

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 24/1/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 24 January

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Extreme cold in Europe	Regional news	Toll of train accident in Montenegro
Mourning in Montenegro	‘Energopetrol’ to go bankruptcy	Culprits for accident: train staff
Rugova funeral on Thursday	No gas supply stoppage by March 1	Bukejlovic: I have support of 42 MP’s

TV news broadcast on 23 January

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Temperatures in BiH	Davidovic: BiH ready for SAA talks	Train falls into chasm in Montenegro
BIHAMK report	EUFOR- SCG Agreement	WN: extreme cold in Europe
Regional News	RS NA session scheduled for Thursd.	Extremely cold weather in BiH
Situation in BiH Gas	Ashdown’s farewell visit to Trebinje	Omanovic sentenced to 14 years

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Regional News	Train falls into chasm in Montenegro	Regional News
World News	Unemployment in BiH	Bank robbery in Banja Luka

Investment bank signs loan contract	Funds for stimulating employment	RS NA session scheduled for Thursd.
Construction of Feal started	Negotiations with 'Alon Group'	Tihic calls for new talks on Constitut.

Oslobodjenje	January pensions increased for two percent
Dnevni Avaz	[Davidovic] We are ready for first round of talks
Dnevni List	Dead man found without arm
Vecernji List	Agreement on rights of HVO victims
Slobodna Dalmacija	War invalid committed suicide in centre of city
Nezavisne Novine	Train went down to Moraca canyon [report on train accident in Montenegro]
Glas Srpske	Winter is becoming more severe [report on weather conditions]
EuroBlic	Horror in Moraca canyon [report on train accident in Montenegro]
Vecernje novosti	Four train cars of death [report on train accident in Montenegro]

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
FBiH HoR discusses Energopetrol	RHB – FBiH House of Representatives is to meet today (Tuesday). The chamber should be discussing, among other issues, proposal of law on geological explorations, and MP Mirnes Ajanovic's initiative, whose aim is to cancel all detrimental contracts related to 'Energopetrol' company.

<p>FBiH PM Hadzipasic: If INA-MOL Consortium fails to respond by Jan 27, Energopetrol to declare bankruptcy</p>	<p>BH Radio 1 by <u>Ljiljana Radl</u> – FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic stated that if by January 27 'Ina-Mol' Consortium does not provide FBiH Government with a positive respond on the new conditions for privatization of 'Energopetrol', this company would declare bankruptcy.</p> <p>Commenting decision of FBiH House of Representatives not to adopt proposal of FBiH Government for co-capitalization of 'Energopetrol', Hadzipasic said that FBiH HoR would alleviate work of the Government and the Prime Minister who wouldn't be responsible if 'Ina-Mol' fails to meet new conditions.</p>
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<p>RS Government issues</p>

Speaker
Stojicic
schedules
special RSNA
session to
discuss no-
confidence
vote in Govt
on Jan 26

PINK – The Speaker of the RS National Assembly **Dusan Stojicic** scheduled the special RSNA session on confidence to the RS Government on Thursday, January 26. The discussion on vote-of-confidence for the RS Government has been requested by 18 representatives of SNSD, 9 representatives of PDP and an independent representative **Radovan Bobic**. Stojicic said that the vote-of-confidence is depending on the votes of SDA party. According to Stojicic, without SDA votes, RS NA can't decide on non-confidence for the Government, which raises the issue of election of a new Government.

Stojicic also emphasized that all responsibility for the next step should be taken by the parties which started the initiative for vote-of confidence, and especially by PDP. **EuroBlic** RSpG 2 'Council of Minister is (not) in jeopardy' – In regard to the issue of confidence to BiH CoM, Stojicic said: *"Essentially, it is of no importance whether we would formally raise the issue of a confidence vote in BiH COM if RS Government were overthrown. What is important is that our conduct would be proportional with the conduct of those who make the majority with us at the BH Parliament. Hence, this would open the issue of decision-making at the BH*

Parliament." **PINK, BHT1, RTRS, Oslobodjenje** pg 6-7 'SNSD claims it has 42 votes against the Government of Pero Bukejlovic' by O. Vukovic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'This is not about blackmailing stance', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'A confidence vote in RS Government on Thursday' by V. Popovic, **EuroBlic** RSpG 2 'Government in the hands of SDA' by Rajna Radosavljevic, **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'For or against Government' by G. Dakic – also reported.

SNSD certain
it will have
majority of
42 votes to
vote no-
confidence to
RS Govt

RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 6-7 'SNSD claims it has 42 votes against the Government of Pero Bukeylovic' by O. Vukovic, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 12 'Dodik: We are prepared to propose a PM designate' by N. Diklic– Head of SNSD Caucus **Krstan Simic** stated that SNSD strongly believes that RSNA majority is going to vote no confidence to the RS Government. He also believes that SNSD can count on votes of all parties who rejected the Government's proposal of the 2006 budget, thus it should have necessary 42 votes. Simic stressed that SNSD is ready to create a new Government. According to Simic, a new Govt lead by SNSD would not be a Govt of compromise, but a Govt of courage, determined to try to change things only eight months before the elections. PDP's **Veselin Poljasevic** announced that PDP is going to vote no confidence for the current Govt. SNSD expects the same votes also from DNS, Socialist Party and SDA. **Dnevni List** pg 5 'SDA will not support RS Government' – RSNA SDA's **Sefik Hafizovic** claims that SDS doesn't have the capacity to cause a crisis in BiH Council of Ministers. **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'For or against Government' by G.Dakic – Hafizovic, SDA official and RS NA Deputy Speaker, reiterated that the SDA delegates would not support the existing Government.

<p>RS PM Bukejlovic: RS Government currently has the support of 42 delegates</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 5, announced on cover 'RS Government currently has the support of 42 delegates' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – in a page-long interview to <i>NW</i>, RS PM Pero Bukejlovic claims RS Government currently has the support of 42 delegates at RS NA. He replied to accusations of opposition parties and said RS Government was not criminalized and he noted the Government had achieved many significant results. Inset 'I do not believe any Minister from the current Government would again be at Ministerial position at the new Government' – Asked whether he believes any of the current Ministers might be members of the new Government, Bukejlovic said he does not believe this would be the case.</p>
<p>RTRS: SDP , NHI , SBiH to support SNSD 's initiative</p>	<p>RTRS current affairs program 'Pecat' by <u>Biljana Knezevic</u>– So far, PDP, SDP, SBiH and SDA representatives announced support to the no-confidence note to the RS Government. <i>"The RS has to establish new Government, appoint more efficient Ministers, who would cooperate with the other entity and the state"</i>, said Zekerijah Osmic of SDP. Tomislav Tomljanovic of NHI and Muharem Murselovic of SBiH are of the same stance, and both stressed that they are certainly going to support the SNSD's initiative. Smaller parties – SRS, DPS, DSS and Center Club – announced support to the Government, while DNS has not yet decided.</p>

<p>BHT1, DA speculate on possibilities for new RS Govt: SDA, PDP not certain they would take part</p>	<p>BHT1 – SDA says it is still not involved in a story about the new Government. <i>“I think that it is superfluous to talk about it before making the first step”</i>, added Sefket Hafizovic. PDP says it is still not sure that they will participate in the new Government. <i>“This is the first step, and I think that we should not rush with the decisions”</i>, explained Poljasevic. Dnevni Avaz pg 12 ‘Dodik: We are prepared to propose a PM designate’ by <u>N. Diklic</u>– SNSD leader Milorad Dodik stated for DA that they would think about establishment of the new government after the no-confidence vote. <i>“We would wait for the RSNA decision. I believe that we have majority for composition of the new government and my party is prepared to accept the obligation to nominate the PM designate,”</i> said Dodik. So far, SNSD ensured support of the SDA, PDP, SBiH, SDP, NHI and SNS, while DNS and SP are still indecisive. Jovan Hadzi Mitrovic of DNS stated that they would vote according to the stance of their regional board and stances of DNS leader Marko Pavic. <i>“If SNSD presents its concept publicly and say with which parties it intends to establish the government, we would support them”</i> said Hadzi Mitrovic. Nedjo Djuric of SP stated: <i>“There is no way we would support Bukejlovic, but if Dodik doesn’t propose a concept of the future government, we would stay sustained”</i>.</p>
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SAA talks, const. changes and other political issues

<p>Davidovic: BiH team ready for first round of negotiations with the EU</p>	<p>PINK– BiH Chief Negotiator with the EU on Stabilisation and Association Agreement Igor Davidovic stated that BiH negotiation team is ready for the first round of talks with the EU. He mentioned that first round of negotiations is scheduled for Wednesday in Sarajevo. He added that a new round of talks would take place every six weeks. Main topic of the first round would be principles of the basic procedure and regional cooperation. According to Davidovic, essence of BiH's negotiation platform is to ensure all necessary conditions in order to harmonize BiH to EU standards in the transition period. BiH is expected to sign SAA with the EU by the end of the year. RHB, Hayat, FTV, Nezavisne novine pg 4 'To adopt laws needed for negotiations with EU as priority' by M. C., Glas Srpske pg 5 'First round tomorrow' by N. Z., Dnevni List pg 5 'Crucial issues are liberalization of market and length of transition period' by D. Polovina-Mandic – reported on beginning of negotiations.</p>
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<p>DA: Wednesday SAA talks on focus on agreement preamble; Oslob: Text of SAA identical as one signed by Croatia , SAA w/out 'European perspective for BiH' clause</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz cover splash pg 2 'We are ready for first round of talks' by <u>T.Lazovic</u> – BiH negotiating team is prepared the talks with EU on SAA beginning on Wednesday in Sarajevo, stated BiH Chief Negotiator Igor Davidovic. DA learns that issues for discussion on Wednesday would include Agreement Preamble, general issues, political dialogue, regional cooperation and political and financial cooperation with EU, issues that both sides generally agree upon. In light of preparations of BiH team for talks on SAA, BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic expressed his satisfaction. Terzic also stated that key issue would not be length of talks, but readiness for its implementation of the Agreement. Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'Details of talks hidden by both BiH and EU' mentioned on cover by <u>M.Kavaz-Sirucic</u> – EU Chief Negotiator Reinhard Priebe would lead six-members team from Brussels that would join members of EC mission to BiH. EC mission to BiH spokesperson Frane Maroevic said: <i>"Our negotiating stance is not public, since EU doesn't want to uncloze its stance before the talks begin. We also expect BiH not to disclose its negotiating position."</i> Oslobodjenje learns that text of the Agreement is identical with the one signed by Croatia , and that it could be found on a web page of Croatian Foreign Ministry. Author stresses that first round of negotiations are only to set length of SAA implementation period, adding that in terms of economy BiH should favour longer, while political aspect requires shorter period. Readiness for shorter period would tell EU that BiH is a serious partner for joining the Union, comments author. Inset, 'No guarantees' – Daily learns that no guarantees have been given to the BiH Negotiating Team that clause on "European perspective for BiH" will not be included in text of the Agreement.</p>
<p>Busek: BiH could remain a 'black hole' in the Europe if constitutional talks would fail</p>	<p>FTV – Stability Pact Coordinator for South-Eastern Europe Erhard Busek warned on Monday that, if constitutional reforms in BiH would fail, BiH would remain a 'black hole' on the geographic map of the region. In an interview to German radio 'Deutsche Welle', Busek stressed that he is disappointed with the fact that the representatives of eight biggest BiH political parties were not able to reach an agreement on constitutional changes. It is a very bad signal on the eve of negotiations on Stabilisation and Association Agreement, concluded Busek, adding that it shows BiH is unable to carry out reforms necessary for it to become a normal, democratic state. BHT1, RHB, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Busek: Failure of negotiations on constitutional changes is not a good sign'- carried Busek's statement.</p>

<p>Tihic invites on continuance of constitutional changes talks: would not insist on abolishment of entities</p>	<p>RTRS by <u>Zorica Rulj</u> – Although the talks on constitutional changes have ended without results, SDA leader Sulejman Tihic called on the political leaders in BiH to continue them. Tihic said he has offered a concession by not insisting on abolishment of the entities, adding he is convinced that an agreement can be reached. However, Tihic underlined that ethnic and entity principles can't dominate the future governmental structure of BiH. SDS stated that there is no reason to continue the talks, since there is no consensus on key issues. SNSD leader Milorad Dodik stated that this party the talks on const. changes are momentarily not a possibility. PDP's Zoran Tesanovic stated that the initiative for continuation is not serious, especially since, as Tesanovic explains, Tihic is the most responsible for the failure of first phase. However, he adds that talks could continue if SDA accepts the rotation in Presidency and entity vote in BiH House of Representatives. HDZ Presidency supports Tihic's initiative and hopes that the next round of talks is going to include talks on middle level of authority, and discussions on establishing of three or more entities. HDZ's Spokesman Miso Relota stated for RTRS that HDZ expects talks to continue soon. Reporter commented that even if the talks continue now, they couldn't be completed before the elections in October, which consequently would be conducted in accordance with present BiH Constitution. BHT1 – <i>"I want the negotiations to continue, and that we once again try to reach an agreement. I think that, this time, mediators should have their own stances"</i>, stated Tihic. On the other hand, parties in RS believe that the continuation of talks on constitutional reforms is not possible in this particular moment. <i>"We don't see the possibility to start the negotiations once again, and to once again discuss the same issues, because of which we wasted so much time... And therefore, Sulejman Tihic's attempts to restart negotiating process seem a bit unreal"</i>, stated real Krstan Simic from SNSD. Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'ON crisis in RS and changes of BiH Constitution' by <u>V. P.</u> – also carries Dodik. Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'SDS without stance' by <u>Agencies</u> – SDS Deputy President Dusan Stojicic expects the party bodies would, in next several days, form a stance with regard to Tihic's initiative on continuation of talks on constitutional changes. Oslobodjenje pg 6 'SDS without a stance, SNSD against' by <u>Fena</u> – also carried.</p>
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<p>Tihic: No readiness in ICC to exert pressure on Serb side because of Kosovo negotiations</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 2 'Not even close to agreement' by SRNA– In his address to the SDA Council, Sulejman Tihic said that parties are still not close to an agreement and noted that owing to commencement of negotiations on future status of Kosovo, there is no readiness within international community to perform extra pressure against Serb political parties from RS. EuroBlic pg RS2 'Tihic: we should not be strengthening the entities' by D. Stanisic, Vecernje Novosti pg 2 'SDA does not want to have entities' <u>not signed</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Tihic: there are minimums below which we cannot go' by A.Malagic, Oslobodjenje pg 6 'New Constitution is a chance for Europan BiH' by A. Omeragic, Dnevni List pg 3 'International pressure on parties from RS' by R.D., Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Negotiations were not successful because no pressures were exerted on RS' by D. M. – lso reported.</p>
<p>NN op-ed on Tihic;s initiative: doomed to failure in advance</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Tihic's initiative' by Mirza Cubro – The author notes that the initiative of Sulejman Tihic on continuation of talks on constitutional changes was doomed to a failure in advance, but this would not cause a loss of voters' support. On the contrary, according to the author, this was a calculated move because Tihic would even get the support of voters who wish to have a better state because he was the only one who asked for the talks to continue even after everyone else have given up from it.</p>
<p>SD: BiH will get new Constitution in March</p>	<p>Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 16, mentioned on front 'Dictate by USA and EU: Constitution in March', by Zlatko Tulic – SD reads that according to information coming from "international circles", constitutional changes will be completed by end of March. SD explains that despite announcements by some leaders, like SNSD's Dodik, that the talks would not continue until after October elections, its source claims that BiH will have a new Constitution and new election law by end of March, on which the IC insists, especially the USA and EU. Namely, the talks would continue in 10 days or so, when the IC representatives will explain to leaders of BiH parties the position BiH is in. In other words, says SD, political leaders, if they keep obstructing and stalling the talks, will have to explain to the public why they prevented BiH from joining the Partnership for Peace, NATO and EU.</p>

<p>VL: Croatian PM Sanader to offer Granic position of CRO Govt's rep in DPA changes talks</p>	<p>Vecernji List, pg 8 'Sanader takes Granic away from Djapic', mentioned on front 'Mate Granic is Sanader's advisor for Dayton', by <u>Anita Maslenica</u> – VL learns from sources close to the Croatian Government that the Croatian PM, Ivo Sanader, should in the next few days meet with Dr. Mate Granic, former Croatian Foreign Minister who is currently a special advisor to the Croatian HSP. Apparently, Sanader will offer Granic to become a special advisor and representative (of the Government) related to discussion on changes to the Dayton Peace Accord. PM Sanader announced appointment of the special representative during a recent meeting with Cardinal Vinko Puljic. Granic himself did not want to either confirm or deny the information.</p>
<p>DA int. w/ HR Petritsch: Doors of Europe could close for BiH</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Doors of Europe could close for BiH' by <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – In an interview to DA, former High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch stated that doors of Europe could be closed for BiH, commenting that after France and Netherlands have rejected EU Constitution a "failure" of talks on constitutional changes could be very dangerous for BiH. Petritsch said that he admires USAID's Donald Hays on his efforts, adding that the results failed to appear. He also stressed that talks on Stabilisation and Association Agreement [SAA] would disclose weaknesses of BiH Constitution. Inset, 'Schilling will succeed' – Petritsch said that new HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling will succeed in his job, since he has a wide experience and knowledge of BiH, adding that complicated BiH political structures and procedures could be obstacles. Inset, 'Kosovo will not be part of Serbia' – Petritsch repeated that Contact Group has a clear stance that Kosovo cannot be part of Serbia, while on the other hand unconditional independence would also not be an option.</p>

<p>RS reps do not specify whether they would demand exclusion of Judge Palavric from case of Tihic' motion with BH CC on constitutionality of RS symbols</p>	<p>EuroBlic RSpg 1 'Doubts in objectivity of judge Seada Palavric' by <u>Nedeljka Breberina</u> – Nevenka Trifkovic, PDP delegate, stated after Monday's meeting of the RS NA delegates before BH Constitutional Court that the BH CC should overrule motion filed by Sulejman Tihic, Bosniak member to BH Presidency, regarding assessment on constitutionality of RS coat-of-arms, hymn and flag, since the motion is of political nature and offers no legal arguments. She did not want to disclose strategy and arguments RS representatives will offer before the BH CC, adding that RS team demanded additional time to give their arguments, finding half-an-hour timing to be insufficient.</p> <p>Dusan Stojicic, RS NA Speaker, did not want to specify whether the RS representatives would demand exclusion of Judge Seada Palavric in this case, since she had been the SDA member until recently. Sefket Hafizovic, SDA delegate, stressed Palavric is no longer SDA member, therefore he sees <i>"no reason why she would be biased in this case"</i>. Glas Srpske pg 2 'Not even close to agreement' by <u>SRNA</u>– In his address to the SDA Council, Tihic said he supports civic concept of BH order, with respect of ethnic principles, On the issue of symbols, Tihic said that not only RS, but also FBiH' symbols are not in line with the European Convention on Human Rights, neither with principle on equality of peoples. Dnevni List pg 5 'Exemption of judge Palavric possible', Oslobodjenje pg 7 'RS will request exception of Seada Palavric' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Exception of Seada Palavric discussed' – also reported.</p>
<p>Oslob. op-ed: consistent implementation of human rights would questions Constitution itself</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Dangerous human rights' op-ed by <u>Zija Dizdarevic</u> – Commenting talks on constitutional changes, author expresses his surprise that BiH political parties leaders easily agreed on the need for pursuing reforms necessary for strengthening the State institutions and protecting human rights. He says that consistent implementation of human rights and freedoms would lead to questioning the BiH Constitution itself, since the Constitution is made for ethnic groups and not based on individual citizen. Author stresses that in spite of fact that all international conventions on human rights have been included in BiH Constitution, it is still discriminatory towards minorities. Author concludes that placing a citizen as a primary constitutional subject would not threat proper exercise of ethnic rights, but a threat to ruling nationalistic structure.</p>

<p>HDZ Presidency in session: support for police reform, object raids in HNK</p>	<p>RHB, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'HDZ would support adoption of the budget' by D. Mu, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Leaders of changes' by Srna– At the HDZ Presidency session held in Mostar on Monday, spokesperson of HDZ Miso Relota stated that issues of constitutional reform, high education law and police reform were discussed. It was concluded that HDZ supports the agreement reached on police reform emphasising the need for equality in the police forces. Relota stated that HDZ Presidency reiterated its earlier stands on High Education law stressing that Bologna system must be applied in entire BiH. Regarding the talks on constitutional changes, HDZ Presidency has reiterated its earlier stands on new constitution instead of cosmetic changes and it will actively participate in the future negotiations. Relota stated that HDZ also invited all delegates at FBiH Parliament to adopt the budget proposal for 2006. At the session, HDZ condemned the recent raid of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Ministry of Interior and HNC Government carried by FBiH MoI. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Action of FBiH Police in HNC harshly condemned' by F. V. – As Relota stated for DA, party's leadership expressed strong support to carrying out of the Agreement on Police Reconstruction.</p>
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<p>Ashdown tours Herzegovina : 'BiH is on a way without return toward the Europe',</p>	<p>RTRS by <u>Bozidar Stajcic</u> – Within his farewell tour, HR Paddy Ashdown visited Trebinje on Monday, where he met with the representatives of Herzegovina municipalities. <i>"When I first came to BiH, our key task was to create a framework for a functional state. So far, we have established a wide framework for an easy decentralisation of BiH"</i>, said Ashdown. He emphasized that a significant progress in establishing of state institutions has been made, adding that BiH is still spending too much money on administration. Ashdown announced that after the establishment of unified Council of Ministers, judiciary system, one custom system, unified armed forces and unified intelligence service, the next step for BiH would be constitutional changes and creation of a functional state, as well as decreasing of administration costs and improvement of administration services for the citizens. HR also admitted that he carries a part of responsibility for lack of cooperation between Trebinje and Dubrovnik, adding that the weak cooperation is mainly caused by political reasons. During his farewell visit to Trebinje, HR also visited the NGO's "Centre for Children with Special Needs" and "Centre for Women". RHB, PINK, BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'BiH is on a way without return toward the Europe', Oslobodjenje pg 2 'To activate crossing Ivanjica as soon as possible' by <u>S.Sijakovic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Mostar set foundations for a united town' by <u>V. D. and R. S.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'They are not respecting decisions of Human Rights Commission' <u>not signed</u>, Glas Srpske pg 3 'Forgotten Herzegovina' by <u>M. Bestic</u>, EuroBlic pg RS3 'Ivanica border crossing is my personal failure', announced on cover 'Ashdown admitted failure' by <u>Vedran Mihojevic</u>, Dnevni List, pg 10 'I had to make mistakes', by <u>Kristina Spajic</u>– reported on the visit.</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: "Farewell circuit"</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Farewell circuit' <u>op-ed</u> by <u>Mirko Sagolj</u> – Commenting HR Paddy Ashdown's farewell tour trough BiH cities, editorial says it has been his last circuit. Author says that Ashdown has been finishing with his mandate the same way he has begun – in great delusion, underlining that Ashdown has supported nationalistic political parties instead of Alliance for democratic changes. Editorial claims that Ashdown has given his attention to "reformed nationalists" and his favourite media, instead to multiethnic parties and respectable moral strength of civic sector. Author ends with statement that better political situation was not to be expected with such attitude.</p>

Security issues

<p>Agreement on free transit of EUFOR troops signed in Belgrade</p>	<p>BHT1– SCG Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic and EUFOR Commander General Gian Marco Chiarini signed the agreement on free transit of EUFOR troops through SCG, in case if NATO troops in Kosovo demand assistance. This agreement, as it was said, should increase the regional security and it represents practical solution for transition of international forces through the region. PINK, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘General Chairini signed agreement with Draskovic’ by <u>L. S.</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 6 ‘Transport of EU troops on the way to Kosovo was made possible’ by <u>Beta</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘EUFOR to Kosmet’ by <u>Tanjug</u>, Vecernje Novosti pg 4 ‘From BiH to Kosovo’ <u>not signed</u> – carried the report.</p>
<p>Mektic: CoM Task Force had not received offer from Ilidza re site for SIPA HQ Zec-Filipovic: offer was received</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6 ‘New offer was sent to Adnan Terzic only’ by <u>N. Krsman</u> – CoM Task Force had not received a new offer from Ilidza municipality for a location in Sarajevo settlement Nedzarici, at which SIPA HQ might be seated, as according to the Head of the Task Force, Dragan Mektic. Bojan Zec Filipovic, the Advisor to CoM Chairman, has stated that the offer of Ilidza municipality was received and it will be discussed during next CoM session on Thursday.</p>

<p>OHR on SIPA seat: issue has to be solved before Ashdown leaves</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Milisic: SIPA seat has to be solved before Ashdown's leave' by <u>E.Sarac</u> – OHR Spokesperson Oleg Milisic stated for DA that it should be decided on SIPA seat before High Representative Paddy Ashdown leaves BiH. Milisic reminded that political quarrels over SIPA date from July of 2003, and that BiH citizens pay 600.000 km per year for SIPA current space rental, adding that functional SIPA is one of key conditions in EU integrations process. Inset, 'Novic without comment' – SIPA Director Sredoje Novic didn't want to comment statements of BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic who said that <i>"Novic has no rights to say that SIPA seat is a political issue."</i></p>
<p>Decertified police officers update: US ambassadors have understanding for issue</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Sulic: We would not allow to be manipulated with' by <u>M. Kukan</u>– Head of FBiH Association o Decertified Police officers Ramo Sulic stated that they have found out that some are trying to exploit their case to raise the issue of all replacements in public BiH life, carried out by the International Community. Sulic stated that this refers to replaced politicians, stressing that they are not going to allow this. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Ambassadors have understanding for demands of decertified police officers' by <u>A. M.</u>– BiH Ambassador to UN Mission in New York, Milos Prica stated that he is going to finish talks to UN Security Council's Ambassadors on the issue of decertified police officers and revision of the process.</p>

Economic issues

New factory
for
aluminium
processing;
operative as
of August

BHT1 by Martina Kristo-Antelj – Building of new factory for processing of aluminium started within the complex of 'Aluminij' Mostar. 'Aluminij' and 'FEAL' company from Siroki Brijeg would carry out project, worth KM 32 million. General Director of 'Aluminij' **Mijo Brajkovic** stated that new factory would be equipped by latest technology standards, that it should start working in August and open possibilities for developing of small and medium businesses. 'FEAL' Director **Ante Musa** stated that building should have started earlier, but that administrative difficulties prevented that. Chair of BiH Presidency **Ivo Miro Jovic** stressed that this is a bright example, which shows that BiH could achieve great success with successful management, such as this one. It was emphasised that factory would be also producing aluminium alloys intended for car industry, shipbuilding and electro industry, while negotiations on cooperation with German market are ongoing. **RHB, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni List**, pg 21 'FE-AL d.o.o. Mostar will hire 100 workers', by Zeljko Marijanovic, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 18 'FE-AL is 'heavy' 32 million KMs', by Z. Zekic, **Vecernji List**, pg 4, mentioned on front 'New aluminum factory rises in Mostar', by Darko Juka– reported on new factory.

<p>FBiH Investment Bank to administer funds for stimulating employment in 2006</p>	<p>FTV by <u>Azra Pasukan-Buljina</u> – Even though some statistical data show that unemployment rate is about 44 percent, Director of the FBiH Employment Bureau Hasan Musemic believes that the actual unemployment rate in FBiH is not bigger than 26 percent. One possible way to fight this problem is the project of credit stimulus, which has been carried out by the Employment Bureau for the last four years. In 2006, FBiH Investment Bank will administer the funds for stimulating employment, stated its Acting Director Zlatan Jugo. It is expected that those credits would enable the opening of approximately 10,000 new jobs in industry, handicrafts and agriculture. The importance of this project is even bigger when one knows that the Value Added Tax introduction could increase the unemployment rate in BiH; because, according to FTV reporter, employers who have problem with paying VAT will most likely decide to fire employees as the easiest solution. PINK, Hayat, Dnevni List, pg 6 ‘Loans to employers, unemployed to get jobs’, by <u>Erna Mackic</u>– reported on this.</p>
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<p>Negotiation with the potential partner of Oil Refinery Bosanski Brod started</p>	<p>FTV– Representatives of the RS Government have started the negotiations with the representatives of Israeli company ‘Alon Group’ on establishment of joint company with the Oil Refinery Bosanski Brod. RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic, Minister of Economy, Energy and Development Miladin Gligoric, Minister of Finance Svetlana Cenic and the representatives of Oil Refinery are participating in those negotiations. RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 ‘Negotiations with “Alon” commenced’ by <u>R. Segrt</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2, a solution from Israel’ by <u>Z. M.</u>, EuroBlic pg RS2 ‘Negotiations on Refinery commenced’ by <u>T. Veselinovic</u>– also carried.</p>
<p>Pensions in FBiH increased by 2 percent</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 3 ‘January pensions increased for two percent’ by <u>A.Terzic</u> – January pensions in FBiH would be increased for two percent, learns <i>Oslobodjenje</i>. “<i>Fund must not decide on higher increase of pensions due to fear of capability to keep continuity at the same level,</i>” commented from FBiH Pensions Disability Insurance Fund [PDIF] the decision on gradual increase of pensions. FBiH PDIF has scored surplus worth 37 million KM due to increased incomes in December of 2005. Dnevni Avaz pg 6 ‘January pensions to be increased’, mentioned on cover – also reported.</p>

<p>Croatian Parliament to verify agreement btw BiH and Croatia on rights of HVO victims</p>	<p>Vecernji List cover pg splash 'Agreement on rights of HVO victims' by <u>V. Rupcic</u> – At the session that is to take place on January 25 in Zagreb, the Croatian Parliament should verify the agreement between BiH and Croatia on cooperation with regard to rights of HVO victims and members of their families. This agreement should also be at the agenda of the BiH House of Representatives at the session scheduled for January 30. It has been expected that the agreement would also be verified at this session since competent Commission did not have objections on the agreement.</p>
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War crimes

<p>Scorpio member pleads not guilty, says unit was under RS Army command</p>	<p>BHT1 by <u>Vesna Simic</u> – Former member of Scorpions unit Branislav Medic before the War Crimes Council of the Belgrade's Special Court pleaded not guilty for murder of six captured Bosniaks in July 1995. Medic stated that he witnessed the execution, but denied he killed anybody.</p> <p>The trial against five members of Scorpions unit will be continued during next three days, and is expected to be included by beginning of May 2006. Hatyat, FTV also carried. Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Branislav Medic: I did not fire', Dnevni Avaz pg 12 'Order for execution of Bosniaks given by RS Army officer', Dnevni List pg 7 'Scorpion pleaded not guilty', Vecernji List pg 8 'Trial to Scorpions' by <u>B.B.</u> – Medic confirmed that 'Scorpions' were under the command of RS Army, whose officer ordered the execution.</p>
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<p>RS MoI's Pejic: RS MoI is in possession of documents on crimes of mujahedeens and crimes against Serbs, reports forwarded to Prosecutor's Office</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 8, announced on cover 'Hundreds reports, not a single indictment' by <u>S. Karic</u> – In an interview to <i>NN</i>, the Head of Public Relations Bureau of RS MoI, Radovan Pejic, has stated that RS MoI is in possession of substantial documentation on presence of mujahedeens in BiH and crimes they have committed, and these documents have been forwarded to Prosecutor's Offices. He also noted RS MoI had, so far, submitted a number of reports on war crimes against Serbs in BiH to the competent Prosecutor's Offices, but he has no knowledge on what had happened with these reports. He could not say whether any indictments could be expected to be raised soon.</p>
<p>SiCG legal representative Stojanovic: I have no information that BiH lawsuit against SiCG would be dropped</p>	<p>Vecernje Novosti pg 2 'Genocide will not pass' by <u>Ivan Lovric</u> – in an interview to <i>VN</i>, referring to the recent statement of professor of international laws and author of BiH lawsuit against SiCG Francis Boyle, who had stated that BiH is currently under a pressure exerted with an aim to force BiH to drop the lawsuit against SiCG, SiCG legal representative Radoslav Stojanovic has stated he has no such information. He added, in case BiH dropped the lawsuit, the reconciliation process would be launched and a solution would be reached through an agreement. He reiterated that it cannot be proven SiCG and Serb people have intended to destroy Muslim people in BiH.</p>