

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 10/12/2002

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)
Talks between Croatia and BiH heads	Meeting of BiH and Croatian presidents	Dzaferovic HoR chairman, Paravac and Colak deputies
Dzaferovic chairman, Borislav Paravac and Barisa Colak HoR vice- chairmen	BiH CoM adopted proposal of the Law on import and export of weapons	Talks between the Croatian and BiH presidents
Archbishop Puljic's Xmas message	2 nd presidential elections in Serbia failed	Bank owns 19 millions, total demand around 20 millions
Kostunica and Djindjic accuse each other for another failure of Serbian presidential elections	Day before the Human Rights Day– no one cares about Gypsies in Mostar	

Oslobodjenje	Ante Gotovina is hiding in Western Herzegovina?; Division of BiH dismissed; Hadzipasic – FBiH government PM; Are charges against Dudakovic justified? FELIX in Sarajevo
Dnevni Avaz	Request that Silajdzic participates in government; BiH Presidency with Mesic – Many agreement waiting to be signed; Unions believe in SDU BiH; FELIX is a toy for son Anur
Dnevni List	BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Soon it will be possible to pass border without passport
Vecernji List	BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Zagreb is not changing policy towards BiH
Slobodna Dalmacija	BiH Presidency members talked with Croatian President Mesic in Kostajnica: Croatia rejects any division of BiH

Glas Srpski	RS Tax Administration comments on VAT – one tax, two cash-desks; Banja Luka: Basic released
Nezavisne Novine	National parties to form government at the state level – PDP with SDS, SDA and HDZ; BiH Presidency meets Croatian President – BiH and Croatia should open borders
Vecernje Novosti	Natasa Minic soon to be Acting Serbian President; Kostunica: No one to the Hague
Blic	BiH and Croatia close to an agreement on Una border; Ivanic: Mikerevic will provide support; Dodik: Ivanic does not believe in the success of authority

BiH Presidency with Mesic	<p>Avaz pg. 1 and 2, Oslobođenje pg. 1 and 7, Nezavisne Novine pg. 2, Glas Srpski pg. 2</p> <p>'Agreement draws borderline', Blic pg. 7</p> <p>'Optimism of negotiators' – the BiH Presidency members met yesterday with the Croatian President Stipe Mesic to discuss relations between the two countries. Mesic said he was satisfied that members of the new presidency met first with him, which proves that BiH wishes to continue friendly relations with Croatia. As for the DPA, Mesic referred to a statement by Lord Ashdown who once described it as 'the foundation, but without completed roof'. Sarovic said at a press conference that the relations between the two countries were good and stable. He also said that members of the Inter-State Council for Co-operation between BiH and Croatia should meet in January next year. Avaz carried a separate article with a statement by Mesic regarding Bosniaks in Croatia and their participation in the Croatian Parliament. "Bosniaks are national minority in Croatia, and within the procedures of solving other issues concerning minorities we will consider the position of Bosniaks too and their participation in the Croatian Parliament," said Mesic. During the meeting they discussed the agreement on dual citizenship, Ploče Port, border traffic and cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. In that context, Slobodna Dalmacija carries Chair of BiH Presidency, Mirko Sarovic, as saying those issues would be solved soon.</p>
Gotovina hiding in Western Herzegovina?	<p>President Mesic concluded that the Croatian policy towards Bosnia will not change and that the Croatian authorities reject all political combinations that imply the division of BiH. Mesic also said that a status of Croats in the neighboring country is a subject of a constant interest and care of Croatia, adding that however, Croatian authorities do not forget that it is about Croats who are BiH citizens. Jutarnji List pg. 1 and 3, 'Stipe Mesic: New division of BiH is out of question', Vjesnik (pg. 1 and 2, 'Mesic rejected all political connotations related to division of BiH'), Vecernji List (pg. 1 and 8, 'BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Zagreb is not changing policy towards BiH'), Inenji List (pg. 1 and 3, 'BiH Presidency members with Croatian President Mesic: Soon it will be possible to pass border without passport') and Slobodna Dalmacija (pg. 1 and 15, 'BiH Presidency members talked with Croatian President Mesic in Kostajnica: Croatia rejects any division of BiH').</p>
Draft Law on Weapons Export adopted	<p>SD carries that asked to comment on his statement saying that many things have not been resolved in BiH yet, Dragan Covic, a Croat member of the BiH Presidency, stated that he said this in terms of equality and constituency of all peoples on the whole BiH territory and in terms of the economic recovery of the country and added that this statement did not have any other connotations. Also, Mesic was asked to comment on recent statement given by Zdravko Tomac, the Vice President of the Croatian Parliament, regarding Tudjman's policy towards BiH. Mesic said that this issue was not discussed in the Croatian Parliament and thus Tomac could not pass any judgments regarding the Croatian policy towards BiH. Mesic added that he does not want to comment on private Tomac's statements.</p>
RS budget for 2003 adopted	<p>Oslobođenje pg. 1 and 3 – the daily claims that the Croatian Army General, Ante Gotovina, who has been indicted by The Hague for war crimes, has been hiding in the BiH territory, more precisely in Western Herzegovina. According to the daily's source (close to local intelligence services), for while Gotovina has been hiding with his escorts in an elite hotel in Siroki Brijeg. From time to time he changes location and moves to the Lake Blidinje. The daily further claims that some local officials know about Gotovina hiding in BiH, but there is no political will to arrest him. SFOR apparently informed Croatian investigative bodies on several occasions that Gotovina was in the border area of BiH.</p>
Letter to UN SG Annan	<p>Avaz pg. 4 'The lowest sentence for organised weapons smuggling ten years in prison', Oslobođenje pg. 7 'The draft Law on Arms and Military Equipment adopted' – The BiH CoH adopted at yesterday's session the draft Law on Export of Arms and Military Equipment, which is to be forwarded for the Parliamentary procedure ASAP. Azra Hadzialmetovic, Minister of Foreign Trade and economic Relations, stated that the draft Law outlined the ways and conditions for the issuing of licenses and organise export, import and transit of military equipment. "The Ministry will establish a database on all licenses issued in accordance with the Law, and each six months they will submit a report to the BiH Parliament on the issued licenses," said Hadzialmetovic. The Law outlines fines and prison sentences for those in the breach of the Law.</p>
Shelter for human trafficking victims	<p>Avaz pg. 4 'The RS budget for 2003 – 999,7 million-KM', Oslobođenje pg. 7 'Dodik insisted on Boze pravde hymn', Glas Srpski pg. 3, Nezavisne Novine pg. 3, Blic pg. 7, Nacional pg. 11, Vecernje Novosti pg. 13 – the RS NA adopted last night the RS budget for the next year, and it some up to 999,7 million-KM. The RS NA also adopted the Law on the implementation of the same. The papers reported that 49 reps voted for the RS budget, and 23 were against. Oslobođenje reported that representatives of the RS NA argued for two hours last night whether the 'Boze pravde hymn should be played before each session. Dodik insisted that the issue be taken up to the RS Parliament, and the SDA representatives stated that if the issue was to be taken to the Parliament they would play the card of the protection of vital national interest because the hymn was a symbol of only one people.</p>
	<p>Avaz pg. 2 'The BiH Presidency in New York has to request Karadzic's and Mladic's arrest' – the Association of 'Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves' wrote to the BiH Presidency requesting that during their address of the UN SC in New York forward a request by the Association for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and other war criminals. They further wrote that the Presidency should also pass on their request for the construction of the Potocari memorial, and that the SC should exert pressure on the governments of RS and FR Y to extradite the war criminals. The Association also wrote to SG Annan asking him to influence the international foundations to speed up the construction of the Potocari memorial with donations.</p>
	<p>Oslobođenje pg. 3 'Shelter for victims of human trafficking' – Kresimir Zubak, BiH Minister for human Rights and Refugees, and the Head of the IOM Mission, Nidia Cassati, on Monday signed a protocol of understanding between the two institution on the implementation of a temporary instruction for dealing with the human trafficking victims. The protocol contains plans about construction of a shelter for the human trafficking victim.</p>

New government/coalition building

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<p>Reactions to HR Initiative</p> <p>1,700 returnees complains to HR Ashdown</p> <p>Statement by PDHR Hays</p> <p>Statement by Benes</p> <p>LJILJAN magazine on Pajic</p> <p>SDHR Schroombgens' visit</p>	<p>Glas Srpski quotes on its front-page the RS Tax Administration Chief Milica Basic as saying that it is pointless to set up the third customs administration at the state level, which would only collect VAT. Glas Srpski reiterates that Paddy Ashdown insists on the introduction of VAT at the state level due to massive tax evasion in the country. Basic said that, when it comes to organising the VAT collection, there are two possible scenarios. The first one is that tax administrations of both entities collect VAT and the second one is to set up the third tax administration at the state level, which would collect only VAT. "Judging by the talks we have had so far with the OHR, it is quite clear that their proposal, which they call 'at the state level', implies that revenues collected from VAT belong to the RS and the Federation. In that case, it is completely pointless and too expensive to set up a state level tax administration, which would only collect VAT and then distribute it further to the RS and Federation budgets", said Basic. She said that this solution could lead to fruitless debates on criteria that would be used in distribution of collected revenues. Basic said that, according to RS's proposal, tax rates, tax bases, tax exemption and the whole tax structure had to be the same in both the RS and Federation, which was in line with the RS's proposal, that is, the VAT should not be introduced at the state level.</p> <p>Avaz pg. 9 '1,700 returnees complained to Ashdown' – Besim Cirkin, President of the Islamic Community Board in Prijedor, stated that after the explosive devices were planted in Mujkanovic and Donja Puharska, a letter was sent to HR Ashdown signed by 1,700 returnees.</p> <p>Avaz pg. 7 'VAT will be manipulated by citizens' – an excerpt from a statement that PDHR Donald Hays gave to Blic. "The introduction of VAT is in no way connected to state building. That is an initiative that concerns only two things. The first, to ensure the revenues from taxes for all authority levels, and the second concerns the insurance of structure that would be open for businesses from abroad."</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg. 2 'Rotation of Mostar heads is not obligatory' – a statement by Avis Benes, Mostar OHR Spokesperson. She stated that after the abolishment of the cantons with special regime, there was no legal reason for the rotation of Mostar heads.</p> <p>Immediately after assuming powerful duties of the High Representative to BiH, Paddy Ashdown brought from Great Britain Zoran Pajic, a former Professors at the Sarajevo University School of Law and a low-ranking pre-war communist party official, <u>Enes Jakupovic</u> wrote in this week's Ljiljan (Zoran Pajic – an Englishman from Bosnia or a Bosnian from England: "Legal Governor of BiH"). According to Jakupovic, Ashdown put the entire legal reform in the hands of the legal expert with questionable legal qualities, who had several times "washed his hands from this country (BiH)." Although he spent the most of the wartime in London, Pajic had never totally broken his links with BiH. As a well-paid international legal consultant/advisor, he was coming on several occasions. The best evidence of how big damage his legal advises had made to BiH was his expensive engagement by the BiH Federation Government in case of the Mostar Aluminum. In that case he was supposed to act as an expert for finding international legal foundations that would support the idea of international arbitration as the mean to determine the company's ownership structure. However, it was always quite clear that the Mostar Aluminum ownership was the internal issue of the BiH Federation and should have nothing to do with any international proceedings, Jakupovic concluded.</p> <p>FENA – Senior Deputy High Representative Gerhard Enver Schrömbgens will visit Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje and Travnik Tuesday where he will meet local officials and returnees, visit three factories and a business association. OHR announced that Ambassador Schrömbgens would present new steps in High Representative's program entitled 'Work and Justice'. He will also explain activities of the Bulldozer Commission, which was formed to promote an environment for developing business in BiH.</p>
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Trials

Kostunica's statement	Avaz 3 'Kostunica suggested that war criminals Mladic be tried in Belgrade', Oslobodjenje pg. 5
RS brings charges against five Bosniaks	'FRY will no longer extradite Hague indicates', Vecernje Novosti pg. 1, Blic pg. 2 – an interview that FRY President Vojislav Kostunica gave to the London 'Times' saying that Belgrade will no longer extradite war criminals to The Hague because The Hague failed to keep the promises it made to those who voluntarily surrendered. He added that he thought the Tribunal was working one way, and the co-operation with the same should not be one way. The paper also carried a statement by Diplomatic Advisor of Del Ponte, Jean Jacques Joris who stated that Kostunica's statement might be the result of him not being well informed.
'Cegar' trial	
Trnopolje survivor testifies	Avaz pg. 10 'Hague forwarded indictment against five Bosniaks from Visegrad', Oslobodjenje pg. 5
Arms smuggling to Kosovo trial	'The Hague forwarded new charges against five Bosniaks', Blic pg. 7 – that the RS Bureau forwarded yesterday to the Hague Office in Banja Luka criminal charges against five Bosniaks who committed war crimes during the war in the area of Visegrad.
	Avaz pg. 5 'Cegar's trial in the process' – the daily informs that the Zagreb municipality Court started a trial in absentia against Zoran Cegar, the current Federation MoI Inspector and a member of the Independent Board for the Election of Police officers. The information was yesterday confirmed for Avaz at the Zagreb Court.
	Avaz on pg. 12 reported that Emsud Garibovic, one of the survivors from Trnopolje camp, testified at The Hague. The article was entitled 'The crime at Korican rocks still haunting Lord Ashdown'. Again, the name of HR Ashdown is mentioned in the article as the daily recalls a statement by Ashdown that 'he was still haunted by the thought that on August 11, 1992 in Trnopolje camp, near Prijedor, he could have done more to save the lives of prisoners whose bodies ended up a few days later in an abyss on the Vlasic mountain'.
	Oslobodjenje pg. 9 'The secret of a black set', Avaz pg. 28 'Sabanovic, Jamakovic and Babic know the origin of arms confiscated in Kosovo' – Vlado Adamovic, the Chairman of the FBiH Supreme Court Council, concluded that Sabanovic, Babic and Jamakovic knew where 314 automatic guns found in Kosovo came from. The three, together with Hamid Bahto, Faris Lakovic, Nijaz Zivojevic and Velid Hajdarevic are being tried for arms smuggling to Kosovo.