

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 13/3/2005

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
OHR:Covic's time for decision limited	Tihic proposes changes of BiH Const.	ICTY speeds up trials
Komarica meets OSCE Chief in iH	HR welcomes Venice Comm. report	Schook on assisting PIFWCs
Gregorian accuses RS for obstruction	Gregorian accuses RS for obstruction	Gregorian accuses RS for obstruction
MCC unifies Mostar institutions	NATO seminar inDubrovnik	GDP increased in BiH for 5%

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
BiH villages isolated due to snow	Gorazde faces problems due to snow	Double murder in Meka Gruda
Farmers thank Hayat for support	Grahovo villages isolated by snow	Milan conference on BiH
Custom terminal in Tuzla	Floods to follow snow	Gregorian accuses RS for obstruction
Face to Face	Tihic proposes changes of BiH Const.	Serving military service

Oslobodjenje	[BiH Law on Traffic Safety:] Rigorous punishments for irresponsible drivers; ICTY opens new courtroom
Dnevni Avaz	Charles Redman: Construction of highway must start now!; Tihic: HR is still necessary in BiH; Gregorian: RS Government blacks BiH's admission to NATO

Dnevni List	Introduction of VAT postponed?!; Mostar: Decision on unifying city institutions; Tadic received bribe in Mostar; Gregorian: RS blocks defence reform
Vecernji List	Ashdown with a part of powers
Nezavisne Novine	Five-year deficit in BiH exceeds 27 billion KM; Baklir Izetbegovic: I don't want to make family's dynasty out of party

Constitutional changes and other political issues

<p>Tihic proposes: one BiH President, BiH Govt with PM position, and changes in BiH Parliament</p>	<p>PINK by <u>Svjetlana Todorovic</u> – BiH Presidency member, Sulejman Tihic, proposes BiH Constitution to be changed. Tihic has presented this proposal in Milan, where the first day of the conference “The Way to European Future” took place on Saturday. HDZ Chair, Barisa Colak and PDP Chair, Mladen Ivanic, also attend the conference organized by German foundation Friedrich Konrad Adenauer. <i>“Instead of having thee-member Presidency, there should be one BiH President elected; instead of the BiH Council of Ministers with the Chair, there should be a Government with Prime Minister established,”</i> said Tihic, also proposing the changes in the BiH Parliament If such proposal is to be supported, the positions of the BiH President, Prime Minister and the HoR Speaker would be divided among constituent peoples. Tihic also proposes the representation of the national minorities in thte BiH CoM. <i>“Authorities of the entities should be transferred to the state level”</i>, said Tihic, adding that these constitutional changes could be followed than by the reduction of the High Representative powers. Tihic also believes that these changes would achieve cheaper and more efficient BiH administration system.</p> <p>FTV – <i>“There should be four-years mandates instead of current few-months terms”</i>, added Tihic in telephone statement to FTV.</p> <p>BHT 1– also reported on Tihic’s proposal.</p>
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<p>Milan conference focuses on HR's powers: only SDA opposes this initiative</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'We need the HR until BiH Constitution is changed', mentioned on cover 'HR is still needed in BiH', by <u>A.M.</u> – Milan conference was attended by SDA representatives Tihic, Seada Palavric, and Sefik Dzaferovic; HDZ was represented by Velimir Jukic and PDP by Mladen Ivanic, Dragan Mikerevic and Zoran Djeric. Only these parties, as the members of the Association of European Peoples' parties were invited. DA says that the focus of the discussion was the question whether the position of the High Representatives was beneficial for BiH and whether Constitution should be changed. <i>"Ivanic told that the High Rep is not needed, that he uses the powers contrary to European conventions and that his authorities should be abolished by the end of year,"</i> said Tihic strongly opposing this.</p> <p>RTRS – RTRS comments that SDA was the only party present at the conference which did not support idea of reducing HR's powers.</p>
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<p>PDP stresses entities must exist, demand reduction of HR's powers</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Existence of two entities cannot be brought into question' by Srna, Dnevni list pg 2 'Support to ceasing of HR's powers' by <u>De.L.</u> – The PDP leader and BiH Foreign Minister, Mladen Ivanic, said that the existence of the two Entities and constituency of three peoples in BiH could not be called into question. Ivanic, who attends the Milan conference, told Srna news agency that the HR's authority and jurisdiction must cease by the end of the year and that state institutions and elected individuals must take over the functioning of the country. As for the constitutional changes, PDP said that it is possible but only with the consensus reached between three peoples.</p> <p>RTRS by <u>Daliborka Predragovic</u> – Dragan Mikerevic from PDP stated over the telephone that the existence of RS has not been brought into question at the conference. Commenting Tihic's proposal, Mikerevic said that the participants of the conference believe that current BiH Constitution is not an obstacle on BiH's path to EU.</p> <p>BHT 1 – also reported on PDP stance.</p>
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**Venice Comm.
says
revision of
constitution
not against
DPA, OHR
says it will
consider
report**

PINK – Deputy Secretary of the Venice Commission, **Thomas Markert**, stated that the revision of BiH Constitution would not oppose the Dayton Peace Agreement. Markert also stressed that it is necessary to reduce the HR's powers broadening the authorities of the BiH.

The OHR has welcomed such initiative. *"The report by the Venice Commission clearly states that current BiH constitutional system disables BiH from being strong enough on its way to Euro-Atlantic integrations. The report also deals with the HR's authorities, saying that the HR's powers have been essential in order to make the unwieldy constitutional system function, but it will be appropriate to amend these powers in due course. The HR especially welcomes this part of the report and the OHR will consider it now"*, said the OHR Spokesperson, **Ljiljana Radetic**.

BHT 1 – brings details of the Venice Comm. report [for more details, see BiH Media Round-up for March 12].

RTRS, Vecernji list cover splash 'Ashdown without a part of powers', pg 2 'Ashdown without a part of Bonn powers' by Dejan Jazvic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Transfer authorities from entities to BiH' by Fena, **Dnevni list** pg 6 'Ashdown welcomes Venice commission report' by Nina, **Nezavine novine** pg 3 'Only efficient authorities will lead BiH to Europe' by D.B. – carry OHR's welcoming the Venice Commission report.

**VL: Ivanic
lobbies for
removal of
Paddy
Ashdown**

Vecernji list cover splash 'Ashdown without a part of powers', pg 2 'Ashdown without a part of Bonn powers' by Dejan Jazvic – Commenting the conclusions of the Venice Commission, VL says that announcement of reducing the HR's powers especially cheered up the RS political leaders, which seek ways to withdrawn international community from decision making process on BiH international issues by the end of year. VL unofficially learns that PDP leader, **Mladen Ivanic**, spent considerable time lately to lobby for **Paddy Ashdown**'s removal. Article concludes that eventual reduction of HR's powers would be carried out in stages thus the next, probably the last, HR would have much less authorities.

<p>Tomljenovic: Best solution is dividing BiH in five regions</p>	<p>FTV, Oslobođenje pg 2 'BiH with two entities is untenable' by RTRS, Dnevni list pg 3 'Organize BiH into five regions' by <u>Nina</u>– Appearing in the RTRS current affairs programme on Friday, the RS Vice-President, Ivan Tomljenovic, repeated his stance reported last week that RS would probably disappear before BiH enters EU as the current BiH territorial organization with two entities is simply untenable economically. Tomljenovic also stressed that BiH should be divided into five regions.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'The best solution for BiH is division into five regions' by <u>A.M.</u> – In statement to DA, Tomljenovic adds that these regions would not be established on ethnic basis or entities, but geographic position.</p> <p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Abolishment of cantons is the first step in erasing entities' borders' by <u>S.S.</u> – <u>L.S.</u> – Vice President of SDA, Elmir Jahic, supports Tomljenovic's proposal of organizing BiH into five regions on geo and economic criteria. Member of SNSD Main Board, Nikola Spiric, underlines that <i>"open dialogue should decide whether BiH should stay as it is or be changed."</i> Ivo Miro Jovic from HDZ believes that current organization is unjust to Croats as two other peoples dominate entities, adding the future is in local self-governance.</p>
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<p>Mostar City Council unifies parallel institutions</p>	<p>RHB, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Unification of public institutions has started' by Fena, Nezavine novine pg 3 'First city institutions unified' by <u>Agencies</u>– At the session held on Saturday, the Mostar City Council adopted the Decision on unifying city's parallel institutions. These include the two of Mostar's social services and two public homes for senior citizens. <i>"These are the first institutions to be unified, and our wish to have other institutions unified as well before the adoption of the budget,"</i> said the MCC Chair Murat Coric. Commenting the unification, Mostar Mayor, Ljubo Beslic, stated that this decision is of the greatest importance for city. In addition, MCC concluded that the <i>"HR, Paddy Ashdown should...urgently establish the regulations within legal framework enabling issues on fulfilling positions in City Administration to be solved at the level of the city,"</i> said Coric.</p> <p>Vecernji list pg 2 'Beslic today in Washington' by <u>M.R.</u>, Dnevni list pg 10 'Beslic will lobby for Mostar in Washington', mentioned on cover 'Decision on unification of Mostar's institutions', by <u>Nina</u> – Beslic also informed councilors on his upcoming trip to Washington to meet the World Bank officials.</p>
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**DA: HDZ
divided over
Covic's
resignation;
Covic
supporters
plan media
attack on
Ashdown?**

Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Fractional division around Covic's resignation' by F. Vele – DA learns that in the eve of HDZ Presidency's session to be held on Monday in Mostar, the party is divided on the issue of **Dragan Covic**'s resignation. Author claims that a fraction of the HDZ BiH opposes tries to interpret the indictment against Covic as anything else but his personal problem and an economic crime. This group also believes that party should respect the laws, considering that Covic should resign and be replaced in the Presidency by **Martin Raguz**. The second fraction is of entirely different opinion, deeming Covic is a victim of political lynch and that the IC makes decision to remove him in order to weaken Croats before the constitutional changes. DA also learns that Covic spends this week with closest associates considering his next move, while one of them told Avaz that *"Dragan is absolutely certain he is innocent... He prefers to be removed, and maybe even to play 'a victim' of the international community."* The source also announces possible *"media attacks against **Paddy Ashdown**."* Raguz stated for DA that he will voice his opinion following the session of the Presidency.

RHB, Dnevni list pg 2 'Time for Covic's resignation is not unlimited' by Nina – OHR spokesperson **Ljiljana Radetic** repeats OHR's stance that Covic's time to make decision on whether to resign is not unlimited.

Dnevni list pg 3 'Tadic received Bribe in Mostar', mentioned on cover, by Nermin Bise – DL brings details of the indictment against Covic and others, focusing on Chair of the BiH Constitutional Court, **Mato Tadic**, indicted for receiving 200.000 € bribe from Lijanovici. Tadic was allegedly bribed to annul the verdicts against Lijanovics and for ensuring Covic is under immunity.

<p>Izetbegovic on SDA Convention, supports dividing BiH in 5 regions</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pgs 8-9 'I don't intend to create family's dynasty out of SDA' <u>by Rubina Cengic</u> – In an interview to DA, the SDA Vice President, Bakir Izetbegovic, denies there is conflict inside the party and adds that the Convention to be held in May should mark SDA's intention to turn <i>"from Bosniak to Bosnian and European."</i> He also said that he would not run for the position of the SDA's President as he doesn't intent <i>"to make the party a family's dynasty"</i>. On organizational structure of BiH, Izetbegovic says: <i>"The most desirable solution for us is the simplest one – state and municipalities. But Serbs are not ready for that. Thus, SDA will most probably be in favor of regions."</i></p>
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<p>Defence and police reforms</p>
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**Gregorian:
'RS is
standing on
BiH's way to
join NATO
and defence
reforms'**

PINK by Jovanka Nina Stevanovic – On Monday, BiH Defence Reform Commission [DRC] will start working on drafting two new crucial laws regarding defence reform, the law on BiH military service and draft law on amendments to the defence law. According to DRC Vice Chair, **Raffi Gregorian**, these laws are necessary in order for BiH to be admitted to NATO. However, Gregorian said the *"RS is standing in the way of BiH to join NATO and defence reform process in BiH"*, including these laws, by refusing to *"be actively involved in the work of the Commission, and they are sending their observers, a group of persons who work for SDS."* The laws should be adopted by 1 July, as set by the HR.

Oslobodjenje pg 3 'RS still blocks defence reform' by Onasa – Gregorian says it is *"all about RS government's unilateral decision, led by the SDS"*. SDS and five other RS political parties signed the Agreement on joint political action *"which is not valid any more for at least half of those political parties"*, Gregorian added.

RHB, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'RS Government blocks BiH's admission to NATO with unilateral decision', mentioned on cover 'RS Govt block admission to NATO', by L. Sinanovic, **Dnevni list** pg 5 'RS blocks defence reform', mentioned on cover, by Danka Polovina-Mandic, **Nezavisne novine** pg 2 "RS block BiH's integrations through RS Government" by N. Krsman– Gregorian said that unless RS starts sending representatives instead of observers to the DRC meetings, it would be considered that it obstructs membership of BiH in EU and NATO. Gregorian stressed that the report on the work of the Commission will be submitted to HR **Paddy Ashdown** who will decide on possible measures against RS.

BHT 1 – DRC Vice Chair will address the RS National Assembly in Banja Luka on this issue.

<p>RS MoD sticks to Govt's and RSNA stance on defence reform</p>	<p>RTRS – A spokesman for the RS defence ministry Branko Trkulja said that the Ministry would not comment on the remarks made by the BiH Defence Reform Commission co-chairman Raffi Gregorian that <i>"RS stands in the way of BiH to join NATO and of BiH defence reform process"</i>. <i>"The RS defence ministry will stick to the attitudes the Government and the RS NA on the matter"</i>, Trkulja told SRNA.</p>
<p>OHR official says BiH needs just one MoI</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'BiH needs only one Police Ministry' by Srna – OHR representative, Michael Doyle, stated at the public debate on police reform held in Bijeljina that only one Interior Ministry should exist in BiH. <i>"Fifteen percents of funds more than in any other European country is being directed at the police administration, due to existing 13 MoIs and bad organizational structures,"</i> told Doyle and stressed that one MoI would decrease costs and improve fight against crime. He stressed that proposal for police reform was not imposed by the international community but recommended by the Police Reform Commission.</p>

War crimes

**Merron says
ICTY
considers
ways to
speed up
trials**

PINK by Svjetlana Todorovic – The ICTY President, **Theodor Merron**, said that the ICTY has been discussing ways to accelerate processes led before the Tribunal. Due to plan of completing all cases before the ICTY until 2008, Court's officials discuss the possible transfer of certain cases to national judiciaries in the states of former Yugoslavia. The cases 'Mejakic and others' and 'Stankovic', dealing with war crimes in Prijedor and Foca respectively, could be transferred to BiH judiciary. *"It would be wrong to believe that the success is guaranteed. We all have to see how the ICTY practice is being transferred to BiH trials. There are numerous problems related to the issue of transfer. There is a issue of different legal systems, problems regarding command responsibility and retroactivity"*, said the Chief ICTY Prosecutor, **Carla Del Ponte**.

BHT 1– In other to speed up trials, the ICTY also considers opening of the new courtroom. Currently, 37 indictees are waiting for beginning of their trials, and there is still 17 persons accused of war crimes at large.

Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Opening new courtroom', mentioned on cover, by Fena, **Vecernji list** pg 9 'We will speed up trials' – also carried Merron's statement.

<p>Schook: There are individuals assisting PIFWCs employed in RS institutions</p>	<p>BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Schook: There are people assisting war crimes suspects at large in RS institutions' by <u>RTRS</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Individuals in RS institutions support fugitives' by <u>Fena</u>, – The Commander of NATO HQ in BiH, general Steven Schook, stated in the statement given to RTRS on Friday that there are people assisting the war crimes suspects at large in RS institutions. He stressed that RS authorities in the past 10 years have not done enough regarding the cooperation with the ICTY. According to Schook, hundreds of millions KM are being directed for supporting the Hague indictees at large.</p>
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Economic issues

**Institutions
organize VAT
seminars**

Dnevni list cover splash 'VAT implementation postponed?!', pg 6 'VAT implementation starts at beginning of October?!' by Dario Pusic – The Indirect Taxation Administration and BiH Foreign Trade Chamber organized a series of seminars on introduction of VAT in BiH. At seminar in Sarajevo, the ITA Assistant Director, **Dinko Corluka**, stated that 1 July 2005 is the deadline for beginning registration of VAT payers. The ITA Governing Board will make decision on Tuesday regarding a date of introducing the VAT, and DL claims that this will be the beginning of October.

PINK also reports on this and other such seminar organized by RS Employers Association in Banja Luka . According to PINK, it appears that VAT is going to be implemented as of January 2006.

**NN brings
analyses of
economic
situation:
worst is in
agriculture
field**

Nezavisne novine cover splash, pg 16 'Five year deficit in BiH exceeds 27 billion' by Predrag Klincov – Article refers to economic analysts warn that if BiH continues with unfavourable trend of trade exchange with foreign countries, which in past years has been marked with deficit over 27 billion KM, it will seriously endanger macroeconomic stability of the country. Economic Advisor to Serb member of BiH Presidency, **Vasilj Zarkovic**, says that the economy cannot be developed on grounds of being a country where it is easier to import than to produce. According to analyses, the worst situation is in field of agriculture. BiH Foreign Trade Chamber official, **Petar Milanovic**, believes that the best potential is the metal industry, followed by forestry. Both experts agree that economic improvement cannot be achieved without foreign investments.

‘Bechtel Enka’ CEO warns BiH must start construction of highway immediately

Dnevni Avaz cover splash ‘Construction of highway must start now!’, pg 5 ‘If highway was a priority for authorities, they would find money’ by E. Sarac – The CEO of the international corporation ‘Bechtel Enka’, **Charles Redman**, states for DA that BiH must immediately start with the construction of the highway. Participating the SEE summit held in Skopje, Redman stressed the importance of the regional corridor warning if *“this important project doesn’t start right now, in near future there will be projects in other countries of the region which will be a priority and BiH will than be 10, 15 years behind its neighbouring countries.”*