

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 31/5/2006

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 31 May

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
World Anti-smoking Day	Mital Steel employees still in strike	PRD Steering Board in session
SB PRD to vote on police structure	Trade Union Forum commenced	RS PM Dodik on PRD SB session
Paris : Conflicts again	Police arrested two for drug dealing	Privatisation of Telekom Srpske

TV news broadcast on 30 May

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
The session of BiH Presidency	Rehn and HR had talks in Belgrade	EU condemns referendum initiative
Petrol prices won't be changed	Ivanic leads BiH delegation in BG	SNSD: Dodik misinterpreted
Insurants on health fees in HNC	BiH Presidency had its session	BIH Electoral Comm. on registration
Decision of CEC for Croat parties	Rotation of BiH deminers returned	EC on liberalisat. of BIH visa regime

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Memorial boards put up in Potocari	Mittal Steel veterans in hunger strike	Reg. table of the SEE Stability Pact
Meeting in Belgrade of RPfS	119 people employed in Gorazde	Reactions to alleg.on RS referendum

Comment of Lidija Korac on SNSD	ITA projects presented	Dodik regarding the reforms in BiH
Reactions to SNSD statement	Forum of Independent Trade Unions	Cadjo regarding PRD

Oslobodjenje	Hague responsibilities are pulling Balkans backwards
Dnevni Avaz	[Olli Rehn] Referendum in RS is not a good idea
Dnevni List	Croats cannot reconstruct their houses because of VAT (on problems in delivery of Croatian donation in construction material for Pelagicevo Municipality in Posavina)
Vecernji List	RS does not give up referendum (VL comments on RS PM Dodik's announcement on referendum in RS)
Slobodna Dalmacija	Health insurance stamp – 10 KM (on health insurance system in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton)
Nezavisne Novine	Lobbies have caused us damage of BAM 1 billion
Glas Srpske	How long double standards would last?
EuroBlic	Miladin is running away through forests, police is chasing him on the road (pursuit after a man in Kotor Varos over shooting incidents)
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
PRD SB in session	RTRS – The Police Reform Directorate' (PRD) Steering Board is today expected to re-vote on Opinion regarding structure of future police forces in BiH, SB Chair Vinko Dumancic confirmed. RHB also announces the session.

<p>RS PM Dodik: establishment of PRD, as well as its work and decision-making process are not in line with Police Reform Agreement</p>	<p>RTRS – Milorad Dodik, RS Premier, is of the view that establishment of PRD, as well as its work and way decision-making process, are not in line with Police Reform Agreement. Dodik has stated he had already informed Adnan Terzic, BiH CoM Chair, and representatives of international community of this, adding that he encountered no understanding as he said. RS Premier reiterated that RS representative at the PRD SB remains in the status of observer. He has noted: <i>RS is represented with one out of 11 members of the PRD SB, where the majority vote has been imposed...The team working on the so-called models on future police forces can naturally do whatever it wants. My understanding of the Police Reform Agreement is that model needs to be endorsed through RS Parliament. Few weeks ago, RS NA had debate on this issue and Recommendation was provided... Nobody pays attention to these Recommendations."</i></p>
<p>ICTY says Milosevic was not poisoned</p>	<p>RTRS, BH Radio 1 – The Hague Tribunal has today announced that the former Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, did not die of poisoning, adding he was taking medicines by his own, while experts have different opinions as to whether surgery would have prevented his death.</p>

Debate on referendum initiative

<p>SEE Stability Pact mtg in Belgrade : EU's Ollie Rehn says referendum in RS is "not good idea"; Serbian official Draskovic: Independent Kosovo would be disaster for region</p>	<p>BHT1 by <u>Vesna Simic, Belgrade</u> – European officials have condemned the recent statements which call on organizing referendum in the RS that would allow this entity a separation from BiH. At the Regional Round Table of Stability Pact for South East Europe held in Belgrade, the EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn reiterated that the BiH's integrity and sovereignty must be respected as well as its constitutional framework that should be improved by "<i>evolution and not revolution</i>". "<i>Referendum in RS is not a good idea therefore it is not a welcomed idea,</i>" said Rehn while Special Coordinator of Stability Pact Erhard Bussek added that he would "<i>advise RS politicians that have launched this initiative to pay more attention to [gross domestic product] GDP per capita and the conditions of living. I think they should focus on other issues which are more relevant for living standard</i>". On the other side, although the HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling stated on Monday that Serb officials agreed with him that RS referendum is not a good idea. SCG Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic pointed out the risk of having "<i>imposed state</i>" at the Serbian territory raising an issue of privileged nations entitled to their own state in comparison to those unprivileged: "<i>Regarding Kosovo, if a decision would be brought to chop Serbian state, than I'm afraid it would be the beginning of the disaster in the region and Europe.</i>" He added that BiH was internationally recognized state and that he respected that fact noting that Serbia in the same way must be supported as a whole. Hayat – However, Draskovic also noted that if Kosovo was made independent "<i>that would be like a dynamite to the stability of the region... this would immediately raise questions on the future of not only BiH but other countries as well.</i>" RTRS, Dnevni List, pg 7 'Equal status of RS', <u>not signed</u>– BiH Foreign Minister, Mladen Ivanic, believes interest of RS is to stay within BiH but with guaranteed equality. According to Ivanic, RS citizens might change their mind if pressures on RS continue. Ivanic also believes that issue of Kosovo status would open other issues that could not be ignored. Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Pressures against RS may cause disobedience' by <u>V.Popovic</u> – Ivanic also warned continuation of pressures against RS may result in civic rebellion. PINK, RHB, Hayat, FTV, Dnevni Avaz cover splash and pg 2 'Referendum in RS is not a good idea' by <u>Lana Sinanovic</u>, Oslobodjenje cover splash and pg 3 'Hague obligations are drawing Balkans backwards' by <u>B.Boskov</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Olli Rehn: First The Hague then talks with Serbia on EU', Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Referendum in RS is not a good idea' by <u>BETA, EuroBlic</u> RSpG 2 'SNSD: Srpska is better part of BiH' inset 'Rehn: It is not a good idea' by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u>, Vecernje Novosti pgs 2-3 'Kosovo autonomous in Serbia' inset 'Dynamite in region' by <u>T.Mt.</u> also reported. Note that the international media, such as the Financial Times, New York Times and Washington Post – also reported of the Serbian officials' stances on Kosovo and the RS.</p>
---	--

<p>US official Di Carlo: status of BiH was agreed upon by Dayton Agreement</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Status of BiH was agreed upon by Dayton [Agreement]' by <u>Agencies</u> – Deputy Chief of US Diplomacy for Europe, Rosemary Di Carlo has stated the status of Bih was agreed upon in frame of the Dayton Agreement in 1996. Asked whether the Montenegrin referendum might trigger referendums in other countries, including BiH, Di Carlo shortly replied: <i>'leading RS officials are constructively working with F BiH Government on reforms of police, army and institutions'</i>.</p>
<p>SNSD: Dodik talked about referendum only as a possibility to be embedded in constitutional changes</p>	<p>BHT1 – SNSD Secretary General Rajko Vasic stated on Tuesday that the story on calling on the referendum in the RS has got unnecessary connotations adding that SNSD leader and RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik only advocated for the referendum as a possibility embedded in the Constitutional changes. <i>"This was not about concrete plans, moves or steps as it was presented by Bascarsija's [i.e. Sarajevo old town] political scene or by media taking the statement out of context"</i> underlined Vasic. According to RS President Dragan Cavic and RS Vice President Ivan Tomljenovic, the issue of referendum is an issue of pre-election campaign. <i>"There are constitutional restrictions. The Constitution is written by people, where the issue of referendum can be included for people to express their will"</i> added Tomljenovic. RTRS- <i>"This issue could not be the issue of one political party or of one man but realistic appraisal of the reality of the result,"</i> said Cavic. In issued public statement RS Socialist Party wonders: <i>"Is BiH free country and is it possible to express the opinion? If some political centres in Sarajevo have goal to take away right for self-determination to one people as a guarantee of its survivals in one country, then we are closer to break than to strengthening of that country."</i> DNS believes that the referendum is the only way to preserve Serb ethnicity. DNS and NDS believe that the allegations on referendum present pre-election farce. RS Pensioners' Party believes that BiH Constitution should provide possibility of referendum since that right has everyone in Europe. SRS "Dr. Vojislav Seselj" believes that insisting on Dayton Peace Agreement is good for RS and Serb people. Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Pressures against RS may cause disobedience' by <u>V.Popovic</u> – Cavic stated that politicians and media in Sarajevo, that have been negating RS, have to sober up, since otherwise they would make RS get away from it. Svetlana Cenic, DEPOS CO-Chair, has stated that Dodik's statement was used in Sarajevo to discredit him as one of the strongest political figures for the upcoming elections. Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Dodik's statements weren't presenting concrete plans' by O.V., Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Unnecessary dimension of story on referendum' by <u>V.Popovic</u>, EuroBlic RSpG 2 'SNSD: Srpska is better part of BiH' by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u>, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Bas Carsija scenario' by <u>M. Dz</u> – reported on SNSD. Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Pressures against RS may cause disobedience' by <u>V.Popovic</u>, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Same orchestra for years' <u>not signed</u> – Socialists. Glas Srpske pg 5 'Political farce' by <u>S. S.</u> – DNS; Glas Srpske pg 5 'Pre-election points' by <u>D. Mo.</u> – NDS.</p>

<p>SDA caucus in RSNA says referendum is clear violation of the Constitution, Ivo Miro Jovic agrees; Serb deputies in RS CoP against state referendum</p>	<p>BHT1, Hayat, Oslobođenje pg 6 'Division of BiH is anti-constitutional' <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Republika Srpska cannot schedule referendum' by <u>V.P.</u> – In a joint statement issued by SDA Caucus in RS National Assembly, it was stressed that RS cannot organize referendum since in that way it would violate the Constitution. Oslobođenje pg 6 'Unserious comparison between Montenegro and the RS' by <u>S.R.</u>, – The member of BiH Presidency Ivo Miro Jovic is of the same opinion adding <i>"making the parallel between Montenegrin referendum and RS situation is absurd because BIH had its referendum when it had chosen the independence"</i>. Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'BiH had its referendum' by <u>FENA</u> -Jovic on Tuesday in Sarajevo stated BiH had its referendum at which it has determined to have independent state. Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Condemnation of assaults from Bosniak Club' by <u>V.P.</u>, Dnevni List, pg 5 'Stabilization is questionable', <u>not signed</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Condemnation of inflammatory statements' by <u>G. D.</u>– Radjevic noted that such statements could destabilize situation in BiH – Serb reps at the RS Council of Peoples reacted to the statement of Bosniak Deputies RS Council of Peoples who stated that at the possible referendum on independence or abolishment of the RS majority in BiH would vote for the abolishment of the RS. <i>"I believe that if we did not give any statements on referendum in the RS, then they should not give statements on abolishment of the RS"</i>, said Desanka Radjevic, Serb Representative in RS Council of Peoples.</p>
<p>SNSDs Simic: IC should implement same standards</p>	<p>Glas Srpske cover pg splash 'How long double standards would last?' by <u>Z.Markovic</u> – Regarding statement of HR to BiH Christian Schwarz Schilling (that he would use his Bonn powers following referendum reference in RS) Krstan Simic from SNSD does not believe that HR would undertake concrete measures, adding Premier Dodik has only mentioned the possibility of referendum, with an intention to send a message to IC it should implement policy of same standards. Inset 'American recipe' – Political analyst Gostimir Popovic thinks all High Representatives to BiH had been working as in accordance with "American recipe", i.e. they have first examined the situation and then started to "hit on the heads" and hush up mainly Serbs. <i>'The problem of the current HR is that he appeals on some non-existing powers in order to threat to those who wish to exercise universal rights of every person'</i>, Popovic concluded.</p>
<p>RS NA Chairman Radojicic: there are no parallels between RS, Kosovo and Montenegro</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'There are no parallels between RS, Kosovo and Montenegro' by <u>D. V.</u> – RS NA Chairman Igor Radojicic stated after a meeting with Chairman of Serbian Parliament Predrag Markovic that no parallels could be drawn between the statuses of Montenegro, Kosovo and RS. He added he informed Markovic on many issues, primarily on unsuccessful constitutional reform.</p>

<p>BOSS: SNSD violated the BiH Electoral Law and should be banned from elections</p>	<p>RHB, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'They demand ban against SNSD to participate in elections' by FENA – BOSS claims that by certifying SNSD for the upcoming elections, the Central Election Commission is initiating a division of BiH and violating Article 1.13 of the BiH Electoral Law where all leaders of political parties must sign a statement that their party will abide by the framework agreement on peace in BiH. Due to the separatist statements proclaimed by Milorad Dodik, the leader of SNSD and the Prime Minister of RS, BOSS thinks that the BiH CEC should ban SNSD from the upcoming elections. BHT1- <i>"Unless Dodik renounces the initiative for organizing RS referendum, or if CEC doesn't punish him, we will, on this side, organise the petition for removing Dodik from the political scene and removal of the CEC members since this might instigate further requests for the separation"</i> said BOSS leader Mirnes Ajanovic. CEC's Vehid Sehic stated that CEC has no reasons for removing Dodik from the list adding that CEC still hasn't received his platform. It was noted that that all political parties will be removed from the October elections if found violating the constitution.</p>
<p>BiH CEC 's Korac: parties can be disqualified from elections after certification process is done</p>	<p>Hayat- After being asked to comment whether the idea on RS independence can lead to the disqualification of SNSD from the electoral process, Lidija Korac, a member of the BiH Central Electoral Commission [CEC] explained that prior to Monday's certification of political subjects for the elections the CEC had no mandate to act. But, as Korac explained since every party had to sign the contract that would respect and honor the general peace agreement and the Constitution, after the certification process any party which conduct is in contradiction with that will be sanctioned and one of the measures might be decertification of political parties.</p>
<p>CEC ' Petric: institution that would establish whether the DPA is violated should be established</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Petric: There were no obstacles for verification of SNSD application' by A.Malagic– Commenting the fact that SNSD election application was verified and asked which institution should determine whether Dayton Agreement was violated, Chair of BiH Election Commission Branko Petric said: <i>"That is the question for all. Who and on what bases in this country is determining that someone is violating the DPA? Someone should define the institution that establishes that, based on which law and what are the sanctions. Just because of SNSD we have asked these questions. We are determining whether parties submitted the statements that would respect the DPA and what further if they don't, that is not said in the BiH Election Law"</i>.</p>
<p>Daily: Serbian Radicals and Socialists for secession of RS</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Radicals and Socialists for secession or RS' by B.B. – Commenting that regardless to the Serbian official stance which is explicitly supporting Dayton Peace Agreement [DPA], article carries that some Serbian political leaders have opposite stances. Serb Radical Party leader Tomislav Nikolic stated: <i>"If RS citizens hold plebiscite and decide to live with Serbia, no one has right to deny that... Is there a single per cent [of people] in Serbia that does not want unification with RS?"</i> Zarko Obradovic from Socialist Party of Serbia [Milosevic's party] says that RS citizens has right on referendum.</p>

<p>BiH PoWs asks Schwarz Schilling to remove Dodik, while RS Veterans express full support to him and RS Government</p>	<p>FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'Asking for High representative to replace Milorad Dodik' by Fena, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Schwarz Schilling must protect RS' inset 'They demand removal of Dodik' by <u>N.N.</u> – On Tuesday, the BiH Association of Prisoners of War sent a request to the HR, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, to remove RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik without a delay. They explained that Dodik has been calling on the violation of the constitution in deliberate and public way, further only continuing with the policy of war crime indictees. RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 5 'Schwarz Schilling must protect RS' by <u>N.N.</u>, Glas Srpske cover pg report 'With determination along with stances of the Government' <u>not signed</u>– On the other side, the RS Veterans' Organization believes that the RS should have the referendum. RS Veterans' Organization believes that the referendum would demand preparation and strategic planning of all levels of power and NGOs. SPONA asked from the High Representative for protection of the RS constitutionality within BiH. SPONA sent letter to Schwarz Schilling in which expressed its support to RS Government and RS Prime Minister.</p>
<p>Oslob op-ed: HR is trying to calm us down, saying that RS is not going anywhere; should we believe him or our own eyes</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Christian's fairytale' op-ed by <u>Josip Vricko</u> – Opening editorial with a reference to the "mini-Balkans" tour by the High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling, author notes that the HR <i>"is trying to convince us, i.e. calm us down, saying that the RS is not going anywhere"</i>. <u>Vricko</u> adds that HR is claiming that there is no such thing as the "idea to schedule" referendum, but only individual statements. <i>"That old diplomat is forcing us to believe him, not our eyes,"</i> continues <u>Vricko</u>. Editorial reads that regardless to the fact that there is no legal basis for secession of RS, about 50.0000 signatures were apparently already collected and some of the most important political figures work on it: <i>"Belgrade is sending messages... for RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and BiH Foreign Ministers Mladen Ivanic to be patient."</i> Stressing that leader of the HDZ 1990 Bozo Ljubic allegedly warned that there are those in the International Community believing it would not be "smart" to take away the RS from Serbs, after loss of Montenegro and very likely Kosovo: <i>"Clearly, the question is whether Ljubic is stating that as a fact or is he sending a message that Croat issue is being open as well? Probably both! Hence, situation is such that Schwarz-Schilling's messages seem naïve. In the matter of fact, dangerous."</i></p>
<p>DA op-ed: BiH HoR Co-Chair Spiric is harshly mocking with victims</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Spiric is harshly mocking with victims' op-ed by <u>Edina Sarac</u> – Commenting Belgrade statement of BiH House of Representatives Co-Chair Nikola Spiric, who said: <i>"There is an anecdote that Banja Luka would be satisfied if Brussels would set census of 95% for secession of RS,"</i> editorial reads that this was one of the greatest offences to the victims of ethnic cleansing. Author questions moral of an official who is <i>"presenting tragic results of genocide and aggression as an anecdote... Spiric was playing jokes with 550,000 refugees, killed and raped."</i></p>

<p>GS op-ed critical of IC's approach towards RS</p>	<p>Glas Srpske op-ed pg 2 'Signals of major injustice' by <u>Boro Maric</u> – Regarding harsh reactions by international community, including OHR, on referendum reference Milorad Dodik, RS Premier, made, the author says that no matter how much major forces measure, they always do cuts in line with their interests, the so called "new world order". He further lists some previous developments in the Balkans (demand of Croats in Croatia for cultural autonomy was rejected, referendum in BiH at which Serb people did not participate but still its result was recognised by IC) saying those were "green light" signals of "new world order" that wars may start. He ends the op-ed with reference to statement former British Ambassador to BiH and Serbia Charles Crawford made 2 years ago at International Conference on Kosovo, saying: <i>'What we tell to peoples in BiH is – you do not like each other, but you must live together – whether you like it or not. What we tell to peoples of Kosovo is – since you disagree you can separate.'</i> According to author, it is good British diplomat spoke out loud about appearance of politics of world forces – the bad thing is that signals of "major injustice" are being broadcast even nowadays. The worse thing it is being done by force.</p>
<p>VL on call for referendum in RS: RS PM Dodik's statement is attempt to take as better position as possible for constitutional changes negotiations</p>	<p>Vecernji List cover pg splash 'RS does not give up referendum' and pg 23 'Dodik demands secession of RS from BiH' by <u>M. Vasilj</u> comments on the announcement about organizing the referendum in the RS given by RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and VL says that High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling visited Belgrade in order to warn the Serbian leadership of separatist aspirations of Serbs in BiH. VL says that this visit has been already commented in BiH as a small comfort since the HR's institution would be shut down soon. According to the article, analysts have judged the Dodik's statement as a nationalistic and war-mongering, as well as an attempt to take as better position as possible for the constitutional changes negotiations.</p>
<p>DL op-ed: RS PM Dodik should be sanctioned for calling on referendum in RS</p>	<p>Dnevni List pg 2 'Dodik should be charged' by <u>R. Dautevendic</u> comments on the RS PM Milorad Dodik's announcement on the referendum in the RS and the author says that the BiH Election Commission should sanction Dodik for such statement since he signed that he would not do anything against BiH interests when he registered his party for the October elections. The author also believes that High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling should exclude Dodik from the political life for good as an example to other politicians that they should not even think about dividing of a sovereign and internationally recognized state. Finally, the author wonders as to why Dodik would not be charged with subversion of the constitutional organization of the state since former HDZ President Ante Jelavic has been charged for the same thing, that is, for the project of the Croat self-rule.</p>

<p>VL op-ed: On ground of referendums in former Yugoslavia everything would be reduced to absurd of national states</p>	<p>Vecernji List pg 24 'Epidemic of referendums in Balkans' by <u>M. Jajcinovic</u> comments on the referendum in Montenegro and calls on the referendums in Sandzak, the RS etc. and the author wonders where is logic in the situation in which war criminal Radovan Karadzic should go to the ICTY while his war booty has been legalized. The author also wonders whether exchange of goods follow: Karadzic to go to The Hague and the RS would become a state in return. The author believes that if this happens and division of Serbia and Montenegro continues then the whole process of dissolution of former Yugoslavia and creating of new states would be an absurd since on the ground of referendums everything would be reduced to the so-called '<i>absurd of national states</i>'.</p>
---	--

Other political stories

BiH Presidency discusses letter of BiH Court President on IC exerting pressure; AI's report on illegal sale of weapons to Iraq is incorrect

BHT1- After BiH Court President **Meddzida Kreso** sent a letter of complaint on the pressure exercised on the Court by some representatives of the international community, the BiH Presidency at Tuesday session condemned all attempts to interfere with the work of this Court. **FTV –** BiH Presidency Member **Ivo Miro Jovic** commented on this issue: *"Having in mind the importance of the judiciary at the state level, Presidency expects from all individuals, institutions and organisation, both domestic and international, not to interfere with the work of the BIH Court"* said Jovic. It was announced that at the next session, BiH Presidency would discuss the proposal of BiH Presidency Member **Borislav Paravac** for removal of BiH Council of Ministers Chair **Adnan Terzic**. **BHT 1 –** Presidency also concluded that no illegal activities or violation of the procedures took place with regard to the export of weapons from BiH to Iraq and that the report submitted by Amnesty International is incorrect. BiH Presidency has adopted the decision on ratification of the inter-state agreement on rights of HVO victims and members of their families between BiH and Croatia. **RHB, PINK, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 **'Interference in work of BiH Court is condemned'** **By Fena, Oslobodjenje** pg 2 **'To restrain from pressures to BiH Court'** **by S.R.-A.O., EuroBlic** RSpg 3 **'Presidency is defending Court'** **by D.S., Dnevni List**, pg 3 **'Stop pressures on state Court'**, **by D. P. Mandic, Vecernji List**, pg 2, mentioned on front **'Agreement on HVO ratified'**, **by Dejan Jazvic, Glas Srpske** pg 3 **'On Terzic's removal next time'** **by V. B.–** also carried.

BiH CoM rejects draft law on higher education; explains that issue is in article defining the Agency for accrediting and licensing of Universities

BHT1– At its Tuesday’s session, BIH Council of Ministers failed to adopt the draft law on Higher Education although they assessed it as in accordance with the EU standards. Discussing the draft law on Higher Education, CoM rejected one article defining the establishment of Agency for Accrediting and Licensing of Higher Educational Institutions. BIH Minister of Communications and Transport, **Branko Dokic**, stated at the press conference, that CoM *“did not accept that this institution has the authority to pass the decision on the accrediting of the University or the Higher Educational Institution”*. **Srdjan Arnaut**, from Work Group on Higher Education law, pointed out that the Agency will be just formally issuing accreditations and licensing the Universities because *“according to the draft law, the accreditation is left to the founder of the university i.e. Entities or Cantons”*. Rector of Sarajevo University, **Hasan Muratovic** deems that the draft law is incomplete because it doesn’t contain all important articles, especially *“regarding the issue of funding of the University and scientific research”*. It was agreed that at the session on Thursday, CoM would vote on which draft law is going to be sent to the parliamentary procedure. **RHB, FTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 ‘Authority for accredited universities disputable’ by M.Cubro, **Oslobodjenje** pg 8 ‘Again about higher education on Thursday’ by M.K.S., **Glas Srpske** pg 3 ‘Draft laws returned for additional development’ by Z. Domazet – also covered.

<p>HR meets EU Enlargement Commissioner Rehn</p>	<p>PINK– EU Enlargement Commissioner Ollie Rehn held separate talks with the HR Christian Schwarz Schilling, about the BiH improvement in the negotiations on SAA with the EU. Rehn and Schwarz Schilling stressed importance of BiH fulfilment of EC requirements regarding the police reform. Schwarz Schilling said that the region could learn a lot from BiH and its efforts to change the image that has at the international scene. RHB, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 ‘BiH should fulfil obligations of European Commission’, Vecernji List, pg 2 ‘BiH must meet EC’s obligations’, by f – also mentioned the meeting was held.</p>
--	---

SEE Stability Pact in Belgrade : Round table to be transformed in regional council for cooperation

Dnevni Avaz cover splash and pg 2 'Referendum in RS is not a good idea' by Lana Sinanovic – During the Regional Round Table of Stability Pact it was discussed about future of this organization and its transformation into the Regional Council for Cooperation. It was stressed that Secretary General of the Council would be elected in May next year and that GS would be a impressive political figure from the Balkans. It was also estimated that liberalization of the visa regime for Western Balkans countries should be done as soon as possible. **Oslobodjenje** cover splash and pg 3 'Hague obligations are drawing Balkans backwards' by B.Boskov – Special Coordinator of Stability Pact **Erhard Bussek** stressed that situation in the West Balkans has improved significantly since the establishment of the SP in 1999, but he added that there are still "*some issues, such as cooperation with the ICTY that are drawing regional countries backwards*". Inset 'Serbia will not disappoint the Europe'- SCG Foreign Minister **Vuk Draskovic** stated that all obstacle in cooperation with the ICTY have to be removed, stressing that "*Serbia will not disappoint the Europe*". **RTRS** Serbian President **Boris Tadic** said that **Ratko Mladic** belongs to The Hague and that has to be arrested as soon as possible. Rehn said that EU would continue negotiations on Stabilization and Association Agreement [SAA] with Serbia as soon as Serbia fulfils commitment toward the ICTY. **RHB, PINK, FTV, Hayat, BHT1** – all electronic media have reported on the SEE Stability Pact session in Belgrade. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'Sarajevo should be a seat of Pact' by Agencies

HR proposes
Sarajevo as
centre of
Regional Council

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'It is an illusion that one in the region can be rich and others poor'
L.Sinanovic – Addressing the Regional Round Table of the Stability Pact, High Representative **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** emphasized the role of the Stability Pact, adding that this organization has done more than sceptics predicted, but less than optimists hoped for.
Schwarz-Schilling stressed that SP has to change, since the whole region changes: *"Both changes are positive. I am convinced that BiH can play an important role in these changes"* said HR, adding that due to the efforts BiH has made in last period of time, he believes that Sarajevo should be a main candidate for headquarter of the new Regional Council for Cooperation. HR underlined that key factor of progress in the Balkans is the establishment of free trade, adding that it is an illusion that some economies can prosper, while those in the neighbourhood are collapsing. *"We are faced with a simple life fact in economic life. And it says: either we can become rich together or we would remain poor together"* said the HR. **Inset** 'Meeting with Rehn'- During the meeting with EU Enlargement Commissioner **Olli Rehn**, Schwarz-Schilling informed him about transition of OHR into EUSR and emphasized that BiH politicians have to take over the leading process in the country. Inset 'Sarajevo, future centre of the Council'- carried the statement of OHR Spokesperson **Sanela Tunovic** in line with the HR's address to the session. **Dnevni List**, pg 6 'Sarajevo to be seat of Secretariat of Stability Pact?', not signed – also carries.

28 political parties haven't been certified for upcoming elections by CEC; 20 have two day deadline to make corrections in applications

BHT1 by Sanita Lisica-Biberovic – The BiH Central Electoral Commission [CEC] stated that applications for the registration at the upcoming elections in October haven't been verified for 28 political parties. Apart from the political parties CEC hasn't verified application for 10 independent candidates as well. Twenty political parties have submitted applications containing some irregularities so CEC has given them two-day deadline to change this and re-apply. *"Usually irregularities refer to wrong registration numbers of political parties or invalid support-signatures of the people that are either not registered as voters or their Personal Identity Numbers are invalid"* said **Vehid Seco** from CEC. Among the parties whose applications haven't been verified are PDP, HDZ 1990 and BOSS. **Nevenka Trifovic** from PDP stated that 41 signatures of support for the candidacy for the BiH Presidency had some irregularities. HDZ 1990 need one word to add in order to differ from HDZ BiH. BOSS political party hasn't been verified because of the insufficient number of the support signatures. **Mirnes Ajanovic** Leader of BOSS claims this to be the manipulation. **RHB**– Following Croat parties were certified for the upcoming October elections: HDZ BiH, HSP, NHI, and HDU BiH. Parties which were not certified are: HKDU, HNZ, HSS, HDK, HSP Dzadic-Dr.Jurismic, and Croatian Block BiH due to a lack of signatories in accordance with Article 4.11 of the BiH Electoral Law. HDZ 1990 must submit their full party name in accordance with Article 4.7 of the Law. Reacting to this, HDZ 1990 claims that it has registered its party at the relevant court and the name of the party is valid. They pointed out that they are aware that the CEC was under the influence of HDZ BiH. **RTRS**– also covered.

<p>EuroBlic: Potential election list members/holders</p>	<p>EuroBlic pg RS3, announced on cover ‘Parties are hiding candidates’ <u>by Rajna Radosavljevic</u> – The article reads parties that will participate at the October elections should deliver their lists of candidates to BiH Election Commission in the period between June 23 – July 3, yet everyone is still officially silent about the names. SNSD’s Krstan Simic said the party has not dealt with the names of candidates because the process is still in form of drafts, however, according to unofficial information, SNSD Banja Luka nominated Igor Radojicic to the main position of the list for Banja Luka, Nikola Radovanovic was nominated for BiH Presidency member while Krstan Simic was nominated for RS President. SDS too refused to reveal any names, but according to unofficial information Ognjen Tadic is the first person on the list for RS NA, while Dragan Cavic is a candidate for one of high-ranking positions at the joint institutions. PDP wanted neither to confirm nor deny the possibility of nominating Mladen Ivanic for BiH Presidency member, SDA says the only certain thing is that Sulejman Tihic would be nominated for BiH Presidency member while Party for BiH says they are still negotiating on forming a coalition with SDU, BOSS and some smaller parties that “<i>were forming a block in talks on constitutional changes</i>”, adding the party would participate on all levels at the elections. SDP’s Jozo Krizanovic says SDP President Zlatko Lagumdzija will not run for a position at BiH Presidency.</p>
--	---

HDZ 1990 to
become HDZ 1990 –
People's party

Dnevni Avaz pg 11 'HDZ 1990 adds 'People's party' to its name?' by F.V. – HDZ 1990 Spokesperson **Drazenko Primorac** told daily on Tuesday that this party will proceed in line with demand of BiH Central Electoral Commission [CEC] and partially change its name in order to differ from HDZ BiH. Primorac said: *"Besides the name of HDZ 1990, our party will have one of these additions: 'Croat unity', 'Croat community' or 'People's party'. Maybe there would be some other suggestions."* DA learns that the most likely option is the very last one. Primorac added that name of the party is not going to be changed in the court register, for that process is already over, noting that HDZ 1990 will use its new name only during the elections time. **Oslobodjenje** pg 4 'HDZ 1990 is not giving up on its name' not signed – HDZ 1990 stated on Tuesday that its name is valid and irrefutable, adding that it is already recognized in public: *"We are convinced that this would solve this issue with BiH Central Electoral Commission [CEC] in next two days in accordance with the Law on elections."* **Dnevni List**, pg 5 'Ljubic's HDZ getting new name', by Dario Pusic, **Vecernji List**, pg 3, mentioned on front 'HDZ 1990 must change name within 48 hours', by Zoran Kresic, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 15, mentioned on front 'HDZ 1990 must change name', by D. Pasic – also reported.

RS MoI Cadjo;
nothing happened
that would change
RS
representatives'
mind regarding
preserving of
observers' status
in PRD SB

RTRS – RS Minister of Interior **Stanslav Cadjo** said that neither one thing has changed at the Police Reform Directorate Steering Board since its last meeting, which would make **Nijaz Smajlovic**, RS Representative at the Police Reform Directorate Steering Board to change his position of the observer. Cadjo doubts that anything would happen at the meeting of the Police Reform Directorate Steering Board, which should be held on Wednesday. [At last session of the PRD SB, RS representatives froze their participation and remained only as observers, protesting for outvoting method used for passing of the PRD SB's Opinion]. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Another vote on police structure' by E.S. – Announcing Wednesday's session of Police Reform Directorate [PRD] Steering Board, at which there should be vote on Opinion regarding police structure in BiH, author comments that it is not clear how will PRD manage to work, for RS Representative Nijaz Smajlovic freeze its status in PRD and declared himself as an observer. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 6 'New voting on organization of police forces today' by M. Cubro Inset 'Cadjo: RS still an observer – also reported.

<p>PRD SB Chair Dumancic: SB to vote on opinion on future organization of police forces again today / RS representative Smajlovic still an observer</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'New voting on organization of police forces today' by <u>M. Cubro</u>, Glas Srpske pg 2 'Again on the structure today' by <u>Z. D.</u> – Chairman of the Steering Board of Police Reform Directorate Vinko Dumancic has confirmed the Steering Board should again vote on the opinion on future organization of single police forces in BiH today [Wednesday]. He also confirmed models of organization of police forces will be presented during the session. Acting Director of RS Police Nijaz Smajlovic confirmed he would attend the session as an observer only and added he would not bring any new suggestion on police reform to the session of the Steering Board. He added: <i>'I think this is a matter for RS Government because professionals, who would surely develop the best solutions from the professional point of view, are sitting at the Board. However, politicians had not provided us with pre-conditions to do so'.</i></p>
<p>SDS Cavic: SDS shares the view of RS Govt on police reform</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Stance of RS Government on police reform is also a stance of SDS' by <u>R.S.</u> – Following Tuesday's session of SDS Election Board, Dragan Cavic, RS President, has stated that the stance of RS Government on police reform in BiH is also a political stance of SDS , adding that SDS will support joint work on all key issues including constitutional changes and other strategic issues related to RS status.</p>

Stoppage of reforms can endanger signing of the Agreement

Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Stoppage of reforms can endanger signing of the Agreement' by T.L.— BiH Chief Negotiation for Stabilization and Association Agreement, **Igor Davidovic** told DA that the fact that BiH hasn't got far enough in reform processes can cause problems in signing of the SAA. He underlines that EU representatives have, in several occasions, emphasized the necessity of police reform. Davidovic said that following round of the SAA negotiations would be held in mid- June and leader of the Delegation would be **Reinhardt Priebe**, Director for West Balkans. He stressed that statements of RS Prime- Minister **Milorad Dodik** regarding succession of the RS have no influence on SAA negotiations. *"I don't see that this has intensified the political scene in the country that could affect the course of negotiations,"* said Davidovic. Inset 'Second round would last two days'- Chief negotiator conformed that next round would be the first to last two days, stressing that in this phase he wasn't to reach some final stances with the other side.

<p>Possible liberalization on visa regime for certain categories by end of year</p>	<p>BHT1 by Elvir Bucalo, Brussels – At the technical round of negotiations between the EC and BiH held in Brussels, it was concluded that BiH could be approved for the liberalization of the visa regime for special categories by the end of the year. Bakir Dautbasic, Chief of BiH Delegation, stated at the occasion that BiH has started the expertise negotiations with EC regarding the liberalization of the visa regime. <u>Bucalo</u> stated that EC presented their stands that were for the first time positive and complimentary for what has been done in Sarajevo adding that this was yet the slow process. Students, academics, politicians, diplomats, and businessmen will be included in the defined category that will have some benefits. It was also stated that two parallel ways for visa liberalization were negotiated; one referring to tourists and the other to immigrants that if found could be deported to BiH. Dnevni Avaz pg 5 ‘Negotiations with BiH on visa regime this year’ by <u>T.Lazovic</u>– <i>“All doubts have been shattered on whether the EU Council of Ministers would give mandate for negotiations with BiH this year, after that happened with SCG and Macedonia, which is encouraging”</i> said Dautbasic. Hayat – also covered.</p>
---	--

<p>HR Schwarz-Schilling welcomes adoption of Mostar budget, says other pending issues have to be resolved</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 10 'Schwarz-Schilling welcomes adoption of Mostar budget', <u>not signed</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 10 'Adoption of Mostar budget welcomed' by <u>M.Kr.</u> – According to an OHR spokesperson, Sanela Tunovic, the High Representative, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, has welcomed the news that the City Council of Mostar had adopted the 2006 budget, encouraging the Council to continue solving other pending issues. <i>"Mostar will have my full support in final solution of years long disputable issues. However, I will follow to closely monitor how political leaders fulfil their commitments towards the citizens of Mostar. I hope the City Council will continue with this progress and complete the forming of the city administration and establish a single public utility company of Mostar before the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board meeting in late June"</i>, stated the HR.</p>
<p>SDS Cavic: RTRS reports on SDS with hatred</p>	<p>RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'RTRS is reporting on SDS with hatred' <u>not signed</u>, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Lists are being developed' by <u>D. Mo.</u> – RS President and SDS Chair Dragan Cavic on Tuesday accused RTRS of biased and shameful reporting, in which hate towards SDS is dominant. He noted SDS will point on biased reporting of RTRS, as well as other state media, before RS NA and BiH Parliament.</p>

Economic issues

CoM urges non-adoption of zero VAT rate; EC Humphreys says this could damage BiH budget

PINK- Start of project on BiH fiscal policy was presented on Tuesday in Sarajevo. This project is worth 2 million Euros and EU provides resources. Austrian Government donated 225.000 Euros for the needs of Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] Steering Board. **FTV** – BiH Council of Ministers decided to urge the non-adoption of the proposed zero-rate VAT because of the successful first period in 2006. BiH Finance Minister **Ljerka Maric** warned delegates in the BiH Parliament not to vote in the favor for the proposed zero rate VAT because, as she noted, the flow of money regarding the welfare will be decreased. *“The zero VAT rate in the first year of implementation can only damage BiH budget”*. Head of the European Commission Delegation to BiH, **Michael Humphries**, stressed, *“if adopted, zero – VAT – rate, the budget for 2006 will be decreased and by time it might present the macro-economic threat to the development of the state”*. It was also stressed the need for the establishment of the BiH Fiscal Council. **RTRS, Dnevni Avaz** pg 10 ‘EU donated 2 million euros for aid to fiscal policy’ by T.L., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 9 ‘Against 0 VAT rate’ by SRNA – also covered.

<p>ITA SB failed to reach agreement on calculating of coefficients for allocating of resources from the single account</p>	<p>RTRS <u>By Zorica Rulj-</u> At its session held on Tuesday Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] Steering Board did not determine methodology for calculating of the coefficients for allocation of the resources from the single account. There were three proposals in this regard but neither one got necessary support. This issue will be discussed next week. RS Minister of Finance Aleksandar Dzombic said that the RS would not accept coefficient of 29.5 % for June since certain tax reports from FBiH have not been corrected. <i>"We concluded that we could accept neither one of proposed models. We will again engage department for macroeconomic analyses to use all three models for the existing data so we have results in seven days. Then we will discuss which model we will accept,</i> said Dzombic. Glas Srpske pg 2 'Mistakes prevented agreement' <u>by D. Vrhovac – Mihajlovic and Z. Domazet</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 9 'Possibly new blockade of money distribution' by <u>R.Cengic</u> – also carried.</p>
--	--

DA on ITA SB session:
'Will money on single account be blocked again?'

Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Will money on single account be blocked again?' by T.Lazovic –

Following the Tuesday's session of Indirect Taxation Administration [ITA] Steering Board and failure to determine methodology for calculating of the coefficients for allocation of the resources from the single account, RS Minister of Finance **Aleksandar Dzombic** told daily that he would submit appeal on coefficients proposed by ITA Director **Kemal Causevic**. Dzombic stated: *"Agreed changes are not applied. Coefficients remained almost identical to the earlier ones."* ITA SB Chair **Joly Dixon** said that there would be no decision for June, which would again block money on the single account. Dzombic stated that according to the previous decision signed by entity prime ministers, Causevic can actually allocate money from the single account even without Dzombic's permission: *"Legally he can do that for prime ministers signed it, but I will submit complaints for the agreement was not respected. I will inform RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** about this."*

<p>DL on problems in delivery of Croatian donation for Croat returnees in Posavina due to VAT</p>	<p>Dnevni List cover pg splash and pg 15 ‘Croats cannot reconstruct their houses because of VAT’ by <u>T. Bijelic</u> carries that last year the Croatian donation in construction material was sent to the Pelagicevo Municipality in Posavina, however this material has not been delivered to Croat returnees yet due to unresolved issue of value added tax payment. DL says that donors believe that this donation should be exempted from VAT, while the BiH Ministry of Finances claims the opposite.</p>
---	---

<p>NN interview with F BiH Premier: Lobbies have caused damage of BAM 1 billion</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine cover pg splash ‘Lobbies have caused us damage of BAM 1 billion’ by <u>R.Cengic</u> – In a page interview to daily, AHmet Hadzipasic, F BiH Premier, says that F BiH is under a strong pressure of parties that have their people in it, estimating that over various interests but also over misunderstanding and intolerance, 30% of Government potential has remained unused, over which reason F BiH was losing about BAM 1 billion a year. He explains this by saying: <i>“Lack on tolerance, distrust and non-acceptance of productive solutions by party, personal, lobbyist or national interests have been slowing down process of adopting qualitative solutions or have led it to adoption of certain some acts and decisions placed in some another manner in conceptual sense.”</i> He says his salary amounts to BAM 2500 including all allowances, while the salaries of public companies’ directors amount to BAM 9 thousand. On this he adds he had launched initiative regarding cutting salaries of directors, but this was not adopted.</p>
---	---

<p>PDHR Butler visited Ze- Do Canton: Small and medium companies are future of BiH</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 3 'Future of BiH are small and middle companies' by <u>A.M.</u> – Lawrence Butler, PDHR, stated after Canton (ZDK) that small and middle companies represent future of BiH, adding it is evident that companies in ZDK and BiH have excellent human resources and mechanisation, but they do not assistance in making contacts with foreign partners. Butler expressed encouragement over the fact that visible progress in economic development has taken part in Zenica and its surrounding area.</p>
--	--

<p>PDHR Butler : central banking control would strengthen credit capability and security of banks</p>	<p>RTRS By Marina Marjanovic- Principle Deputy of High Representative Lawrence Butler reminded that modernization of banking system control is one of the requirements for signing of Stabilization and Association Agreement and that entity' parliaments have to pass necessary laws to establish the central system for this. PDHR deems that this system would help in protection of saving depositors and would strengthen crediting capability as well as security of banks. Since now banks in BiH are being supervised by two entity' Banking Agencies, which as Butler deems is expensive and inefficient, he proposed supervision by the BiH Central Bank. <i>"Supervision is very important since many investments and banking activities at the moment go in the direction of the FBiH not RS."</i> said Butler . Butler believes that BiH could get modern banking control system before the October elections if parliaments pass the necessary laws in time.</p>
---	---

Other issues

<p>PDHR meets RS PM Dodik on 'Palic case'</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 8 'RS MoI has no new information' by <u>E.K.</u>— Principle Deputy of the High Representative Lawrence Butler would meet on Wednesday with RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik in regard to locating of body remains of Colonel Avdo Palic [who went missing during the negotiations with RS Army on evacuation of Zepa Zepa in 1995 with the RS Army; BiH Human Rights Chamber obligated RS Government to locate his body remains]. Last Friday, when the deadline for solving of the case expired, OHR received the report of RS Government <i>"that RS Interior Ministry was not able to provide new information significant for Palic case"</i>. Author mentioned that High Representative Christian Schwarz-Schilling should talk about this case in Belgrade , during the Stability Pact, but it is unknown whether he did this. Oslobodjenje also carries that Palic was allegedly killed by his former pupil.</p>
<p>BiH Parliamentary Commission on OSA leadership</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Terzic proposed Dzuvo, Zaric and Cosic again' by <u>H.O.</u> —Announces Wednesday's session of BiH Parliamentary commission for monitoring work of OSA [BiH Intelligence-Security Agency], at which deputies will take stance on proposal of BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic who proposed again the present leaders of this institution – Almir Dzuvo, Risto Zaric and Ivan Cosic.</p>

<p>DA: Irregularities in business of CIPS</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'More than 1.2 million KM paid for the part-time contracts', mentioned on cover 'Crimes in CIPS Directorate' by <u>E. Sarac</u> – DA carries that the BiH Auditors Office has concluded in its audit report that CIPS Directorate, which issues ID cards, has committed a number of irregularities in its business. Team lead by Senior Auditor Dragoljub Kovincic concluded that the recommendations from 2004 report were not met, that financial reports are not "realistic" and that only 22 out of 124 persons have regular contracts with the Directorate. The salaries of those 22 were reported to be too high, as well as their travel costs.</p>
--	--