

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 15/3/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 15 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
FBiH HoP in session	Nikolic's surrender to ICTY	Nikolic to surrender toThe Hague
Chinese delegation visits BiH	FBiH HoP session	Taculovski arrested in Macedonia
BiH CoM in session	FBiH Red Cross aid to Glamoc	Cavic in mtg. with HR

TV news broadcast on 14 March

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Gojko Jankovic arrived in The Hague	Gregorian on Feasibility Study terms	BiH legal suit against SCG
Stojicic greets Jankovic's surrender	Stojicic on BiH Const. Court decision	Gojko Jankovic in the Hague
HR greets Jankovic's surrender	RS Council for vital national interests	Sreten Lukic case
RS POW in BIH Court	RS POW in Court of BiH	Former Macedonian minister indicted

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Injustice made to brigadier Cikotic	BiH legal suit against SCG	SCG in Haag on genocide in BIH

"Algerian Group" case update	Gojko Jankovic in the Hague	Jankovic leaves in The Hague
Sacirbegovic case update	Packett's decision revoked	Addition to indictment vs. BIH Army
Jankovic arrives in The Hague	Covic's successor	RS POW submit evidence

Oslobodjenje	BiH can prove a genocide in a month; Dodik will not discuss the Agreement again with Cavic; Nine years after indictment, Gojko Jankovic in the Hague ; Covic still has not received the indictment; RS PoWs demand trials for crimes in Viktor Bubanj
Dnevni Avaz	Softi: We stood up against the provocation from SCG; Blewit: NATO did not want to arrest Karadzic
Dnevni List	Croatia does not intend to introduce countermeasures
Vecernji List	Gotovina's property blocked
Slobodna Dalmacija	Indictments with the media for days, indictees have not received them yet?!
Nezavisne Novine	Carla del Ponte expects new arrests
Glas Srpske	Pie more expensive than copper pan
EuroBlic	If there is no surrenders, we will make arrests
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics
Nacional	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

<p>Another war crimes suspect to voluntarily surrender</p>	<p>BH Radio 1, RTRS – Former Chief of Security in the RS Army Zvornik Brigade Drago Nikolic will voluntarily turn himself in to ICTY on Thursday, the Serbian Government said today. Nikolic was indicted for war crimes committed in Srebrenica.</p>
<p>Merron welcomes voluntary surrenders</p>	<p>RHB, RTRS – ICTY President Theodor Merron stated that an increased number of war crime suspects who turned themselves in to the ICTY might mean that the Balkan countries hope that talks on joining the EU will begin.</p>
<p>FBiH HoP in session</p>	<p>RHB, BH Radio 1 – The FBiH House of Peoples is to discuss the Law on Police Officers at its extraordinary session in Sarajevo today. The Law is a part of the police reform in the country and it stipulates working-legal status of the police employees. The FBiH House of Representatives adopted the draft law with two amendments limiting advance of police career to the employees with high school diplomas.</p>
<p>Ashdown visits Banja Luka</p>	<p>RTRS – Paddy Ashdown is visiting Banja Luka today, where he is currently engaged in talks with Dragan Cavic, RS President. This morning, Ashdown met with cadets of the RS Police Academy and discussed with them police reforms. Ashdown said if police reform were not implemented, the door to European Union would be closed for BiH.</p>

<p>Jankovic transferred to ICTY detention unit</p>	<p>RHB, BHT1, FTV, RTRS, PINK, Hayat, Oslobođenje pgs 4-5 'Nine years after indictment, Goran Jankovic in the Hague', mentioned on cover, <u>by Sense</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Gopjko Stankovic yesterday arrived in Scheveningen' by <u>E. Sarac</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Cooperation with ICTY must continue', Glas Srpske pg 3 'A welcome decision', Dnevni List pg 4 'Gojko Jankovic in detention unit in The Hague' <u>by NINA</u>, Vecernji List pg 3 'Gojko Jankovic in The Hague' <u>by rt</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 16 ' 'Head' of Foca in The Hague' <u>by A. Macanovic</u> – ICTY indictee Gojko Jankovic, charged with breaching the war customs and laws and crimes against humanity committed in Foca, arrived in The Hague on Monday where he was transferred in the ICTY detention unit.</p> <p>Jankovic, escorted by the RS MoI Darko Matijasevic, voluntarily turned himself in, and the RS Government confirmed that it would provide all the necessary guarantees for the pre-trial release. The date of the first appearance before the Court has not yet been established.</p>
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<p>Matijasevic: RS MoI will do everything possible to encourage other PIFWCs to surrender</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3, announced on cover 'Carla del Ponte expects new arrests' by <u>S.G.-Sn.K.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 'A great step forward' by <u>D. Davidovic</u>, EuroBlic RSpG 3, announced on cover 'If there is no surrenders, we will make arrests', Dnevni List pg 2 'Matijasevic: All persons from The Hague bills of indictment will be arrested' by <u>NINA</u> – Upon his return from the Hague, where he escorted Gojko Jankovic, RS Minister of Interior, Darko Matijasevic said that Jankovic's surrender presented a moral and responsible act which was going to improve cooperation with the ICTY. Matijasevic said that RS And Serbian authorities were going to do all in their power so to encourage other war crime indictees to do the same. During his visit to The Hague, Matijasevic met with Chief ICTY Prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, and ICTY Chief Investigator, Patrick Lopes. Del Ponte said that RS had achieved great progress when it comes to the issue of cooperation with the ICTY.</p> <p>Matijasevic added that <i>"indictees, who are located in RS and who do not want to voluntarily surrender, would be arrested."</i></p> <p>RTRS – <i>"We are working on having a good cooperation between RS and ICTY and we will arrest all ICTY indictees that are on RS territory. We also make continued contacts with indictees' families and friends."</i> said Darko Matijasevic.</p> <p>PINK – Matijasevic added that RS MoI was negotiating with families of the war crime indictees.</p>
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<p>Ashdown welcomes Jankovic's surrender</p>	<p>RTRS, RHB, PINK, Oslobođenje pg 4 'The beginning of cooperation with Tribunal' by Fena, Dnevni Avaz pg 3 inset 'Ashdown:" Both Karadzic and Mladic must go to the Hague' – The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, on Monday welcomed the transfer of Gojko Jankovic to the ICTY. Paddy Ashdown said: <i>"I welcome the fact that Gojko Jankovic is finally in The Hague after nearly a decade on the run, and that the RS authorities have carried out his transfer,"</i> said Ashdown. He added: <i>"These are welcome steps forward by the RS authorities... But these steps represent the start of a process. IC will now be watching closely to see that this process on which the RS authorities have embarked continues and picks up pace. That means that the remaining indictees – including Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic – must be transferred to The Hague without delay."</i></p>
<p>Stojicic announces new events re cooperation with ICTY</p>	<p>RHB, Oslobođenje pg 5 'There will be more events' – RS National Assembly Speaker Dusan Stojicic welcomed on Monday the voluntary surrender of Gojko Jankovic. He expressed confidence that the coming days would also bring events that will remove the burden on non-cooperation of the RS with the ICTY and possible indications of negative activities in April. <i>"This is good for the RS and confirms that we are fully committed to cooperation with the ICTY"</i>, he said.</p>

<p>NN op-ed on Matijasevic: The only Minister doing his job</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 7 'Minister who is doing his job' by <u>Predrag Klincov</u>— <i>NW</i> carries a column reading that the voluntary surrender of Gojko Jankovic, an ICTY indictee, took place after negotiations between his family and the RS MoI led by Minister Darko Matijasevic. While Matijasevic was denied by many at the beginning of his appointment, he has, according to the columnist, proved how an official needs to do his/her job. The columnist further claims that Matijasevic's results would have probably been even better if all of the Hague fugitives were located in the RS. He now mainly depends on the mercy of Serbian Prime Minister Kostunica who has the destiny of the majority of war crime suspects in his hands.</p>
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<p>RS PoWs meet WCC officials: processing of the crimes committed in Viktor Bubanj promised</p>	<p>RHB, PINK, BHT 1T 1 ,Oslobodjenje pg 6 'PoS demand trials for crimes in Viktor Bubanj and removal of seven judges' by <u>Aldijana Omeragic</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Reps of RS PoWs changed their mind yesterday' by <u>H. Orahovac</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Processing of crimes committed at "Viktor Bubanj" promised' by <u>N. Krsman</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Court room for insults' by <u>N. Zelenovic</u>, EuroBlic RSpg 3 'Trials for crimes at former casemate' by <u>D.S.</u>, Dnevni List pg 5 'Crimes committed in 'Viktor Bubanj' barracks first case before BiH Court' by <u>E. Mackic</u> – The RS PoWs Association met with the Chair of BIH Court Medzida Kreso and Chair of the High Judicial and Prosecution Council Branko Peric.</p> <p>Hayat by <u>Denis Zaimovic</u> – To date, RS PoWs Association has rejected to answer to any court process led in Court of BIH. But after the meeting with Kreso and Peric they changed their opinion. <i>"This is the first meeting we have had with the Chair of the Court and we are satisfied with talks, since we pointed out the fact that over 5.000 Serbs went trough the detention camp, who are afraid of appearing as witnesses before the Court"</i>, said the Association Chair, Branislav Dukic adding there is possibility for the first case to be processed before the Court to be the one on events in Viktor Bubanj barracks. RS Association opposed to appointment of seven judges in the court.</p> <p>RTRS by <u>Branka Kusmuk</u> – The Association of RS POW will submit the evidence of the existence of Muslim war camps in BIH to the BIH court for war crimes. <i>"This court is for BiH citizens and it will do everything to serve the truth, especially the truth concerning the army barrack "Viktor Bubanj" where the court is located"</i> said Refik Hodzic the Head of the WCC Press Office.</p>
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**Pre-trial
hearing in
BiH lawsuit
vs. SCG held
on Monday**

BHT1, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje cover page, pg 7
‘BiH can prove genocide in a month’ Azhar Kalamujic – A pre-trial hearing in case BiH versus SCG before the Hague-based International Court of Justice was held on Monday. The two countries’ legal representatives expressed different views regarding the time they need to present evidences in the course of the main hearing on BiH lawsuit for aggression and genocide against SCG. The two sides also expressed different opinions on the content of the main hearing scheduled to start on February 27, 2006. According to BiH legal representatives in the process, **Sakib Softic**, BiH needs for four weeks to present evidences on genocide committed by SCG as the SCG side requested for six to seven-week time for presentation of their defense.

Dnevni Avaz cover page ‘We opposed provocation from SCG’, pg 2 ‘Varadi again requested determination of the Court’s competence’ carried a similar report on the issue. According to the daily, former SCG legal representative **Tibor Varadi**, who recently resigned, also appeared in the courtroom requesting again that the competence of the court in this case is determined. This provocation was rejected by BiH side as ridiculous.

<p>East Sarajevo PSC files reports against 19 Bosniaks for war crimes</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 8 'BiH Army and MoI staff suspected' by D.P., Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Reports against responsible in BiH Army and MoI', Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Reports against 19 Bosniaks on war crimes' by <u>SRNA</u>, Glas Srpske pg 12 'Serbs murdered, property set on fire', Dnevni List, pg 7 'Reports against 19 Bosniaks', by <u>N. Bise</u>— The East Sarajevo PSC submitted to the East Sarajevo District Prosecution amendments to the reports against 19 former members of the BiH Army and MoI on war crimes committed against Serb civilians in Kladanj and the Sarajevo region during the war.</p>
<p>Graham Blewit: NATO did not want to arrest Karadzic</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5, mentioned on cover 'NATO did not want to arrest Karadzic' – In an interview with the daily, Graham Blewit, former ICTY Deputy Chief Prosecutor, welcomed recent opening of the BiH Court's War Crimes Chamber, assessing that it represented start of creation of partnership between courts in the region and ICTY. Blewit reiterated that the ICTY had on several occasions given to NATO precise information on Radovan Karadzic's whereabouts but that nothing had happened.</p>
<p>Guardian: Russians accused of sheltering war crimes suspects</p>	<p>Guardian by <u>Ed Vulliamy in Sarajevo</u> – Russia's secret services are shielding Bosnian Serbs wanted by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague for atrocities committed during the Bosnian war, including the massacre at Srebrenica, where more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were slaughtered. Gojko Jankovic, a Bosnian Serb who gave himself up to the tribunal on Monday to face accusations of torture and multiple rape, was one of a group of fugitive alleged war criminals living in Russia under official protection.</p>

Judicial and political issues

<p>RS Const. Court establishes Council for Vital National Interests</p>	<p>PINK, BHT1, FTV, Oslobođenje pg 2 ‘Council of protection of national interests’ by Onasa, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 ‘Council for protection of VNI established’, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Council established’ by M. Dizdar, EuroBlic RSpG 2 ‘Judges elected’ by T.V. – The Council for the Protection of Vital National Interest has been established with the RS Constitutional Court on Monday. Six out of seven judges have been appointed so far. RS Constitutional Court President Mirko Zovko confirmed to journalists that Serb judges Milorad Ivosevic and Marko Rajicevc, Croat judges Mirko Zovko and Branko Sumaric, Bosniak judge Adem Medic, and judge Mihajo Adamovic representing “others” have been appointed so far while the process of appointing another Bosniak judge is currently underway. The first session of the Council for the Protection of VNI has still not been convened and the RS Constitutional Court has so far received ten cases concerning this field.</p> <p>RTRS – The parliament member of SDA in RSNA Tarik Sadovic commented that the <i>“formed Council is against the RS constitutional law and probably they were pushed by the International Community to form the council even without all members.”</i> OHR didn’t want to comment this statement. The problem lies in the attitude of the court, said Vedran Persic OHR spokesperson. HR Paddy Ashdown <i>“well intentionally insisted”</i> (reporter quoted Mirko Zovko) on the establishment of the Council.</p>
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<p>Stojicic says decision to delay discussion on entities symbols irresponsible</p>	<p>PINK, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Prolonging the discussion, an irresponsible act' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Stojicic doubts BiH Constitutional Court is under political pressure', Nezavisne Novine pg 8 'Delay of debate is an irresponsible act' by <u>Agencies</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Unserious decision' by <u>G.D.</u> – RS National Assembly Speaker Dusan Stojicic said that he is surprised with the decision of the Constitutional Court to indefinitely postpone the public debate on the initiative by BiH Presidency member Sulejman Tihic concerning the changes to entity symbols and insignia only a couple of days before the debate was set to start. Stojicic told journalists in Banja Luka on Monday that he suspects that certain intentions and political pressures on the Court are behind this delay, but added that he wishes that this wasn't the case. He described the decision as unserious and irresponsible act. Stojicic said that he does not wish to rush into conclusions that the delay was influenced by the recent events surrounding the indictment of Constitutional Court President Mato Tadic.</p>
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Croat rep from
BiH HoR to
replace Covic

Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Dragan Covic still did not receive indictment', mentioned on cover, by V.Z. – BiH Presidency's press office told daily that Dragan Covic has not yet received the indictment raised against him in the case of 'Lijanovici company'.

Nezavisne Novine pg 2, announced on cover 'Indictment handed to Covic, still no stance' by V. Coric – However, **Josip Muselimovic**, Covic's lawyer, on Monday confirmed that bill of indictment was Monday handed to Covic.

Dnevni List, pg 3 'Four candidates for Covic's position', by Ivica Glibusic – The daily notes that, should the Croat member of BiH Presidency, **Dragan Covic**, resign or be removed, a successor will be appointed from the ranks of the (Croat) MPs in the BiH Parliament's House of Representatives. DL also notes that the public has been speculating that the most likely successor to replace Covic is the Deputy Speaker in the BiH HoR, **Martin Raguz**, however according to DL's "*sources close to the HDZ*" it is more likely that the support will be given to **Filip Andric, Vinko Zoric** or **Ivo Miro Jovic**.

FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'From BiH HoR to Presidency' by Fena – **Ranko Ninkovic**, BiH Presidency's Secretary General, confirms to Fena if Covic resigns a new member will be elected among representatives in BiH HoR.

<p>SD: Ashdown and Cliff made sure media knew about indictment against Covic before him</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija, front pg splash and pg 9 ‘Indictments with the media for days, indictees have not received them yet?!’, by <u>Zlatko Tulic</u> – Talking about the indictment against the Croat member of BiH Presidency, Dragan Covic, and others involved in the indictment, the author argues although the key articles of the Convention on protection of human rights stipulate that everyone is innocent until proven otherwise, it would appear the rule is not being applied in BiH when it comes to the Covic and others case. SD goes to wonder why the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown, and British Ambassador to BiH, Ian Cliff, are hurrying Covic into resignation, claiming that they made sure that the media receive the indictments, which in turn have been pressuring Covic to resign. In this context, SD carries Covic’s lawyer, Josip Muselimovic, as saying that he is yet to receive a copy of the indictment.</p>
<p>Ambassador Cliff does not want to meet Covic</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4, Slobodna Dalmacija, back pg ‘Cliff: I do not want to see Covic’, by <u>Z. Tulic</u>, Vecernji List, pg 3 ‘British pressure on Dr. Dragan Covic’, <u>not signed</u> – According to information close to the BiH Presidency, the outgoing UK Ambassador to BiH, Ian Cliff, expressed a wish to see the Presidency one more time before he departs. However, Ambassador Cliff sent the protocol of the BiH Presidency a letter in which he underlines that the Croat member of Presidency, Dragan Covic, does not attend the meeting. <i>“Now when the indictment has been confirmed by the BiH Court, it would be unpopular that Mister Dragan Covic receives me at the BiH Presidency”</i>, stated Ambassador Cliff in the letter.</p>

**FTV '60
minutes'
analyses
'rift' in HDZ
over leading
positions**

FTV 60 minutes Zvonimir Jukic – Commenting the confirmation of the indictment against the BiH Presidency member, **Dragan Covic**, the '60 minutes' comments that this "finally" marks the end of his career as he would be forced to leave his positions. Author says that currently it seems there are five different fractions within HDZ, each with its own candidate to replace Covic. According to law, HDZ, SDS and SDA will agree on new BiH Presidency member choosing the candidate among the Croat representatives at BiH HoR. This makes **Martin Raguz, Ivan Miro Jovic, Vinko Zoric, Filip Andric, Ivo Lozancic, Ruza Sopta** and **Jozo Krizanovic** possible candidates. Since HDZ and their coalition are in majority, it's clear that SDP's Krizanovic and NHI's Lozancic don't stand a chance to be elected.

Most serious candidates are Raguz, with a significant political and diplomatic experience, and Zoric, who has strong support in the Western Herzegovina. Magazine expects a real struggle for the position of HDZ leadership to take place at the upcoming HDZ Convention, noting it may be even bigger if OHR allows Covic to keep the position in HDZ following his resignation as the Presidency member. In that case, HDZ leader **Barisa Colak** can expect the support of Covic's group within HDZ, Lozancic and **Miroslav Coric**. However, Coric's opponents in Herzegovina plan to support their own candidate **Ivica Prskalo**, former Mostar Mayor. According to magazine, Raguz has the biggest chances to become new HDZ President. Another serious candidate for new HDZ President is **Josip Merdzo**, who could bring peace among HDZ fractions. In any case, concludes the magazine, the new HDZ President will have the difficult task to bring peace in HDZ and to keep the good relationship of HDZ and the international community.

<p>Cavic calls for mtg of parties on RS: SNSD not to attend it</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 2 ‘Dodik will not discuss the Agreement again with Cavic’, mentioned on cover, by <u>Onasa</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 ‘SNSD rejected Cavic’s call’ by <u>V.P.</u>, Glas Srpske pg 5 ‘Dodik will not come’ – SNSD on Monday released a press statement, saying that SNSD refuses to accept the invitation of Dragan Cavic, RS President, to attend the meeting on Tuesday, which would gather the signatory-parties of the Agreement on harmonised political actions. The meeting is to review programme goals from the Agreement. SNSD is of the view that past two months saw abuse of parts of Agreement, especially in regard to establishment of RS Government and settlement of crisis at BiH CoM.</p> <p>RTRS – “<i>I expect full attendance and readiness to discuss first five acts of the agreement on the joined political activities</i>” said Dragan Cavic.</p> <p>EuroBlic RSpG 2 ‘Polishing up the Agreement’ – Stanko Pivasevic from SDS, Milanko Mihajlica from RS Serb Radical Party, Nevenka Trfkovic from PDP and RS Socialist Party said they would attend the meeting, while SNSD and Drago Kalabic DNS share the view there is no need for the meeting.</p>
<p>CoE’s Chatwint says BiH with current Constitution cannot be integrated into Europe</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘BiH should have one president’ <u>A. Malagic</u> – The Venice Commission concludes at a meeting last Friday that the current constitutional solutions in BiH were not rational, efficient and sustainable. Hugh Chatwint, said in a statement for the daily that, with the current Constitution, BiH could not be making progress on the road to the European integration. “<i>In order for BiH to function properly, some powers must be transferred from the entity to the state level. At the same time, position of the local self-government should be strengthened,</i>” said Chatwint.</p>

<p>DL argues constitutional changes are imminent</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pgs 8-9 'Change of Constitution and abolishment of Republika Srpska is certain', by <u>Mensud Zorlak</u> – Carries an article dedicated to the issue of possibility of constitutional changes in BiH in which the author argues that changes to the Constitution are imminent, citing that the report of the Venice Commission put it as the highest priority for BiH. DL also reminds of several initiatives that have been raised so far, such as RS Vice President Ivan Tomljenovic's initiative, which foresees abolishment of entities and division of BiH into five regions, and Bosniak member of BiH Presidency, Sulejman Tihic's initiative, who advocates that BiH has one President, not three members of BiH Presidency and a proper BiH Government, not the BiH Council of Minister in the present shape and form.</p>
<p>DL links future of BiH with future of Kosovo</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Reshuffling the Balkans', by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – Commenting on the issue of constitutional changes in BiH, the daily says that despite both domestic and international officials agreeing that the current constitutional arrangement is an obstacle to the country's faster progress, representatives of the Serb people in BiH constantly stress that they do not want to participate in any change of the Constitution, since the current one gives them a vast autonomy. The author goes on to say that the situation in Kosovo will have a large effect on the situation in BiH, claiming that the official Belgrade 's position towards Kosovo has soften lately. This leads the author to say that such position by Belgrade was most likely rewarded by some sort of secret agreement, which could cause problems in BiH, even in Croatia , regarding tailoring of borders in the region.</p>

<p>Croatian American Association send HR Ashdown letter, complains of violation of Croats' right</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 3 'Another discussion on violation of Croats' rights', mentioned on front 'Senate to discuss violation of Croats' rights in BiH again', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – The President of the Croatian American Association, George Rudman, sent on behalf of the Association's Steering Board a "sharp" letter to the High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown, in which he "warns" the HR that the US Congress' International Relations Committee will be holding another hearing about the violation of the human rights of the Croats in BiH, including the pressure on the Croat member of BiH Presidency, Dragan Covic, to resign.</p>
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Defence and police reforms / SIPA

**Tihic on
NATO's
decision re
Cikotic: For
the first
time, an
international
org. admits
mistake**

Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'NATO's decision is moral satisfaction for general Cikotic' by E. Sarac – **Sulejman Tihic**, BiH Presidency member, comments to the NATO's letter stating that additional investigation established that there were no evidences against retired general **Selmo Cikotic** saying: *"For the very first time an international organization, such an important and significant one, admitted the possibility of mistake."* Tihic says this was a step forward in the IC behavior, noting that the letter brought moral satisfaction to general Cikotic, who was prevented from taking over the position in BiH Defence Ministry after failing the vetting procedure.

Hayat by Alem Karamesic – *"For the first time after the Dayton Peace Agreement had been signed, I am glad that the IC and its institutions have admitted that they were wrong. I think that this is not only about Cikotic, but some other persons as well"*, said Tihic. He further commented on how it was possible to make such mistake: *"I suppose that certain lobbies... created the wrong picture, and there is a possibility for persons who were in charge of vetting the candidates not to have done their work properly."*

FTV – also brings statement by Tihic along the same lines.

**RSNA to
discuss
defence
reforms**

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Minister Stankovic deliberately makes wrong interpretation of the decisions' by E.S. – The RS National Assembly will hold a special session on March 18 to discuss further defence reform in BiH. Defence Reform Commission Co-chair **Raffi Gregorian** is expected to address the RS National Assembly. The RSNA Collegium held the session on Monday to discuss this issue, and according to **Sefket Hafizovic**, Deputy RSNA Speaker, RS Defence Minister **Milovan Stankovic** commented to Gregorian's claims that RS blocked the defence reform by disputing the mandate of the Defence Reform Commission seeing it as entirely new the body instead of recognizing its extended mandate. Thus, according to Hafizovic, Stankovic said he was not regarding himself as a DRC member. *"In my opinion, Stankovic deliberately makes wrong interpretation of the [Paddy] Ashdown's and all other decisions showing lack of readiness... for abolishment of Defence Ministry and Command,"* concludes Hafizovic.

RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 5 'On 18 March about defence reform', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 8 'Defence reform on agenda on Friday', **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'On defence – separately' by G. Dakic– **Dusan Stojicic** stated that the requests of HR **Paddy Ashdown** concerning the defense reform are changing the DRC work.

**GS reactions
to Gregorian
statement on
SR blocking
defence
reforms**

Glas Srpske pg 5 'Jumping into judgments' by M. Dzepina – Upon the statement of DRC Chairman **Rafi Gregorian** that RS is blocking the defense reform and path of BiH towards the admission to NATO, the Advisor for Military Issues of BiH Presidency Chairman **Dragan Kapetina**, has stated Gregorian was practically prejudicing the stance of the Presidency because it still had not accepted pre-requisites the HR has defined with regard to the decision to extend the mandate of DRC. The article raises the following questions: How was it possible for RS to block something that still needs to take place and how was it possible for RS Government to impose the blockade if it was just recently elected? The Spokesperson of SDS Caucus, **Stanko Pivasevic**, has rejected Gregorian's claims as arbitrary and reminded that Gregorian's predecessor, **James Locker**, and NATO have complimented delegates of RS NA for a successful defense reform. The Chairman of RS NA Committee for Surveillance over the work of defense and interior bodies, **Velimir Sakan**, said he could not understand what were the grounds on which Gregorian had based his accusations because, in Sakan's opinion, these accusations were ungrounded.

<p>US supports police reform</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'USA have not lost interest in BiH' by <u>Dragan Jerinic</u> – In an interview to <i>NN</i>, Gerald McLaflyn, Head Public Affairs Department at US Embassy in BiH, says that USA supports police reform in BiH, adding: <i>"I believe police reform at the state level would result in a better police force."</i></p>
<p>RTRS 'Pecat' on police and defence reforms</p>	<p>RTRS 'Pecat' current affairs program by <u>Biljana Knezevic</u> – RTRS says that the international community once again puts RS under a pressure regarding the police and defence reforms. Author suggests that the situation seems to be the same as before – in the beginning, RS officials oppose the process, but after long discussions and negotiations behind the closed doors, they eventually accept all proposed reforms. Journalist comments that politicians have one story for IC, and totally different one for RS citizens. Velimir Sakan from RSNA commission for monitoring the police and defence believes that RS Government will find a compromise in order to preserve both entity's MoD and MoI, but adds that the constitutional changes in this process are possible. RTRS notes that the IC seems to have a different strategy with these reforms: instead of only discussing the issue with politicians, they started with campaign with RS citizens trying to convince the citizens that the police reform would be beneficial for them, and that it would create a more efficient police structure.</p>

<p>VL on app. of new SIPA Director: Croats must not allow 'humiliation'</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 5 'Against marginalization of Croat cadres', by <u>Miso Relota</u> – Carries an article regarding the appointment of the Director of SIPA reminding that members of BiH parliamentary parties agreed in February 2004 for Croat to lead. VL stresses that the IC has increased the pressure against the Croat and Bosniaks officials with an aim to appoint Sredoje Novic (a Serb) to the position. Having said all this, the author argues that the Croat political leadership must not allow such "<i>humiliation</i>" and further marginalization of Croat cadres in the State and FBiH bodies.</p>
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Economic issues

GS comments on introduction of customs fees for products from SiCG and Croatia

Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'Pie more expensive than copper pan' by M. Ms. – Domestic businessmen think the decision of CoM to introduce customs fees on agricultural products imported from Croatia and SiCG was not well developed. The Secretary of the Association of Agriculture and Food Industry of RS Chamber of Commerce, **Slavko Stevanovic**, thinks the implementation of the decision might lead to complications in trades with Croatia and SiCG, especially if these countries decide to introduce counter-measures. The Chairman of Banja Luka Chamber of Commerce, **Radivoje Krcmar**, shares a similar view and thinks it is necessary that the parties try to find acceptable solutions for such a situation. The Director of Banja Luka Institute of Economics, **Dusko Jaksic**, thinks the decision was reached without considering possible effects that might derive from it. He also thinks BiH, for the difference from the other two countries, was unprepared when it signed the Agreement on Free Trades.

**FTA update:
Ambassador
Vrbosic says
Croatia will
not introduce
countermeasures**

Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 7
'Croatia does not intend to introduce
countermeasures', by **NINA**, **Slobodna
Dalmacija**, back pg 'Vrbosic's protest
because of partial suspension of trade
agreement', by **B. Kristo** – During the
talks with the BiH Deputy Foreign
Minister, **Lidija Topic**, held yesterday
(Monday), the Croatian Ambassador to BiH,
Josip Vrbosic, expressed disagreement on
behalf of the Croatian Government with the
decision of the BiH Council of Minister on
temporary suspension of application of
zero custom rate, which is stipulated in
the Free Trade Agreement between the two
countries. Ambassador Vrbosic noted that
the Croatian Government did not intend to
introduce countermeasures, expecting the
BiH CoM to withdraw its decision and find
solution to the problem in talks between
the two sides.

**BiH Court
rejects former
Eronet
shareholders'
appeal**

Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Eronet's lawsuit rejected' by Onasa, **Dnevni List** pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Granting third GSM license to HT Mostar confirmed' by Z. Jukic, **Vecernji List** pg 2 'RAK's decision on granting license confirmed' by dja, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 7 'RAK issued license regularly' by M. Landeka, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'A just allocation of third GSM licence' by S.G. – The BiH Court denied the lawsuit of former Eronet shareholders, that is, companies 'Hercegovina Osiguranje d.d. Mostar', 'Alpina Komerc d.o.o. Siroki Brijeg' and Municipality Grude because of alleged administrative silence of RAK (Communications Regulatory Agency) to their complaint on the RAK's decision on the ground of which the right on the third GSM license was granted to HT Mostar. DL and SD carry that General Manager of HT Mostar **Stipe Maric** expressed satisfaction over this decision.