

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 24/10/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 24 October

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
FBiH: Cheaper fuel prices as of today	Mass grave near Zvornik opened	Nigeria plane crash
BiH Educat. Ministers' Coordin. mtg	Bird flue preventive measures in BiH	Bird flue risk
World news	WHO, EC discuss bird flue	CARDS project

TV news broadcast on 23 October

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Bird flu not discovered in BiH	BiH doctors left for Pakistan	World News
Regional news	BiH Court imprisoned two persons	Regional News
World news	Circle 99 in session	No bird flue prevention on borders
Days of Queen Catherine	Small number of new cars in BiH	Rycroft on BiH Constitution

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
World News	World News	Terrorist suspects in custody
Feature story on avian influenza	World News	World news
Croat pupils to go back to schools	Doctors from Tuzla go to Pakistan	Shooting incident in Banja Luka
Circle 99 in session	Regional News	Accidental death in Gacko plant

Oslobodjenje	People are still losing lives at M17 highway (frequent traffic accidents on the road)
Dnevni Avaz	EU demand: Shorten police reform deadline to three years
Dnevni List	Is BiH hiding bird flu?
Vecernji List	Special forces shooting at poultry (bird flu in Croatia)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Damage worth 600 million kunas (bird flu in Croatia)
Glas Srpske	Bullet in back of the head (<i>shooting in B. Luka Sunday</i>)
Nezavisne Novine	Only BAM 26 million in cash in five years
Blic	Disinfection commenced at border crossings (disinfection at BiH crossings re bird flu)
Vecernje Novosti	Serbia related headlines

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

Meeting of BiH Education Ministers takes place in Siroki Brijeg	RHB - The 4 th meeting of the BiH Education Ministers' Coordination takes place in Siroki Brijeg today. During this meeting a proposal of the Law on Education Agency, preparations for the BiH Education Ministers' conference etc. should be discussed.
Exhumation near Zvornik	BH Radio 1 Hatka Hamidovic - Tuzla Office of the FBiH Missing Persons Commission have commenced with the exhumation of the secondary mass grave near Zvornik this morning. It is believed that the grave contains the body remains of Bosniaks executed in 1995. The exhumation will take about 15 days.

Czech, BiH parliamentarians discuss European integrations	BH Radio 1 <u>Amir Suzanj</u> – The Parliamentary delegations of the BiH and the Czech Republic met today to discuss the general situation in BiH in light of the last week EC's recommendation to open SAA talks with the EU. In addition to discussing the assistance under the EU CARDS program in amount of 1.6 million KM which would facilitate drafting of the necessary documents and laws, the BiH delegation has also raised the issue of visa regime liberalization, especially towards the BiH diplomats and officials. Czech delegates also stressed the need for the constitutional changes.
BiH veterinary teams at border crossings with Croatia	BH Radio 1 <u>Tihomir Bjelic</u> – BiH veterinary teams have taken positions at the border crossings with Croatia carrying out measures to prevent bringing bird flu virus to BiH. Brcko District is also preparing its team. All vehicles from Croatia are being disinfected which results with very long cues at all those border crossings. RS Radio also covered the issue.
CARDS project launched	RS Radio – CARDS programme of EURO 1.6 million will finance 8 projects aimed at improving efficiency of BiH institutions in activities related to integration into EU. The users of projects will be BiH Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Treasury, Civil Affairs Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Traffic and Communication and Civil Administration Agency and Directorate for European Integration. The programme has been launched in Sarajevo today by Michael Humphreys , Head of EC delegation to BiH, and Osman Topcagic , Head of BiH Directorate for European integration.

Political Developments/Reforms

DA quotes EC official: EC will demand from BiH to carry out police reform within 3 yrs	Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'Police reform deadline to be shortened to three years' by <u>S. Numanovic</u> – DA learns from the high-level EC officials in Brussels that the European Commission will put forward a request for the BiH authorities to shorten deadlines related to the police reform. <i>"We have no time to wait. Reform must be implemented within two, maximum three years,"</i> says the [male] source adding that the five-year deadline is too flexible. <i>"The Commission wants to talk with BIH on Stabilization and Association Agreement in a term of short deadlines... In order to shorten the negotiations with BiH, police reform deadline must be reduced,"</i> source adds. He explains that the EC is ready to offer any kind of support to ensure this: <i>"Professional police is an important precondition to fully abolish the visa regime for BiH. Sooner you have police in line with European standards, sooner you will be on the Schengen white list."</i> DA learns that not only Brussels and London, but also Washington talks about shortening deadline, and that this was discussed at the last week's conference held in Geneva. Inset 'Financial problems' carries that comment of the high-position BiH official who says that the police reform is expensive, while the country has no BiH and therefore doubts there could be such drastic reduction of the timeline.
---	---

<p>Terzic: SAA negotiation team, strategy to be established for 7 negotiation rounds</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Seven rounds of negotiations before us' by <u>M. Kukan</u> – Following the EC's recommendation to EU to open SAA talks with BiH, the Chair of the BiH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, stated for DA that now CoM is looking into establishing teams and negotiating strategy. Considering experiences of Croatia and Macedonia, Terzic says that 6 teams are to be established and tasked to prepare negotiating position. <i>"[The teams] will consist of representatives of the authorized Ministries within the CoM, coordinators from the entity governments and the BiH Ambassador to EU in Brussels... The chief negotiators will have permanent communication with the EU institutions... This has to be responsible person who will ensure BiH to negotiate SAA in the next year, the main condition is fluency in English,"</i> says Terzic. He underlines that the negotiations must be taken out of the context of the next year's election: <i>"I have to admit that in January I had a clear vision regarding the chief negotiator and that should had been Minister Mladen Ivanic. However, I will leave it up to RS to find and propose appropriate person, and finally it is not necessary for someone strictly from RS to be at the positions,"</i> concludes Terzic adding that BiH negotiating team will have 7 rounds of negotiations, out of which three are general and will be lead at the highest level and 4 are focused at technical and expert issues.</p>
<p>Terzic to meet Cavic Monday to discuss BiH negotiator with EU</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Cavic will propose negotiator with EU' by <u>V.Popovic</u> – Adnan Terzic, BiH COM Chair, announced he will meet with Dragan Cavic, RS President, Monday and discuss the issue of name of chief negotiator who will be leading BiH in negotiations on SAA. Milorad Dodik, SNSD President, confirmed he was offered to be a chief negotiator with EU, stressing it was agreed at the BiH level that negotiator should be from RS. Doidik also said that if he accepted the offer, first steps in this direction would be to hold agreement on technical conditions for running of talks and establishment of various commissions for various issues, stressing: <i>"As chief negotiator, I would have the role of coordinator on all issues between EU on one side and BiH institutions on the other."</i> However, Terzic is of the view that Dodik cannot be chief negotiator, stressing that negotiator must be <i>"a man with a clear vision of EU, with necessary macroeconomic knowledge and to speak English"</i>, adding that Dodik does not meet those conditions. Terzic also said that <i>"my commitment is to have a chief negotiator from RS in order to avoid stories that Terzic is in Brussels arranging tasks opposing RS existence, which Brussels forwards for further adoption to authorities."</i></p> <p>Glas Srpske pg 5 'Let's face' by <u>Lj.C.</u> – Dodik Sunday rejected accusations of Terzic he does not meet pre-requisites BiH negotiator should meet, stressing: <i>"As for my qualifications, I am ready to face with Terzic at any time to show how much each of us know. I have experience in negotiations, which would demand a complete devotion. It is the biggest obstacle I am facing with as far as this offer is concerned."</i> He says final answer to this offer will be made Tuesday or Wednesday, when SNSD will hold meeting, adding that there are much more reasons against offer, hence he will most likely not accept the offer. EuroBlic RSp pg 2 'Dodik – negotiator with EU?' by <u>M.M.</u> –SRNA – carries statements of Dodik and Terzic on negotiator. Vecernji List, pg 11 'Cavic for Dodik, Terzic against', by <u>Branka Stevandic</u> also carried the issue.</p>

Patriot on Dodik, Cavic's joint political actions	Patriot pgs 4-6 'Road and side-road' by <u>Slobodan Vaskovic</u> – Commenting on recent joint activities of Milorad Dodik and Dragan Cavic (regarding Agreement on police reform), the author describes Dodik as <i>"man who managed people, not problems"</i> which resulted in strong SNSD, and Cavic as <i>"man who managed problems not people"</i> resulting in bad situation within SDS and many reforms under implementation. According to him, the two, who indisputable possess political strength, have transformed from politically immature to stabile politicians of great importance at the political scene of RS. The author stresses that the joint activities of the two will not end following adoption of Agreement on police reform, but instead will continue, owing to character of essential/historic reforms in BiH, including change of BiH Constitution, on which the future appearance of RS will depend. Furthermore, the two are to decide on the RS negotiator with EU (regarding SAA talks) and to make radical decisions regarding RS Government, not inclined to any of the two. On this, author concludes that any Government without Pero Buikejlovic and Svetlana Cenic would be a gain for Dodik and Cavic.
Osl. op-ed on BiH negotiator with EU	Oslobodjenje pg 9 'European?' by <u>I. Prohic</u> carries an editorial which says that only a day after BiH received a green light for the first phase of the road towards the EU, BiH has shown that it is still immature for this demanding process. The author grounds this claim on the situation that emerged after it was stated that the main negotiator in this process would be a Serb from the RS (allegedly SNSD President Milorad Dodik). The author says that instead of talking about a need of the political consensus on this issue, about the criterion and procedures for election of the negotiating team, etc., problematic motifs emerge such as thinking that <i>'if Serbs are in charge of negotiations they cannot be against them'</i> etc.
British Ambassador Rycroft says BiH will have to change Constitution on its road to Europe	BHT, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 9 'BiH cannot join EU with the current Constitution', Dnevni Avaz pg 2, Vecernji List , pg 19 'Rycroft: BiH cannot go to EU with such constitution', by <u>H</u> – UK Ambassador to BiH Mathew Rycroft has stated for Nezavisne Novine that the idea on having one president, strong position of PM and strong parliament would help BiH on its path to EU. He noted that he could not imagine BiH as EU member with the current Constitution and a High Representative with Bonn powers. The Ambassador stated that all Constitutional changes must be made by consensus. He added that, currently, he did not see that the consensus existed in the country either on abolition of existing entities or on the establishing the third one.

<p>SDUBiH sends a letter to US Ambassador McElhaney: Changes to BiH Constitution the top priority</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 5 'Life outgrew Dayton Agreement', Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Leading role and presence of US necessary for the future of BiH', FENA - With regard to the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Agreement Vice Presidents of the Social-Democratic Union (SDU) Miro Lazovic and Ivo Komsic, as the participants at the peace conference in Dayton, sent a letter to US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney. Lazovic and Komsic expressed gratitude to the US for designing an agreement that ended the war, creating conditions for preserving the peace and gradual development of BiH as a united and multiethnic state, but warned that the Dayton Agreement today prevents BiH from growing into a functional and stabile state. <i>"The Dayton Agreement in not a perfect agreement. It is full of painful compromises and contradictories. Even today, ten years after, it does not give enough hope either to BiH patriots or its opponents. The agreement did stop the war, but more importantly, it unfortunately did not provide the necessary conditions for a lasting and just peace. However, it can be said with certainty that the Dayton Agreement, created in a specific historic moment and with specific aims, will remain a crucial political document in acquiring and developing the independence of BiH"</i>, Lazovic and Komsic stated. They stressed that the realities of life outgrew the Dayton Agreement and that we now need to look for new forms and frameworks for a more adequate, functional and contemporary approach towards needs to life of BiH citizens. <i>"Therefore, changes and improvements to the BiH Constitution impose themselves as a top priority. The constitutional framework needs to be adjusted to the demands of lasting and just peace. A structure based exclusively on national grounds is unacceptable for BiH because that it a basis for constant disagreement and confrontation"</i>, Lazovic and Komsic said.</p>
<p>VL: Foundations of new BiH Constitution will be presented on 10th anniversary of DPA; Croats to be sidelined?</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pgs 10 and 11 'Croat to be Speak of Parliament in Bosniak-Serb BiH!?', by <u>Milan Sutalo</u> - The author notes that foundations of a new BiH constitution will be presented in Washington on December 21, the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accord. Having said that, <u>Sutalo</u> wonders/fears that the BiH Croats could disappear as a political nation/factor in BiH. To back his claim up, the author reminds that the German Ambassador to BiH, Arne Frieherr von Kittlitz, recently stated that one should not allow a creation of a third entity in the FBiH, and the similar came from the US Undersecretary of State, Nicholas Burns, who sees the establishment of a third entity as a step backwards. <u>Sutalo</u> stresses that neither von Kittlitz nor Burns talked about the abolishment of the RS, instead they opposed the establishment of a third entity. VL goes on to say that according to media speculations, the US are ready to stand behind the RS under condition that Karadzic and Mladic are extradited to the ICTY by the DPA anniversary. As a conclusion, <u>Sutalo</u> says that the downsizing of state administration could mean that the two-entity BiH would remain, whilst cantons would be abolished, which would legalize the division of BiH among the Bosniaks and Serbs.</p>
<p>Lawyer Mikes, Professor Tomas on Geneva conference' conclusions</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 5 'You take care of yoursels by yoursleves' by <u>D.Vrhovac-Mihajlovic</u> - Commenting on Geneva conference, Miroslav Mikes, Banja Luka attorney, said that participants of the conference from Sarajevo -re-raised the issue of abolishment of RS through changes of BiH Constitution, noting: <i>"I think this story does not pass through within international community. BiH with RS and F BiH remains."</i> He also stressed that Conference stressed the importance of seeing a classical government of BiH established, <i>"with strong premier"</i>. Rajko Tomas, Professor at Faculty of Economics in B. Luka, passed on general view of conference that influence of international community should be diminished, owing to which reason BiH authorities should take over responsibility for economic and social situation</p>
<p>BiH Presidency member Tihic meets with Turkish PM Erdogan in Istanbul</p>	<p>RHB, BHT, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Turkey advocates for BiH accession to NATO as soon as possible' - Member of BiH Presidency Sulejman Tihic met with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Sunday. They discussed the current situation in BiH and region, focusing on the 10th anniversary of Dayton Agreement. Turkish PM expressed hopes BiH' would soon start the talks on its accession to NATO's Partnership for Peace program.</p>

<p>DA: 'Showdown with authors of Promemoria has been expected'</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Showdown with authors of Promemoria has been expected' by <u>F. Vele</u> – DA learns that mid next week a session of the HDZ Presidency will take place and Promemoria (the document in which re-examining of the elections for the HDZ President's position has been demanded) should be discussed. According to the announcements, they would discuss whether those who signed the Promemoria disrespected the HDZ Statute. DA also says that HDZ Vice President Niko Lozancic stated that within the discussion about the HDZ acting after the HDZ Convention, they would judge the work of some HDZ members alluding on Bozo Ljubic and his supporters. The HDZ Court of Honor would decide whether they disrespected the Statute or not. HDZ Spokesperson Miso Relota said that he would not like <i>'to comment on the HDZ Presidency's decisions, however, it is not excluded that some of the HDZ members would propose to have the discussion and pass the decision calling to account these members'</i>. DA inset 'Merdzo: Some people do not like public acting' carries Josip Merdzo as saying that aforementioned announcements are a reaction to Promemoria.</p>
<p>Colak meets Martens, Pack, Sanader in Istanbul; Covic to meet Martens two times</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 10 'Building partnership relations with EPP', by <u>Vlatko Ivankovic</u> – VL notes that BiH Security Minister and member of HDZ Presidency, Barisa Colak, took part in a two-day Conference of European people's parties that was held in Istanbul last week. VL notes that Colak met, among others, with the President of European People's Party (EPP), Wilfried Martens, and Chairwoman of the Delegation of European Parliament for BiH, SiCG and Albania, Doris Pack, to talk about the forthcoming changes to the BiH Constitution, cooperation with the EPP and the issue of Kosovo. Colak also met with the President of Croatia HDZ, Ivo Sanader. VL also announces that the HDZ President, Dragan Covic, will be meeting Martens on November 7 at Brussels and November 17 at Sarajevo.</p>
<p>DL: HDZ does not allow media it controls to have Ljubic appearing</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Getting even with Smiljko Sagolj', by <u>M. B.</u> – DL notes that censorship has been introduced at the Radio Herceg-Bosna in Mostar. Namely, the show called 'On tip of the tongue' that is hosted by Smiljko Sagolj was supposed to have Bozo Ljubic (Dragan Covic's biggest opponent at the last HDZ convention) as its guest, however the show was banned. DL notes that the HDZ will not allow Ljubic to appear in the media controlled by the HDZ, and the daily expects that Sagolj could also be expecting to lose his job at the Teacher's College in Mostar.</p>
<p>DA: HR to abolish names of disputable Mostar streets</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 12 'Is Ashdown going to abolish disputable Mostar streets?' by <u>F. Vele</u> – According to unofficial information, after Mostar Councilors refused last week a proposal of Mostar Mayor Ljubo Beslic to discuss renaming of a few Mostar streets High Representative Paddy Ashdown might pass the final decision on this issue. DA says that the OHR was disappointed because the Beslic's proposal was refused and they judged that it is not certain that an agreement on this issue might be reached soon. The article says that many Councilors stated that they did not want to support the Beslic's proposal because they <i>'do not want to participate in cosmetic changes'</i>. One of these Councilors stated that in this way HDZ wants to get rid of its mortgage and score political points, while the OHR wants to score points in integration of the City of Mostar .</p>

Economic/Social Affairs

DA on Energopetrol	Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'To annul the decision and adopt measures for rehabilitation of Energopetrol' – BOSS leader and deputy to the FBiH House of Representatives Mirnes Ajanovic has initiated a special HoR session following a FBiH Government's decision to continue talks with INA-MOL consortium on Energopetrol re-capitalization. Ajanovci proposes that the decision be annulled and measures taken for rehabilitation of the company. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Federation Parliament will request a report from the Government' – FBiH HoR Speaker Muhamed Ibrahimovic told the daily that he had still not received any initiative for holding a special session on Energopetrol but that he would act in accordance with valid procedures if he receives such the initiative(s). Dnevni Avaz pg 5, mentioned on cover 'I will accept any better solution' – In an interview with the daily, FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic said that the Government had made the only possible (and the best) solution, which is to continue talks on re-capitalization of Energopetrol with INA-MOL consortium. However, he said that he would any better solution to the issue.
SD interview: FBiH Minister Vrankic on budget, 'Energopetrol'	Slobodna Dalmacija , pg 13 'We will pay out debt to pensioners', by <u>Blazica Kristo</u> – Carries an interview with the FBiH Finance Minister, Dragan Vrankic , in which he notes that some sort of pre-election campaign has already started with the FBiH Parliament enacting laws the aim of which is to increase compensations to most endangered categories of population, which is creating budget related problems to the FBiH Government. Asked to comment on the issue of co-capitalization of 'Energopetrol', Minister Vrankic says the biggest winners in the whole scheme are workers of 'Energopetrol', because 'INA-MOL' will invest some 250 million KMs, whilst all 1100 workers will keep their jobs. Vrankic hopes that the Government's decision (on 'Energopetrol') will be realized.
Dailies on danger of bird flu in BiH	Dnevni List , front pg splash 'Is BiH hiding bird flu?' and pgs 4-5 'Samples from BiH are being sent to London!', by <u>Anja Vrebac</u> – Carries a lengthy article about possible outbreak of bird flu in BiH, in which DL says the competent authorities are monitoring the situation on the ground all the time, however what worries DL is the fact that dead birds are not subjected to analysis at the Veterinary College in Sarajevo, instead the birds are to be taken to London for the analysis, however no decision has been taken as yet. The issue is also covered by Vecernji List , pgs 8 and 9 'Virus at gates of BiH', by <u>Valentina Rupcic</u> , <u>Nada Koturic</u> , Slobodna Dalmacija , pgs 12-13 'Even parrots are being released from cages', by <u>Miroslav Landeka</u> .
NN on privatisation process in RS	Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash, pg 5 'Only BAM 26 million in cash in five years' by <u>P.Klincov</u> – Daily writes about results of the privations in RS, stressing that ever since privatization process commenced, RS has collected BAM 205 million, out of which sum only BAM 26 million was in case, while the rest was in foreign currency savings. Economic analysts in RS estimate those data are extremely bad.

Language Issue/Education

Circle 99 discussed language issue in BiH	Pink, Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Politics uses language as a manipulation tool', Dnevni Avaz pg 8, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Language is a means of manipulation to politics' by <u>N.N.</u> , Glas Srpske pg 2 'Tools for manipulation' by <u>FENA</u> – Independent Intellectuals Association 'Circle 99' held session on Sunday to discuss use of language and connection of this issue with politics. It was said that nationalists in BiH were using the language in order to achieve their particular political goals. Language professor Hanka Vajzovic said that the protagonists of national/ethnic policies in BiH consider the language as a manipulation and not communication means. Language professor Josip Baotic claims that the issue of two schools under the same roof is not of a linguistic but of a political nature.
--	---

RS Education Minister Pecelj announces transformation of Universities	EuroBlic RSpG 2 'To re-form a science according to European model' by <u>Mirna Soja</u> - Milovan Pecelj , RS Minister of Education, has stated that the RS Government will soon make decisions regarding transformation of Universities in RS, which is one of principles of the Bologna process BiH has committed to. He said that integrated Universities should group universities in RS in line with close science/issue of interest. RS Association of Students and Banjaluka University Rector have supported this announcement.
--	---