OHR BiH Media Round-up, 26/2/2005

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	**TV PINK** (18,00 hrs)	**BHT 1** (19,00 hrs)
Pope's health condition stabile	Trajkovski commemoration	HR on transfer of ICTY cases to BiH
BIH to process war crimes cases	Miletic to surrender to the ICTY	Miletic surrenders to the ICTY
HR' warns RS over coop. w/ICTY	Indictment against Perisic for Mostar	Rasim Delic goes to Hague
HR on RS MoD investigation	HR on transfer of ICTY cases to BiH	War crimes suspect arrested in SCG

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	**FTV** (19,30 hrs)	**RTRS** (19,30 hrs)
HR on transfer of ICTY cases to BiH	HR on transfer of ICTY cases to BiH	Miletic to surrender, Tolimir indicted
Miletic surrenders to the ICTY	Miletic surrenders to the ICTY	Regional issues
Gianfranco Fini visits BiH	Tolimir indicted for Srebrenica	HR on transfer of ICTY cases to BiH
Trajkovski commemoration	War crimes suspect arrested in SCG	HR on police reform

Oslobodjenje	BiH ready to process war crimes; Memorial [to Trajkovski] disclosed at Rotmilja; Miletic departs for the Hague ; Tolmir is the next; Hays: Mostar is a city of hope
Dnevni Avaz	Ashdown: RS is about to face new sanctions; Memorial [to Trajkovski] disclosed at Rotmilja
Dnevni List	Death of Trajkovski is still a mystery

Vecernji List	BiH is ready for The Hague trials
Slobodna Dalmacija	Jelavic approved 739.000 Kunas for apartment in Split to renegade Rajic
Nezavisne Novine	Anniversary of Trajkovski's death was marked
Glas Srpske	*Snow related titles*
EuroBlic	*Serbian related titles*
Vecernje novosti	*Serbian related titles*
Nacional	*Serbian related titles*

ICTY cooperation and other war crimes issues

BiH first country in region to be given green light to process war crimes cases	**RHB, RTRS, FTV, PINK, BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'Great success of BiH judiciary' by S.N., **Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pgs 4-5 'BiH ready to process war crimes' by A. Omeragic, **EuroBlic** pg RS2, announced on cover 'Ashdown threatens with new measures against Srpska' by Dusanka Stanisic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'BiH can start processing war crimes' by A. Sisic, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Hague at home' by N. Zelenovic, **Vecernji List**, front pg splash 'BiH is ready for The Hague trials' and pg 3 'Trials for crimes committed in BiH should not be held abroad', by Dejan Jazvic, **Dnevni List**, pg 5, mentioned on front 'War crimes trials can start', by D. Polovina-Mandic, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 16 'BiH first in the region', by Z. Rerig– High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** said at the press conference that as of Friday BiH is the first country in the region to have received approval of the Hague Tribunal to start prosecuting cases of war crimes committed on its territory at the level of its judicial institutions. Ashdown announced that the transfer of cased from the ICTY to BiH would soon start and added that this was made possible by the establishment of the War Crimes Council with the BiH Court and the Special Department with the BiH Prosecutor's Office. He will officially open these departments on March 9 together with ICTY Chief Prosecutor **Carla del Ponte**. **NTV Hayat** – *"I think that this will have an impact on BiH citizens, since the ICTY is going to transfer war crimes cases to war crimes department within Court of BiH,"* said Ashdown.On being asked how many cases and when were they going to be transferred to BiH, the HR said that it was a matter of the ICTY, and that some trials could be processed within several days.

Cases "Meakic and others", "Dragomir Milosevic" to be processed by BiH judiciary?	**BHT 1 –** Following the announcement that the BiH will process the war crimes case before its domestic judiciary, the media reported that the case against **Zeljko Meakic** and the others indicted by ICTY for crimes committed in Prijedor's concentration camps "Omarska" and "Keraterm" should be among the first to be received from the ICTY. BiH Court should also process **Dragomir Milosevic**, former commander of RS Army corps, indicted for bombing Sarajevo . Authorities of Serbia and Montenegro have also asked from ICTY to take over these cases. ICTY as well as OHR think that crimes should be put on trial in the country where they were committed. High Judicial and Prosecutors' Council handed the certificates to 10 judges and prosecutors on Friday. As of 1 March, they will be engaged in the BiH Court and Prosecution. **PINK, Hayat, Oslobodjenje** cover splash, pgs 4-5 'BiH ready to process war crimes' by A. Omeragic– Commenting on possibility to process the case of Milosevic in BiH, HR **Paddy Ashdown** said *"there are no reason whatsoever why the ICTY should decide to have Milosevic tried [in the Hague]. The crimes were committed here and he should be tried here, if not tried before the ICTY. The Government agrees with this and hopes that this is going to happen, and I hope that Minister [**Slobodan**] **Kovac** agrees with this too."* **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'BiH ready to take over cases of Meakic, Stankovic and Milosevic' by E. Sarac – BiH Justice Minister, Slobodan Kovac, has informed the ICTY Registry that the BiH is ready to take over the cases of "Zeljko Meakic and others" and "Dragomir Milosevic". Asked by DA to comment speculations by media that his Ministry doesn't want the case of Dragomir Milosevic processed before the BiH courts, Kovac said that *"BiH met conditions to process all cases, including Milosevic's if ICTY decides to transfer it."*

Jurcevic: 10.335 persons accused of war crimes in BIH	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 '10.335 persons accused of war crimes in BiH' by H. Orahovac – The Chief BiH Prosecutor, **Marinko Jurcevic**, told Avaz that to date BiH Prosecution has received 1264 crime reports accusing 10.335 people for war crimes. He explained that if the BiH Prosecution teams decide that the report is "very sensitive" that it would be processed at the BiH Court . On the other hand, if the case has been assessed as 'sensitive' it would be forwarded to the lower judicial institutions in the area where crimes were committed.
Ashdown: RS to improve cooperation with ICTY or face sanctions	**RHB, FTV, RTRS**, **Oslobodjenje** pg 5 inset 'Arrests of sanctions against RS' by A.O., **EuroBlic** pg RS2, announced on cover 'Ashdown threatens with new measures against Srpska' by Dusanka Stanisic, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'BiH can start processing war crimes' by A. Sisic, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Hague at home' by N. Zelenovic – High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** warned RS authorities on Friday that he will again have to impose certain sanctions if visible progress in their cooperation with the ICTY is not made soon. "*The RS is again failing to carry out its commitments towards the ICTY. Time is running out and NATO rejects BiH accession to the Partnership for Peace in April then further sanctions will follow*", Ashdown said at a press conference in Sarajevo. **Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 5 'RS is about to face new sanctions' by Sead Numanovic – In a page long interview to DA, the HR **Paddy Ashdown** warns the RS authorities that the cooperation with the ICTY is an obligation that cannot be negotiated and says that *"RS is on a road to another failure."* Ashdown says he doesn't fear that new sanctions could lead to another crisis in the authorities.

Glusac: RS MoI has intensive contacts with ICTY indictees at large	**Dnevni Avaz** pg 3 'RS MoI has intensive direct contacts with ICTY indictees' by E.S. – Spokesperson for ICTY Interior Ministry, **Zoran Glusac**, dismissed allegations on inability of RS to arrest war crimes and denied this is a reason why the MoI has started with the negotiations with ICTY indictees' families. "*The negotiations we carry out are just one aspect of activities aimed at the cooperation with the ICTY*," said Glusac to DA. He adds that MoI has contacts with indictees through their family members and friends. **Dnevni List**, pg 9 'Karadzic and Mladic are thinking about surrendering', by NINA – In an interview to the TANJUG news agency, the RS PM, **Pero Bukejlovic**, stated that he was convinced that the most wanted ICTY indictees, **Radovan Karadzic** and **Ratko Mladic**, would consider voluntary surrender to the ICTY. *"Following the surrender of Karadzic and Mladic's closest associates, it is certain that they too will think about it and about the way it could eventually end up so we could turn to development and solving of social issues"*, said PM Bukejlovic.

Miletic to voluntarily surrender to ICTY; Zdravko Tolimir third indictee in Srebrenica case; Perisic indicted for Mostar	**RTRS** – Retired RS Army general **Radivoj Miletic** will voluntarily surrender to the ICTY on Monday, confirmed the Serbia Government. Miletic decided to do so after he held talks with the Serbian Justice Minister **Zoran Stojkovic**. ICTY has also unsealed the indictment against **Zdravko Tolimir**, former RS Army general, accused for crimes committed in Srebrenica. **Jovan Simic**, the Advisor to Serbian President for ICTY issues couldn't confirm whether the Serbian Government is negotiating with Tolimir about his surrender. Simic told Srna news agency that there is also indictment against former JNA general **Momcilo Perisic** for crimes committed in Mostar region. ICTY stressed on several occasions that it is important for all indictees to use a possibility and surrender immediately after the indictment has been issued so they could be transferred to Hague, which increases their chances to serve sentences in one of the European countries, says ICTY spokesperson **Florence Hartman**. She adds that every delay of surrender increases chances for the cases to be sent to the courts of country in which the crimes were committed. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Third on the indictment for Srebrenica and Zepa is general Zdravko Tolimir' by E. Sarac – In his statement to Srna news agency, Simic could not confirm whether there is an indictment against **Momcilo Mandic**. **NTV Hayat, FTV, RHB, PINK, BHT 1, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Zdravko Tolimir the third from indictment', mentioned on cover, by Branislav Boskov, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'General Tolimir was accused, Miletic surrenders to the Hague' by N. N., **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Miletic goes voluntarily too' by Srna, **Dnevni List**, pg 7 'General Miletic voluntarily goes to The Hague', by Hina, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 9 'Another Mladic's aide in The Hague', by A. Macanovic, **Vecernji List**, pg 3 'Radivoj Miletic goes to The Hague on Monday', by Dejan Jazvic – also reported on Tolimir's indictment and Miletic's surrender.

Serbian authorities arrest another indictee for crimes in Zvornik	**PINK, FTV, Oslobodjenje** pg 7 inset 'Six arrested for crimes committed in Zvornik', **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Another suspect of war crimes committed in Zvornik was arrested' by Mr. K., **FENA** – The spokesperson of the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor's Office, **Bruno Vekaric**, on Friday told Tanjug that one of the nine persons indicted for the war crimes committed in the territory of Municipality Zvornik in June of 1992 has been apprehended. Vekaric reiterated that six of the nine indictees have been apprehended so far. The ICTY Prosecution transferred this case to the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor's Office in July last year. The indictment charges for forced deportation of 1822 Bosniaks from Zvornik and murder of 15. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Dusko Vukovic visited mass grave Glumina in 1998' by A.Hadzic – DA source close to the leadership of the Serbian Interior Ministry confirmed that so far, the police arrested brothers **Vojin** and **Dusko Vuckovic**, **Brano Grujic** [former SDS leader in Zvornik], major **Marko Pavlovic** and another military commander.
Ashdown welcomes MoD reports, demands evidences of measures taken by 15 March	**PINK** – The High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** welcomed the report issued by BiH Ministry of Defence on systematic weaknesses in command and control over BiH military forces, adopted by BiH Council of Ministers on Tuesday. HR said that RS Ministry of Defence had to submit evidences that it undertook all measures recommended in the report by 15March. HR said that he was disappointed with the fact that RS Ministry of Defence failed to explain how **Ratko Mladic** was on RS Army pay list by the end of 2001. The RS Minister of Defence **Milovan Stankovic**, commented: *"The [further] investigation should prove whether there any persons from 410th Press Centre still employed with the RS Army."* HR pointed out that the report stressed the need for having the command and control at BiH level improved. **RHB** – Stankovic also said that investigation will show whether they are persons supporting the war crimes suspects at large still working in RS Army structures.

McShane invited Balkans countries to cooperate with ICTY	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'McShane invited SiCG, Croatia and BiH to cooperate with the Hague' by Beta – British Minister for European issues **Dennis McShane** Friday invited western Balkans countries to fully cooperate with the Hague Tribunal in order to fulfill pre-requisites for the admission to Euro-Atlantic integrations. In a press release issued upon new report on western Balkans by British Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee, McShane emphasized he agreed with the conclusion of the Committee saying that the western Balkans countries must fully cooperate with IVTY.
SD: Jelavic signed for money to purchase apartment to ICTY fugitive	**Slobodna Dalmacija**, front pg splash and pg 14 'Jelavic approved 739.000 Kunas for apartment in Split to renegade Rajic', by Vuk Djuricic – Carries a whole page article about people who were reportedly helping the hiding of an ICTY indictee (charged with killing of Bosniaks in Stupni Dol), **Ivica Rajic**, who was hiding in the Split area until 2003 when he was arrested and extradited to The Hague. Among other people who helped the hiding of Rajic in Split, SD mentions the name of a former member of BiH Presidency, **Ante Jelavic**. SD claims to be in possession of documentation that proves that the money, which was donated for purchase of an apartment for Rajic in Split , was in fact donated owing to a decision number 02-19-96-2-2124, which was signed by Jelavic on March 20, 1996. The sum amounts to 739.083,41 Croatian Kunas, which is around 200.000 KMs.

Political and other issues

Monument to Boris Trajkovski unveiled at site of plan crash	**PINK –** A monument commemorating the first anniversary of the death of Macedonian president **Boris Trajkovski** in a plane crash was unveiled at the site of the crash some 15 kilometres south of Mostar. A monument was unveiled by BiH Presidency member **Sulejman Tihic** and Macedonian Prime Minister **Vlado Buckovski**. BiH Presidency member **Dragan Covic** told at the memorial: *"Being a modern politician, Trajkovski managed to show that negotiations had no alternative. He knew how to overcome a number of difficulties, which brought him high international reputation."* BiH Presidency President **Borislav Paravac** stated on the occasion: *"We remember the great friend of BiH, great leader, person who had a vision on Macedonia's development on its way to the EU and NATO."* **BHT 1, RHB, NTV Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** pg 4, mentioned on cover 'Memorial [to Trajkovski] disclosed at Rotmilja', **Oslobodjenje** pg 3, mentioned on cover 'Memorial [to Trajkovski] disclosed at Rotmilja', **Nezavisne Novine** cover pg splash and pg 4 'Anniversary of Trajkovski's death was marked' by V. Coric, **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'A great friend is gone' by G. D., **Dnevni List**, front pg splash and pg 3 'Death of Trajkovski is still a mystery', by NINA, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 16, mentioned on front 'Monument to Boris Trajkovski unveiled', by M. Landeka, Z. Zekic, **Vecernji List**, pgs 2-3, mentioned on front 'Munument to Trajkovski unveiled', by Valentina Rupcic – also reported.

Italian Foreign Minister meets Ivanic	**NTV Hayat –** Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Gianfranco Fini**, visited BiH and met with the his BiH counterpart, **Mladen Ivanic**. They discussed the situation in the region and bilateral relations between the two states. Fini stated after the meeting: *"I want to emphasise that support to BiH does not present a matter of friendship and kindness, but certain national interest of Italy. We support Balkan states and the entire region, since these are strategic areas for Italy and Europe as well."* Ivanic thanked Fini on the support BiH has received from Italy and added: *"We still receive the support, but we are aware that the main obstacle for BiH is a cooperation with the ICTY, which has to be improved. I have informed the Minister on the fact that it is of extreme importance for the entire region for BiH to be politically stabile and to make further steps towards integrations."* Fini also met with the members of BiH Presidency. **PINK, FTV, BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 'It is Italy's strategic interest to support BiH' by A.M., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Strategic goal of Italy is the admission of the Balkans to Europe' by M. Cubro, **Dnevni List**, pg 2 'BiH is strategic area for Italian companies', by Erna Mackic– also reported.

Hays visits Mostar	**RHB, Dnevni List**, pg 14 'Mostar needs investment plan', by NINA, D. K., **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 22 'Mostar is city of hope', by M. Landeka, **Vecernji List**, pg 3 'There needs to be investment plan for Mostar', by F, **Oslobodjenje** pg 8 'Mostar is a city of hope', mentioned on cover, by Onasa – PDHR, **Donald Hays**, visited the City administration of Mostar yesterday (Friday) where he talked about the situation in the city with the Mayor of Mostar, **Ljubo Beslic**. During the meeting, PDHR Hays stressed the need for making an investment plan that would attract both the IC and domestic investors, which would help the quality of living in Mostar. *"This is a city of hope and we must have an investment plan in which all BiH citizens would participate. Only with such a plan, you will have opportunities for investments in the city"*, said PDHR Hays. PDHR Hays also visited the HEPOK company.
Dokic confirms PDP ministers will stay in CoM	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 4 'Dokic: we will stay at CoM' by V. P. – Outgoing Minister of Traffic and Communications **Branko Dokic** has confirmed pre-requisites, necessary for PDP Ministers to continue working at CoM, have been fulfilled. Dokic said the Presidency of the party would hold a session over the weekend in order to reach a decision on whether the current PDP Ministers would stay at CoM.

SNSD proposes changes to BiH Election Law	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'Early elections with mandate of four years' by V. P. – SNSD is preparing draft changes to RS Election Law. According to SNSD Deputy President **Krstan Simic**, SNSD would suggest that the authority representatives are elected for a four-years long mandate at early elections, for the difference of the current provisions defining the representatives are elected only for the remaining time of the current mandate at early elections.
BiH Statistics Agency: Preparations for census in 2010 have started	**Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Preparations for census in 2010 have started', by Mensud Zorlak – According to the Director of BiH Statistics Agency, **Zdenko Milinovic**, the Agency has started with preparations for carrying out a (population) census in 2010, which is recommendation of the EC. Milinovic notes that employees of the Agency attend seminars and participate in working groups for census related issues that are being organized by the United Nations.
US State Secretary for the Balkans: 'One needs to stay faithful to DPA'	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 5 'One needs to stay faithful to the Dayton Agreement' by VOA – US State Secretary for the Balkans **Mark Grossmann** has expressed his opinion that the Dayton Agreement should be implemented until '*we are fully convinced in successful future of BiH*'. He added: '*One day, when BiH is a member of PfP, the Union, NATO Alliance, then perhaps a new balance with regard to the Dayton Agreement should be considered. For the moment, my stance is quite conservative regarding the Agreement and I think we need to stay faithful to it*'.

Police issues	
FBiH, RS decertified police announce lawsuits against Ashdown, BiH before Strasbourg court	**Nezavisne Novine** pg 11 'They threat with lawsuit against Ashdown and state of BiH' by R. Cengic – Approximately 200 decertified police officers from RS and F BiH have announced they would bring a lawsuit against High Representative **Paddy Ashdown** and state of BiH at the Strasbourg Court. They claim their rights were violated after they were deprived of certificates and they say they would block one or several border crossing points unless they get assurance in writing within one month that an audit of certification procedure at BiH level would be conducted. **RTRS**, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 12 'They will sue Ashdown and BiH before the Court in Strasbourg' by M. Kukan – also reported.

OHR objects adoption of amendments on decertified police officers	**FTV** – OHR expressed its disagreement with the amendment adopted by the FBiH House of Representatives on de-certified police officers which will enable those decertified policemen for which the court did not find an evidence for decertification to return to their jobs. FTV asked for explanation from HR **Paddy Ashdown**. *"No, I don't dispute the verdict of BiH Court. UN Security Council has greater legal strength than any other institution in BiH. All decisions, which were brought in BiH, have to be in accordance with the international law. That doesn't have a connection with Paddy Ashdown's mandate, or EUPM's mandate either .BiH institutions have to adhere these laws*." Ashdown added that the court has not taken this into account and added he will leave this issue for the UN Secretary General. **PINK** also reported.

DA int w/ HR: agreement on police by the end of April	**Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 5 'RS is about to face new sanctions' by Sead Numanovic – In a page long interview to DA, the HR **Paddy Ashdown** says that the international community will not impose the solutions regarding the police reform. He notes that since this is the last big reform in BiH the difficulties are to be expected, however adding that it is *"obvious that the public in RS doesn't share the opinion of the RS leadership,"* which was shown recently in the public survey. Ashdown explains that the police structure should be introduced in April: *"I think that the agreement on this issue must be reached by the end of April, in order for European Commission to discuss in May whether the conditions for continuation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement were met."* Asked whether he believes that SAA negotiations could commence in May, Ashdown answers he is not optimist due to lack of full cooperation with the ICTY and **Adnan Terzic**'s delay in presenting the plan for strengthening the state government. **RTRS**, **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Resistance from Srpska' by Srna – report on HR's claim that police reform could save 140 million KM annually.

Hays attends conference of police unions in BiH	**Vecernji List**, pg 3 'Police are unified, Unions are not', not signed – VL reports that PDHR **Doland Hays**, while in visit to Mostar,also attended a conference of Police Unions in BiH, which was held at Mostar's Hotel 'Bristol'. The conference was closed to public, however according to an EUPM spokesman, **Alun Roberts**, topics included reconstruction of Police and related problems. VL learns that one of issues that was mentioned during the conference is that certain (Police) Unions in BiH are still mono-ethnic.

Economic issues

Seminar on VAT in Banja Luka	**PINK, BHT1, RTRS, Dnevni List**, pg 8 'Uncertain start of application of VAT law', by D. Mandic-Polovina, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 10 'VAT would bring increase in prices of goods, but will also encourage production' by S. Gojkovic – The Indirect Taxation Authority and BiH Foreign Trade Chamber, with the help of BiH Ministry of Treasury and CAFAO, started a series of seminars on VAT and training of taxpayers. First seminar was held in Sarajevo last week and Friday's seminar was organized in Banja Luka. When it comes to the start of application of the VAT law itself, the Director of ITA, **Kemal Causevic**, notes that it depends foremost on installation of the IT equipment the EU has promised to donate. Causevic believes the equipment will be installed by end of July, after which it would take additional three to four months in order to complete additional training of the staff. *"Apart from that, certain legislative pre-requisites have to be met too, like the ones related to liberalization of process of employing people"*, said Causevic. **Hayat TV** – According to domestic financial experts, VAT should start being implemented by the beginning of next year. They say that prices are going to be increased. Economy experts believe that small companies are going to be shut down. ITA Director Causevic said: *"The positive side of VAT is that, according to its definition, it dissimulates import and stimulates domestic production. It is supposed that, by introducing VAT, import to BiH would be drastically reduced, while the domestic production should be improved."*

GS op-ed on forestry by PDHR Hays	**Glas Srpske – Glas Plus** inset, pg 4, announced on cover of Glas Plus 'Damage instead of benefit' by Donald Hays – In an op-ed for GS, PDHR **Donald Hays**wrote that for more than a year now a group of businessmen and academics have been actively engaged in an effort to draft legislation that would help staunch the flow of illegal timber from this country and thereby help rescue BiH's forests from their current scandalous mismanagement. He said this effort has been hindered by powerful lobbies in the forestry sector. '*These lobbies are working in their own self-interest and clearly against BiH's economic development. Furthermore, they are working against the legitimate environmental interests of this country, which means they are working against the interests and the health of all BiH citizens*', PDHR Hays said. He stressed the Special Auditor's report on Srpske Sume confirmed everyone's worst fears about mismanagement in the forestry sector. According to PDHR Hays, the forestry associations have launched an initiative to establish a state certification mechanism for sustainable forestry management. Legislation now being prepared will, among other things, introduce a framework for the state-level standardization, accreditation and certification of forestry products.