OHR BiH Media Round-up, 24/5/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 24 May

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	**BH Radio 1** (12,00 hrs)
HR CSS to address BiH Parliament	HR addresses the Parliament
Bad reception	FBiH HoP on pardon law
Croat parties on Mostar budget	PRD SB not to discuss regions

TV news broadcast on 23 May

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
HoP ratifies the agreement on HVO	New talks on constitutional changes	Spiric calls on boycott of Parliament
NATO Cmdr met BiH Presidency	Spiric calls for boycott of BiH HoR	Political leaders on const. changes
Spiric urges RS MPs to boycott HoR	Terzic replies to Spiric's accusations	Montenegro : 55.5% for independ.
SDA, HDZ discussed Mostar budget	BiH HoP in session	Reactions in region on referendum

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
Meeting on const. changes in SA	Montenegro : 55.5% for independ.	New talks on constitutional changes
Spiric urges RS MPs to boycott HoR	Reactions in region on referendum	BiH HoP in session

Referendum in Montenegro	Political leaders on const. changes	RS reps boycott work of HoR comiss.
Tadic accepts results of referendum	Ulrich meets BIH Presidency	Spiric calls for boycott of BiH HoR

Oslobodjenje	Schwarz-Schilling will say today who is working for private and who for interests of BiH
Dnevni Avaz	Schwarz-Schilling: I will name opponents of reforms
Dnevni List	Destructionists will be publicly singled out (HR announces speech in BiH Parliament)
Vecernji List	BiH military: 2100 soldiers to be fired
Slobodna Dalmacija	Siroki to lose 500 jobs (interview with Lijanovici's Jerko Ivankovic)
Nezavisne Novine	RS delegates are leaving BiH Parliament
Glas Srpske	Crime has name and surname *[Dodik and Spiric met with Mirjana Simanic]*
EuroBlic	Slap in the face of Terzic [RS delegates were asked to boycott BiH Parliament's work]
Vecernje novosti	Let's offer our hand [Statements of Serbian officials after Montenegrin referendum]

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY

HR Schwarz-Schilling addresses the BiH Parliament	**BH Radio 1** by Senka Jasarspahic – For the first time after assuming the office, the HR **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** addressed the BiH Parliament talking about obligations, especially those related to the reforms, before the Parliament in time before elections. Schwarz-Schilling stressed that these 100 days MPs have to work to stimulate economic development, support independent judiciary and police, meet international obligations and develop civil society. HR underlined that laws related to several reforms must be passed before elections, especially when it comes to higher education, set of laws in economy area and judiciary sector, public broadcasting system and police reform. He also noted the **OHR** would not interfere into the work of domestic officials and that they [MPs] have to take over the responsibility. Outlining BiH's perspectives, Schwarz-Schilling mentioned some of its successes such as the 'Grbavica' film which received Golden Bear award at Berlin festival and BiH success at Eurovision context. **RHB** – carried announcement.

FBiH HoP to discuss the Law proposal on Pardons	BH Radio 1 by Ljiljana Radl – At session today the FBiH House of Peoples is to discuss the proposal of the Law on Pardons and amendments to the Law on Executive Procedure, both previously passed by the FBiH House of Representatives. Pardons law was adopted after OHR insisted on it, as the current law has not been harmonized with the one on state level. New law proposal disables pardoning for people indicted for war crimes.
PRD SB not to discuss police regions today	**BH Radio 1** – Police reform Directorate's Steering Board Chair **Vinko Dumancic** stated that at today's session, the PRD SB is not going to discuss the parameters for establishment of police regions, since this point of the agenda wasn't properly prepared by the PRD SB. Most of the attention would be dedicated to presenting of police structure model and its internal structure in accordance with the Opinion of the PRD SB.

OHR spokespersonTunovic: Mostar City Council session opportunity for local authorities	**RHB**– OHR spokesperson **Sanela Tunovic** stated that today's Mostar City Council session offers an opportunity for the local authorities to show that they are serious about working on behalf of the citizens of Mostar, ahead of the emergency meeting that the High Representative **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** has convened with the presidents of the local boards of the parties represented in the City Council, the City Council caucus presidents, the Mayor and the Council President, tomorrow in Sarajevo. She added: *'At this moment I cannot speculate as to what might happen and what kind of decisions the HR might have.'*

Constitutional and police reforms

Six political leaders meet to discuss const. changes; opponents invited to submit their a solution	**PINK**– Leaders of six political parties – SDA, SDP, SDS, SNSD, PDP and HDZ – met on Tuesday at the residency of the US Ambassador to BiH **Douglas McElhaney** to discuss the constitutional changes. Their joint statement reads they still support the agreement on constitutional changes adopted on March 18, 2006 and that the political leaders still believe this package of reforms represents the best solution for BiH enabling its political system to be functional and harmonised with the EU standards and institutions. SNSD President **Milorad Dodik** stated the agreed amendments couldn't be changed at this moment, adding it should be seen should see whether they have support of the parliamentary majority but concludes he doubts so. After the meeting, SDP President **Zlatko Lagumdzija** called on all deputies in the Parliament who voted against the proposed constitutional changes either to change their mind, or to propose new solutions. **FTV** – Dodik stated that those who arranged the meeting should have proposed the solution because "*out of 12 delegates from RS in the BIH House of Representatives only one was against the proposed amendments. I do not see any possibility to find the additional supporters in RS*". **BHT1 –** Leader of HDZ BiH **Dragan Covic** stated: "*We cannot have [now] serious discussions on the constitutional changes because it would be irresponsible toward the citizens since we were not able to reach the agreement after a year and a half of negotiations. Still, it is important to agree now on the method in which to resume the negotiations after the general elections in October*". After the meeting, SDS leader **Dragan Cavic**, commented: "*It is important to maintain good atmosphere and for the participants of the negotiations to regularly meet since they are more or less going to be main participants after the elections.*" The meeting was also attended by the SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** who had prepared proposals to introduce some changes to the agreed amendments but refused to reveal them before presenting them to the other participants at the meeting. "*Everything depends on those 16 people [who rejected the amendments] and if they definitely decide to be gravediggers to the European BiH than we are to wait for some other delegates in the Parliament,*" commented Lagumdzija. **FTV** – Both Tihic and Lagumdzija, reporter noted, expressed hope the amendments would be discussed in the Parliament in a week. **RHB, RTRS, Dnevni List** pg 3 'New story about Constitution promotion of parties' by D. P., **Vecernji List** pg 3 'Constitutional changes only after October elections!' by Z. Kresic, **Glas Srpske** pg 5 'They remained on the same course' by Z. Domazet, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'They expect new proposals from the opponents' by M. Cubro, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Verification of what was already agreed upon' by Dusanka Stanisic also reported on the meeting.

Party leaders sign joint statement supporting March agreement on const changes; continuation of talks after election; RS PM Dodik: special commission should be established	**Hayat –** Hayat commented that some of the participants looked quite discontented after the meeting. "*The joint statement has been written, and it would be given to all of you. Four sentences, and that's enough. Thank you very much*", was all that **Dragan Cavic** told journalist after the meeting. "*We have simply ascertained that unfortunately, one month after they managed to stop the reforms in the Parliament, those who voted against constitutional amendments have not offered realistic alternative*", stated **Zlatko Lagumdzija** commenting the statement. **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Agreed constitutional package the only solution', mentioned on cover by A.Omeragic – Commenting the meeting Lagumdzija said Tihic hasn't offered "major innovations." The joint statement reads only four lines in support of proposed changes: "*Considering that month after blocking the reform, the opponents of the amendments haven't still proposed a common solution that could be passed in the Parliament, we believe that proposed package is only realistic alternative.*" Lagumdzija also noted that unless the opponents do not come up with a proposal in ten days, reform would have to wait end of year. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'They expect new proposals from the opponents' by M. Cubro – SNSD leader **Milorad Dodik** said he believes a special parliamentary commission should be established to carry out the process of constitutional changes after October elections.
SDP Lagumdzija: lessons learned from const. reform failure should be applied; Dragan Cavic in favour of more frequent meetings	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'Covic: The only interesting thing was the menu' by A.Malagic, inset 'Talks on new government after elections'- As possible subject of the meeting, establishment of new majority after elections was mentioned and even though avoided the direct answer, **Zlatko Lagumdzija** said that he proposed at the meeting to apply some things learned from the lesson in this process. "*New government must be established in a manner to change the situation in the country. In October we have to establish the government around concrete program so that this situation wouldn't be repeated*" said Lagumdzija. Inset 'Cavic for more frequent meetings' – **Dragan Cavic** commented: "*Atmosphere of preparedness to compromise is generally good, not only when it comes to constitutional changes, but opens possibility of the agreement in all other issues which would be inevitable in the following period, especially after signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement.*"
BiH HoR Deputy Chairs Spiric and Dzaferovic: support constitutional changes	**BHT1** late news **–** In brief statement the BiH House of Representatives Deputy Chairs **Nikola Spiric** and **Sefik Dzaferovic**, repeated their stances on constitutional amendments following the working lunch held with party leaders in the residence of US Ambassador **Douglas McElhaney**. They repeated that they personally support the amendments as well as their parties and added they do not know anything about the discussions held on Tuesday since they were not present.

HDZ Presidency: Support to const. chgs/Decision on pre-election coalitions to be passed on Monday	**Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 14 'Decision on pre-election coalition on Monday' by Z. Zekic – The HDZ Presidency held a session on Monday. After the session HDZ President **Dragan Covic** stated that HDZ would continue to actively participate in the constitutional changes talks. Talking about preparations for the October elections, the HDZ Presidency had analyzed proposals of the Croat parties with regard to possible pre-election coalitions with HDZ and the HDZ Presidency concluded that they would pass the decision on this issue at the next HDZ Main Board session that would take place on May 29 in Mostar.
PDP's Radovanovic: PDP did not change stance / SNSD's Dodik: SNSD not willing to accept abolishment of entity voting	**Glas Srpske** pg 5 'They remained on the same course' by Z. Domazet, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Verification of what was already agreed upon' by Dusanka Stanisic – PDP's **Vinko Radovanovic** stated that the party had not changed its stance with regard to the agreed constitutional changes and added the party is not ready for launching of new negotiations. Inset 'Without courting' – asked whether he would agree to hold talks on possible abolishment of entity voting, SNSD's **Milorad Dodik** stated he was not willing to please anyone, especially Party for BiH's leader **Haris Silajdzic.**
DA: EU Ambassadors did not accept proposal of RS PM Dodik on establishing of state police, with [preserving] RS MoI divided into couple of regions	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'EU diplomats gave Dodik a lesson' by S.Numanovic – Daily learns that before Tuesday's meeting with US Ambassador **Douglas McElhaney**, that RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** had a 'unpleasant meeting with the EU Ambassadors who warned him that he should not quit three principles of police reform agreed on October 5, 2005. The three EU principles urge for the exclusive state competency for police legislation and budgetary issues, local police areas designed on the basis of technical policing criteria, and a system that protects the police from improper political interference. DA's source says that Dodik promised he will send representative to the next meeting of Police Reform Directorate [PRD] but added that he cannot accept abolishment of RS police: "*Dodik even proposed establishing state police, with RS Interior Ministry divided into couple of regions*." Source added that EU Ambassadors did not accept Dodik's proposal, warning him that it is also not in his interest to delay police reform for too long. Daily alleges that he Dodik has ambitions to become new BiH Council of Ministers Chair after the October elections, adding that he would be the one who would then be signing Stabilization and Association Agreement [SAA], which is all not possible if police reform is not implemented. Dodik remain at his stances even after EU Ambassadors warned him that he would be blamed if European Commission could not give positive opinion on SAA talks. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'They expect new proposals from the opponents' by M. Cubro Inset 'Dodik talked with EU Ambassadors', **Oslobodjenje** 6 'Criteria for establishing regions are at the table' by Az.K. – shortly reported Dodik met with EU Ambassadors.

DA: Police regions to correspond to judicial/ prosecutorial territories?; 5 region categories depending on size of population; EUPM: there would be no negotiations on three EU principles	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Police regions in accordance with judicial and prosecutorial?' by E.Sarac – Daily learns that Executive Body of the Police Reform Directorate [PRD] prepared proposals of the basic technical criteria for setting territorial authority of the future police regions. They would be discussed at Wednesday's meeting of PRD Steering Board. Proposal allegedly suggests that territorial authority of the police regions should be in accordance with territorial authority of county and cantonal prosecutions and courts, and that they should be divided into five categories depending on the size of the population. Daily estimates that this proposal is just a confirmation of the present police structure, "cementing entities and cantons". Inset 'Parliament representatives also coming' – Wednesday's meeting of the PRD SB will also be attended by the OHR, European Commission, US Embassy, EUPM, BiH Security Ministry, BiH and FBiH Parliaments and RS National Assembly. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'There is no negotiations on three principles' – Head of EUPM **Vinzenzo Coppola** reminded that there would be no negotiations on three EU principles.

HR CSS : 'Destructionists will be publicly singled out'; Parliament will receive list of laws expected to be adopted in next 100 days	**Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 5 'Schwarz-Schilling: I will name point opponents of reforms' by S.Numanovic – Announcing his Wednesday's speech before the BiH Parliament, the HR **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** told the group of BiH journalist that he would soon start naming and criticizing politicians who oppose reforms: *"I intend to publicly expose those whose work was damaging a future of this country. In BiH politics there are lot of those who are not politically mature, there is corruption, people with bad deeds or intentions, egocentric persons… It is good to blame those people before the elections to say they are not constructive, that they are not working for common good."* Asked to say make it clear whom exactly he talks about, the HR gave example of rejection of the constitutional changes. He also announced that he would present list of laws he expects to be adopted within next 100 days: "*I will present list of laws, which has support of great number of people, and which can change situation in this country for better, not only with regard to European and Euro-Atlantic integrations, but also with regard to better living standard.*" The HR also said he would also given his estimate on the situation in the country after little over 100 days of his work on the position. Inset 'BiH is sovereign state' carries HR as denying any political connection btw Montenegrin referendum with situation in BiH. **Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pg 3 'Schwarz-Schilling will say today who is working for private and who for interests of BiH' by A.O. – Schwarz-Schilling said: "*There are lots of fields in which BiH Parliament can work in the next four months: economy, police reform, education, reform of Public Broadcasting System [PBS].*" Inset 'Respect agreement on police' – HR reminded those obstructing police reform to respect the Agreements previously achieved, otherwise Stabilization and Association Agreement [SAA] will not be signed: "*I will openly blame them for creating heavy situation in this country's way towards EU.*" **Nezavisne Novine** pg 4, announced on cover 'I will blame RS for failure of police reform' by M. Cubro – HR on Tuesday stated he would blame politicians from RS for stoppage of BiH integration to EU if they continue obstructing police reform. **Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pg 3 'Destructionists will be publicly singled out', by Danka Polovina-Mandic, **Vecernji List**, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Schilling: I will single out destructive politicians', by Dejan Jazvic, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Delegates, roll up your sleeves' by Z. Domazet – also reported on HR's statement.

Dispute over Commission for sufferings in Sarajevo

BiH HoR Deputy Chair Spiric calls on RS reps in HoR to boycott it until CoM complies with decision on establishment of Commission for sufferings of Sarajevo Serbs	**FTV**by Dzenana Zolota – Following the meeting with the Chair of the RS Association of missing persons form Eastern Sarajevo, **Mirjana Simanic** and the RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik**, Deputy Chair of BiH House of Representatives **Nikola Spiric** told the press conference that he will invite the RS representatives in the BiH HoR to walk out of the session on Wednesday after the plenary session and to boycott the work of the House until the Commission for sufferings of Sarajevo Serbs, Croats, Jews, Bosniaks and others is established by the Council of Ministers. He noted that RS representatives in BIH HoR are not obliged to respect the Chairman that refuses to abide by the BIH Parliament's decision and form the commission. "*I will call on Serb representatives tomorrow [Wednesday] not to listen to Terzic's speech, since by his statement he has stopped being the Chairman we have all respected. He can keep "rolling" until the elections*" said Spiric. Dodik stated that the crime must be "named" and cannot be collectivised as it the common case in Sarajevo adding that BIH Institutions must serve in finding the truth about the committed war crimes. *"Sarajevo has a special significance for BiH. Persistently, it is being presented as city of tolerance, of multiethnic character and this is a serious opportunity for that claim to be put to the trial. In the last ten years, we had the favouritism of a stenotype where the bad boys lived in RS while good boys lived in FBIH,"* said Dodik. Simanic stated that RS Association of Missing Persons from Eastern Sarajevo stressed that it was about time to reveal the truth about the sufferings of their family members. **RTRS** – Dodik stated that RS Govt prepared several reports on sufferings of Serbs in Sarajevo and reminded of very difficult position of Serbs in that city nowadays. He claims he was contacted by an association of Serbs from Sarajevo with a list of 1000 persons who want to leave the city because of atmosphere. "*Nobody takes care of these things*", said Dodik. He announced a meeting with representatives of BiH Prosecution, adding that he expects equal treatment for all victims of war crimes. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'Terzic has to form commission for sufferings of Sarajevo Serbs' by A.Terzic **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Spiric announced boycott of BiH HoR', **Dnevni List**, pg 2, mentioned on front 'Serb representatives leaving Parliament', by R. Dautefendic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash 'RS delegates are leaving BiH Parliament' and pg 3 'Serb delegates were invited to boycott Terzic' by R. Rakic, **Glas srpske** cover pg splash 'Crime has name and surname' by Z. Domazet, **EuroBlic** cover pg splash and pg RS3 'Slap in the face of Terzic' by Dusanka Stanisic and Nedeljka Breberina, **Vecernje Novosti** pg 5 'Terzic is tailoring' not signed – also carry a call on boycott.

11 out of 12 RS delegates at HoR not to attend HoR sessions until Commission for Sarajevo Serbs is established	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'RS delegates will boycott sessions of BiH Parliament' by V. Popovic – 11 out of total 12 RS delegates at BiH HoR have decided not to attend sessions of HoR until CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic** establishes a commission for investigation of sufferings of Sarajevo Serbs. Only **Mirko Blagojevic** from SRS "Dr. Vojislav Seselj" has not decided as yet whether to join them. RS delegates will only be present during today's address of HR **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** before HoR, after which they would leave the session. The article carries statements of SDS's **Momcilo Novakovic**, SNSD's **Dusanka Majkic**, PDP's **Jelina Djurkovic**, SPRS's **Tihomir Gligoric**, **Petar Kunic** from New Force of Srpska, all criticising CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic's** statement and confirming delegates of their parties will not attend sessions.
DISS denies RS PM Dodik's allegations	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 'DISS never made list of displacing Serbs from Sarajevo' by E.Sarac – Democratic Initiative of Sarajevo Serbs [DISS] denied allegations of RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** who claimed that DISS possesses a list of 1.000 persons who want to leave Sarajevo because of the atmosphere they live in.
HoR Dep. Speaker Spiric says he would not attend BiH HoR session until Commission for suffering of citizens in Sarajevo established; HoR Dep. Speaker Dzaferovic: OHR should get involved	**BHT1** late news – Asked about his invitation to RS representatives to walk out the BiH HoR's session and boycott its work, Deputy Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives **Nikola Spiric** told while interviewed in BHT 1 studio that a reason for this was the rejection of the CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic** to establish a Commission for suffering of Serbs, Croats, Jews, Bosniaks and others in Sarajevo. He explained the BiH Parliament endorsed a decision on such commission [on January 24, 2004] and therefore this should be done. On the other side, BiH HoR Deputy Chair **Sefik Dzaferovic** – who was also the guest of the late news edition – feels that deputies should remain in session to discuss the problem in the Parliament. He added Spiric should withdraw his call, concluding that in his opinion the entire thing is related to pre-election campaign. Spiric concludes that he will not be present at any BIH HoR session until the commission is formed. In Dzaferovic's opinion OHR should get involved in the problem since obviously BIH HoR deputies cannot resolve it themselves.
DEPOS: CoM Chair has an obligation to fulfil decision on forming the Commission for Sarajevo Serbs	**Glas Srpske** pg 5 'Terzic's obligation' by Z. M. – Deputy Chair of DEPOS **Svetlana Cenic** has assessed that CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic** has an obligation to fulfil the decision of BiH Parliament on establishing of the Commission for investigation of sufferings of Sarajevo Serbs and added: *'Families of killed people deserve to know the truth and they cannot wait for the commission for investigation of events in entire BiH to be formed'*. With regard to appeal of SDS President **Dragan Cavic** to RS representatives not to participate in the work of CoM, Cenic stated an illegal move should not be a reply on other illegal move. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 8 'Terzic must respect decisions of Parliament' by V. Popovic – also reported.

RS Veterans' Association support Spiric's boycott announcement	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Asking for processing of war crimes suspects' by Srna– Presidency of RS Veterans' Association has asked all institutions in RS and all RS representatives in joint institutions to remove all obstacles for processing of suspects for war crimes over Serbs. They deem that it is unacceptable for this process to be in one way only and at the same time they support the boycott announcement of BiH House of representatives' Deputy Chair **Nikola Spiric**.
CoM Chair Terzic denies claims that he doesn't allow the Commission; says the Comm should be for the whole state	**PINK-** Responding to a call on boycott by the Deputy Chair of the BiH House of Reps, **Nikola Spiric,** the Chair of the BiH Council of Ministers **Adnan Terzic** stated for Sarajevo daily Dnevni Avaz on Tuesday it is not true he refuses to establish commission for investigation on sufferings of Serbs in Sarajevo. According to Terzic, the only right thing to do is to establish a commission tasked to investigate truth about sufferings of all peoples in the entire BiH. Terzic stressed that this Commission can be tasked to investigate the truth about sufferings of Sarajevo citizens first, adding that they have been victims of crimes in period from 1992 to the end of 1995 [for more details see BiH Media Round-up May 23]. **Hayat-** also carried reaction.
RS reps leave session of BiH Comm. for Finances and Budget; They will not attend Wed session, expect address by HR	**RTRS** – The RS members of BiH Parliament Assembly's Commission for Finances and Budget left the Tuesday's session of this Commission on report of the BiH Council of Ministers on results of VAT introduction. Commission President **Ljiljana Milicevic** explained that RS members have left the session, because the Chair of BiH CoM **Adnan Terzic** had failed to act in accordance with House of Representatives' order and establish commission tasked to investigate sufferings of Serbs in Sarajevo during the war. Head of SDS Caucus **Momcilo Novakovic** stated that SDS deputies are not going to participate the session of BiH House of Representatives scheduled for Wednesday for the same reason. However, they will participate in the plenary session of both houses of BiH Parliament Assembly, when HR **Christian Schwarz Schilling** is going to address the Assembly. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'RS members of the Finances and Budget Commission walked out of the session' not signed, **Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Serbs do not want to cooperate with Council of Ministers', by D. P. M. , **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'Members of the Commission from RS walked out from the session' by N. N. – also reported.
BiH Justice Minister Kovac said would not resign despite demands from NGOs and parties from RS	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'He does not intend to resign' by N.D. – Commenting demands made by some NGOs and political parties from RS to Serb representatives in BiH Council of Ministers to resign, after BiH CoM refused to form Commission for Suffering of Serbs in Sarajevo, BiH Justice Minister **Slobodan Kovac** said that he does not intend to resign. Kovac said: *"I believe that it is for the best that we stick to legislative and instead of Commission demanded from RS, we should form Commission that received support in the BiH Parliament, which would examine suffering of all peoples in Sarajevo."*

HR: There are enough of decisions of HRC on issue of missing persons; authorities have to respect these decisions, not forming new commissions	**Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 5 'Schwarz-Schilling: I will name point opponents of reforms' by S.Numanovic, inset 'He would not speak about Commission for Sarajevo' – High Representative **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** said that he is not going to talk about Commission on suffering of Sarajevo Serbs before the BiH Parliament: "*I think we have enough of decisions of Human Rights Chamber on issue of missing persons, that have been ignored on different levels of BiH authority. I think these decisions have to be implemented regardless to the nationality of victims. So, authorities have to respect these decisions, not constantly forming new commissions*."
DL: Spiric's call to Serb MPs to boycott session another attempt to weaken state authorities	**Dnevni List**, pg 2 'Spiric's acrobatic stunts', by Resad Dautefendic – commenting on the appeal of the Deputy Speaker of BiH HoR, **Nikola Spiric**, to the Serb MPs to boycott the session of BiH HoR because BiH CoM Chairman, **Adnan Terzic**, does not want to form a commission that is to investigate sufferings of Serbs and other peoples in Sarajevo, the author argues this is yet another attempt from the RS to undermine the BiH CoM and suspend the SAA talks. Dautefendic reckons that Spiric and other RS politicians' reasoning is that if the state authorities are weaker, the entity ones are getting stronger, underlining that Spiric and co. had enough time to reveal destiny of the missing Serbs of Sarajevo, some ten years or so.
GS op-ed critical of CoM Chair Terzic: silence can be thundering pre-election message	**Glas Srpske** op-ed pg 2 'Silence – a thundering pre-election message' by Veljko Kojovic – Referring to the statement of CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic** that the decision on establishing of a commission for investigation of sufferings of Sarajevo Serbs would not be reached as long as he is CoM Chair, the author notes such a statement might have surprised only the naïve ones. The author added: '*In the election year, being silent on certain events becomes a thundering pre-election message that would, as he presumes, bring votes to his political structure*'.

Follow up: Montenegrin independence

Preliminary results in Montenegro say 55.5% voted for independence	**FTV-** Chair of Republican Referendum Commission **Frantisek Lipka** published official preliminary results of the referendum in Montenegro, according to which 55.5% of voters voted in favor of independent Montenegrin state. The results were published on Tuesday morning because Referendum Commission in Podgorica had problems in reaching the consensus on the results from 37 polling stations which were processed during the night by RRC. SiCG President **Svetozar Marovic** scheduled the session on Thursday where he will submit his resignation. Although Leader of unionist block **Predrag Bulatovic** stated on Sunday that no violation was noted during the voting, his block will not accept the results before the recounting of the votes. Leader of independence block **Milo Djukanovic**, called on unionists block to accept the will of people and not to oppose the independence. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS –** carried. **Oslobodjenje** pgs 4-5, mentioned on cover 'Montenegro officially independent' – Full two pages coverers the issue and reactions. **Dnevni Avaz** pgs 20-22, mentioned on cover 'Bosniaks gave Montenegro independence' – daily brings three pages dedicated to Montenegro referendum.

Serbian President Tadic accepted Montenegrin referendum, promising to be the first official to visit Montenegro	**FTV –** Serbian President **Boris Tadic** has welcomed the independence of Montenegro promising to be the first Serbian official visiting independent Montenegro. He also called on all political parties in Montenegro to accept the results of referendum adding that "*no walls will be built between Serbia and Montenegro*". Serbian Prime minister **Vojislav Kostunica**, was not that optimistic, reporter noted, announcing to accept the results only after the appeals have been processed. SiCG Minister of Foreign Affairs **Vuk Draskovic** stated that he has unofficially welcomed the unofficial results adding that he will officially welcome the results after all the appeals are processed. **Hayat-**"*I call on all citizens of Montenegro to offer each other a hand of reconciliation and cooperation, and to build their own future for the benefit of all. As President I supported the preservation of the joint state… But as an democrat, and a president of a democratic country, I am fully prepared to accept the majority decision of the people of Montenegro*", concluded Tadic. **RHB, BHT1, RTRS, Vecernji List** pg 16 'Tadic recognized result' by zb– also covered.

RSNA Speaker met Montenegrin Assembly Speaker; future relation traditionally good	**RTRS** – The Speaker of the RS National Assembly **Igor Radojicic** met with Speaker of Montenegrin Assembly **Ranko Krivokapic** in Podgorica on Tuesday. Radojicic congratulated the Montenegrins for their independence. He stressed future relations between RS and Montenegro would continue in traditionally good manner. **PINK, Glas srpske** pg 3 'Radojicic congratulated to Krivokapic' by Agencies – also reported.
EU Commissioner Rehn: Serbia and Montenegro to get separate SAAs	**FTV** – EU Commissioner for Enlargement **Olli Rehn** stated that both Serbia and Montenegro would be offered separate Stabilisation and Association Agreements adding that Montenegro will have its own obligation toward ICTY. Russian authorities called on establishment of dialogue between Serbia and Montenegro. **PINK** – State Department still hasn't issued the official stand on the referendum in Montenegro adding that it will be done after the appeals on counting the votes are processed. **BHT1**– also carried EU stance.
Head of BiH team in lawsuit for aggression Softic: Montenegro cannot avoid responsibility	**Oslobodjenje** pg 5 'Montenegro cannot avoid responsibility' by Az.K. – Commenting Montenegrin referendum on independence, Head of BiH Team in lawsuit against SCG **Sakib Softic** told daily that this would not influence the lawsuit: "We expect verdict of the the International Court of Justice [ICJ in The Hague] by which SCG will be held responsible for genocide committed in BiH in the period 1992-1995." Softic stressed that the responsibility is on both Serbia and Montenegro.

EU recognized results of referendum/VL: Serbs to demand some sort of autonomy in Montenegro	**Dnevni List** pg 32 'EU recognized result' not signed carries that the EU called on Monday both sides in Montenegro to accept results of the referendum and the EU announced that they would recognize the decision of citizens in Montenegro. **Vecernji List** pgs 16 and 17 'Serbs in Montenegro demand autonomy' by Z. Jurilj – Apart from the referendum results, VL carries that Serb parties in Montenegro will start with implementation of the so-called '*reserve plan*' according to which they would establish schools, cultural institutions etc. with a Serb prefix. VL also says that Serbs in Montenegro are planning to demand some sort of autonomy as soon as Montenegro gets international recognition.
DEPOS Co-Chairperson Cenic: Independence of Kosovo would have great consequences in BiH, Montenegrin not	**Dnevni List** pg 7 'Status of Kosovo more dangerous than independence of Montenegro' not signed carries DEPOS Co-Chairman **Svetlana Cenic** as saying that independence of Montenegro would not have big influence on relations in BiH unlike influence and consequences that possible independence of Kosovo might create in Serbia, BiH and the whole region. She added that none in the RS supports independence of Kosovo.

After Montenegro , SPONA demands referendum on RS independence	**BHT1** by Zoran Sarenac – After Montenegrin referendum was declared successful, Serb movement 'SPONA' has announced that it will request from the RS authorities to carry out referendum for the RS independence. On the other side, Society for Protection of Endangered Peoples welcomed the Montenegrin independence but pleaded to international Institutions not to allow same possibility for the RS. SPONA has organised petition "It's your choice" in RS cities to support the separation of this entity from BiH, and representative of this NGO, **Dane Cankovic,** called on people from Balkan countries to "*influence their political leaders so they can lobby for peaceful break up of the region including former BiH*". However he refused to say how many people signed the petition. **Vojin Zejak**, SDS member, stated that BIH is independent state consisted of two entities. **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'To oppose demands from the RS' not signed – also covered.

Other political issues

BiH HoP adopts BiH/Croaita agreement on rights of HVO victims, members of families	**FTV**– BiH House of Peoples approved the agreement between BiH and Croatia on cooperation in area of rights of war victims in BiH, which were members of the HVO and their family members in accordance with the decision of the BiH Constitutional Court. Namely, on March 31, 2006 BiH CC has established that invoking of vital national interest by Bosniak Caucus in BiH HoP doesn't fulfil procedural conditions, because the agreement is not detrimental for Bosniaks' VNI. This agreement was signed on December 23, 12005 by Chair of Croatian Government **Jadranka Kosor** and BiH Security Minister **Barisa Colak**. At Tuesday's session of the BiH HoP, four Bosniaks voted against the agreement and one of them is **Hasan Cengic** who said that those that do not have Croatian citizenship would be discriminated by the agreement and that new controversies are going to occur. **RHB, PINK, BHT1, Hayat, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Ratified Agreement with Croatia on rights of HVO veterans' by H.Orahovac, **Oslobodjenje** pg 8 'HVO veterans will receive help from Croatia' by A.Terzic, **Dnevni List** pg 5 'Destiny of HVO victims finally resolved' by D. P. Mandic, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 4 'BiH HoP supports giving of Croatian assistance to HVO' by H, **Nezavisne novine** pg 3 'Agreement on cooperation with Croatia was ratified' by Agencies – reported.

BiH Presidency meets NATO delegation to discuss transition: defence reform most successful project after Dayton	**RHB –** Allied Joint Force Commander, Admiral **Henry G. Ulrich III**, commended BiH Presidency members **Sulejman Tihic**, **Borislav Paravac** and **Ivo Miro Jovic** on success of defence reform. During a meeting in Sarajevo on Tuesday, NATO Commander and BiH Presidency members discussed the transition processes in BiH; it was ascertained that the reform of defence is the most successful project in post-Dayton BiH, and therefore it should serve as an example for all other reforms. **BHT1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Defence reform is most successful project in post-Dayton BiH', **Oslobodjenje** pg 8 'Defence reform as an example', **Vecernji List** pg 2 'NATO wants to strengthen cooperation with BiH' by eme, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Defence reform an example for other reforms' by D. Mu. – covered.
VL: 2100 BiH troops to lose jobs, NATO to provide 6,5 not 13 million Euros for severance pays	**Vecernji List**, front pg splash and pg 3 'BiH military: 2100 soldiers to be fired', by Zoran Kresic – VL notes that after the entity military forces and two entity MoDs merged into one BiH Armed Forces and state MoD, it is expected that some 2100 soldiers and officers will lose jobs in 2007. As for the money that is to stimulate troops to sign off and which is to be secured by NATO, VL notes original reports were stating that NATO was going to secure 13 million Euros, however after UK and Netherlands objected to this, the amount was halved, namely VL says the word in Brussels is that NATO will approve some 6,5 million Euros.

Osl.: Adoption of budget is not problem in Mostar but fact that Mostar Statute is not being implemented	**Oslobodjenje** pg 8, mentioned on cover 'Herzegovinian TV caused fight between SDA and HDZ' by A. Becirovic carries President of the HDZ Mostar Board **Denis Lasic** as saying that he guarantees that HDZ Councilors would support adoption of the Mostar budget today (on Wednesday). Osl. says that it is questionable whether the Mostar Councilors would have a chance to discuss the budget at all since before this item they are supposed to discuss systematization of places of work in the Mostar City Administration and Urban Planning Bureau and these ere some of the things that SDA and HDZ have a conflict about. Head of the SDA Caucus in the Mostra City Council, **Suad Hasandedic** stated: '*SDA Councilors cannot accept a proposed budget. If our amendments were adopted perhaps we shall support the budget.*' According to him it is disputable that the budget envisages financing of Herzegovinian TV. Osl. concludes that it seems that the problem does not lie in the Mostar budget but in the fact that the Mostar Statute is not being implemented, '*and among the others, Mostrians can thank the **OHR** on this situation*', as well as in the agreement signed between HDZ and SDA in August 2004.

DL, VL: Still unclear whether Mostar budget will be adopted, Mostar representatives to meet with HR on Thursday	**Dnevni List**, pg 11 'HDZ and SDA without agreement on Mostar', by Sanja Bjelica – With regards to the meeting between senior delegations of HDZ and SDA about topical issues in Mostar (for details see OHR Media Round-up, May 23), DL carries SDA President, **Sulejman Tihic**, who said the two parties' positions on several issues have been brought closer, however the final agreement was not reached. He also noted that city officials should continue discussing topical issues and reach an agreement one of these days. DL goes on to say that representatives of both parties expressed hope that supervision for Mostar was not necessary. Finally, the daily announces that representatives of political parties from Mostar together with the President of Mostar City Council and Mostar Mayor will be meeting with the **High Representative** in Sarajevo on Thursday to talk about Mostar related issues. **Vecernji List**, pg 2 'Now the problem is Urban planning Institute', by Dalibor Vidacak –repeats HDZ's **Dragan Covic**'s statement who stated that the Mostar budget could be adopted at today's (Wednesday) session of the City Council. VL learns from its source that the leader of SDA Mostar (**Zijad Hadziomerovic**) (during the abovementioned meeting) had problem with every issue that is troubling Mostar. According to VL, it would appear that founding of single Urban Planning Institute is currently the biggest problem. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Without agreement on the budget' by Fena – also reported.

Mostar Mayor Beslic: proposal of budget is prepared in best possible way considering limited funds	**Dnevni List**, pg 7 'I offered the best possible', by Sanja Bjelica – The Mayor of Mostar, **Ljubo Beslic**, underlines that the proposal of the city's budget for 2006 was prepared in the best possible way considering the funds that are available to the city, arguing the budget proposal aims to take care of the needs of all beneficiaries in the best possible way. Beslic argues that during the meeting between HDZ and SDA delegations on Monday, nobody made significant objections to the proposal, underlining it is now down to the councillors to adopt the budget, *"since everything else is just politicizing"*.
NHI's Zubak: Coalition btw NHI, HSS, HSP Djapic-Jurisic and HKDU is not possible soon	**Oslobodjenje**, pg 7, mentioned on front 'First platform, then coalition', by S. Rozajac – Leaders of HSS and NHI, **Marko Tadic** and **Kresimir Zubak** respectively, denied some media reports that suggested that leaders of HSS, NHI, HSP Djapic-Jurisic and HKDU would on Wednesday form a coalition called 'Croat Opposition Alliance'. Unlike Tadic, who said such agreement could be signed soon, Zubak says it is impossible to sign it soon since the parties would first have to agree on pre-election platform i.e. coalition's program and only then talk about signing of coalition. Inset 'When HDZ could…' asked whether there is a possibility to form coalition with HDZ BiH and/or HDZ 1990, Tadic says such possibility could not be ruled out. *"Naturally, it is the issue of harmonizing political positions and programs"*, said Tadic.

HSP Djapic-Jurisic: We are open to coalitions with everyone, not with HDZ BiH	**Vecernji List**, pg 2 'Next week about coalitions', by tk– The President of HSP Djapic-Jurisic, **Zvonko Jurisic**, noted that his party would know early next week whether it would form coalitions with other Croat parties. He noted the party was open to talks with other parties, including the NHI and HDZ 1990, however the party's condition is that the HSP Djapic-Jurisic would nominate a candidate for the Croat member of BiH Presidency. **Dnevni List**, pg 2 'HSP gunning for victory', not signed – Jurisic noted his party did not want to form coalition with HDZ BiH.
VL: Croat parties must focus on vital national interests and stop smearing each other	**Vecernji List**, pg 6 'List for Croats' equality', by Ivan Bagaric – commenting on recent reports that speak of possible making of Croat coalitions in BiH, Bagaric argues they are about 'preliminary bouts in the pre-election campaign' in which there are only three serious contenders, the HDZ BiH, HDZ 1990 and HSP Djapic-Jurisic that is. Bagaric fears that the campaign could get ugly with the parties smearing each other, calling on the parties to focus on the mother of all issues for the Croats in BiH – to identify and try to achieve vital national interests, foremost the equality of Croats with other two peoples.

BiH Civil Service Agency Director Finci: Appointment of Sinisa Macan for CIPS Director has no legal ground	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4, mentioned on cover 'Appointment of Sinisa Macan has no legal ground' by E.Sarac – BiH Civil Service Agency Director **Jakob Finci** stated that appointing **Sinisa Macan** for CIPS Director [after Board of Civil Service for appeals within Council of Ministers adopted Macan's appeal, annulling appointment of **Mustafa Pasalic**] has no legal ground. Finci said that Agency will probably not raise dispute before BiH Court, but would surely propose BiH Civil Affairs Ministry to do so "*for such decisions are bringing the system, for we all stand for, down. This system would mean that best people finally get the right positions.*"

Economic issues

RS Prosecutors were presented with the plan and methods of work of special unit of RS Police during meeting in “Mrakovica” villa	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 ‘Special unit started working’ by D. Risojevic – According to information in possession of *Nezavisne Novine*, during the meeting between RS Police officials and representatives of RS Prosecutor’s Office, held in “Mrakovica” villa *[see OHR BiH Media Round-up: May 23]*, the prosecutors were presented with the plan and methods of the work of a special police unit for fight against organised crime, which was recently established in frame of RS MoI. Anonymous source told *NN* that the special unit will be functional in the entire territory of RS and members of the unit will have the authority to take over the cases from any of Public Security Centres and continue with the investigation, which would make fast and efficient conducting of investigations possible and would exclude the possibility of exerting local pressures on inspectors. Chief RS Prosecutor **Amor Bukic** stated RS Minister of Interior had initiated the meeting in order to present activities MoI is conducting to improve results of fight against organised crime.

Head of FBiH Tax Admin.: forcible collection of taxes ongoing, BAM 300 million evaded	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5, announced on cover 'Taxes in the amount of approximately BAM 300 million evaded' by R. Cengic – In an interview to *NN*, Head of F BiH Tax Administration **Midhat Arifovic** said F BiH is currently carrying out a forcible collection of approximately BAM 900 million of tax debts, as well as BAM 150 million of disputable debts that are currently undergoing a check-up at the Ministry of Finances, while taxes in the amount of approximately BAM 300 million were evaded, which means this amount would never be registered as a debt. He also noted that the biggest debtors are state-owned firms, such as mines, steel factories, even the "Railroad" company, and their total debt amounts approximately BAM 360 million.
ITA postpones Steering Board session for May 30	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Dzombic demanded session postponement' by T.L. – Daily learns that session of Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] Steering Board scheduled for Wednesday is postponed [allegedly for May 30] following demand of RS Finance Minister **Aleksandar Dzombic**. Reasons behind Dzombic's demand are not known. The session was supposed to be about the final agreement on the allocation of public revenues from the single ITA account.