

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 2/4/2006

TV news broadcast on April 1, 2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
5 killed in traffic accident	BiH CC on agreem. re HVO victims	Five killed in a car accident
Regional news	Humphries on EU conditions for BiH	A person killed in a car accident
US SD on situation in BiH	McElhaney on constitutional changes	Reactions on the BiH CC's decision
BiH CC plenary session	Rehn on EU membership for BiH	BiH CC on BiH- CRO agreement

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Feature on 1945 and 2006 youth	Five killed in a car accident	Car accident near Capljina
Cleaning action in Tuzla	BiH CC ends session	BiH CC in session
Protests outside CoM	Jovic on return of Croats	React. on BiH CC on entity symbols
Grebo on protests in France	Two persons arrested in Tuzla	Rehn on EU membership for BiH

Oslobodjenje	BiH Parliament MPs demand pensions amounting to 1800 KM for themselves
Dnevni Avaz	McElhaney: 1 ST phase of reforms must be adopted (US Ambassador with 4 Ngos on const. changes)

Dnevni List	5 dead, driver survived (on tragic car accident near Capljina)
Vecernji List	Croat invalids have right on assistance from Republic of Croatia
Nezavisne Novine	5 persons got killed in car accident (on tragic car accident near Capljina)

Political issues/Constitutional changes	
RS PM Dodik on decision to harmonize RS and FBiH symbols with BiH Constitution: 'BiH CC is political court'	<p>Hayat– The BiH Constitutional Court (BiH CC) ordered the FBiH Parliament and the RS National Assembly to harmonize the RS' coat of arms and anthem and the FBiH's flag and coat of arms with the BiH Constitution within 60 days from the day of publishing this decision in the BiH Official Gazette. Commenting on this decision RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik says that the BiH CC is a political rather than a court that should pass decisions respecting elements of the law. Dodik also reminds that the Venice Commission stressed that the RS Constitution is in accordance with the BiH Constitution. <i>"I am on the verge on proclaiming this decision as illegal regardless of the consequences"</i>, says Dodik. Also reported by RHB, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 4 'RS should be dignified', Nezavisne Novine pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Serbs against decision, Bosniaks and Croats support decision' <u>by D. Risojevic, S. Lemo</u>, Vecernji List pg 5 'Harsh condemnations from RS' <u>by bs</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 'RS protests against decision, FBiH welcomes decision' <u>by D. Pusic</u></p>

<p>RS President Cavic: 'BiH CC's decision has been politically influenced for further radicalisation of BiH political scene'</p>	<p>BHT 1 – <i>"I am rather sceptical regarding the Law which would suit everyone due to the fact that blocking mechanism on vital national interests is most probably going to be initiated in the RS Council of Peoples by the Bosniak Caucus"</i>, said the RS President Dragan Cavic. RTRS – Cavic stated that the decision has been politically influenced for further radicalisation of the BiH political scene. <i>"Under these circumstances, any of the forthcoming important issues that are going to be put on the agenda, will cause inter-national tensions in BiH"</i> explained Cavic. Also reported by Oslobodjenje pg 4 'Continuation of radicalization of political life', Nezavisne Novine pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Serbs against decision, Bosniaks and Croats support decision' by <u>D. Risojevic, S. Lemo</u>, Vecernji List pg 5 'Harsh condemnations from RS' by <u>bs</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 'Radicalization'</p>
<p>BiH Foreign Affairs Minister Ivanic: 'BiH CC's decision might have serious and negative consequences'</p>	<p>BHT 1- BiH Foreign Affairs Minister Mladen Ivanic said: <i>'It is possible that the text of the anthem consists elements which refer to the other state, while I believe that the rest has been made in a political ambient which has not been rational enough to realize that such actions could cause extremely serious and negative consequences.'</i> RTRS – Ivanic stated that he had expected the faster reaction of RS institutions announcing that he will try to schedule a meeting of RS officials regarding this decision. <i>"I am convinced that silent acceptance of this decision will next time challenge the name of the RS or everything having the RS prefix"</i> stated Ivanic. Nezavisne Novine pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Serbs against decision, Bosniaks and Croats support decision' by <u>D. Risojevic, S. Lemo</u> also reports.</p>

<p>Simic (member of RS team before BiH CC): "If this decision was implemented then issue of BiH symbols will have to be resolved in identical way'/Djokic (SPRS): BiH CC's decision is not good/Novakovic (SDS): Decision might cause certain political turbulence</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Simic: We shall also demand changes' – Krstan Simic (member of RS team before BiH CC) stresses that decision of the BiH CC opens some new issues. He added that Serb people representatives will demand the change of coat of arms, flag and anthem of BiH and change of FBiH symbols. Hayat , Oslobodjenje pg 4 'RS should be dignified' carry a similar report.</p> <p>RTRS – Petar Djokic (SPRS) deems that this shows that BiH needs a law on the Constitutional Court.</p> <p><i>"Unfortunately, the BiH CC has turned into a powerful instrument that opens certain matters and in that way it is positioned to rearrange the BiH which is not good and out of the place"</i> stated Djokic. Dnevni List pg 4 'RS protests against decision, FBiH welcomes decision' by <u>D. Pusic</u> member of the SDS Presidency Momcilo Novakovic stated that the decision might cause certain political turbulence especially having in mind the fact that the decision was passed in the phase of constitutional changes.</p>
<p>BiH Presidency Chairman Tihic: 'BiH CC's decision has historical character'</p>	<p>BHT 1 – BiH Presidency President Sulejman Tihic said: <i>'The BiH CC's decision has a historical character, since it upholds the BiH CC's decision on equality and constitutionality of peoples.'</i></p> <p>Also reported by Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Contribution to equality of peoples on BiH territory' by <u>S. Skuletic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2, mentioned on cover 'Serbs against decision, Bosniaks and Croats support decision' by <u>D. Risojevic, S. Lemo</u>, Dnevni List pg 4 'Historical decision'.</p>

<p>Pejanovic (Serb Civic Council), Ceman (SDA), Lazovic (SDU), Brkic (HNZ), Jovic (HDZ), Ahmetovic (SDA), Relota (HDZ) welcome BiH CC's decision</p>	<p>RTRS by <u>B. Kusmuk</u> – The RTRS reporter noted that “as usual in these issues”, the FBiH has declared that the decision is justified. Mirsad Ceman, SDA delegate in the BiH House of Representatives, stressed that it is important to nurture symbols presenting all peoples in BiH while “<i>exclusive symbols should be left for the specialized national institutions</i>”. Mirko Pejanovic from Serb Civic Council expressed satisfaction with the BiH CC's decision because “<i>it will ensure that Serbs from the FBiH are equal with remaining two peoples</i>”. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘Lazovic: Integrating move’ carries SDU Vice President Miro Lazovic and NZ President Milenko Brkic who welcomed the BiH CC's decision. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘Everybody must feel that this is his country’ BiH Presidency member Ivo Miro Jovic also welcomed decision. Dnevni Avaz pg 4, mentioned on cover ‘Sadik Ahmetovic demands abolishment of RS coat of arms’ by <u>S.S.</u> carries Sadik Ahmetovic, an SDA representative in the RSNA who hopes that BiH institutions would have courage to ban use of the RS coat of arms. Nezavisne Novine pg 2, mentioned on cover ‘Serbs against decision, Bosniaks and Croats support decision’ by <u>D. Risojevic, S. Lemo</u> carries HDZ spokesperson Miso Relota who also welcomed decision.</p>
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<p>Professor Trnka: 'Any rebellion against decisions of BiH CC will not be tolerated'</p>	<p>Hayat – Report by <u>Senad Hadzifejzovic</u> – Professor Kasim Trnka commented on reactions of RS politicians on the BiH CC's decision related to the law on RS symbols. Trnka reminds that the EU has set standards and adds that any rebellion against decisions of the BiH CC will not be tolerated. Asked whether decisions of the BiH CC will lead to abolishment of entities in BiH, Trnka answered that in his opinion entities should be deprived of power gradually. He feels that the time will come when entities will realise that they no longer have a dimension that they had before. The reporter concludes that in his opinion the entities do not exist since they do not have an Army, tax system, border service, documents and soon they will not have their police. Trnka comments that this situation should wake up the citizens before elections so they could see their economic position rather than to succumb to national manipulations.</p>
<p>BiH Constitutional Court : Inter-state agreement btwn BiH and Croatia on rights of HVO victims and members of their families does not endanger vital national interest of Bosniaks</p>	<p>Hayat – The BiH Constitutional Court continued its plenary session on Vlasic on Saturday. It discussed the request of BiH House of Peoples Chairman Mustafa Pamuk related to inter-state agreement between BiH and Croatia on the rights of HVO victims and members of their families. The BiH CC determined that the law does not endanger a vital national interest of Bosniaks, as claimed by the Bosniak Caucus in the BiH HoP. The BiH CC also ordered the BiH HoP to continue the process regarding ratification of the agreement. Also reported by RHB, Pink, BHT 1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'On ground of regulation of one country obligation to another country cannot be imposed', Oslobodjenje pg 6, mentioned on cover 'Croatia can help HVO members', Nezavisne Novine 'Zagreb to finance former HVO soldiers' by Srna, Vecernji List cover pg splash and pg 5 'Croat invalids have right on assistance from Republic of Croatia' by V. Leto, Dnevni List pg 3, mentioned on cover 'HVO would be receiving assistance from Croatia!' by R. <u>Dautefendic</u></p>

<p>BiH CC rejected BiH Presidency member Jovic's request reg. PBS/ BiH CC on old foreign currency savings issue</p>	<p>Hayat – The BiH CC rejected the request of BiH Presidency member Ivo Miro Jovic related to adoption of temporary measure together with his request related to the law on PBS. The BiH CC also discussed BiH Presidency member Borislav Paravac's request on BiH's lawsuit against SCG for aggression and genocide, but no decision has been reached. The BiH CC declared that BiH, FBiH and RS have no obligation toward the deposit holders in reimbursing their old currency savings deposited in Ljubljanska and Invest Banks adding that BiH, FBiH and RS were responsible for protecting the rights of the applicants. Also reported by RHB, Pink, BHT 1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Ivo Miro Jovic's demand rejected' and 'There is no responsibility with regard to payment of old foreign currency savings', Vecernji List pg 5 'Demand of Ivo Miro Jovic rejected' by <u>eme</u>, Dnevni List pg 3 'Jovic's demand on PBS rejected' and 'State is not responsible for old foreign currency savings'</p>
<p>Head of EC Mission to BiH Humphries: EU will not set new conditions for BiH's membership in EU</p>	<p>Pink -Head of the EC Mission to BiH Michael Humphries stated on Saturday that the EU will not set new conditions for BiH's membership in the EU. Humphries noted that all conditions have already been set in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. It was also noted that the EC will closely monitor the police reform, reform of public administration system, reform of PBS law and ICTY cooperation. Also reported by RTRS.</p>
<p>Osl; BiH Parliament MPs demand for themselves pensions amounting to 1800 KM'</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje cover pg splash and pgs 4 and 5 'BiH Parliament MPs demand for themselves pensions amounting to 1800 KM' by <u>A. Terzic</u> carries that certain number of representatives in the BiH HoR has sent in the parliamentary procedure a proposal of the law on rights and duties of MPs and delegates in the state Parliament. According to this proposal, the MPs would have pensions amounting to 1760 KM and severance pay of 6600 KM, while the money for this purpose would be secured from the state budget.</p>

<p>NN interview with Brcko District Supervisor Johnson: Audits revealed shortcomings and inefficiency in Brcko District Government</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pgs 8 and 9, mentioned on cover 'Removals in Brcko District Government are possible' by <u>N. Tanasic</u> carries an interview with the Brcko District Supervisor, Susan Johnson, who, among the other things, says that they have launched certain number of audits of various departments and services in the Brcko District Government and these audits revealed shortcomings (it is not being worked in accordance with the law and procedures), inefficiency etc. and she added: <i>'Perhaps it would be necessary to absolve some officials of duty, however I keep explaining to the Brcko District institutions that resolving of such situations is their responsibility. At the same time this is the responsibility of citizens who should speak up in public when they are deprived of some service, when they are being treated illegally or when a bribe is being demanded from them.'</i></p>
<p>HR Schwarz-Schilling to visit Banja Luka</p>	<p>RHB – The High Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, will pay a two-day visit to Banja Luka, on 2 and 3 April 2006. The HR will meet leaders of the 3 religious communities, Bishop Franjo Komarica, Mufti Edhem Camdzic and Vladika Jefrem. He will also hold meetings with political leaders, including RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and RS President Dragan Cavic. Also reported by Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Meeting with leaders of 3 religious communities', Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Christian Schwarz-Schilling in Banja Luka', Vecernji List pg 4 'Schwarz-Schilling with Komarica' by <u>ra</u>, Dnevni List pg 2 'Schilling pays two-day visit to Banja Luka'.</p>

<p>Presidency member Jovic launched action supporting return of Croats to Posavina</p>	<p>FTV – A meeting on return of Croats to Bosanska Posavina has been held on Saturday in Plehan. BiH Presidency member Ivo Miro Jovic has initiated an action of support in which Croatia would help the return process in this area. Local priests and guardians will support the action as well. <i>“Croats really want to return to their pre-war homes, but they have not been given a chance by both, domestic authorities or International Community”</i>, said Jovic pointing out that 45 % of Croats, who lived in BiH before the war, still have not returned to their homes. By the end of the fall, 506 housing units should be reconstructed. Also reported by RHB, RTRS, Vecernji List pg 4 ‘Support of Posavina to Jovic’s initiative’ by <u>Z. Kresic</u>. Dnevni List pg 3 ‘Croatia responsible for poor return’ carries Jovic as saying that a wrong Croatian policy is also responsible for poor return.</p>
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<p>Serb Civic Council, Circle 99, Council of Bosniak Intellectuals' Congress and Croat National Council support constitutional changes in BiH/US Ambassador to BiH McElhaney: Agreement on const. chgs must be adopted/ German Ambassador to BiH Kittlitz: Failure of first phase of const. changes would be disaster</p>	<p>BHT 1– Representatives of four non-government organizations (Serb Civic Council, Circle 99, Council of Bosniak Intellectuals' Congress and Croat National Council) gathered at a public forum on Saturday and expressed their support to constitutional reform in BiH. They stress that the reforms, agreed on 10 years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, are only a step forward in constitutional changes. <i>"We see the two phases of the changes; the first one which opens them and strengthens state institutions, and the second one which implements constitutional reforms"</i>, said Mirko Pejanovic, from Serb Civic Council. Process of agreed constitutional changes has to be ended before October elections. <i>"If the elections are to take place first, those who win would bring constitutional solutions, which is not good"</i>, said Hidajet Repovac, from Circle 99. US Ambassador to BiH Douglas McElhaney stated on Saturday that the agreement must be adopted by the BiH Parliament. He reiterated that the agreement ensures more efficient and more functional state. Dnevni Avaz cover pg splash and pg 2 'McElhaney: 1st phase of constitutional changes must be adopted' by <u>A. Malagic</u> also carries the US Ambassador as saying that if the 1st phase of changes was not adopted there would be no the second phase of reforms in which the USA would also mediate. Also reported by Hayat, Pink, FTV RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Support to agreed changes of Constitution' by <u>S. Sehercehajic</u>, Nezavinse Novine pg 2 'McElhaney: Agreement must be adopted' by <u>A. Dj., M. K., N.T.</u>, Dnevni List pg 2 'Parliament must adopt constitutional amendments' by <u>R.D.</u>. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Failure of constitutional changes would be disaster' by <u>A. M.</u> carries German Ambassador to BiH Arne von Kittlitz, who also attended the public forum, as saying that a failure of the first phase of the constitutional changes would be a disaster.</p>
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Crime/Security

<p>Newly established special department within RS Prosecution to deal with unsolved murder cases</p>	<p><u>BHT 1</u> by <u>Z. Sarenac</u> – A newly established special department within the RS Prosecution is going to work on cases of Srdjan Knezevic, Risto Jugovic and Zeljko Markovic's murders, as the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and the RS Minister of Interior Stanislav Cadjo promised the families of the killed ones. <i>"We are going to deal with theses cases and I will personally initiate revision in a court process on Srdjan Knezevic, since I am sure that the justice was close then but that those, influenced by criminals, had no courage to bring the right decision"</i>, said Dodik. The families of the killed ones have had unjust social status treatment, claims Dodik and announces financial support. Also reported by RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Knezevic: It is well-known who are murderers of my brother' by <u>N. Diklic</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Government determined to arrest murderers' by <u>D. Bojanic</u></p>
<p>US State Department: BiH is risky country</p>	<p>RHB, Oslobođenje pg 2 'Americans warned of danger in BiH' – The recent security evaluation of the US State Department stresses that BiH is a risky country. The US State Department emphasised that potential travellers to BIH can face mines, crime and violence. The State Department also says that the International Community is being threatened occasionally.</p>

Economy	
<p>Movement 'Dosta' organised protests in front of BiH CoM building due to announced increase of electricity prices</p>	<p>RHB – Movement 'Dosta' ('Enough') organised protests of citizens on Saturday in front of the BiH Council of Ministers building due to announced increase of electricity prices. The movement announced further protests if the electricity prices increase. Reported by all other electronic and print media.</p>

Miscellaneous	
<p>5 persons got killed in car accident near Capljina</p>	<p>RHB – Five persons, namely a BiH and four Croatian citizens, were killed in a serious car accident which took place on M 17 magisterial road, in a place called Tasovcic in Capljina Municipality , on Friday evening. This is the most serious car accident which has happened in past several years in the area of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. Investigation is underway. Reported by all other electronic and print media.</p>