

# OHR BiH Media Round-up, 6/10/2005

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 6 October

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>BH Radio 1</b> (12,00 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (12,00 hrs)
HR Ashdown on RSNA's decision	Jelavic sentence	RS NA regular session
US welcome defence reform in BiH	Prosecutors' conference in Sa	USA welcomes police ref. adoption
BiH CoM in session	OHR, US on police reform, SAA talks	Jelavic sentenced to 10 years

TV news broadcast on 5 October

<b>RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>TV PINK</b> (18,00 hrs)	<b>BHT 1</b> (19,00 hrs)
BIH HoP session	BIH HoP adopted Draft law on PBS	RS NA discusses Cavic's proposal
HoP deputy on Croat rights	Cavic's proposal on police reform	BiH HoP adopted PBS Law
RS NA session	RS Government on Cavic's proposal	Verdict in Mostar shells case
BIH Presidency session	Celebration of Dayton anniversary	Kazani case trial commences

<b>NTV Hayat</b> (19,00 hrs)	<b>FTV</b> (19,30 hrs)	<b>RTRS</b> (19,30 hrs)
Cavic's proposal on police reform	Children/Youth centre affair	Bush promises support to BiH
EC on Cavic's proposal	BiH HoP adopted PBS Law	RS NA adopts police reform proposal

RS NA members on Cavic's proposal	FTV on new PBS Law	BiH HoP session
BiH HoP adopted Law on PBS	BiH HoP adopted Defence law	21 arrested for organised car theft

<b>Oslobodjenje</b>	RS accepted European principles on police reform
<b>Dnevni Avaz</b>	How the quartet 'broke' Cavic
<b>Dnevni List</b>	Mostar mortar rounds case : 4 years in prison to Bajgoric
<b>Vecernji List</b>	House of Peoples rejected TV channel for Croats
<b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>	Butcher from Vitez is displaced person from Zenica
<b>Nezavisne Novine</b>	RS Parliament opened the road to Europe
<b>Glas Srpske</b>	Cavic's proposal passed
<b>EuroBlic</b>	Features Serbian related titles
<b>Vecernje novosti</b>	Features Serbian related titles
<b>Srpski Nacional</b>	Features Serbian related titles

<b>LATEST NEWS OF TODAY</b>	
Jelavic sentenced to 10-year prison term	<b>RHB, RTRS, BH Radio 1</b> <u>Aida Suljevic</u> – BiH Court today sentenced former Croat member of the BiH Presidency and HDZ leader <b>Ante Jelavic</b> to ten years in prison for office abuse related to illegal re-distribution/re-direction of Croatia-donated funds at the time when he was performing duties of FBiH Defence Minister. Since Jelavic did not appear at Court to hear the verdict, Presiding Judge Malcolm Simons issued an arrest warrant.

<p>OHR welcomes adoption of police reform principles, PBS, Defence Laws</p>	<p><b>BiH Radio 1</b> by Daliborka Gavrilovic Kujundzic – The OHR welcomes the maturity and responsibility seen in both the BiH House of Peoples and the RSNA on Thursday, OHR Spokesperson <b>Ljiljana Radetic</b> told journalists in Banja Luka today. <i>“The RSNA yesterday voted to uphold the EC’s three principles on Police reform and the EC has confirmed that their proposal meets the conditions they have set and which would enable the EC to recommend the launch of SAA negotiations this year – provided that BiH’s other Parliaments now meet the three EC principles for police reform. This is good news,”</i> Radetic emphasized.</p> <p><i>“Significant progress was made on PBS reform yesterday too. PBS reform is the other outstanding requirement for the launch of SAA negotiations,”</i> Radetic added. The OHR Spokesperson emphasized that the House of Peoples yesterday also adopted defence reform legislation, which is a major step forward on Bosnia and Herzegovina ‘s path towards Euro-Atlantic integration.</p>
<p>USA welcomes RSNA decision on police</p>	<p><b>RTRS, BH Radio 1</b> – US join OHR, EC and EU Presidency in welcoming yesterday’s adoption of three EU police reform principles by the RSNA, US Embassy to BiH said today. Police reform is the main remaining condition for BiH to join its neighbours on the path towards European integration.</p>

**RSNA adopts police reform concept**

<p>RSNA adopts police reform concept proposed by Cavic</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> by <u>Sinan Saric</u> – RSNA adopted a new police reform agreement proposal, at a special session that took place at the request by the proponent, RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b>. The new agreement, that meets EU principles, has been adopted without amendments a day before Peace Implementation Council meeting on Thursday. FTV says both EUPM and OHR see agreement as a progress, but not as finished business. Under plan, the police reform should be fully implemented within 5 years. Cavic stated addressing RSNA representatives: <i>“If we don’t bring the decision today, and adopt this proposal, I personally believe that hard days and decisions are ahead of RS,... but with much less manoeuvre space.”</i> <b>Hayat</b> – Cavic’s proposal, which received an approval from the EC, stipulates that all budget and legal authorities over police must be transferred to the state level. Police work will be free of any political influence. Police regions would be established with respect to technical criteria relevant for the work of police. Operational command would remain under authority on local level. According to Cavic’s proposal, Implementation Directorate should be established by the end of this year. The Directorate would assure effective implementation of police reform by creating and implementing plans for each phase of this reform. <b>RTRS</b> by <u>Biljana Knezevic, Vesna Cibic</u> – Reporter comments that RS Government suggested certain amendments to the proposal but RS NA deputies and Cavic asked RS PM <b>Pero Bukeylovic</b> to withdraw his amendments. <i>“If some of these things are not adopted then there is a danger of interpretation that we have transferred complete competence over police forces to the state level”</i>, stated Bukeylovic. He hasn’t addressed RS NA after this appeal so reporter concludes that RS Government agreed to these suggestions. <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 ‘Conclusions of RS Government’ <u>not signed</u> – RS Govt issued a statement welcoming agreement, but also noting that in an effort to improve it, the Government has proposed certain technical changes. <b>Glas Srpske</b> cover pg splash ‘Cavic’s proposal passed’ by <u>G. D.</u> – carries RS NA Chairman <b>Dusan Stojicic’s</b> address before RS NA, on which occasion he urged RS NA delegates to adopt draft agreement on police reform. <b>RHB, PINK, BHT1, Oslobodjenje</b> cover page, pgs 4-5 ‘RS accepted European principles on police reform’, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 ‘Cavic’s proposal for police reform accepted by 55 delegates’, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 3, mentioned on cover ‘Way to EU opened’ by <u>N. Bise</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 4 ‘Rescuing of RS’ by <u>D. Jazvic</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 21 ‘Cavic for police according to European principle’, by <u>A. Macanovic</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> cover pg splash ‘Cavic’s proposal passed’ by <u>G. D.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover pg splash and pg 3 ‘RS Parliament opened the road to Europe’ by <u>V. Popovic</u> and <u>D. Risojevic</u>, <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2, announced on cover ‘Europe accepts Cavic’s proposal’ by <u>Rajna Radosavljevic</u>, <b>Vecernje Novosti</b> pg 5 ‘RS police to be abolished’ by <u>M. Labus</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 ‘Draft Agreement of Dragan Cavic’ <u>not signed</u>, – also covered.</p>
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<p>Breakdown of votes: 55 in favour of police concept, 5 against, 15 sustained</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> late news edition – RS NA adopted the proposal of RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> on police reform with majority of 55 votes. There were five votes were against proposal, and 15 representatives didn't vote. SDS, SNSD, PDP, SDP, Party for BiH and New Croat Initiative voted for the proposal. Representatives of Serb Radical Party and Serb Radical Party – Vojislav Seselj, as well as DNS and Caucus of Centre voted against Cavic's proposal. SDA sustained the vote. <b>RTRS</b> – Reporter comments that unlike previous discussions only a small number of deputies were against the reform. Coordination Centre of 11 NGO's from RS were not allowed at the session, even though they tried.</p>
<p>Media comments on concept and RSNA session</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> by <u>Sinan Saric</u> – Reporter comments that the only difference between this and earlier proposal made by Chairman of BiH Council of Minsters, <b>Adnan Terzic</b> is that Cavic's proposal is not that detailed. Reporter also notes that proposal is a political compromise with RS, adding it is unclear why IC did not insist in mapping out police regions as it was previously insisted by the Police Reform Commission. FTV concludes by wondering whether we can expect the same situation on this issue next year.</p> <p><b>BHT 1</b> by <u>Boris Gagic</u> – Asked by presenter whether the proposal is the result of the international community's pressure on RS, the reporter commented that was a certain thing, reminding of the Cavic's previous statements in which he clearly stated that if the police reform was not adopted, the RS status under Dayton Peace Accord could be disputed and RS marked as the factor threatening even European security.</p> <p><b>RTRS</b> by <u>Dragana Knezevic</u> – Reporter concludes that this session of RS NA completes the 15-month story on police reform according to EU principles that was until Wednesday completely unacceptable to most parties in RS.</p>
<p>Bukejlovic: Agreement hides certain danger of terminating RS police</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b>, pgs 4-5 'International community gives Cavic support', by <u>A. Omeragic</u> – Oslobodjenje notes that the proposal does not include what the IC officials were insisting on until yesterday – it does not clarify the number and borders of police regions, nor it clearly says the borders will be crossing across the IEHL. Oslobodjenje's collocutors from the IC say that Cavic is leaving this job to the Directorate for implementation of the police reform' that should be set up by December 31. The collocutors are convinced that 'nothing could go wrong' because the decision about police regions will be taken by professionals, not the politics, and because the IC will be monitoring the process. <i>"Even if we give the green light for negotiations, we can always turn the switch off"</i>, says a source from the EC.</p>

<p>Cavic: RS ceased to be an obstacle to Europe</p>	<p><b>BHT 1</b> late newsedition, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 4 ' Fear for RS police survival' – RS Prime Minister <b>Pero Bukejlovic</b> on Wednesday evening said that the adopted Agreement on police restructuring in BiH, without the accepted proposals of the Entity Government, hides certain dangers in its implementation – the dangers of terminating the RS police. <i>"From now on it depends on us how we will interpret this agreement, and also with which personnel we will implement this agreement"</i>, Bukejlovic told the press after the RS National Assembly issued the Decision to accept the Agreement on police restructuring in BiH. <b>Glas Srpske</b> cover pg 'The Government was caught by surprise' <u>not signed</u>, <b>BHT 1</b> – carry that Bukjelovic admitted he was surprised with the extraordinary session and Cavic's proposal.</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje on police maps, IC gives Cavic support</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 4 'RS ceased to be an obstacle to Europe' – RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b> stated aft ether RSNA session that by adopting the police reform proposal the RS has ceased to be an obstacle for BiH's progress towards Europea. He noted that the proposal was supported by the EC, but also solved some issues of previous concern for the RS. As for the issue that were not discussed in the proposal in details, Cavic noted that solving these issues <i>"doesn't have to jeopardize existence of RS plice or to open the story on police regions crossing the IEBL."</i> He estimated that the proposal gives an opportunity to solve all those problematic issues in more normal political atmosphere.</p>
<p>Sadovic expresses concern with proposal, other comments</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> cover pg splash 'Cavic's proposal passed' <u>by G. D.</u> – apart from reporting on the adoption of police proposal, the article carries statements of SNSD's <b>Krstan Simic</b> as well as SDA's <b>Dzevad Gusic</b> who thinks the agreement looks like a new buying of time, since the deadline set for its implementation is five years.</p> <p>SDA's <b>Tarik Sadovic</b> expressed concern over possible interpretations of Cavic's proposal, since its provisions do not necessarily mean all police authorities would be transferred to BiH level. SPRS's <b>Nedjo Djuric</b> wondered whether this agreement should serve just to satisfy the public, after which the police reform would be realized secretly. SNSD's <b>Milorad Dodik</b> thinks the approach to police reform should be realistic, having in mind that the proposal enables achieving everything RS Government had been proposing. <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> cover pg splash and pg 3 'RS Parliament opened the road to Europe' <u>by V. Popovic, D. Risojevic</u> – SDP's <b>Zekerijah Osmic</b> said the agreement finally expressed readiness of RS to accept EU principles and open the road of BiH to SAA talks.</p>

<p>BHT 1 – SDS ' Bojic and SPD's Hadzic comment adopted police agreement</p>	<p><b>BTH1</b> late night news edition – BHT1 featured guests in the studio – <b>Borislav Bojic</b> of SDS and <b>Damir Hadzic</b> of SDP – who commented on RSNA adopting the police reform agreement. Asked whether he was pleased because the proposal was adopted, Bojic stated it was too early to say, but that RS had demonstrated its determination for the European path. Bojic added he expected the Parliament and BiH CoM to endorse the agreement. Hadzic, who was a member of the police reform negotiating team, said <i>"we can be pleased with the agreement"</i>, adding that it was not ambiguous and that it de-blocked BiH path to Europe . Hadzic commended RSNA for adopting the agreement, noting it was a move that came too late, but was still a good one. Bojic rejected BHT 1 studio host's hints that the proposal was adopted practically overnight, stressing the issue was under discussion for over a year. He added the proposal had resolved some of the earlier objections, e.g. regarding the issue of court systems in BiH, which under this agreement was not going to be opened. Bojic also admitted to being under IC pressure, but stressed the most important thing was that the EC had accepted the proposal. Commenting on deadlines and whether the police regions shall cross IEBL, Hadzic stated that the proposal clearly stated IEBL could not be a limitation. Bojic stated the proposal did not mention IEBL, adding that the Directorate was going to tackle this issue. According to Bojic, option for the regions not crossing the entity borders is open. Hadzic dismissed such claim.</p>
<p>EC, OHR welcome agreement, but not reform not finished</p>	<p><b>Hayat, FTV</b> late news edition – After the session of RS NA, EC Delegation in BiH issued a statement welcoming the decision of RS NA to adopt the proposed agreement on police reform in line with the EC principles. When BiH and FBiH Parliament Assemblies adopt the proposal too, BiH will make a significant progress in fulfilling of this priority of the Feasibility Study, reads the press release. OHR Spokesman <b>Oleg Milisic</b> stated for daily that the decision of RS NA represents good news, however he noted that everyone must be aware as to what does this mean: <i>"In next five years BiH will get integrated police at the state level, as well as the police regions which cross the IEBL in areas where there is a technical need for that."</i> Milisic noted that now other parliaments have to accept the proposal, and if that happens BiH will make a significant step towards enabling the EC to recommend the start of negotiations on SAA with BiH already in this year.</p> <p><b>BHT1</b> – <i>"This proposal is in line with the 3 EC principles. The most importantly, what was missing in the last week's proposal by the RS Prime Minister <b>Pero Bukejlovic</b> is that all financial and legal competencies should be transferred to the state level,"</i> said spokesperson for the EC, <b>Frane Maroevic</b>, commenting the proposal.</p> <p>FTV also carries Milisic statement. <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 5 'BiH will have state police and mixed areas' – also carries Milisic statement. <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2 'Crucial step' <u>not signed</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> cover pg splash 'Cavic's proposal passed' <u>by G. D.</u> inset 'Green light' – carries EC statement. <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 3, announced on cover 'OHR and European Commission: good news from RS' <u>not signed</u> – Milisic's and Maroevic's statements.</p>

<p>Ashdown, Rycroft welcome RSNA's adoption of EU police reform principles</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'Ashdown: Inter-entity line to be crossed' – HR <b>Paddy Ashdown</b> told DA that the RSNA vote on police reform was "a good news", stressing that in next five years BiH is to get an integrated police forces which will crossing IEBL when that is needed due to technical reasons. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 2 'This is a decisive vote for Europe' – UK Ambassador to BiH, <b>Matthew Rycroft</b>, welcomed the RSNA decision on police reform concept calling it a key vote for Europe and against isolation. He added that once the parliaments adopt the concept, EC will be able to recommend opening of SAA talks with BiH.</p>
<p>Avaz: Dramatic meeting in Sarajevo resulted in Cavic's proposal</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b>, front pg splash 'How the quartet 'broke' Cavic' and pg 2 'Dramatic secret meeting in Sarajevo', by <u>S. Numanovic</u> – Avaz learns from a 'diplomatic source' that the proposal of police reform, which was presented to the RSNA on Wednesday by the RS President <b>Dragan Cavic</b>, was agreed upon at a 'dramatic, secret meeting' held in Sarajevo on Monday. Beside Cavic, the meeting was attended by the SNSD leader, <b>Milorad Dodik</b>, High Representative, <b>Paddy Ashdown</b>, Chief of EC delegation to BiH, <b>Michael Humphreys</b>, and US and UK Ambassadors to BiH, <b>Douglas McElhane</b>y and <b>Matthew Rycroft</b> respectively. According to the source, the discussion lasted several hours and the agreement was done according to the 'take it or leave it' principle. Apparently, if adopted without amendments, it will satisfy requests of the EC and is good enough to start the SAA talks. However, Avaz notes that there is another obstacle to the start of SAA talks, it is the adoption of the Law on Public RTV service at both the state and entity levels, which should be adopted within 60 days of adoption of the Law on Public RTV system. Inset entitled 'SNSD agrees, lobbying of SDS' says whilst Cavic was lobbying with members of his party (SDS) in the RSNA for adoption of the agreement, it was noticeable that the RS Interior Minister <b>Darko Matijasevic</b> 'stood aside'.</p>

## BiH HoP adopts PBS law



<p>BiH HoP adopts PBS law without support of Croat caucus</p>	<p><b>BHT1, RHB, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 7 'Appeal to BiH Constitutional Court',m <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS3 'Croats want their antenna' by <u>D. Stanisic</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'Three images on a screen' by <u>N. Zelenovic</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2, announced on cover 'Laws on defense and PBS system were adopted' by <u>M. Cubro</u> – BiH House of Peoples adopted the Law on Public Broadcasting System, thus meeting another requirement set by the EC Feasibility Study. According to the law, the system will consist of three public broadcasters and a corporation with organizational units in Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka. The programme is going to be broadcast in all three languages, using both scripts. Laws on entity broadcast services must be adopted in 60 days in order to fulfil the requirements of the Feasibility Study. Croat Caucus voted against this law, stating it is harmful their vital national interest. The Caucus announced filding appeal at the Strasbourg Court. <b>PINK</b>– BiH Minister for Transport and Communications <b>Branko Dokic</b> said that the implementation of law on PBS must start as soon as possible. He emphasized the importance of establishing of PBS Corporation, which will coordinate the work of public broadcasters. <b>Vecernji List</b> cover pg splash and pg 2 'House of Peoples rejected TV channel for Croats' by <u>D. Jazvic</u>, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 2 'Law on TV adopted without Croats' by <u>I. Glibusic</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 20 'Law that is 'detrimental to Croats' adopted', by <u>B. Kristo</u> – All dailies expect that Croat representatives would launch the procedure before the court in Strasbourg in order to get the Croat channel.</p>
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<p>BHT1, FTV comments on PBS law</p>	<p><b>BHT 1</b> <u>Sanita Lisica-Biberovic</u> – <b>Drago Maric</b>, PBS Director, says the law will regulate both organization and finances of the public broadcasters and boost collection of RTV fees. Deputy of the BiH Communications Minister, <b>Haris Basic</b>, also stressed importance of the law in a sense of organization and policies of public broadcasters. <b>Tomislav Limov</b>, Croat delegate in HoP, commented on the law: <i>“BiH has removed another obstacle leading to European integrations”</i>. Under the law, 50% of the collected RTV fees will go to BHT 1 and entities broadcasters will each get 25%. <b>Hayat</b> carries Basic. <b>FTV</b> <u>by Blazica Kristo</u> – FTV report on PBS is not as positive, and comments that HoP adopted the law despite objection of Croat delegates. It notes that even <b>Tomislav Limov</b>, who rarely shares stance of his caucus, opposed it. Co-Chair BiH HoP <b>Velimir Jukic</b> made no statement, not proving or disapproving earlier announced possible charges before Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg. Although this is a key law on PBS, Deputy Minister BiH Transport and Communications, <b>Haris Basic</b> expects news problems when Croat representatives could raise issue of languages, channels and national participation balance in law on public broadcast service yet to be adopted.</p>
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FTV says it is “biggest loser” with this law

**FTV Aleksandra Markovic** – Reporter comments that by adopting new law on PBS, the fourth legal subject has been established, that should be service for three existing broadcasters and that under the Law, FTV is the “biggest loser”. Employees will have to apply again for their jobs, but Chair Trade Union of PBS in Transition, **Fahrudin Balvanovic** doesn’t expect significant down-sizing. Balvanovic stated that FTV will be the biggest loser, especially regarding funding: *“Our estimations and I think management’s estimations are that FTV will loose enormous funding, what will endanger production on FTV.”* Balvanovic specifies FTV will loose money from marketing and RTV fee collection.

<p>Reactions of Lozancic, Kristo, Filipovic, Limov on BiH HoP decision on RTV system</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 'Constituent people without right that even minorities have' <u>by ibc</u> – Commenting on the adoption of the Law on public RTV system, FBiH President <b>Niko Lozancic</b> stated that he feels sorry because the BiH HoP promoted very dangerous politics and unprincipled agreement of Bosniak and Serb representatives. Lozancic added that all this refers on an urgent need to pass a new Constitution. FBiH Justice Minister <b>Borjana Kristo</b> said that she is disappointed by such decision and she added that all possible means should be used against this decision including the court in Strasbourg.</p> <p>Representative in the BiH HoP <b>Ilija Filipovic</b> said that Croats have been outvoted once again. <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b> pg 20 'Each law without sanctions is inefficient' <u>not signed</u> – SDP member <b>Tomislav Limov</b>, who rarely shares stance of his national group, also voted against the law. Limov voted against it showing his disapproval with amendments that allow forming of mono-ethnic studios in Banja Luka , Sarajevo and Mostar. Limov stated that apart from this he also voted against the law since some provisions that are well presented in the law were not made operational and therefore there is no reply to the question as to what would happen if these things were not implemented. He also disapproves Steering Board's way of work.</p>
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<p>DL, VL op-eds opposing adoption of Law on RTV system</p>	<p><b>Dnevni List</b> pg 2 'Final no to channel in Croatian language' by <u>I. Rozic</u> carries an editorial which says that after the Law on public RTV system was adopted final 'no' to the Croat channel in the Federation of BiH was said. The author also says: <i>'Croat representatives voted against the law, however, the law, which says that Croats cannot get one of the basic rights that are guaranteed even to national minorities in western Europe, was adopted.'</i> <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 2 'Salvation in Strasbourg' by <u>M. Vasilj</u> also opposes adoption of the Law and the author says that nevertheless this law unified Croats and created consensus among all Croats that they, just like two other peoples, are entitled to the channel. The author also implies that the court in Strasbourg is the last chance for Croats.</p>
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## Other political issues

<p>BiH HoP adopts Defense Law, amendments to the Constitution regarding salaries</p>	<p><b>BHT1, FTV, PINK, RHB, RTRS, Oslobođenje</b> pg 2 'Laws on Defense, BiH Armed Forces adopted', pg 2 'Delegates against reduction of salaries', pg 7 'Law on Public Broadcasting System adopted', <b>EuroBlic</b> pg RS2 'BiH is a step closer to NATO and the Partnership' by <u>D. S.</u>, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2, announced on cover 'Laws on defense and PBS system were adopted' by <u>M. Cubro</u>— The BiH House of Peoples adopted on Wednesday the BiH Defence Law and the Law on Service in BiH Armed Forces in the same text as adopted by the BiH House of Representatives. The adopted laws have transferred the authority over defence from the entity to the state level, and also guarantee single armed forces with single chain of command. BiH House of Peoples adopted in the first reading an amendment to the BiH Constitution that will allow salaries of BiH officials to be reduced. The amendment will be forwarded to BiH CoM, which will then be able to propose a 10% cut to officials' salaries. This amendment was requested by IMF as a condition for approving a new stand-by arrangement. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'Serbs threatened to leave the session' – DA notes delegate <b>Hasan Cengic</b> asked a number of issues on the laws, thus the discussion took much longer than anticipated. Cengic provoked Serb delegates asking whether <b>Ratko Mladic</b> will command the regiment from RS and whether <b>Radovan Karadzic</b> will be its supreme commander. This lead to strong reaction of Serb delegates who threatened they would leave a session if Cengic was allowed to continue speaking in this manner. <b>FTV, Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 'US Embassy welcomed adoption of Defense Law' – The U.S. Embassy in BiH welcomes this decision calling it a major step towards full integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.</p>
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<p>BiH Presidency in session; DA op-ed on Presidency</p>	<p><b>PINK, Hayat, RHB, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni List</b> pg 2 ‘Constitutional changes left for some other time’ by E. Mackic, <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 ‘US warship entering waters near Neum approved’, <b>Oslobodjenje</b> pg 4 ‘10<sup>th</sup> Dayton anniversary marking agreed’, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 2 ‘On Constitution on some other occasion’ by Srna, <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 2 ‘Without discussion on constitutional; changes’ by A. Sisic – BiH Presidency did not discuss constitutional changes at its session held on Wednesday. Talking at the press conference held on Wednesday Serb member of the BiH Presidency <b>Borislav Paravac</b> stated that this issue would be at the agenda of the coming BiH Presidency sessions and he added: <i>‘Certain activities with regard to this issue have been launched already and the initiative for establishment of the third entity was not bypassed.’</i> <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> op- ed pg 3 ‘One house, three hosts’ by Edina Sarac – the author criticizes the concept of BiH Presidency and the fact BiH is represented by three presidents by saying each one of them is leading their own policy, spending money and working for their separate interests. She notices that the state, ten years after the Dayton Agreement, needs changes in order to become a true state, meaning BiH needs a single president that would work in the interest of the state and all of its citizens.</p>
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<p>Persons drafting new BiH Constitution to visit USA</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 4 'All parties at same table' <u>by zk</u> – A group of persons gathered around former PDHR <b>Donald Hays</b>, who are working on drafting of a new BiH Constitution, will visit the USA in order to discuss this issue. VL also says that the USA officials are also planning to bring representatives of all political parties at the same table as the final step before mechanism for stronger constitutional changes is launched and that Brussels is considering a similar initiative.</p>
<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed on DPA</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed pg 9 'Whining' <u>by Edin Krehic</u> – Krehic says there is no use of whining and says Sarajevo had pleaded during the entire war for the world to recognize who is the aggressor and who is the victim and, at the end, it got the Dayton Agreement – peace without justice. He noted that BiH is more and more distancing from the developed countries as the anniversary of signing the Dayton Agreement approaches and emphasizes BiH is getting weaker and Europe is becoming more distant as the Dayton Agreement grows stronger and concludes by saying: <i>"Whining will not help in this case!"</i></p>



<p>Alija Isakovic school abolished, media comment situation not solved</p>	<p><b>FTV</b> by <u>Ivan Pavkovic</u> – Prozor/Rama primary school ‘Alija Isakovic’ exists no more, according to the decision by the Municipal Council. Such decision has been brought after interesting spin in council members’ relations, which changed the previous decision. Reporter comments that nothing actually changed: Croatian and Bosniak children will continue to attend school in different classes and different shifts. FTV comments that Croat parents’ council of “Marko Marulic” school succeeded in their demands, getting some extra votes by HDZ councillors, while from HDZ say it was result of being under pressure. The SDA delegates have walked out of the session, saying this is a step back in finding solution to the problem. Cantonal officials made no statement so far. <b>BHT 1</b> by <u>Seid Masnica</u> – <b>Marija Zadro</b>, chair of the HDZ caucus in Prozor Rama municipal council, says she doesn’t think this decision fully solves the problems. SDA delegates announced they would take the case to the Court. <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9 ‘Decision on formation of Alija Isakovic primary school annulled’, <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 4 ‘Bosniaks announce boycotting of classes’ by <u>I. Glibusic</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 7 ‘Classes in primary school ‘Marko Marulic’ again’ <u>not signed</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, back pg ‘‘Alija Isakovic’ elementary school abolished’, by <u>A. Kudic</u> – also carried.</p>
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<p>Teachers say segregation most urgent issue in education</p>	<p><b>BHT 1</b> <u>Vanja Filipovic</u> – Education professionals have marked the International Teacher’s Day today. BHT 1 feature says that teachers in general agree that at the moment, in addition to low salaries and different school curricula, the most difficult issue in education is the segregation in the schools. Chair of the BiH Teachers’ Trade Union, <b>Dzenana Tanovic-Hamzic</b>, stated they have withdrawn from all commissions dealing with the educational reform until substance-related changes are introduced. <b>FTV</b> – FBiH Education Minister <b>Zijad Pasic</b> said: <i>“Federal Ministry of Education is not able to enforce that, municipality councils are the ones who decides.”</i></p>
<p>HDZ proposes candidate for Central Bosnia Education Minister</p>	<p><b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 4 ‘Branko Golub HDZ nominee for Central Bosnian Canton Education Minister’ – Cantonal board of the HDZ in Central Bosnia proposed the new candidate for the position of the Cantonal Education Minister. Candidate is <b>Branko Golub</b> who used to be the Cantonal Prime Minister.</p>

<p>Comments following BiH non-approval of SAA talks</p>	<p><b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 5 'A small private Rambouillet' by <u>D.Majstorovic</u> – Dialy brings comments upon statement of <b>Sulejman Tihic</b> and other Bosniak officials given after Luxembourg session (and EU "No" to BiH). <b>Momcilo Novakovic</b>, Head of SDS Caucus at BiH HoR said that: <i>"EU Ministerial Council reached decision on giving a chance to SiCG, and it was unserious from politicians in F BiH to bring that decision in question."</i> He is of the view that blame for this failure (regarding SAA talks) cannot solely rest with RS, implying that creator of rejected reform framework should be held responsible. <b>Jelina Djurkovic</b> from PDP compared police reform talks with Rambouillet talks, noting: <i>"Ashdown has created a private Rambouillet of the entire story on police reform in BiH, transforming all negotiations and talks into pure ultimatums...It is evident that Ashdown has held back the position and influence of HR's function."</i> <b>Milorad Zivkovic</b> from SNSD is of the view that nationalistic parties and Ashdown have entered a dead-ally, and instead of admitting it they blame culprit on duty – which is always RS.</p>
<p>'Times' on message that beginning of negotiations between Croatia and EU sends to BiH</p>	<p><b>Vecernji List</b> pg 6 'Decision on Croatia wrong message to BiH' <u>not signed</u> carries that commenting on the EU decision on Croatia, 'Times' says that such decision is disturbing since a completely wrong message is being sent, first of all, to BiH and SCiG. 'Times' also says that Croatia still has a chance to improve the impression that was made at the beginning of the negotiations with the EU, however, apart from set pre-requisites, BiH has a lot to do, first of all it has to reduce corruption and crime, it has to work on respecting of human rights and resolving of the war past.</p>

<p>Op-ed on EU Foreign Ministers' Luxemburg meeting</p>	<p><b>Oslobodjenje</b> op-ed pg 9 'Love with "Europe the whore"' by <u>Gojko Beric</u> – Referring to the Luxemburg meeting, the author says there are more people who resent the fact EU launched the negotiations with Croatia than people who are bothered with the fact BiH was left on the margins of the event. He emphasizes that the claim saying BiH did not have good lobbyists would actually represent looking for a culprit at the wrong side and he added: <i>'You cannot lobby for someone who has nothing significant to offer or for someone who had proven they work against themselves in crucial moments'</i>.</p>
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## Crime, judiciary and economy

<p>Court brings first instance verdict in Mostar shells case</p>	<p><b>BHT 1, FTV, Hayat, Oslobođenje</b> pg 3 'Muhamed Bajgoric sentenced to four years in prison', <b>Dnevni Avaz</b> pg 9, <b>Dnevni List</b> cover pg splash and pg 7 'Mostar mortar rounds case: 4 years in prison to Bajgoric' and pg 7 '4 years in prison for 'Mostar mortar rounds' ' by <u>N. Bise</u>, <b>Vecernji List</b> pg 3 'Although he could have destroyed Mostar he was sentenced just to 4 years in prison', mentioned on cover 'For endangering of Mostar 4 years in prison' by <u>R. Soldo</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 23 'Indictees get five years and eight months of prison', by <u>A. Vlaho</u> – The Mostar Municipal Court has passed a first instance verdict in the case of "Mostar shells", sentencing <b>Mehmed Bajgoric</b> to 4 years of imprisonment. Other accused in the case, <b>Jusuf Piralic</b> and <b>Hasan Tojaga</b> were sentenced to 10 months in prison, while <b>Husein Galijasevic</b> was acquitted. The four were previously found guilty for the illegal possession of the large quantities of weapons and explosive devices, found by SFOR in 2002 in three secret locations in the Mostar region. The trial took some three years and was closed for public, due to sensitive materials presented as evidence.</p>
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<p>Police arrested persons suspected of organized car thefts</p>	<p><b>BHT1</b> <u>Boris Gagic</u> – Banja Luka police and Prosecutor's Office carried out an action breaking an organized criminal group suspected of car thefts. As a result of this months' long operation 21 persons had been arrested, while 2 still remain at large. The group has allegedly committed 33 crimes, cashing about 700.000 KM. One of the group leaders has been placed in detention, while others are interrogated by the Prosecution. <b>Milan Tegeltija</b>, Banja Luka District Prosecutor, says this was highly organized group, in possession of top communications equipment, illegal identification documents and weapons. The feature gives details regarding the thefts. The investigation continues. <b>PINK, RTRS, EuroBlic</b> pg RS1, announced on cover 'They were stealing and later selling in Serbia and Kosovo' <u>by Nedeljka Breberina</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 12, announced on cover 'They are driving behind bars now', <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pgs4-5, announced on cover 'Car Mafia was destroyed' <u>by Snjezana Karica</u> also carry.</p>
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<p>ITA on VAT: single rate; NN op-ed on VAT</p>	<p><b>BHT 1, FTV, Oslobođenje</b> pg 2 'A single VAT rate remains', <b>Dnevni List</b> pg 3 'Multiple VTA rates would enable corruption' by <u>NINA</u>, <b>Slobodna Dalmacija</b>, pg 21 'One VAT rate as of January 1', by <u>D. Pasic</u>, <b>Glas Srpske</b> pg 3 'A single rate was confirmed' by <u>D. V. M.</u> – ITA Executive Board issued a press statement confirming that the VAT law, which is to be implemented as of 1 January 2006, shall maintain a single VAT rate. <b>Nezavisne Novine</b> op-ed pg 7 'Terzic and VAT' by <u>Predrag Klincov</u> – The author is critical of <b>Adnan Terzic</b>' promotion of VAT Law with one rate, when he said that there will be no increase in prices – and if there will be, only those unemployed and pensioners would feel their effects.</p>
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<p>Proposal of Law on audit of public sector include into agenda of RS NA session</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 6 'By all means, SDS opposes to Bosko Ceko's stay at position of RS Audit Office', announced on cover 'SDS against Bosko Ceko as Head of RS Chief Audit Office' by <u>M.Kusmuk</u> – In spite of strong opposition of the President of the RSNA Board for Economy and Finances, <b>Brane Stojanovic</b> of SDS, the agenda of RSNA session include urgent adoption of the proposed Law on audit of public sector in RS. For SDS the most disputable provision is the fact that adoption would automatically extend <b>Bosko Ceko's</b> mandate of RS Chief Auditor for seven years. Daily's source from RSNA Board claims that Ceko's mandate expires today, owing to which reason SDS wanted to prolong adoption of this proposal and hence issue new vacancy for the position, in which manner chief auditor would be prevented from keeping continuity at this function. According to NN inset 'Cenic: Ceko must continue his work in full capacity', <b>Svetlana Cenic</b>, RS Finance Minister, told daily that she would do all she can to ensure that RS Chief Audit Office continues with its work in full capacity and that <b>Bosko Ceko</b> remains its Head <i>"since he has justified everything the Office has done so far."</i></p>
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## War crimes



<p>Interview with Jovan Spaic: We did not hide anybody</p>	<p><b>Nezavisne Novine</b> pg 8, announced on cover 'We did not hide anybody' by <u>D.Risojevic</u> –</p> <p>In an interview to daily, <b>Jovan Spaic</b>, Head of Srebrenica Task Force, claims that the list of 25,083 soldiers and policemen, who took part in Srebrenica events, was not published exclusively owing to the fact that its publication might hinder possible investigations, noting: <i>"There were no attempts to hide anybody, nobody was removed from the list and everything can be checked easily."</i> He added this material does not provide responses to questions who ordered and who executed crimes in Srebrenica, although the list may also include their names, noting: <i>"This job is to be done by Prosecutors, who will analyse material."</i> Although not willing to speak of details, he says that a number of 892 persons of persons employed at state agencies, which was often mentioned, is smaller. He explains difference between terms "members" and "participants" mentioned in Report.</p>
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Oslobodjenje on  
alleged del  
Ponte-Stankovic  
meeting; Former  
security  
official says  
Kostunica holds  
key to Mladic  
arrest

**Oslobodjenje**, pg 3, mentioned on front  
'Stankovic promised Carla del Ponte that  
he would arrest Mladic', by B. Boskov –  
Daily reiterates Wednesday's report from  
the Belgrade-based media that a candidate  
for the SCG Defence Minister, **Zoran  
Stankovic**, promised the Chief ICTY  
Prosecutor, **Carla del Ponte**, that he would  
arrest **Ratko Mladic** within 2 months if  
appointed. It also notes that Del Ponte's  
statement that SCG confirmed Mladic was in  
Serbia protected by part of the SCG army  
did not seem to bother the Serbian PM  
**Vojislav Kostunica**. His advisor, **Vladeta  
Jankovic**, says no deadlines for Mladic  
arrest were mentioned, since Kostunica  
only gave guarantees that Serbia would  
honor its obligations towards the ICTY in  
the shortest time possible. **Dnevni Avaz**,  
pg 3 'Kostunica decides on Mladic arrest',  
by Fena – Former chief of the Serbian  
Security-Information Agency (BIA), **Goran  
Petrovic**, said that Mladic would be  
arrested when Kostunica deems that it is  
most profitable from a political point of  
view. *"Kostunica holds the key to this  
story. Mladic is the only card which  
Kostunica has in his hands and he will  
sell him at a high cost"*, Petrovic told  
Serbian TV.