pg 6 ‘Hadzihasanovic gets 5, Kubura 2,5 years’, by <u>H.</u> Nezavisne Novine pg 4, announced on cover ‘Seven and half years to officers of R BiH Army’ by <u>Reuters</u> .
HDZ criticizes ‘mild’ sentences for Hadzihasanovic and Kubura	Dnevni List , front pg splash and pg 2 ‘Disgraceful sentence passed by The Hague Tribunal’, by <u>HINA, Lj. V.</u> reports on sentence to Kubura and Hadzihasanovic . Inset ‘HDZ embittered with sentence’ carries HDZ spokesman, Miso Relota , as saying the sentences are ‘disgracefully mild’. Also reported by Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘HDZ: Verdict is shameful and pitiful’. Vecernji List , pg 7 ‘Crime in Bugojno ‘bypassed’’, by <u>zk</u> – the author criticizes the fact that Kubura and Hadzihasanovic were not found guilty of murder of 700 Croats of central Bosnia.
HR Schwarz-Schilling at PIC SB mtg: Milosevic’s death should not minimize necessity of having Mladic and Karadzic apprehended	RTRS – After the meeting of the Peace Implementation Council Political Directors, High Representative to BiH Christian Schwarz-Schilling said in Vienna that cooperation with the ICTY had to be full, while the HR said that Slobodan Milosevic’s death should not minimize necessity of having Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic apprehended. Nezavisne Novine pg 6, announced on cover ‘Funeral in Pozarevac’ by <u>D.Vidakovic/P.Klincov</u> , Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Europe is looking’ by <u>Beta</u>

RS PM Dodik met Serbian president Tadic and Serbian PM Kostunica: Cooperation with ICTY main topic	RTRS - The RS delegation, led by the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik met with the Serbian President and Prime Minister, Boris Tadic and Vojislav Kostunica respectively, in Belgrade. They discussed the issue of cooperation with the ICTY. Dodik said that it was agreed that the issue should be solved as soon as possible and they are going to do all in our power to complete the cooperation. Dodik also said that the RS Government was not supporting the lawsuit BiH filed against SCG for aggression and genocide before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, finding it illegal and illegitimate. <i>"BiH was probably recognized by several states, but it was not state in legal sense; we cannot interfere in the court process but we believe that it will definitively divide BiH in mental and political sense. We believe that those who made the lawsuit made great damage to BiH and its self-sustainability in the future"</i> , said Dodik. PINK , Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Kostunica was told that RS does not support lawsuit' Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash 'To put an end to issue of cooperation with The Hague', pg 2 'To fulfil duties towards The Hague asap' by <u>D.Vidakovic</u> , Glas Srpske pg 2 'The Hague story approaching its end', Vecernje Novosti pg 5 'Agreement of three peoples' by <u>D.R.</u> , also carried.
Main hearing in IJC continues/ SCG team questions evidence on existence of concentration camps	FTV - The trial in the case of the BiH lawsuit against SCG continued before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. 'Civil war in BiH' created inhuman conditions for all peoples, Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs, and it is impossible to claim that only Bosniaks or non-Serbs have been exposed to inhuman conditions that could have led to their extermination, stated member of SCG lawyers' team Xavier De Roux . During continuation of the process, SCG representatives tried to question the evidences, presented earlier by BiH representatives, about the existence of concentration camps on the SCG territory. All those alleged camps, such as those in Uzice or on Mount Zlatibor, were either extradition centres for Bosniaks or refugee camps, stated SCG representatives. BHT1 , Hayat , RTRS , Oslobodjenje pg 7 'History lesson by attorney Deru', mentioned on cover by <u>Nagorka Idrizovic</u> - Dnevni Avaz pg 12 'Same number of Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats disappeared in war' by <u>Fena</u> Glas Srpske pg 3 'Vague evidence' by <u>Fena</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 10 'Genocide is a result of war propaganda of Sarajevo' by <u>Sense</u> also reported.

Constitutional changes

US Congress passes Resolution calling on BiH politicians to finish constitutional changes by April	FTV - The US Congress issued a Resolution, which expresses the opinion of the Senate that it is time for BiH to start working on creation of a state with more functional, self-sustaining institutions, the US Embassy in Sarajevo announced on Wednesday. The interpretation of the Resolution says that BiH political leaders have already agreed to significant reforms in the fields of the budget process, intelligence services, criminal prosecution offices, Ministry of Justice, borders and customs services and defence sector, and therefore, it is an imperative that changes to the BiH Constitution are agreed by April 2006, in order to come in force before the general elections in October. Also reported by BHT1 , Hayat , RTRS , Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 3 'It is time for BiH to become a state' Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'US support to single and stable BiH', Dnevni List , pg 2 'American Congress on constitutional changes', <u>not signed</u> , Vecernji List , pg 7 'National interest of America: BiH in EU', by <u>Valentina Rupcic</u> Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'Agreement should be reached until April' by <u>M.Cubro</u> , Glas Srpske pg 2 'Agreement before elections' by <u>Beta</u> .
--	--

BiH Parliamentarians sent letter to CoE asking for their involvement in constitutional changes in BiH	FTV- Sead Avdic, Azra Hadziahmetovic, Ivo Lozancic and Martin Raguz , representatives of the BiH Parliament in the Council of Europe's Parliament, have sent an open letter to the CoE's Political Committee, asking for their urgent involvement in the constitutional changes negotiations in BiH. The letter said: <i>'We believe that your involvement is absolutely necessary, because it's the only way to create the Constitution that would assure the future of BiH'</i> . Sead Avdic stressed: <i>'The situation in BiH now clearly shows that there are a lot of controversial issues, that there is no political unity, and that political parties are radically divided... In that context, the involvement of the CoE, and especially the Political Committee, would be desirable.'</i> Also reported by PINK, BHT1, Hayat, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'To conduct systematic reform of BiH Constitution' by A.Omeragic, Dnevni List , pg 5 'Europe in constitutional changes', by D. P. M., Vecernji List , pg 9 'CoE should help in reform of BiH Constitution', by E. M., Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'They demand assistance in change of Constitution' by M.C. .
SP RS Gligoric says Silajdzic is behind letter four delegates addressed to CoE	Glas Srpske pg 5 'Silajdzic's handwriting' by Z. Markovic referring to the letter 4 members of the BiH Parliament in the CoE Parliamentary Assembly sent to Political Committee of CoE, inviting it to actively engage in the process of development of constitutional changes, SPRS delegate and deputy member of the delegation Tihomir Gligoric said he was offered to sign the letter, but he refused to do so, adding he believes Haris Silajdzic and Party for BiH were behind this letter since they want to gain their political goals through constitutional changes, i.e. they want to have BiH without entities.
SDA leader Tihic: Talks on const. changes to continue on Saturday	Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Talks to continue in Sarajevo on Saturday' by A.M. - SDA leader Sulejman Tihic said for DA that talks on constitutional changes will continue in Sarajevo on March 18, Saturday. He said: <i>"At this meeting, I think we will solve, i.e. agree on the remaining issue of election of BiH President and two Vice Presidents."</i> Tihic repeated that although, his party support direct election of BiH President, it would be acceptable for SDA if indirect election would be conducted in BiH HoR, where every candidate would have to have support of at least one third from each caucus.
HDZ-HD- HNZ Caucus in FBiH HoR: We will not support constitutional changes that legalize current role of entities	FTV - The HDZ-HD-HNZ Caucus in the FBiH HoR and Chairman of this Caucus Ivan Madunic stated that they would not support the constitutional changes that legalize the current role of the entities in BiH. <i>"We, the representatives of the HDZ-HD-HNZ Coalition Caucus in the FBiH HoR, oppose any kind of verification and signing of constitutional changes in BiH by negotiators on behalf of the Croat people, which are on track of enhancing and legalizing the existing entities, maintaining the entity voting and the Serb-Bosniak deal to the disadvantage of Croat people"</i> , stated Madunic. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Madunic: We will turn backs to Covic if he signs' by Ad.H. - Madunic stated that their further political engagement would depend on course of the negotiations, meaning that if HDZ leader Dragan Covic signs the agreement on constitutional changes <i>"we would turn our back to him"</i> . Also reported by BHT1, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Against constitutional changes that strengthen entities' by S.Se., Dnevni List , pg 5, mentioned on front 'Croats are raising voice against constitutional changes', by M. Zorlak, D. Pusic, Slobodna Dalmacija , pg 7 'Croats in Federation will not support changes', by H. , and pg 19 'Madunic: Do not sign changes', by E
SD interview: Cardinal Puljic says it is unfair Bosniaks, Serbs, IC neglect Croats	Slobodna Dalmacija pg 7 'It looks as though BiH Croats do not belong for IC' by Veso Vegar carries a brief interview with Cardinal Vinko Puljic in which he reiterates his earlier opinions that the Croats are not equal in BiH, be it at the entity or state level. Puljic criticizes the practice of summoning leaders of two peoples (Serbs and Bosniaks) to talks on constitutional changes without inviting the Croats too, claiming it is unfair both from the two peoples (Serbs and Bosniaks) and the IC to do such a thing and he especially criticizes the IC because it neglects the smallest-in-number people in BiH. All in all, Puljic expects wisdom and equal right will prevail.

German Ambassador to BiH fears politicians might abuse constitutional changes for pre-election campaign	Dnevni List , pg 9, mentioned on front 'Constitutional changes must not become victim of pre-election campaign' by <u>Arijana Beus</u> carries an interview with the German Ambassador to BiH, Arne Freiherr von Kittlitz , in which he talks, among other issues, about the constitutional changes process. According to the Ambassador, the initial stage of the negotiations looked to be very successful, however it seems the process could be halted altogether if the first part of the negotiations is not completed, which would make impossible the organization of second part of negotiations. The Ambassador fears that the process of constitutional changes and the overall political climate and the SAA negotiations could be abused by politicians for their pre-election campaign, which is something that should not be happening.
---	--

PIC mtg/Other political issues	
PIC communiqué: PIC expects agreement on constitutional changes	Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'PIC expects agreement on Constitution' by <u>M.C.</u> – The communiqué released after Wednesday's session of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) reads that PIC expects to see the final agreement on constitutional changes reached in the upcoming week, urging BH authorities to meet <i>"this urgent timetable is essential to putting agreed changes in place for the 2006 elections. If the timetable is not met, the next opportunity for many changes to come into effect will be the 2010 elections"</i> . PIC communiqué further reads: <i>"The Steering Board re-emphasized the pressing need for full cooperation with the ICTY. This remains a fundamental requirement for Euro-Atlantic integration. The Steering Board regretted that there has been no progress in 2006, and urged the BiH authorities, and in particular the RS President and new RS Government to work jointly to fulfil their obligations and take decisive and rapid action to ensure that all remaining indictees, and in particular Mladic and Karadzic, are transferred to The Hague and brought to justice without any further delay."</i> Understanding that the EU is prepared to build on its current engagement in BiH, the Steering Board expressed its view that the time for transition from the OHR to an EUSR Office is approaching.
HR Schwarz-Schilling at PIC mtg: My priorities would be transferring of authorities from IC to BiH institutions and support to negotiations on SAA	RTRS – After the meeting of the PIC Political Directors, High Representative to BiH Christian Schwarz-Schilling said in Vienna that his priorities would be transferring of authorities from the International Community to BiH institutions and support to negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic took part at the meeting, as well, where he spoke about reforms in BiH and progress in terms of SAA talks. Also reported by BHT1 , Dnevni List , pg 3 'Priority is to give support to BiH in talks with EU', by <u>NINA</u> .
Chair of CoM Terzic: We presented current progress BiH has made in reforms	Hayat - Commenting on the meeting of PIC Political Directors [in phone statement] the Terzic stated that this was the most positive meeting with PIC he has attended adding that they have presented the Board with current progress made regarding the reforms. <i>"BiH Minister for Treasury of the Institutions of BiH, Ljerka Maric, presented the report on results of VAT implementation and the Chief BiH Negotiator in Stabilization and Association Agreement talks Igor Davidovic presented progress made regarding the negotiations on SAA with the EU"</i> said Terzic. Vecernji List , pg 7 'Terzic: PIC is club of BiH supporters, not authorities', by <u>sh</u> . Nezavisne Novine pg 6, announced on cover 'Funeral in Pozarevac' by <u>D.Vidakovic/P.Klinacov</u> , Glas Srpske pg 2 'Europe is looking' by <u>Beta</u> .

HR Schwarz-Schilling: To encourage BiH authorities in carrying out of reforms/Terzic: Tempo for carrying out police reform would have to be adjusted to desire for BiH to become NATO member by 2008	Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'To encourage BiH authorities in carrying out of reforms' by <u>S.Numanovic</u> - OHR Chief Spokesperson Irena Guzelova stated that HR Christian Schwarz- Schilling has presented his two main goals to the PIC and those are continuance of reforms necessary for signing of SAA and association with the EU. Guzelova stated that HR would continue with further transfer of authorities to BiH institutions and she emphasized that PIC has dealt with issue of ICTY cooperation and it was noted that no progress was made in this year and PIC hopes that new RS Government would be able to fulfil its obligations. In statement for the daily Terzic expressed his satisfaction with the meeting. Inset 'Three years for police'- Terzic stated that tempo for carrying out of police reform would have to be adjusted to desire for BiH to become NATO member by 2008, which means that deadline could be shortened from 5 to 3 years. Inset 'Conversation with Schussel'- Terzic met with Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schussel who promised continuance of help to BiH in process of SAA. Also reported by Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Mladic and Karadzic to The Hague immediately' <u>not signed</u> - Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Austria promised help to BiH'
Oslobodjenje op-ed: HR Schwarz-Schilling has better vision than Ashdown	Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Better vision' <u>op-ed by Senka Kurtovic</u> - Commenting on the Wednesday's meeting of the PIC, the editorial reads that this was the first time when Terzic was not sitting across to, but next to HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling , who was presiding the meeting. The author said that this actually showed how the OHR should treat state officials in the future - as an equal, not adverse partner. The editorial comments that economy and business were subject of the meeting, concluding that this was another reason why should we not regret departure of former HR Paddy Ashdown , for Schwarz-Schilling has a better vision.
FBiH HoR passes the Law on FBiH PBS with few amendments	Hayat - The FBiH House of Representatives adopted the law proposal on FBiH Public Broadcasting Service (55 votes in favour, 6 abstained from voting) at the session held in Sarajevo on Wednesday. The HDZ-HD-HNZ Coalition representatives left the session again, reiterating that the state laws, with which law proposals on FBiH PBS were to be harmonized, were destructive in terms of Croat vital national interests. FTV - According to the adopted Bill, the founder of the FBiH PBS is the Federation BiH, and not the Parliament, as it was originally proposed. <i>"The Parliament is a legislative body, and the legislative body cannot be the founder... it can only act on behalf of the founder, which is the FBiH in this case"</i> , stated FBiH Minister of Traffic and Communication Nedžad Brankovic . According to BOSS representative Mirnes Ajanovic , FBiH HoR also decided that the sessions of the FBiH Parliament should be broadcasted live on FTV, and also passed the SDP's amendments that RTV subscription should not be paid by those who have bad reception. Also reported by RHB, PINK, BHT1, Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Law on FBiH PBS assed' by <u>S.Se. Vecernji List</u> , pg 7 'Law on RTV adopted', by <u>E. Slobodna Dalmacija</u> , pg 16 'Boycott of RTV law', by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'PBS Law beyond state law' by <u>R.Cengic</u> , Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Call to Madunic not to sign change of BH Constitution' by <u>R.C. Dnevni List</u> , pg 3 'Croats will stop enactment of law', by <u>Mensud Zorlak</u> - reports that the daily got a confirmation from the Croat Caucus in FBiH HoP that the Caucus would invoke the vital national interest clause.
OHR: Amendments to Bill on FBiH PBS are not fully harmonised with Law on BiH PBS	FTV - The OHR announced that the amendments to the Bill on FBiH PBS are not fully harmonised with the Law on BiH PBS. The OHR expects the FBiH HoP to adopt the Bill in the form proposed by the FBiH Government, so it could be harmonized with the Law on BiH PBS, and also in accordance with the European Commission's requirements. RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'PBS Law beyond state law' by <u>R.Cengic</u> also carried.
EC: Government's proposal was in accordance with state law, but amendments to Law on PBS were not	Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Amendments are not in accordance with the state law' by <u>T.L.</u> - Spokesperson of EC Mission in BiH Frane Maroevic confirmed for daily that amendments passed to the Law on FBiH PBS are not in accordance with the state law. <i>"Government's proposal was in accordance with the state law, but as we saw, passed amendments weren't. Issue of the founder was solved in appropriate manner, so that the founder is FBiH Parliament"</i> stated Maroevic.

<p>NN op-ed critical of F BiH MP's insistence with regard to live coverage of F BiH Parliament sessions at FTV</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'A live coverage' by <u>Natasa Krsman</u> - In regard to insistence of F BiH MP's for live coverage of F BiH Parliament sessions at FTV, the author notes that the BH' SAA talks with EU may be brought in question over an enormous desire of F BiH MP's to make their parliament discussions in front of FTV cameras. According to her, the adoption of the Law on PBS at F BiH level, that is not in line with the PBS Law at BH level neither with European standards, has been gambling with the BH admission to European integration.</p>
<p>DA: Fifty signatures collected for removal of FBiH President Lozancic</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 '50 signatures collected for removal of Niko Lozancic' by <u>A.Hadziarapovic</u> learns that FBiH HoR collected 50 signatures for removal of FBiH President Niko Lozancic, for not properly doing his job. The author comments that signatures were not conditioned with party membership, adding that HDZ, SDP, BOSS and SBiH deputies approved the initiative. Speaking of necessary number of signatures for removing Lozancic from his position, SDP's Nermin Niksic said: "<i>FBiH Constitution does not precisely formulate this issue, and my personal opinion is that signatures of two thirds of one, not both FBiH Parliament Houses.</i>" Also reported by Oslobodjenje pg 10 '50 signatures for replacement of Lozancic' by <u>S.Sehercehajic</u>. Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'FBiH President without comment' by <u>Az.D.</u> - Lozancic had no comment in this regard. FBiH House of People deputy Ante Boras said Croat Caucus in this house did not receive request for Lozancic's removal. Daily learns that Bosniak Caucus in FBiH HoP also did not receive the initiative.</p>
<p>HDZ Relota says initiative for removal of FBiH President Lozancic is "an action of independent archers"/HDZ MP Madunic says he will support removal of Lozancic</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'HDZ: action of independent archers' by <u>R. Cengic</u> - Following the initiative for removal of Lozancic, HDZ Spokesperson Miso Relota on Wednesday stated this was '<i>an action of independent archers who stopped working for the interest of the party a long time ago</i>'. Head of SDA Caucus Semsudin Mehmedovic said he does not know whether SDA delegates would sign the initiative, noting it all depends on arguments offered to SDA and added he would, most probably, sign it. Daily also carries statements of Head of HDZ Caucus Ivan Madunic and SDP's Slavisa Sucur, who launched initiative, saying that delegates decided to launch initiative through procedure of collection of two thirds of delegates at the FBiH HoR and HoP. Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 18, mentioned on front 'SDP and HDZ removing Lozancic', by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u> - Madunic, says he, personally, will sign the initiative for removal of Lozancic. Madunic expects the same from other HDZ MPs.</p>
<p>EUPM Commissioner met RS Mol: It is necessary to conduct a full de-politicisation of police in order to make it efficient</p>	<p>PINK, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Coppola announced European police' <u>not signed</u>, EuroBlic pg RS3 'Coppola: RS police too in accordance with EU standards' by <u>M. S.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'De-politicization of police is necessary' by <u>Sn. K.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Police aside politics' by <u>O. M.</u> - RS Minister of Interior Stanislav Cadjo, RS Police Director Dragomir Andan and Head of EUPM Mission to BiH Vincenzo Coppola on Wednesday met in Banja Luka and agreed it is necessary to carry out a thorough de-politicization of police in order to make it more efficient. They also concluded the cooperation between RS Mol and EUPM was satisfactory.</p>
<p>BiH Constitutional Court to decide on Croatia-BiH agreement on aid for HVO vets</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 4 'Decision on HVO beneficiaries by end of month', by <u>Ljiljana Vidacak</u> - The Commission of BiH House of Peoples consisting of representatives of all three constitutional peoples could not reach an agreement pertaining to signing of bilateral agreement between BiH and Croatia, by which Croatia would provide financial help to former members of HVO and their family members. Due to inability of the Commission to reach an agreement, it is the BiH Constitutional Court that will decide on invocation of the vital national clause by the Bosniak MPs in the BiH HoP, which stated the agreement endangers Bosniaks' national interests. Croat member of the Commission, Velimir Jukic (HDZ), hopes the Court will reach a decision by end of March.</p>

Economy

<p>FBiH Minister of Energy Heco: Energopetrol should be recovered/ Law on privatization audit in procedure</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Law on revision of privatization is in Finance Ministry' by <u>Mirela Kukan</u> – In an interview for DA, FBiH Minister of Energy Vahid Heco explains that 'Energopetrol' case would not be discussed at Thursday's session of the FBiH Government and he added that all Ministers have not been introduced with comprehensive material regarding this issue. Heco said that his opinion is that 'Energopetrol', as a strategic FBiH oil company, should be recovered. Answering the question what is going on with long expected FBiH Law on privatization audit, he said that at this moment, the Law is in the procedure in FBiH Finance Ministry. Heco also explained that amendments to the law on Privatisation were withdrawn from the parliamentary procedure, while <i>"we have to be sure that this Law does not legalize certain illegalities occurred in co-capitalisation of some firms, including 'Aluminij'."</i></p>
--	---