OHR BiH Media Round-up, 19/12/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 19 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)
Bihac: Workers to enter ‘Zitoprerada’
RS Gov. on privat. of strategic comp.
Update on Cavtat hospital issue

TV news broadcast on 18 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
Trial of Gotovina	World news	UNESCO delegation inBanja Luka
Regional news	Malaysia interested in Corridor Vc	Malaysian interest in Corridor Vc
Weber on Karadzic and Mladic	Jovic visited SOS children village	Report on a blind boy from Buzim
World news	Legalisation of Microsoft in BiH	Jovic visits ‘S.O.S. Kinderdorf’
NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
Customs issue of free trade zones	Report on a blind boy from Buzim	Feature on mines in BIH

Privatisation in CantonSarajevo	Jovic visits 'S.O.S. Kinderdorf'	Matijasevic visits injured policeman
Holidays in State administration	Report on BiH doctors in Pakistan	Cenic on RS budget
Regional news	Malaysian interest in Corridor Vc	Feature on housing loans in RS

Oslobodjenje	Human life valued at 5000 KM
Dnevni Avaz	Dokic expects a concrete Malaysian offer for participation in the highway construction
Dnevni List	What were 48 million marks spent on (initiative in BiH HoR)
Vecernji List	Entities to be left without finances (strengthening of state authorities)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Croatia related headlines
Glas Srpske	They are not asking about Serbs [Feature story on Serb returnees to Srebrenica]
Nezavisne Novine	Mladic and Karadzic will not be arrested by the end of the year
Blic	President on the head of Council of Ministers [constitutional reform talks]
Vecernje Novosti	Serbia related headlines

	LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

Bihac: Workers to enter ‘Zitoprerada’ by force	**RHB** – Employees of Bihac company ‘Zitoprerada’ announced that they would enter the company by force today and take over control over this company since according to valid a court decision a contract on sale of the company has been annulled.
RS Gov. gave consent for privatisation of 5 strategic companies	**RHB** – Director of the RS Privatisation Administration **Vladimir Mackic** stated that the RS Government has given consent on the bids that arrived for privatisation of 5 strategic companies including the Banja Luka Brewery. The only bidder for purchase of the Banja Luka Brewery is an Investment Fund from London.
Update on Cavtat hospital issue	**RHB** – A lawyer of the Sarajevo Clinical Hospital would launch today before the Croatian Supreme Court an audit of the verdict according to which the property in Cavtat is being definitely taken away from the Sarajevo Clinical Hospital and BiH.

	Economic/Social Affairs

Malaysian official to visit BiH; discussions on Corridor Vc expected	**Pink, BHT, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** cover page, pg 2 'Dokic expects a concrete Malaysian offer for their participation in the highway construction', **Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'Malaysia interested in highway through BiH', **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'They expect job at the Corridor' by Beta, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'Malaysians want to participate in construction of corridor Vc' by D. Muminovic – Malaysian Government announced that it expects to participate in the construction of the highway on the Vc Corridor through BiH. Malaysian Labour Minister **Samy Vellu** on Monday will arrive to BiH where he will discuss the possible participation of Malaysian companies and financial institutions in the construction of the part of this Corridor. According to Malaysian state news agency, Malaysian companies showed interest for the 312 KM-long part of the Corridor which goes through BiH, which would probably cost about 3.2 billions of Euro. "*Malaysian Minister has already sent an 'patrol', which saw the most of the Corridor Vc route… therefore, I expect very concrete discussions on the construction of the Corridor*", stated BiH Minister of Communications and Transport **Branko Dokic**. He stressed that he expects to discuss with Malaysian guests the financial aspects of the construction of Corridor Vc.

D. Cavic proclaimed valid the Law on right to receive compensation for material and immaterial damage made during war	**Oslobodjenje** cover pg splash and pgs 4 and 5 ‘Human life costs 5000 KM’ by E. Kamenica carries that on November 21 RS President **Dragan Cavic** proclaimed valid the Law on right to receive compensation for material and immaterial damage made from May 1992 to June 19, 1996. Osl. explains that according to this law you have a right to demand compensation, however instead of money you will receive bonds that can be cashed as late as in 40 years. The article quotes some examples of the cases that show illogical and unfair sides of this law.

Hayat: Harmonisation of the laws on customs and free trade zones expected soon	**Hayat** Elvira Ahmetovic – TV Hayat bring report on problems that entrepreneurs who work in so-called free trade zones face with. Users of the free zones are exempted from paying customs when import equipment aimed to production, according to the law on free trade zones. On another side, this exemption is not foreseen in the law on customs policies, so the entrepreneurs had to pay customs in any case. At the end of the last month, the Indirect Taxation Administration (ITA) Steering Board have adopted amendments to the law on customs policies. The essence of the amendments is that the equipment imported to the free trade zones and aimed to production is exempted from paying customs. *"The Steering Board send draft amendments to the law to the Council of Ministers, it will be discussed during one of the sessions before New Year, and it will be sent into parliamentary procedure,"* said ITA Director **Kemal Causevic**, hoping that investors, domestic and foreign, who run production in free zones, will be exempted from paying customs in first months of the next year. *"We support that decision and we will do everything in our power to have this decision adopted by the BiH parliamentary assembly, because it will have positive impact on growth of investments and working places,"* said BiH Premier Economic Adviser, **Zlatko Hurtic**. Users of free zones are obliged to export 75 % of its production to the world market. So far, only two zones out of five, in Visoko and Vogosca, fulfil this condition. Others are near to closure.

Cenic warned that 2006 RS budget must be adopted in order for VAT implementation to start	**RTRS** – RS Finance Minister **Svetlana Cenic** warned that RS budget for 2006 must be adopted in order for VAT implementation to start. She also warned that negotiations with the EU might be stopped if VAT implementation fails to start on 1st of January 2006.
RS Government announces adoption of a decision on temporary financing in case 2006 budget is not adopted; Cavic: SDS supports the Govt; DS invites parties to support the budget	**EuroBlic** pg RS3 'RS Government: without budget, temporary financing' not signed – A press release of RS Government reads the Government will prepare for RS NA session that will be held on December 28 a decision on temporary financing for 2006 as an alternative solution should the budget and economic policy for 2006 not be adopted. The Government emphasized this would be the worst solution. RS President and SDS leader **Dragan Cavic** stated SDS supports RS Government and invited those who do not support it to cast a vote of non-confidence and form a new Government. He also added SDS would not participate in such Government. DS Chairman **Predrag Kovacevic** stated DS would support RS budget for 2006 and he appealed to other delegates to do the same. **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Bad political message' by D. Z. – also carries RS Government's press statement. **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'Support the budget' by D. Mo., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 'First support the budget, then discuss the Government' by Srna – carry statement of DS.

SDP's Popovic: if the budget is not adopted, RS Govt should resign	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'If the budget is not adopted, RS Government should leave' by V. Popovic – in an interview to *NN*, SDP delegate at RS NA **Slobodan Popovic** stated RS Government should resign if RS NA fails to adopt draft budget and economic policy for 2006 because, if it cannot get a support for key documents, then it [RS NA] could not have a support for some other, less important, issues either.
MP Majkic argues BiH Parliament is not in control of BiH budget, Minister Maric argues otherwise	**Dnevni List**, front pg splash 'What were 48 million marks spent on' and pg 2 '48 million marks from budget reserves disputable', by Danka Polovina-Mandic– The BiH House of Representatives' Commission for Finances and Budget rejected a proposal of an MP in the BiH HoR, **Dusanka Majkic**, who wants to change the Law on carrying out of BiH budget and honouring of international obligations. Majkic notes that the Law, as it is, stipulates it is only the BiH Council of Ministers that can take decisions on transfer of money from the budget reserves, arguing that in that way, the BiH Parliament is losing the control over the budget. She also argues that in last year 48 million KMs were spent from the reserves without the knowledge of the BiH Parliament. Inset 'Pointless discussion for Minister Maric' carries the BiH Minister for Treasury, **Ljerka Maric**, who says the BiH CoM abides by the law, arguing that the BiH Parliament gets the relevant report each six months, therefore it has a complete control over the budget.

VL op-ed argues electricity in FBiH should not be more expensive	**Vecernji List**, pg 2 'African standard – European price of electricity', by Zoran Kresic – The author comments on recent media reports that suggest that the two 'Elektroprivredas' in the FBiH want to increase the prices of electricity, which would, when combined with the start of application of the VAT, represent another attack on valets of citizens. Kresic notices that the FBiH PM, **Ahmet Hadzipasic**, at one point stated that there would not be increases of prices, however the author notes that there are no concrete actions on the part of the FBiH Government. Kresic also argues that the two 'Elektroprivredas' are exporting electricity, despite the HR **Paddy Ashdown's** order to meet the domestic requirements first, suggesting that the 'Elektroprivredas' should be modernizing themselves and take care of surplus workers instead of sorting problems by increasing the prices.
VL: BiH Croats only get 6,5 million KMs from Croatia	**Vecernji List**, pgs 2-3 'Aid or mercy', mentioned on front 'Republic of Croatia sends to BiH one sixth of Mostar's budget', by Petar Grubisic – The author notes that the public perception in Croatia is that Croatia should be stopping sending money to the BiH Croats, however the author argues that most of people in Croatia do not know how little money Croatia is in fact sending to the BiH Croats a year, namely 26,2 million Croatian Kunas, or 6,55 million KMs.

Causevic: ITA is ready for introduction of VAT	**EuroBlic** pg RS2, announced on cover 'We are ready for VAT' by Nedeljka Breberina – in an interview to *EuroBlic*, ITA Chairman **Kemal Causevic** stated ITA is completely ready for the introduction of VAT as of January 1, 2006. He added he believes revenues from indirect taxes would amount more than 3,5 billion KM in 2006. He could not confirm whether there would be an increase in prices as of January 1 and added this is a matter for entities governments and CoM.
Contracts supporting return process to be signed in EC Delegation premises today	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'More than a million € for support to return' by Agencies – The ceremony of signing the contracts for support to return process will be held today in premises of EC Delegation to BiH. Deputy Head of EC Delegation to BiH **Renzo Daviddi**, Commander of Austrian CIMIC unit **Gunter Zimmer** and representative of Italian CIMIC unit **Renzo Pangrazzi** will sign ten contracts, approximately one million € worth, which envisage reconstruction of social and technical infrastructure in several municipalities. **Other BiH media** also announced the ceremony.

	Crime/Security/Legal Proceedings

Ljajic: Mladic and Karadzic will not be arrested by the end of the year	**Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash and pg 3 'Mladic and Karadzic will not be arrested by the end of the year' by V. Popovic – In an interview to *NN*, the Chairman of SiCG National Council for Cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, **Rasim Ljajic**, stated he thinks **Ratko Mladic** and **Radovan Karadzic** would not be arrested by the end of this year. He noted SiCG state structures are investing tremendous efforts in search for Mladic but they still have no reliable information on his whereabouts.
Canak: Kostunica does not dare to extradite Mladic	**EuroBlic** pgs 2-3 'Kostunica does not dare to extradite Mladic' by Nenad Calukovic – carries an interview with **Nenad Canak**, the leader of the League of Social-Democrats of Vojvodina, in which he says it is not difficult to find and extradite **Ratko Mladic** to the Hague Tribunal because there are only 7-8 places in Serbia where he appears. He thinks the problem lies in the fact **Vojislav Kostunica** does not dare to extradite Mladic because this would not be in his political interest.

BHT: Serbia-Montenegro after the apprehension of CRO general Ante Gotovina	**BHT** Vesna Simic – After the apprehension of Croatian General **Ante Gotovina**, International Community started exerting pressure on Serbia-Montenegro, urging them to arrest two most wanted ICTY fugitives **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic** as soon as possible. According to BHT reporter, if SCG refuses to cooperate, it is very likely that the financial help will be stopped in the new fiscal year. In the same time, analysts estimate that there is no risk of major protests if Mladic is arrested in Serbia. It seems that even the extreme political right in Serbia is not ready to support Mladic with some major street protests and demonstrations. Political analysts, such as **Milan Nikolic**, claim that only one fourth of Serbian citizens has positive opinion of Ratko Mladic, but even some of them believe that – although he is definitely a hero by their standards – he is guilty of some crimes, and that he should surrender to the Hague Tribunal. The poll conducted on the streets of Belgrade confirms this opinion.

VL wonders how it possible that Karadzic and Mladic at large	**Vecernji List**, pgs 14-15 'Who protects war criminals?', mentioned on front 'Whilst NATO is looking for him, Radovan writes poetry', by Tihomir Begic – Commenting on the issue of arrest of PIFCWs, especially **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic**, the author wonders how it is possible that the NATO, despite all the state-of-art equipment, is not able to locate the two. The author also wonders whether there is 'an invisible scenario' that stipulates the order in which all the PIFWCs will be arrested. Begic also notes that the IC, if it had the genuine will to arrest Karadzic and Mladic, would not be issuing 'funny' threats to the RS that BiH would not join the Partnership for Peace as long as the two are at large.

Conference dedicated to the court trial of Slobodan Milosevic hld in Belgrade	**BHT** Vesna Simic – Representatives of several non-governmental organizations in Belgrade organized conference dedicated to the court trial of former Yugoslavian and Serbian president **Slobodan Milosevic**. The director of the Fund for the Humanitarian Right **Natasa Kandic** claims that Serbian Intelligence service is preparing Milosevic's defence, and that at least 3,000 military and police officers and different kinds of experts are working on it right now. "*Milosevic is once again trying to convince Serbs that all he has been doing was in their best interest, and that it was the only way, the only path for them*", stressed Kandic. Analysts speculate that Milosevic so far was not able to refute claims made by the Hague Prosecution, and that he will be convicted. Milosevic could try to manipulate even with his own health in order to obstruct the work of the Hague Tribunal; he is well-aware of the fact that he will "exist" only until the end of the trial against him, because there he has an opportunity to communicate with the rest of the world, concluded participants at Belgrade conference. "*As soon as the trial is finished, Milosevic will disappear in some Swedish, English or any other prison, and he will be able to discuss his views of the world and his conspiracy theories only with prison guards and other prisoners – that is, if they are willing to listen*" explained **Mirko Klarin** from the news agency SENSE.

J. Bacovic: 'Extradition of Mladic is international obligation of SCiG'	**Oslobodjenje** pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Extradition of Mladic is international obligation of SCiG' by M. Kavaz-Sirucic carries an interview with Director of the SCiG Office for joining the EU, **Jela Bacovic**. Asked if there were hints that the negotiations on stabilization and association with the EU might be stopped if **Ratko Mladic** was not extradited to the ICTY, Bacovic said: *'I do not know as to how this issue would be treated. Sincerely, I hope that there would be understanding for our situation. It is up to us to show that we are doing everything to meet international obligations and in this case that is the extradition of Mladic.'*

Interview with R. Gregorian: 'EUFOR's presence is first-rate shield for BiH'	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'EUFOR's presence is first-rate shield for BiH' cover pg splash 'There is no threat from military attack' by L. Sinanovic carries an interview with US military expert who used to be a co-chairman of the Defence Reform Commission, **Raffi Gregorian**. Gregroian says that in his opinion the future of the BiH armed forces is very bright. Asked as to why he is so certain about it, Gregorian said: '*Your armed forces are being reformed faster and more complete then any other army in the region. First of all, this is about rather small military structures. Secondly, the BiH armed forces have a lot of experience with changes, and the third reason is the EUFOR's presence, that secures the first-rate shield. There is no threat from the military attack or something else in BiH that the BiH armed forces should think about.*'

DL: Certain military intelligence matters will be done by OSA	**Dnevni List**, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Military-intelligence office being established as of next year', by Danka Polovina-Mandic – The daily notes that starting January 1, 2006, when the Law on Defence of BiH becomes effective, certain military intelligence matters will be done within the BiH Intelligence-Security Agency (OSA). In order to establish an office within the OSA, the BiH Defence Minister and OSA Director have to sign a memorandum of understanding within 15 days of start of application of the Law on Defence. BiH Defence Minister, **Nikola Radovanovic**, notes that a pre-requisite for signing of the MoU is the carrying out of changes to the Law on OSA.

SBS Director Dumancic admits to corruption within SBS	**Dnevni List**, pg 9, mentioned on front 'More than 50 reports against corrupt workers', by Anja Vrebac – carries an interview with the Director of BiH State Border Service, **Vinko Dumancic**, (appointed a few months ago) in which he reiterates his earlier claims that the SBS is short on staff, some 500 employees to be exact. Questioned whether he has knowledge about corruption within the SBS, Dumancic says that according to numerous sources, one can say there is corruption within the SBS, however he underlines that all information are being checked and measures are being undertaken against those who violate the law and regulations. In that context, Dumancic notes the SBS and other law enforcement agencies have so far submitted more than 50 criminal reports against SBS officials suspected of being corrupt. **Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Finally honest', by Anja Vrebac – carries an op-ed in which the author congratulates **Dumancic** for having the courage to admit to existence of corruption within the institution he is charge of.

Lionel Dumont sentenced to 30 years in prison in France	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 '30 years in prison for Dumont', announced on cover 'Lionel Dimon sentences to 30 years in prison' by D. Raduski – **Lionel Dumont**, 34-year-old French who converted to Islam and who had fought in "El mudzahid" unit of 3rd Corps of BiH Army during the war, was sentenced to 30 years of prison in France because of participation in several attacks during 90-ies, including the attempt of planting a bomb during the Group seven summit in Lilles.

	Political Developments/Refeorms

VL: IC led by new HR Schwarz-Schilling will be transferring authorities from entity onto state ministries in 2006	**Vecernji List**, front pg splash 'Entities to be left without finances' and pg 5 'Entities losing ministry of finances and pension fund', by Zdenko Jurilj – The daily notes that the IC in BiH, led by the new High Representative, **Christian Schwarz-Schilling**, will in 2006 be engaged in implementation of the document entitled 'Plan on rationalization of administration in BiH' the aim of which is to transfer competences from the entity onto the state level ministries, namely ministries of finances; healthcare; education, culture and sport; physical planning and protection of environment; labour and social welfare; agriculture, water-works and forestry; refuges and DPs and finally communications and traffic. VL notes that the same will also apply on other institutions such as the pension/disability funds; customs and tax administrations, road directorates, statistics bureaus etc. According to VL, in the FBiH alone, the reform would save 400 million KMs a year.

Cavic expects new HR to be more of an advisor	**Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Drastic shrinking of Schilling's authorities expected', not signed– The RS and SDS President, **Dragan Cavic**, believes that the role of the new High Representative for BiH, **Christian Schwarz-Schilling**, will be more of an advisory one and that the new HR will be building an ambiance of compromise between parties in BiH in light of European integration talks. He also expects that the next year will be marked with drastic shrinking of the HR's powers that include sanctions, pressures, removals and everything else that opposes European conventions on human rights and freedoms.

Reactions in RS to talks on constitutional changes: Cavic, Dodik, Ivanic oppose to abolishment of three-partite Presidency and introduction of a single President	**Glas Srpske** pg 5 'Two stumbling blocks' by D. Momic – RS President **Dragan Cavic** says Bosniak politicians are trying their best to achieve predominance of Bosniaks in BiH through constitutional changes. He says Bosniak politicians are trying to centralize BiH, which is unacceptable for participants of the negotiations from RS. With regard to BiH Presidency and BiH Parliament, Cavic said these are two stumbling blocks because stances of these matters are completely different. He added SDS would not agree to abolishment of three-partite Presidency and introduction of the position of BiH President. SNSD's **Milorad Dodik** and PDP's **Mladen Ivanic** agree with this stance. Croat parties, as well as Serb representatives, oppose the abolishment of HoP. **Nezavisne novine** pg 4, announced on cover 'Consent slowed down by insisting on one President' by V. Popovic – SNSD's **Milorad Dodik** thinks it is only acceptable to elect BiH Presidency, which would be composed out of a president and two rotating deputy presidents, at BiH Parliament as well as to clearly define individual and collective competences. PDP's **Mladen Ivanic** pleads for preservation of three-partite Presidency, while SDS's **Dragan Cavic** says SDS would not support the introduction of a single President, because it would lead the state to an absolute instability.

Washington Times: Croats and Serbs will disappear from BiH, an Islamic country will be created	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Croats and Serbs will disappear from BiH, an Islamic country will be created' by D. Raduski – A commentary of the "Washington Times" reads the Bush administration has decided to get involved in another dangerous nation-building project in the Balkans. The effects of this intervention will lay the groundwork for an Islamist state in the heart of Europe. Recently, American administration, in Washington during celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Dayton Accords, should have limited itself to a symbolic remembrance. Instead, it pressured Bosnia 's political representatives to sign an agreement demanding constitutional reforms by early next year. The American-backed plan is a recipe for disaster, since it is a form of radical social engineering that will have to be imposed against the wishes of the Serb and Croat population. More importantly, it will pave the way for potentially turning Bosnia into Europe's first Islamic republic. This will destabilize not only the Balkans, but the entire European continent.

Ivo Miro Jovic: There are forces in BiH that want a normal country	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'There are forces in BiH that want a normal state' – Chairman of the BiH Presidency **Ivo Miro Jovic** on Sunday expressed satisfaction because there were forces in BiH willing to establish a normal, European state that would have perspective. *"It is about a process and talks are one step in it,"* said Jovic commenting on the latest round of discussion on constitutional changes in BiH.
Party for BiH's Halilovic says approach to constitution reform in BiH wrong	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Some solutions are even worse than the Dayton ones' – The approach to the constitutional reform in BiH is wrong and that leads to contradictory, illogical and only cosmetic solutions that are sometimes worse that the Dayton ones, according to Party for BiH President **Safet Halilovic**. Halilovic said that he was against solution for the state government to function on the basis of ethnic-national principle i.e. as a house of peoples.
Spasovic appointed SiCG Ambassador to BiH	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Spasovic was appointed SiCG Ambassador to BiH' by V. P. – **Grujica Spasovic**, one of founders and editor-in-chief of Belgrade daily "Danas", was appointed SiCG Ambassador to BiH. Spasovic said his appointment was not officially confirmed as yet.

	Miscellaneous

UNESCO delegation visited Plehan Monastery and Banja Luka	**BHT** Boris Gagic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'UNESCO delegation visited Ferhadija' by A. Sekulic – UNESCO delegation on Sunday visited Franciscan monastery Plehan near Derventa, and Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka, which has been destroyed during the war. After they visited the foundations of Ferhadija, UNESCO representatives promised that they would try to provide financial help for the renovation of this religious object, once under UNESCO protection. *"And I am sure that with the help of the UNESCO's report you will be able to attract donors and the necessary funds for the renovation of religious objects… All this can be completed only with financial and technical support"*, stated **Mounir Bouchenaki**, Deputy UNESCO Director General. UNESCO delegation held talks with the representatives of religious communities and RS authorities. RS Vice President **Ivan Tomljenovic** stressed that Ferhadija must once again become the tourist attraction in Banja Luka .