

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 16/2/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 16 February

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
On tragedy in colliery near Travnik	Mining accident in mine killed one	Bila Mine explosion
CoM on coop. with Council of Europe	60 years for drug producers	BiH CoM to hold session today
Pack: Time for const. changes came	Conf. on traffic security	Kosovo update

TV news broadcast on 15 February

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
Terzic meets Sanader	Price Monitoring Teams on prices	EU demands const. changes in BiH
NHI on Sanader's visit to Mostar	ERBD to invest 4 billion Euros in BiH	Terzic visits Sanader
HDZ on Law on Public Revenues	BiH CoM Chair paid visit to Croatia	HR on passive voter registration
Issue of old foreign currency savers	3.International Gas Conference in SA	Update on Zvornik case

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
4 dead in Banja Luka	Explosion in mine in Bila	High Rep. regarding elections
No bird influenza in BiH	2 girls died in fire	Fire broke out and killed twins

World News	Old man found killed in Bugojno	Tragic traffic accident in Banja Luka
Terzic meets Sanader	Post office in Bihac robbed	Swan not infected with bird flue

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	Dzuvo, Zaric and Cosic wanted to form new UDBA [ex-Yu Intelligence Agency] in BiH
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	Payment of pensions under question
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Coldblooded murder (murder case in Bugojno)
<b>Vecernji List</b>	Trials for 40 mass crimes (letter by Croat Liaison Office to ICTY to BiH authorities)
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Cast prevented me from shaking hands with Sanader (Dragan Covic interview)
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	Four dead [ <i>reports on a traffic accident in Glamocani near Banja Luka</i> ]
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Smoke suffocated sisters [ <i>reports on tragic death of 6-year-old twin sisters in Pelagicevo</i> ]
<b>EuroBlic</b>	Twins got killed in fire [report on tragic death of 6-year-old twin sisters in Pelagicevo]
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Features Serbian related titles

**Sanader-Terzic mtg, HDZ and other political issues**

<p>CoM Chair Terzic meets Croatian PM Sanader in Zagreb , agree on dual citizenship and on halting politicizing a number of issue</p>	<p><b>BHT1-</b> Chair of BiH Council of Ministers <b>Adnan Terzic</b> visited Zagreb on Wednesday, where he met with Croatian Prime Minister <b>Ivo Sanader</b> to discuss a series of bilateral relations. After the meeting, they stated that the final text of the agreement on dual citizenship was finalized and agreed, and is expected to be signed during Sanader's visit to Sarajevo. The inter-state work group should prepare agreement on property and legal relations within 30 days. Terzic and Sanader agreed that the issues of port Ploce, Peljesac bridge and ratification of agreement on borders shouldn't be politicised, but focused at the technical aspect of the issues handled by experts not the politicians. Regarding the construction of Peljesac bridge, Terzic stated that Croatia is completely entitled to fight to connect parts of its territory, stressing that BiH also has the right to protect its state territories. Sanader stated that both sides agree to respect the principle of Croatia's sovereignty and the principle of BiH free access to the open sea. Sanader and Terzic announced that Croatia and BiH are going to organise conference on promotion of economic cooperation, which will be held in Neum. <b>Hayat</b>– Sanader also pointed out that Croatia was interested in status of Croats in BiH. <i>"I have told PM Terzic that we (Croatia) are interested in keeping BiH Croats equal to other constitutive people in BiH in terms of the new Law on Higher Education as well as in other segments such as possible changes in the Constitution"</i>, said Sanader. <b>RHB, PINK, RTRS, Oslobodjenje</b> pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Two principles regarding Peljesac Bridge settled' by <u>D.Zadravec</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2 'Agreement on BiH and Croatian property soon' by <u>Srna</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2, announced on cover 'A better cooperation between Croatia and BiH is needed' by <u>Agencies</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'No politics with regard to Neum' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 4 'Prime Ministers agreed way of resolving disputable issues' by <u>A.B./Hina</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 10 'Croatia will help Sarajevo on way to EU' by <u>M. Seric</u> – carried similar reports.</p>
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<p>CoM Chair Terzic: More and more issues with Croatia rise, only open dialogue can solve them</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Terzic: Relations with Croatia are getting more complicated' by <u>S.Numanovic</u> – Speaking for DA, CoM Chair <b>Adnan Terzic</b> stated that relations between BiH and Croatia are getting complicated, since new open issues are appearing frequently, where only open dialogue can lead toward ending of this negative trend. Terzic said that all the open issues, both positive and negative, have been acknowledge, adding: <i>"We agreed to intensify cooperation and dialogue as a precondition for solving opened issues."</i></p>
<p>SD interview with HDZ President Covic: I could not meet PM Sanader because of sporting accident; constitutional talks hindered by election year</p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, front pg splash and pg 19 'Cast prevented me from shaking hands with Sanader', by <u>Marko Karacic</u> – carries an interview with the HDZ President, <b>Dragan Covic</b>, in which he comments on the meeting of the Croat parties with the Croatian PM, <b>Ivo Sanader</b>, held in Mostar last Saturday and the process of constitutional changes talks. Regarding former, Covic says it is sad such meetings and initiatives are few and far between, stressing that people from outside do not know well enough situation in BiH. What Covic sees as a good solution is that Croat parties talk directly to the official Croatian authorities in order to exclude any doubts and have transparent talks. He underlined that he could not meet with Sanader because his leg was put in the cast after a sporting accident. On the constitutional talks and foremost lack of joint position of the Croat parties, Covic says it is possible to reach a consensus, however it is a big task given that this is the election year and everyone is using every opportunity to score points.</p>

<p>SD: Croatian PM Sanader does not like that Covic leads HDZ BiH</p>	<p><b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 10 'Sanader is after all against President of HDZ BiH', by <u>Veso Vegar</u> – Commenting on the visit of the Croatian PM, <b>Ivo Sanader</b>, to Mostar, and the situation related to the situation in the HDZ BiH (conflict between <b>Dragan Covic</b> and <b>Bozo Ljubic</b>), when Sanader reiterated his earlier position that the HDZ BiH has to take into consideration the position of the European People's Party (because EPP believes Covic should step down until he is cleared by court) and conclusions by some people that Sanader is against the formation of a new Croat party or that even he (Sanader) supports the current HDZ BiH leadership, <u>Vegar</u> reckons that Sanader's statement regarding the EPP's position clearly shows that he is against Covic leading the HDZ BiH.</p>
<p>Schwarz-Schilling warned that elections could be endangered if means for passive registration aren't provided by October</p>	<p><b>FTV</b>– The High Representative, <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b>, met on Wednesday with representatives of BiH's Election Commission, Citizens Identification Protection System (CIPS) Directorate, the BiH Ministry of Finance and Treasury, the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, as well as parliamentarians who participated in the working group on Election Law Amendments, to discuss Passive Voter Registration, a system which should simplify the voting process and encourage voters back to the polling booths, OHR said. HR warned that means for financing passive registration have to be provided by April, stressing that in otherwise October election might be postponed. <b>BHT1, Hayat, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Passive registration will increase response of voters at elections, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2 'Postponement is possible' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 'OHR: Possible postponement of elections' by <u>N. N.</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 'Postponement of elections?' by <u>Srna</u>– carried.</p>

<p>BiH Presidency visited MoD; BiH Armed Forces by September 2006</p>	<p><b>RTRS</b> – BiH Presidency members in capacity of BiH Commander in Chief paid the first visit to BiH Ministry of Defence. It was concluded that best results regarding reformatory processes were achieved in the field of defence. In order to become member of Partnership for Peace in this year and member of NATO in 2010, BiH needs to achieve standard in democratization of institutions, economic development, rule of law and security. <i>“It is necessary to provide effective coordination of all institutions and levels of power in BiH meaning BiH Presidency as Commander in Chief, BiH Parliament, BiH CoM with competent ministries and entities’ Governments”</i>, said <b>Nikola Radovanovic</b>, BiH Minister of Defence. The most important document from BiH Presidency domain will be decision on size, structure and location of BiH Army that should be brought by end of June. <i>“Structure should be functional, rational, defined in accordance with NATO standards”</i>, said <b>Ivo Miro Jovic</b>, BiH Presidency Chair. Establishment of BiH Armed Forces should be finished by September 1 2006. <b>BHT1, Hayat, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 10 ‘Waiting only for decision on structure and location of BiH Armed Forces’ by <u>L.Sinanovic</u> <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 4 ‘Road to NATO depends on all of society’ by <u>A.P.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 ‘Main task is organising of Army by July 1’ by <u>A. Sisic</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 ‘Decision of structure of Armed Forces in June’, by <u>E. Mackic</u> – covered by EMM – also carried.</p>
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<p>Danas on new HR Schwarz-Schilling: 'Return of German policy to Mostar'</p>	<p><b>Danas</b> pgs 14-17 'Return of German policy to Mostar' by <u>Z. Jukic</u> carries that according to Danas sources within the <b>OHR</b>, the High Representative <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b> would pay an official visit to Mostar soon. Danas also says that many people expect that by coming of Schwarz-Schilling to the position of the HR the Mostar issue would be placed to the top of priorities, especially since Mostar has been in the so-called German zone of responsibility ever since the beginning of the Croat-Bosniak conflict in 1993. The weekly claims that although it has never been published on the ground of the agreement made between the Contact Group countries and the Peace Implementation Council, the Mostar issue has been placed under competence of Germans. Danas sources also reveal that the new HR would talks with Mostar Mayor <b>Ljubo Beslic</b> about the unified city budget and final unification of the city institutions. Also, Beslic would demand from the HR guarantees that problems regarding public utility services would be resolved and that the Mostar authorities would give full support to the German project for recovery of illegal waste dump Vihovici. Also, it would be demanded from Beslic to carry out rationalization in the Mostar City Administration as soon as possible and dismiss surplus employees.</p>
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<p>President of 'Movement for Changes' Dzihanovic: Parties are funded by public companies' money</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 6, mentioned on front 'Public companies are funding parties', by <u>Zdenko Jurilj</u> – carries a lengthy interview with the President of a newly formed 'Movement for Changes' political party, <b>Sahbaz Dzihanovic</b>, in which he mostly reiterates the party's program (speeding of reforms, decrease of huge administration etc). Questioned as to how he planned to realize the party's program and agenda, given that running a political party is <i>"an expensive sport"</i>, Dzihanovic notes it is indeed the case, which also triggers him to say that the ruling political parties are being funded in an illegal manner, through the public companies that is. <i>"The best evidence for it is when you carry out an analysis of the way how people get appointed to steering boards of such companies, who never in last 15 years have presented final balance sheet to the Parliament, although they should done it by the law"</i>, explained Dzihanovic.</p>
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**RS Government reshuffle/ SDS moves to opposition**



RSNA session regarding the election of new Government scheduled for Feb. 28; Mps demand for no-confidence vote to the Speaker to be caste first

**BHT1** – The Collegium of the RS National Assembly scheduled the RSNA session at which new RS Government for February 28. RS Prime Minister designate **Milorad Dodik** still hasn't completed consultations with political parties on the future composition of the Government. SDA's **Sefket Hafizovic** stated that the party expects the position of Minister for Refugees and Displaced Persons and Deputy PM in return for their support. Hafizovic adds that most certain candidate for this position is **Omer Brankovic**. PDP expects three ministerial positions, while SDP wants two. However, most parties insist on casting no confidence vote to the RSNA Speaker **Dusan Stojicic** prior to election of the new Government and appointment of new Speaker. Candidate for this position is SNSD's **Igor Radojicic**. **RTRS** – *"We agreed even before this Collegium that PDP Caucus will support all agenda items and demands of SNSD Caucus, meaning voting no-confidence to RSNA Speaker, appointment the new one and election of the new RS Government"*, commented **Veselin Poljasevic**, PDP. *"We will vote for removal of Mr. Stojicic, I do not see anything questionable there, it is logical"*, said **Drago Kalabic** of DNS. **Ljubomir Sandic** from SNSD said that the level of support in the RSNA is going to be very high. Asked whether ministerial position designated for SDP can be occupied by a Serb as party proposed nomination of a Bosniak and Serb while Dodik insist on two Bosniaks explaining that the RS legislation on equal representation has to be respected, **Slobodan Popovic** from SDP said: *"We are real multinational party [working] in entire BiH"*. SDS will not change its position and Stojicic is the only SDS candidate for RSNA Speaker's position. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Parliament to discuss new Government on 28 February' by **V. Popovic – Ruza Nikic**, delegate of RS Pensioners' Party will also support Dodik's concept. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Support to Dodik and new RS Government' by **V. P.** – Newly-established fraction of DS RS has expressed its support to Dodik. **RHB, PINK, Hayat, FTV, Oslobodjenje** pgs 4-5 'Removal of Stojicic, than election of new Government' by **O. Vukovic, EuroBlic** RSpg 3 'Prior to voting, test for Dusan Stojicic' by **Rajna Radosavljevic, Glas Srpske** pg 2 'MPs on heat' by **Z.M., Vecernje Novosti** pg 5 'Cadjo Chief of the Police' by **Sl. Pesevic, Dnevni List** pg 2 'Decision on RS Government on February 28' not signed, **Dnevni List** pg 4 'PDP supports Stojicic's removal' not signed, – also covered.

<p>NN op-ed: great expectations are ahead of Dodik, he will have to prove if he is a master of politics</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'Either you are, or you are not' by <u>Pero Simic</u> – The author notes it is to be expected <b>Milorad Dodik</b> would soon put his Government in service of citizens, not to fulfil their wishes but to resolve problems and correct certain anomalies public had been pointing on for years, primarily crime and corruption. He says great expectations are ahead of Dodik, which is why he will have to prove whether he is or he is not a master of politics.</p>
<p>NN op-ed: Dodik's plan to establish an investment bank might lead to greater economic activities</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'Investment bank' by <u>Predrag Klinčov</u> – The announcement of RS PM designate <b>Milorad Dodik</b> that one of his priorities would be to establish an investment-development bank brought back RS economy to life. Economists, bankers and other experts agree that the establishment of such a bank might mark the start of greater economic activities in this area.</p>

<p>SDS officially moved to opposition at the state level heavily criticizing PDP and SNSD for supporting state budget that foresees financing of lawsuit against SCG</p>	<p><b>Hayat</b> – SDS has officially moved into opposition on state level. At the press conference held on Wednesday, members of the SDS Caucus in the BiH House of Representatives <b>Momcilo Novakovic</b>, <b>Ljiljana Milicevic</b> and <b>Milos Jovanovic</b>, criticized SNSD and PDP for their support to adoption of the budget which also foresees financing of the international court proceedings, such as the BiH's lawsuit against SCG. With SDS no longer a part of HoR's majority, Novakovic explains that SBiH, SDA, HDZ, SNSD and PDP make up majority. He added the SDS deems amendments to the budget were neither proposed nor passed in line with the regulation book. <i>"Regulation book was seriously violated and we are going to ask the constitutive-legal commission to define certain regulation since we are sure that on Tuesday, the Collegium acted as a political body instead of an expert"</i>, said Novakovic. In terms of the BiH-SCG lawsuit, Novakovic said that SDS found it illegal and unconstitutional adding that <i>"is the reason why we oppose to allocate means to something which still has not been proved to be legal and constitutive."</i> <b>RTRS</b>– <i>"What Mr. Novakovic said is not true. I am sorry that Mr. Novakovic deceived public. Budget that was passed does not mean financing of BiH lawsuit against SCG"</i>, said <b>Jelina Djurkovic</b> from PDP. SNSD believes that there was no foreseen to finance BiH's lawsuit against SCG. <i>"I think this is inconsiderate pre-election campaign of SDS"</i>, said <b>Miodrag Zivkovic</b> from SNSD. Novakovic expressed regret that new majority in BiH HoR that include SBiH, SDA, HDZ, SNSD and PDP did not have understanding for amendment that expected 5 million KM for census preparations. <b>FTV</b>, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 2 'SDS against the budget because of the lawsuit in The Hague', mentioned on cover by <u>A. Omeragic</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS3 'They are angry at SNSD and PDP because they have supported the budget' by <u>D. Stanisic</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'Lawsuit included in the budget' by <u>Z. Domazet</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5 'SDS: Budget aside of Rule Book' by <u>M. Cubro</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 6 'Collegium worked against book of rules?', by <u>D. P. M.</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 2 'New ruling coalition in BiH', by <u>ra</u>– also carries.</p>
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<p>SDS to demand its ministers in CoM to resign</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 8 'SDS definitely crossed to opposition' by <u>H.O.</u>— At the press conference of the SDS's Caucus in BiH HoR on BiH budget for 2006, the officials stated that as soon as the new RS Government, lead by the SNSD leader <b>Milorad Dodik</b>, is established SDS would call on their ministers in CoM to resign. "<b>Nikola Radovanovic</b> and <b>Slobodan Kovac</b> are not members of SDS but we appointed them. We will call on them to withdraw from the CoM, but do not know how would they act," stated Chair of the SDS Caucus in the HoR <b>Momcilo Novakovic</b>. He added that two deputy ministers are members of SDS and they would resign. Namely this refers to deputy minister of foreign trade <b>Slobodan Ecimovic</b> and deputy minister of security <b>Dragan Mektic</b>.</p>
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## Constitutional changes

EU to demand  
BiH  
politicians to  
finish  
constitutional  
reforms,  
without delay

**BHT1** – At the session scheduled for Thursday, EU Parliament should adopt a resolution demanding from BiH authorities to complete the constitutional changes without delay. The resolution will urge EC and EU Council of Ministers to put BiH politicians under pressure in order to complete the process of constitutional changes, so that BiH can prepare for the association with the EU. Also, the resolution will call upon all EU countries to provide more support to BiH. EU Commissioner for Enlargement **Olli Rehn** and EC President **Jose Manuel Barroso** will start their West Balkans tour on Tuesday by visiting Zagreb. They are expected to visit BiH on February 18, and give a clear message to BiH politicians. Barosso stated that EC is there to support BiH and its efforts for association with the EU. Rehn stated that the political leaders in BiH have to consider what kind of constitutional changes the state needs. *“At this moment, we all know that BiH is not a functional state. EU needs a functional state for partner, a state that can take the obligations stated in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement”*, said Rehn.

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 ‘New suggestions, old stances’ by M. Cubro and V. Popovic, inset ‘European Parliament on changes to BiH Constitution’ – NN carries the statement of European Parliament Spokesperson **Richard Friedman**, in line with BHT1 report.

**Oslobodjenje** pg 2 ‘Encouragement for closing EU’ – also reports.

Parties  
divided in  
regard to  
continuation  
of talks on  
const. changes

**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'New proposals, old stances' by M.Cubro/V.Popovic – Following publication of unofficial proposal on constitutional changes in Sarajevo newspapers, daily carries comments of political officials, including Party for BiH' Belkic and PDP' Radovanovic. It also carries comments of **Krstan Simic** from SNSD, expressing skepticism talks would resume soon, noting new proposals on Presidency members' election would see the largest people of BiH decide on election. SDA' **Sefik Dzaferovic** stressed SDA supports constitutional solutions in the form proposed by Venice Commission. HDZ' **Miso Relota** urged for continuation of talks. SDP of BH said it accept any change leading to improvement of existing constitutional structure. **PINK** – **Beriz Belikic**, SBiH said that this party has nothing against continuation of negotiations on constitutional changes only if discussing the model that would eliminate all ethnic and entities' principles in solving BiH issues. **Vinko Radovanovic** from PDP said that continuation of the talks is possible only if FBiH parties accept two conditions: three-member presidency with rotation and entity voting in BiH House of Representatives. SDP supports all solutions that would improve present situation. SDS is ready to consider new proposals that are interest of RS and that SDS still supports three-member presidency that rotates.

<p>PDP's leader Ivanic: Washington statement was misinterpreted</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'What did Ivanic say?' by <u>Z.Markovic</u> – In a statement to daily, <b>Mladen Ivanic</b>, PDP President, said that his Washington statement (that talks on constitutional changes would resume in upcoming weeks) was misinterpreted, adding:  <i>"I said that there will most likely be demands for another round of talks in the upcoming weeks, not there talks will resume – that is a difference."</i></p>
<p>SDS Busic: IC did not talk to SDS on const. changes talks; SDS' Novakovic: SDS could continue talks</p>	<p><b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2 'Everyone advocates it, but nobody is ready as yet' by <u>Srna</u> – also reports carrying statements of Belkic. According to inset 'Busic: SDS is not aware of consultations' – <b>Mladen Busic</b>, SDS Vice President, stated not a single IC official talked with SDS officials about continuation of talks on constitutional changes, expressing surprise over statement SDA' Tihic gave (that talks were held over the past days). <b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 9  'Discussion on middle level of authority begins', by <u>Dario Pusic</u> – <b>Momcilo Novakovic</b> ( SDS ) is carried as saying that the SDS could continue the talks only after those who advocate the continuation of the talks precisely say what positions they are giving up (NB: Novakovic did not name anyone nor he noted the what the 'positions' might be).</p>

<p>SNSD's Dodik: Agreement on const. changes can be reached in bilateral talks</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Milorad Dodik for bilateral solving of other issues' by <u>A.M.</u>  – Reiterating his stances on constitutional changes regarding election of BiH Presidency members, SNSD leader <b>Milorad Dodik</b> stressed that there is no need for organizing meeting of eight party leaders, for the agreement can be reached in bilateral talks.</p>
<p>HDZ spokesman Relota: RS parties could soon change opinion and resume constitutional changes talks</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 9 'Discussion on middle level of authority begins', by <u>Dario Pusic</u>  – according to the HDZ spokesman, <b>Miso Relota</b>, the HDZ has information that the constitutional changes talks could soon be continued, however the RS parties' behaviour suggests that the talks are finished for them. In that context, Relota believes they (Serb parties) could be changing their opinion given that this package of constitutional talks are being led by the US administration. Relota explains there are two pending issues related to the state level because of which the talks were terminated, the issue of entity voting and rotation in the BiH Presidency that is. He also notes that there are signals from the RS that the issue of solving the middle level of authority issue could be open immediately.</p>



<p>SDA leader Tihic: Political parties that don't respect their Washington statement would damage their international credibility</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Burns warned us in written to stick to Washington's statement' by A.M. – SDA leader <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> stated for DA that an agreement on constitutional changes has to be reached, and that political parties are just postponing the issue. <i>"US Undersecretary <b>Nicholas Burns</b> said it publicly, and even warned us in written, that political parties that don't respect their Washington statement would lose the credibility they have with USA and EU partners,"</i> said Tihic. IC also warned that the next chance for const. changes would appear in only 2010, if this one is lost. Commenting speculations that SDA Vice President <b>Mirsad Kebo</b> would replace BiH Council of Ministers Chair <b>Adnan Terzic</b> at his position, Tihic stressed: <i>"Our stance is clear: we want this composition of BiH CoM to stay by the end of mandate."</i></p>
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## Economic issues

<p>BiH Commission for Finances and Budget organized public debate on law draft, which foresees entities and District to be responsible for payment of old foreign currency savings</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> – BiH Parliament Assembly's Commission for Finances and Budget organised public discussion on draft law on verification and pay back of the old foreign currency deposits. The draft law defines that the deposits are responsibility of entities and Brcko District. Draft also says that all interest rates should be written off and that deposits should be paid through securities, not in cash. Representatives of depositors harshly criticized the draft law, claiming that it violates the Constitution. <b>RHB</b>– At the public discussion dedicated to the issue and held in Sarajevo on Wednesday, old foreign currency holders reiterated that issue of savings had to be returned to the state level. The Chair of the association representing these deposit holders <b>Amila Omersoftic</b> said that the proposed draft law was unconstitutional and pointed out that it had the same form as entity laws, which BiH and FBiH Constitutional Courts already found unconstitutional. <b>Hayat</b> – Decisions and amendments, brought at the public discussion will be submitted to the BiH Council of Ministers. Next week, BiH Commission on Finance and Budget will hold session, and it is expected that the BiH CoM will decide on the issue. <b>PINK, BHT1, RTRS, Dnevni List</b> pg 3 'BiH CoM at make-up exam' by D.P. Mandic, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 7 'No guarantees for payment of securities' by Fena <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 7 'Suggested law is against Constitution' by S.Rozajac – carried similar reports.</p>
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<p>EBRD invested one billion KM in BiH</p>	<p><b>PINK, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'EBRD invested one billion KM in BiH so far' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3 'EBRD got the green light to construct gas-line in BiH' by <u>D. R.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 9 'They had allocated 1 billion of loans in BiH' by <u>D. R.</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 4 'They have invested one billion marks' by <u>Lj. C.</u>, – Head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Office in BiH <b>Augen Yayikogly</b> said in Banja Luka on Wednesday that EBRD has invested a billion KM in BiH during the past several years. He added that EBRD has decided to invest into the two most important sectors – infrastructure and the private sector, in order to create dynamic sector that would contribute to the better reintegration of BiH in the region.</p>
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<p>RS and F BiH Teams for Monitoring of Prices banned work of 87 shops</p>	<p><b>PINK, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Complaints are still being filed' by <u>N. Zelenovic</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 4 '87 shops were closed' by <u>R. Cengic</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 6 'Inspectors overcame disobedience of merchants' by <u>M. Zorlak</u> – Representatives of RS and F BiH Teams for Monitoring of Prices and representatives of ITA held a press conference in Banja Luka, during which they have presented the results of control in increase in prices after the introduction of VAT in BiH. More than 4.000 inspections were conducted, work of 72 shops in F BiH and 15 shops in RS were banned. Operative head of F BiH Monitoring Team <b>Ibrahim Tirak</b> has stated that the controls prevented increase in prices of 4 basic consumer goods – bread, milk, oil and flour – and he noted the inspections have no control over prices of other products. <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 6 'Elektroprivreda should give citizens their money back!' by <u>A.Omeragic</u> – Tirak added that ITA should punish Elektroprivreda and BH Telecom for making "<i>mistakes</i>" on their invoices due to "<i>problems with computers</i>".</p>
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<p>DA: FBiH could face collapse due to problem of budget distribution</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> cover splash, pg 4 'Payment of pensions under question' by <u>A.Hadziarapovic</u></p> <p>– Article reads that without the Law on public revenues, FBiH could face financial collapse. Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] Director <b>Kemal Causevic</b> stated for DA: <i>"As far as ITA is concerned, VAT implementation showed good results, and there is enough money at the single bank account. (...) We can transfer money that belongs to this entity."</i> FBiH Prime Minister <b>Ahmet Hadzipasic</b> claims that there is no legal ground for transferring money onto FBiH account. <i>"Even if [FBiH] had adopted budget, due to lack of Law on public revenues, there is no ground or percentages by which we would distribute money between FBiH, cantons and municipalities,"</i> says Hadzipasic. He noted that there would be some money for payment of pensions from the reserves, adding that three cantons with Croat majority still didn't provide data on their budget users. Hadzipasic stressed that <i>"If this problem is not quickly solved, we will face absurd situation that the money exists, but cannot be distributed."</i> Inset, 'Biber: Catastrophic outcomes' – Commenting the fact FBiH Parliament didn't adopt Law on public revenues, BiH Trade Union President <b>Edhem Biber</b> stated for DA that <i>"catastrophic outcomes of such political games"</i> can already be seen in the field.</p>
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<p>BiH Trade Union, War veterans and pensioners condemn FBiH Parliament for not adopting Law on public revenues</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> cover splash, pg 4 'Payment of pensions under question' by <u>A.Hadziarapovic</u> Inset, 'Biber: Catastrophic outcomes' – Commenting the fact FBiH Parliament didn't adopt Law on public revenues, BiH Trade Union President <b>Edhem Biber</b> stated for DA that "<i>catastrophic outcomes of such political games</i>" can already be seen in the field. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'War veterans will go out on streets' by <u>Az.D.</u> – On the same issues, FBiH War Veterans Association President stated that they would go out on the streets if their pensions were not paid on time. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 'Elezovic: This authority think only of seats' by <u>A.Dedajic</u> – FBiH Association of Pensioners stated that they condemn FBiH Parliament for not acting responsibly.</p>
<p>DL analysis: Voting in FBiH HoP on allocation of public revenues showed plan to create Bosniak-dominated FBiH</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 5 'Abolishment of cantons and centralization of Federation', by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – carries an analysis of the voting in the FBiH House of Peoples related to the law on allocation of public revenues, in which the Croat Caucus invoked the vital national interest clause. According to <u>Glibusic</u>, the whole situation is about the Bosniak and Serb Caucuses creating a centralized FBiH, which would be dominated by the Bosniaks, which was also stressed by the Croat Caucus and its president <b>Mate Franjicevic</b>, which says the idea is to abolish the cantons and establish an entity that would be a match to the RS.</p>

<p>DA op-ed on non-adoption of Law on public revenues: FBiH Parliamentarians overdone it this time</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 3 'Who do FBiH authorities care about' <u>op-ed by Admir Malagic</u> – FBiH authorities played once more with the patience of the citizens, says author, adding that officials almost brought this entity to the financial collapse, when the didn't adopt Law on public revenues nor budget for this year. Commenting the fact that Croat Caucus launched vital national interest issue before the Constitutional Court regarding the Law on public revenues, article reads that parliamentarians overdone it this time, since it would prolong the procedure by a month, while pensioners and disabled persons are living lives at the edge of existence.</p>
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Hayat on FBiH  
Inspections Law:

**Hayat** By Snjezana Mulic – One of the laws BiH has to pass on its way to the EU is Law on Inspections. The RS has passed the law in 2005, while the FBiH still deals with the FBiH Constitutional Court. The Law was published in the FBiH Official Gazettes in December 2005, after adoption by majority vote in the Parliament, however some HDZ representatives [who were outvoted] submitted great number of amendments to the law and demanded from the FBiH Constitutional Court to take the stance [note: At the time, some media speculated that this law caused a rift inside the HDZ, as some officials such as **Niko Lozancic** and **Borjana Kristo** supported the law]. HDZ official in the FBiH Parliament **Ivan Madunic** deems the law as *“poor and shameful”*. *“According to the law, FBiH is interfering in the executive authorities of the Cantons”*, says HDZ rep in the FBiH Parliament **Vesna Pinjuh**. On the contrary, **Ibrahim Tirak**, legal expert at the FBiH Trade Ministry, comments: *“On August 12, 2004, in the OHR memorandum, which supports such project, has been signed by former PDHR **Donald Hays**, FBiH Prime Minister **Ahmet Hadzipasic** and Chairs of 10 Cantonal Governments.”* SPD’s rep in FBiH Parliament, **Nermin Niksic**, also commented: *“Our stance is that by the law, FBiH is only introducing a system and the FBiH Constitution is not being violated by any its regulations.”* Hayat concludes that the FBiH Constitutional Court says it would take the stance on the issue as soon as possible.



## Investigations / war crimes

Daily: BiH  
Parliament  
prevented OSA  
to become ex-  
YU UDBA

**Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pgs 4-5 'Dzuvo, Zaric and Cosic wanted to form new UDBA in BiH' by Az.Kalamujic – Commenting Tuesday's session of BiH House of Representatives that has adopted the report of the BiH Intelligence Agency [OSA], but rejected amendments to the law proposed by Council of Ministers regarding the new authorities of this agency, article reads that BiH Parliamentary commission for supervision of OSA prevented that agency to become new UDBA [former-Yugoslavia Intelligence Agency]. He adds that by rejecting amendments to the controversial law, BiH House of Representatives denied OSA right to arrest and to investigate without a warrant. Article reads that makers of this law were OSA Director, Deputy and Chief Inspector, **Almir Dzuvo**, **Risto Zaric** and **Ivan Cosic**, respectively. Author claims that the new law anticipated OSA doing part of military-intelligence service. **Hayat** – reports that the BiH HoR rejected amendment to Law on OSA.

FTV slams  
SIPA over  
investigation  
into CRA

**FTV** by Zvonko Maric – The last week's report of FTV on SIPA investigation in CRA has caused harsh reactions of both SIPA and BiH Prosecution who stated that the investigation of the CRA's premises was not an investigation, but "information gathering". However, FTV claims it found out that SIPA has continued the investigation on CRA. BiH Prosecutor **Biljana Simeunovic** allegedly ordered the launch of investigation on the grounds of the CRA audit report. The Head of the CRA Legal Department, **Vinko Dugonjic**, stated that the audit report didn't show any irregularities, claiming there is no reason for SIPA action against CRA. Head of CRA **Kemal Huseinovic** commented that SIPA's 'information gathering' is an investigation. Reporter ironically commented the fact that SIPA is not informing the media about their actions, reminding of the statement by the ICTY Chief Prosecutor **Carla Del Ponte** who had said that even some people within SIPA protect **Radovan Karadzic**. Reporter also commented that the Head of SIPA **Sredoje Novic** has been cooperating with Karadzic during the war, and that Prosecutor Simenunovic didn't do anything in order to punish murderers of Bosniaks during the war or to prevent illegal privatisation of "Kristal banka". Reporter noted that both Simeunovic and Novic belong to PDP party.

<p>BiH Security Minister Colak: If we don't have European standards on all levels, especially when it comes to security, money drain is guaranteed</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 5 'Great losses for not having EU standards in security services' by <u>Tarik Lazovic</u> – In an interview for DA, BiH Security Minister <b>Barisa Colak</b> confirmed that he will meet EU Interior Commissioner <b>Franco Frattini</b> and introduce him with the progress BiH achieved in the field of security, in order to reach more liberalised visa regime. Colak said that no-visa regime is the greatest concession one state could be given before the EU membership. Commenting EC report that says BiH loses 5 billion KM due to organized criminal, Colak noted: <i>"I would not estimate how much is being lost, but it is certain that we talk about significant amounts. If we don't have institutes on high level, European standards on all levels, especially when it comes to security, money drain is guaranteed."</i> Colak underlined that BiH made significant efforts in fight against organized criminal, which is one of the priorities European Commission set before BiH, adding that police reform should be implemented in this year. Colak concluded that he is not satisfied with current dynamics of the reforms, saying that BiH has to speed up the processes and finish the job before the deadline.</p>
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<p>Chief BiH Auditor Sego: BiH Prosecutor's Office found no ground to raise indictments in 18 institutions after these had been audited</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 5, announced on cover 'Investigation of BiH Prosecutor's Office is possible in 20 institutions' by <u>N. Krsman</u> – in an interview to <i>NW</i>, Chief State Auditor <b>Milenko Segoc</b> stated that, out of in total 38 institutions that were audited in 2004, BiH Prosecutor's Office assessed in 18 cases no investigation would be launched because there was no suspicion any criminal act was committed. He claims he was not informed on whether BiH Prosecutor's Office is carrying out an investigation in the remaining 20 institutions.</p>
<p>VL: BiH courts neglected cases of crimes against Croats transferred from ICTY</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, front pg splash and pgs 4-5 'Trials for 40 mass crimes', by <u>Zoran Kresic</u> – carries a continuation from the story published in Wednesday's issue of VL, which reported that the Croat Liaison Office with the ICTY, <b>Goran Mihaljevic</b>, submitted the BiH Prosecution, BiH Presidency Chairman, <b>Ivo Miro Jovic</b>, and BiH Security Minister, <b>Barisa Colak</b>, a thorough report about crimes committed against BiH Croats which have not been processed by either the ICTY or BiH judiciary. Among different claims, VL notes that in some cases, courts in BiH hid cases labelled 'A' (proceedings can continue without additional checks) that were transferred onto them by the ICTY. Mihaljevic's report lists 40 mass crimes committed against Croats of northern Herzegovina and central Bosnia .</p>

<p>Chief HNC Prosecutor Mehmedbasic: Prosecution processing 600 war crimes suspects, three indictments to be raised soon</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b>, pg 3, mentioned on front ‘Indictments against two Croats and one Bosniak’, by <u>Sanja Bjelica</u> – the Chief Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Prosecutor, <b>Nijaz Mehmedbasic</b>, held a working meeting with the HNC Interior Minister, <b>Tomislav Martinovic</b>, and HNC Police Commissioner, <b>Srecko Glibic</b>, in Mostar on Wednesday in order to discuss how to improve cooperation between the said Prosecution and MoI. They noted that the meeting had not discussed the issue of war crimes cases. However, Prosecutor Mehmedbasic said the Prosecution was processing 600 persons charged with war crimes, still he stressed that these were no new cases, instead they reach as far back as year or two. Mehmedbasic also noted that the Prosecution would soon raise three individual indictments. He did not reveal names, instead he said they would include two Croats and one Bosniak.<b>Hayat, FTV, RTRS</b>– also carried. Reported by Cropress. <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 ‘Three indictments for war crimes soon’ by <u>M. Krilic</u>– also reported.</p>
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<p>BiH Prosecution denies media reports that Chief ICTY Prosecutor del Ponte transferred 20 cases onto it</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b>, pg 4 'Cases of category 2 did not arrive', <u>not signed</u> – with regards to media reports that suggested that the Chief ICTY Prosecutor, <b>Carla del Ponte</b>, submitted around 20 war crimes cases onto the BiH Prosecution during her last visit to BiH, the BiH Prosecution issued a press statement which, among other issues reads:</p> <p><i>"(...) During the meeting, there were discussions about the pace and strategy of handing over of 11bis and category 2 cases, however the BiH Prosecution was not handed over any category 2 cases then".</i></p> <p><b>FTV, RTRS</b> – also carries BiH Prosecution statement on transfer of 20 cases.</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje: Will BiH Prosecution raise charges against RS Government</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 8 'BiH Prosecution still works on the case' by <u>E.Kamenica</u> – Author reminds that almost four weeks have passed since RS Government established a commission tasked by former High Representative <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> to investigate the fate of RBiH Army Colonel <b>Avdo Palic</b> and to report to the relevant authorities. The Commission deadline for submitting gathered information is April 19. Author raises question if the BiH Prosecution will have strength to confront the RS authorities if they do not do their job on time, quoting Ashdown who said:</p> <p><i>"It's now up to Public Prosecutor to decide on next step."</i></p>

<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: future of all BiH citizens depend of how prosecution of war criminals would be done</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 9 'The Hague after the Hague' by <u>Daniel Omeragic</u> – Commenting several files on war crime suspects that ICTY Chief Prosecutor <b>Carla del Ponte</b> handed over to the prosecutors of BiH War Crime Chamber, editorial reads that the Hague expects fast action. Author says it is only possible if BiH investigators can work without political pressure, adding that ICTY will overview the whole process. Commenting the fact that ICTY will cease to exist in 2010, and that all the remaining cases would be transferred to the courts of the countries from the region, editorial concludes that ten thousand persons are suspected for committing war crimes, and the future of all BiH citizens depend of how this job would be done.</p>
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