

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 6/5/2006

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
Cardinal Puljic in United States	Regional News	Del Ponte on Mladic
Jovic on apprehension of PIFWCs	Lelek arrested in Visegrad	Mladic's house in Belgrade raided
Del Ponte meets HR in Sarajevo	Del Ponte visits Sarajevo	Lugonja arrested?
'Napredak' scholarships awarded	Bas-Backer sent letter to Dodik	Detention to Mladic's aids

NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
Carla Del Ponte visited Sarajevo	Lelek arrested in Visegrad	Lelek arrested in Visegrad
War crime suspect arrested	Mladic's house in Belgrade raided	Regional News
Serbian MoI searches for Mladic	Del Ponte in Sarajevo	Del Ponte visits Sarajevo
Conf. on truth in post- conflict period	Mandic to be trailed for war crimes?	Conference on war crimes in SA

Oslobodjenje	Del Ponte still doesn't know where is Karadzic
Dnevni Avaz	[Del Ponte] Mladic in the Hague by May 11
Dnevni List	[Del Ponte] I did not forget Karadzic
Vecernji List	Croatia-related headline

Nezavisne Novine	[Del Ponte] I have no objections on cooperation with BiH
Glas Srpske	Giant wakes up slowly [RS Minister in Brod Refinery]

War crimes

<p>Chief ICTY Prosecutor meets HR: Serb authorities could arrest Mladic, but want him to surrender; Mladic to be in Hague by May 11?; Karadzic not forgotten, EUFOR/NATO's assistance expected in locating him</p>	<p>BHT 1by Damir Simic – The ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte on Friday met the High Representative to BiH Christian Schwarz Schilling in Sarajevo. Del Ponte was visibly disappointed with the failure of Serbian authorities to keep the promise on arrest Ratko Mladic: <i>"Mladic is a big disappointment for me because Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica has promised me and the EU Enlargement Commissioner Oli Rehn that Mladic will be arrested and extradited by the end of April."</i> As for the BiH, HR reminded that he would use Bonn powers in case of obstructing the cooperation with the Tribunal adding BiH cannot afford calling off the talks on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with EU: <i>"We are going to monitor this very closely in order to prevent it from happening. We have to very carefully observe the actions undertaken in BiH, especially in the RS."</i> Hayatby Adnan Rondic – Noting that BiH, especially RS, are not fully cooperating with the Tribunal, Del Ponte noted some more time would be given to the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik: <i>"We hope that the new RS Prime Minister, as he said publicly, would ensure full cooperation with the ICTY. I hope I'll be able to say whether I'm satisfied with that cooperation or not the next time I visit BiH."</i></p> <p>While in Sarajevo, Del Ponte also met BiH Chief State Prosecutor Marinko Jurcevic discussing a transfer of documents from The Hague to the courts in BiH. FTV by Azra Pasukan-Buljina– Del Ponte [whose visit report commented as causing 'only traffic jam' and brining nothing new] told the press conference that remaining 6 ICTY fugitives would be "behind the bars" before the end her mandate in 2010: <i>"I'm an optimist and I believe that Mladic could be in The Hague by the 11 May."</i> She added Radovan Karadzic hasn't been forgotten, admitting <i>"there are not enough information on Karadzic whereabouts and if he is hiding in SiCG or RS. I asked EUFOR and NATO to get more involved and determine if [fugitives] are in RS or SiCG in order to expand the search"</i>. The HR added: <i>"We have no concrete information on the RS but we hope SiCG would start to cooperate because it is not good for the region to make such backward steps."</i> PINK – <i>"I did not forget Karadzic. I am focused on Mladic in last weeks and months... Someone else in my office is responsible for Karadzic and follows the situation. As soon as Mladic is arrested, Karadzic will become priority,"</i> said the Chief Prosecutor. RHB– Del Ponte expressed certainty the Serbian authorities were capable of capturing Mladic, but failed to do so because they wanted him to surrender voluntarily. After the meeting with the HR and EUFOR Commander Gian Marco Chiarini, she emphasized that her office is in contact with war crimes prosecutors in Sarajevo, Belgrade and Zagreb on a daily basis. RTRS also reported focusing on Del Ponte's remarks on Mladic and HR's statement on Bonn powers. Dnevni Avaz cover splash, pg 2 'Mladic in the Hague by 11 May', Oslobodjenje cover splash, pg 3 'Del Ponte still doesn't know where is Karadzic', Glas Srpske pg 3 'I have not forgotten about Karadzic', Dnevni list cover splash, pg 3 'I have not forgotten about Karadzic', Vecernji list pg 2 'Serbian authorities know where is Mladic', Nezavisne novine cover splash, pg 3 'I have no objections to the cooperation with BiH' – also reported.</p>
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<p>Conference on establishing truth in Western Balkans: BiH Presidency member Jovic criticised for single-sided approach to war victims; Jovic: ICTY closed its doors, and nobody is to be held responsible for crimes against Croats</p>	<p>FTV by Zeljko Tica – The conference on “Establishing Truth in a Post-conflict Period: Initiatives and Perspectives in the Western Balkans” was held in Sarajevo on Friday, in organization of the Research and Documentation Centre Sarajevo, Humanitarian Law Fund Belgrade and Documents from Zagreb. Addressing the conference, BiH Presidency member Ivo Miro Jovic focused on sufferings of Croats: <i>“I’m concerned with the fact that the people I belong to has more than 45% population missing; ICTY has closed the doors and no one is going to be responsible for the sufferings of the Croats”</i>. Some of the participants, including Director of Investigative Centre, Mirsad Tokaca, criticized Jovic’s speech underlying <i>“the most dangerous thing is to deal with the victims only when it is the ethno-national issue. Then you make the first strategic mistake. You deal with victims only when they are members of your people”</i>. Austrian Ambassador to BiH Werner Almhof reminded the most of the military leaders or politicians have been transferred to the Tribunal. ICTY Chief Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte stated that the current situation is far from being perfect especially as many war crimes haven’t yet been investigated: <i>“Tribunal can work only on the gravest war crimes.”</i> She concluded that processes in the Hague are not sufficient as not all victims got a chance to talk. BiH Chief Prosecutor Marinko Jurcevic expressed belief that the justice would be served through courts, noting prosecutors around BiH are checking about 13000 cases and adding the strategic plan for period to 2010 was made. Hayat by Zumra Arnautovic – Hayat also commented that at the very beginning of the conference it was clear that the opinions and stances of NGO sector and politicians differ greatly, especially when it comes to the treatment of victims, which was clear from Jovic’s statement: <i>“The fact that nobody was held responsible for proven existence of 40 camps in which BiH Croats were held is shameful. I wonder if the numerous testimonies of victims and witnesses are irrelevant for The Hague Tribunal, since it is the fact that numerous crimes have been simply left out of the verdicts, while so far not a single BiH Army member has been found guilty for crimes committed against BiH Croats.”</i></p> <p>Nezavisne novine pg 3 ‘Support to the establishment of Truth Commission in BiH’ – NN learns that the draft Law on the truth Commission would soon be in procedure. RTRS noted that although the conference was about the truth on war crimes in BiH, no representative form the RS Association of families of killed and missing Serb civilians and soldiers from East Sarajevo and RS Association of Prisoners of War were invited. PINK, BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Nobody can dispute genocide in Srebrenica’, Glas Srpske pg 3 ‘Only together we reach truth’, Dnevni list pg 3 ‘Not all victims got a chance to speak’ – reported. RHB carries only Jovic.</p>
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<p>Serbian MoI carries out a number of raids in search of Mladic, arrests suspected aides; Del Ponte: just another show for public</p>	<p>Hayatby <u>Sabina Sisic</u> – Two more persons suspected of helping ICTY indictee Ratko Mladic have been arrested on Friday in Belgrade. Same day, the Special Unit of the Serbian Ministry of Interior carried raids at several locations in Belgrade, including premises of ‘Impak’ company owned by Mladic’s son Darko. According to source from the Serbian MoI, such operation would continue until Mladic is located and apprehended. At the same time, judicial authority put TatjanaVaskovic, BojanVaskovic and BorislavIvanovic, three suspected Mladic’s aides recently apprehended, to a month of detention. Hayat also reported retired RS Army General Marko Lugonja has also been apprehended in Belgrade on Wednesday, May 3 under same suspicion. During the war in BiH, Lugonja served as a Head of Security Department within the RS Army’s Sarajevo-Romanija Corps. RTRS – Serbian TV reported that searches were conducted in several cities in Serbia. It also says Ljiljana Vaskovic, mother of Tatjana and Bojan who are detained, and Mladic’s neighbour Branimir Djokic were also arrested. FTV – also carried Lugonja was arrested and reported of the raids in Belgrade. PINK claims that five persons were arrested since Thursday night.</p> <p>Hayat – The Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte was asked by Sarajevo journalists to comment the raids in Belgrade Friday’s raids in Belgrade and she describe the operation as “<i>just another show for public.</i>” BHT, Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 ‘Special police search for Ratko Mladic in Belgrade’, mentioned on cover, Dnevni Avaz pg 17 ‘Police raids in Belgrade’, Glas Srpske pg 3 ‘Search after general’, Nezavisne novine pg 2 ‘Breakdown of Mladic’s support network’, mentioned on cover, – reported on raids.</p>
<p>NN op-ed on search after Mladic: is it real this time?</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pg 7 ‘Search after Mladic’ op-ed by <u>Dragan Risojevic</u> – “<i>Following the suspension of the talks with Brussels, the Serbian Government has no other choice but to throw itself into search after most wanted ICTY fugitives... Concluding from intensity of current activities, it seems that the search is real this time,</i>” reads the editorial. It concludes that the option according to which Serbian authorities do know where is Mladic but protect him is very unlikely, especially having in mind difficult situation in the country and huge pressure from the IC.</p>

<p>SIPA arrests police officer in Visegrad under war crimes suspicion; Bakira Hasecic: this is not single case which makes it clear why RS rejects police reform</p>	<p>FTV by Sanja Bagaric – Zeljko Lelek, certified police officer working at Visegrad Police Station, was arrested by the SIPA members in cooperation by the Visegrad Public Security Centre on Friday morning under suspicion of committing the war crimes. During the action, two apartments have been raided and SIPA members have gathered some evidence. SIPA acted upon the order of BiH Prosecutor's Office and its spokesman Admir Katica confirmed the arrestee was handed to BiH Prosecution for further proceeding. Bakira Hasecic, Head of Association "Women, victims of war", commented this Association had been requesting from the BIH Prosecution for the past five year to arrest Lelek. <i>"The saddest thing is that we, the victims, are forced to track the war crime indictees ad collect the evidence on their involvement. Lelek is not the only certified police officer in RS that has committed war crimes but nevertheless performs his police duties. Now, it is evident why the smaller BIH Entity refuses the police reform,"</i> noted Hasecic. FTV concludes critically wondering who certifies war crimes suspects to work in the police and similar institutions. Hayat also reported noting that it is possible to find on the internet numerous testimonies accusing Lelek of crimes against Bosniak civilians, especially in organizing rapes and tortured in Visegrad. BHT 1 also reported with Hasecic's statement. RHB, PINK, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 3 'Zeljko Lelek arrested', Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Active police officer Zeljko Lelek arrested', mentioned on cover, Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Police officer, Zeljko Lelek, arrested', mentioned on cover, Vecernji list pg 3 'SIPA arrested police officer', mentioned on cover, – reported on arrest, all stressing out this is active police officer.</p>
<p>OHR demands RS Govt to locate Avdo Palic's body remains, FBiH Govt to fulfil obligation on sufferings of Serbs in Sarajevo</p>	<p>PINK, BHT1, Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Oslobođenje pg 3 'Dodik to engage in Palic case', Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'OHR warns Dodik', Glas Srpske pg 3 'No delays in Palic case', Nezavisne novine pg 3 'Government must located colonel Palic's remains', Dnevni list pg 4 'Immediately act in Palic case' – Following his meeting in Banja Luka on 3 May with RS Prime Minister Dodik, during which the case of missing BiH army colonel from Zepa Avdo Palic was discussed, Senior Deputy HR Peter Bas-Backer has written to Dodik reiterating that the RS Government must act without delay on fulfilling the mandate of the RS Government Commission on Palic, and locate the remains [which are most probably located in Han Pijesak region] and hand them over to the family. SDHR noted that despite the promises, the RS Government failed to act. He also concluded that FBiH Government is also expected to follow up on Human Rights Chamber decisions, such as the one on the missing Serbs from Sarajevo . SDHR will engage with the FBiH Government on this issue soon.</p>

Constitutional changes, other political issues

<p>German NGOs organize conference on const. changes bringing together both opponents and supports of amendments: Lagumdzija: two blocks created; SBiH announces their own platform on issue</p>	<p>FTV by <u>Aleksandar Markovic</u> – The two-day conference on constitutional changes organised by Friedrich Ebert, Konrad Adenauer, Friedrich Naumann, and Heinrich Böll Stiftung, was commenced in Sarajevo on Friday. Participants of the “Review of constitutional discussions to date and challenges for BiH” conference reiterated importance for carrying out the reform of the BIH Constitution. SDP leader Zlatko Lagumdzija stated that two multi-ethnic blocks were created following the rejection of the reform in the BiH House of Representatives: <i>“One block consists of those of us who voted for the amendments, and the other side [gathers] (Vojislav) Seselj’s Radicals, [Mate] Boban’s supporters [note: i.e. HDZ 1990] and (Haris) Silajdzic’s fake patriots who managed to destroy everything. They still haven’t offered anything new.”</i> SbiH’s Beriz Belkic stated that his party, together with some other who voted against the amendments, are preparing their own platform related to the constitutional. Most of the participants stated that many things have been lost but the process would be continued. Hayat by <u>Lejla Gutlic</u> – Hayat points that the conference is attended by who both MPs who supported and those who opposed proposed changes <i>“The timing was not the best for this process that ended. I cannot say that the conditions (for constitutional changes) will be more favourable in the next few months, because of the approaching elections”</i>, Belkic noted adding the process should be continued after the elections. Lagumdzija noted it is the time for opponents of the rejected amendments to present their own solutions: <i>“I think that this is a good opportunity for them to publicly say what their proposal is... They have some kind of obligation, because they are responsible for the fact that this country is facing a silent sanctions.”</i> Oslobodjenje pg 7 ‘Grouping in discussion around Constitution did not reflect ethnicity’, mentioned on cover, Dnevni list pg 5 inset ‘Polarization of two blocks’ – also carry.</p>
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<p>Const. Changes conference: German ambassador argues failure in const. reform leads to failures of other reforms</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pg 9 "Failure of constitutional changes lead to failure of other reforms" by <u>M. Cubro</u> – Addressing the conference on the constitutional changes, the German Ambassador to BiH, Arne von Kittlitz, argued that the failure of the constitutional reform leads to failure of other related reforms in process: <i>"For instance, we have problems with reforms of police, public broadcasting system and allocation of revenues."</i> He added the talks must be continued immediately after the elections, or even before them. Dnevni list pg 5 'Discussion in difficult conditions of pre-election campaigns' – Ambassador added that the key role <i>"in failure of the constitutional changes was played by the irrational critics, which opens a question of whether the country is capable of reforms in this composition."</i></p>
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<p>Cardinal Puljic in US explaining why Church rejected const. reform; US Congressmen Smith announces Croats would become priority; US official DiCarlo demands Church to support changes</p>	<p>RHB– BiH Cardinal Vinko Puljic is visiting the United States where he held a meeting with the U.S. Congressman Christopher Smith, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Relations within the U.S. House of Representatives, and Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Human Rights. During this meeting, Puljic described the position of Croats-Catholics in BiH, stressing that they have been constantly discriminated; he also explained why the Catholic Church was against recently rejected constitutional changes which United States of America strongly supported. Following the meeting, Congressman Smith told Voice of America that the issue of discrimination of Croats in BiH would become a priority for the U.S. Congress. Cardinal Puljic also held a meeting with the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo. Dnevni Avaz pg 4 ‘Smith to launch issue in US Congress on position of Catholics in BiH’, Dnevni list pg 7 ‘US Congress is solving issues of Croats’, mentioned on cover, by Hina, Vecernji list pg ‘Catholics are discriminated in BIH’ – <i>“Catholics in BiH are being discriminated. I am a Catholic and I believe it is insulting this is insulting after we did so much in reconstruction and making conditions for these people return to their home,”</i> Smith stated. FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 3 ‘DiCarlo calls on Puljic to support constitutional changes’, Nezavisne novine pg 9 ‘Good opportunity missed’ – Di Carlo stressed that U.S. Government is deeply disappointed with BiH’s failure to adopt amendments to the Constitution, and Puljic was urged to be more open and accept the constitutional changes.</p>
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<p>Int with HDZ leader Covic: Party expects 60% of Croat votes at elections; Those who criticized HDZ before, now praise it</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje supplement 'Pogled' pgs 4-5 'If Croats in BiH are constituent, than they cannot be anybody's Diaspora' by <u>Aldijana Omeragic</u> – In an interview to daily, the HDZ leader Dragan Covic was asked to comment how he interprets the fact he was the only signatory of the constitutional changes who received support letter from the EC head of delegation in BiH, Michael Humphreys, to which he answered that he <i>"only did things for well-being of BiH"</i> while some other in the Parliament <i>"want to keep the international representatives at any cost to have them to decide on their behalf."</i> As for the objections by HDZ 1990 MPs whoa argued the proposed amendments did not address issues of Croats, Covic said that he had originally wanted the amendments to address more of such issues but underlined that at the end they were not a solution to the problem, but certainly a way to reach that solution. Covic – who objects entity vote in the parliament – said the proposed amendments included what was possible to compromise at the time, adding he believes that entity would eventually be abolished. Asked whether the party has been weakened, Covic acknowledge some losses of votes due over to NHI or HDZ 1990, but underlined: <i>"To go back to messages from Humphreys, US Ambassador, others... Those who criticized HDZ the most now thank us and send us message that we are the ones who could lead its people and state in direction of normalization."</i> He concluded HDZ expects to win 60% of Croat votes at upcoming elections.</p>
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<p>Oslobodjenje op-ed: Due to const. reform failure, nothing new at upcoming elections, just loss of money</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 9 'Money loss!' op-ed by <u>Mirko Sagolj</u> – Commenting upcoming general elections to be held on 1 October, author says that nothing much should be expected, as there would be no significant political changes. <i>"Authorities will again be taken by nationalistic and political tradesmen,"</i> says <u>Sagolj</u> who is also very critical of SBiH, SDU and BOSS for rejecting constitutional reforms. Noting that in the RS regardless of who wins same mentality is to remain at power, author argues situation is something more complex in FBiH as the main battle is to be between SDA, HDZ, SDP and number of their "surrogates", SBiH, SDU and HDZ 1990. The only hope, says <u>Sagolj</u>, is in hands of SDP and Movement for changes of making some changes. If they fail, concludes editorial, elections are nothing more than a money loss.</p>
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<p>BiH Foreign Minister Ivanic meets Russian counterpart to discuss political and economic relations, relations with ICTY</p>	<p>RTRS – BiH Foreign Minister, Mladen Ivanic, met the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov, in Moscow on Friday. Ministers had talks on political and economic relations between BiH and Russia. <i>"With regard to the political relations, I would say that the situation is very good. Russia played and still plays very good role in BiH. Russia is one of the countries that guarantee peace. However, economic relations are very weak. Level of economic exchange of 120 million \$ is very low. That is why we agreed that some things, which have not been solved in BiH for long time, have to be solved. We have to solve issue of gas debt and Russia has to solve debt from the time of former Yugoslavia"</i>, said Ivanic in the phone interview to RTRS. PINK – At the meeting, Lavrov noted that Moscow cooperates and fulfils obligations toward the ICTY. Ministers also talked about Dragan Zelenovic, war crimes indictee, who currently serves jail sentence in Siberia due to illegal border crossing and forging passport. Ivanic told PINK Russia criticized BiH's lack of the initiative to solve issue of 100 million \$ debt for gas, noting this could endanger gas delivery to BiH. BiH Foreign Minister informed on Russia's stance regarding Dayton Peace Agreement, which is that DPA could only be changed if all sides in BiH.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Russian expects proposal on solving gas debt issue', Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'Russian still waits to solve gas issue', Nezavisne novine pg 2 'Russia will meet its obligations towards the Tribuna' also reported.</p>
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<p>BiH and EU commence relaxation of visa regime negotiations on 30 May</p>	<p>BHT 1 by <u>Martina Martinovic</u> – BHT 1 has found out that the price for EU visas will not be increased for BIH. EC's spokesperson Frane Maroevic confirmed that price for EU visas will not be increased only for <i>"countries with EU perspective which refers to BIH"</i>. In a month, BIH will enter the negotiations on liberalisation of the visa regime. Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'Negotiations on visa regime to commence' – DA learns the exact date of these negotiations is 30 May. Deputy Head of EC Commission in BIH, Renzo Daviddi, told DA that the first round would concentrate on liberating regime for certain groups of people, including students, businessmen, etc. Also, some countries will start issuing their visas to BiH citizens for free.</p>
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<p>Police reform</p>	
<p>EC, OHR call on adoption of police reform</p>	<p>Hayat – Head of the EC delegation to BiH Michael Humphreys reiterated once again that the negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with European Union will not be stopped because of the slowdown in the police reform process; however, he added that the SAA talks would not be completed until the completion of the police reform in BiH. During a ministerial conference in Vienna on Thursday, High Representative in BiH Christian Schwarz-Schilling lobbied for the liberalisation of the visa regime for BiH citizens. Hayat commented that the police reform is the main condition to solve this issue as well. RTRS also carries statements.</p>

EU's Javier Solana: PRD adopted opinion in 'good faith'; if consensus cannot be reach, PRD should decide by majority vote

Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'By rejecting police reform, RS sends bad signal' by S. Numanovic – In a statement to DA, the EU High Representative for Foreign Policy, **Javier Solana**, stated that the failure of the RS to adopt the Police Reform Directorate's opinion adopted on Wednesday is regretful and sends bad signal. He says the opinion *"is just a first step in implementing one of three EU principles on police reform"* adding the "police reform is a key condition for Stabilization and Association process". Solana also says that the method of work and decision-making in the PRD has been carried out in *"good faith": "Proposals and suggestion which came from the RS side were not excluded. If consensus cannot be reached, the Directorate has no other choice but to continue working by brining decision on grounds of majority votes. That is the way which can ensure that the job is finished on time."* If BiH fails in the reform, says Solana, it could face very serious consequences.

<p>VL int with PRD SB Chair: No to police organization on entity level</p>	<p>Vecernji list pg 6 'NO to organization of police on entity level' by <u>Dejan Jazvic</u> –</p> <p>In an interview to VL, the Chair of the Reform Directorate Steering Board, Vinko Dumancic, said that the Board has adopted the opinion instead of the decision on future police structure in an effort to make the stance closer to the RS officials. Asked what would happen at the next session of the PRD SB on 24 May, Dumancic noted: <i>"By than the executive authority should prepare some things in line with the opinion we stated. The most important is that the police is single and organized at two levels, state and local. Some insisted to define entity levels, which is not good solution as it would leave cantonal, i.e. organization of police at the Brcko District level."</i></p> <p>Dumancic expressed hope PRD SB members would complete the work, even though he is aware there would be difficulties on defining police regions. <i>"Primer Milorad Dodik has tried to make certain pressure on us by sending the letter, but I have not say we have received the full support of the HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling who believes in our professional work,"</i> concluded the PRD SB Chair.</p>
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<p>CoM Chair Terzic rejects agreed police issues to again discuss at level of political parties</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Negotiations on police restructuring are finished' by <u>Az. Kalamujic</u> – The Chair of the BIH Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic, on Friday confirmed that the talks on the police reform among political parties had been completed, and the Police Reform Directorate should now be let to complete its job. Terzic commented the calls of some RS politicians to return the discussion at the level of political parties adding that only things that could be discussed in this level are those things which were not addressed before, including <i>“seat of Agency, institution and educational institutions.”</i> Inset 'US to cool down their relations with Dodik?' – Daily says that the HR Christian Schwarz-Schilling will sent harsh warning to RS PM Milorad Dodik because of efforts to obstruct police reform. It also learns unofficially that US could cool down its relations with Dodik for the same reason.</p>
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<p>DEPOS' Svetlana Cenic: Police reform back to the beginning</p>	<p>Nezavisne novine pg 6 'Economic recovery tops list of priorities' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – In a short interview to NN, former RS Finance Minister and member of Democratic Movement of Srpska [DEPOS], Svetala Cenic, says the party would focus on the issues related to economy. Inset 'Police reform on the beginning' – Commenting the course of the police reform, Cenic – who was the member of the RS negotiating team last year – underlined solution must be find through consensus and added that “unfortunately things got back to the beginning”: <i>“Negotiations with EU could be halted because of the police reform and I am afraid this would happen is there is no progress some time soon.”</i></p>
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RHB comment
on police
reform: IC
made mistake
by preferring
Bosniaks and
Serbs,
marginalizing
Croats

RHB By Ivica Simunovic – Dayton Peace Agreement brought peace to BiH, but it also significantly endangered the future of this country; RHB comments that Dayton prevents all attempts to change something in BiH. For example, Serbs supported constitutional changes, because those changes suited them; on the other hand, they oppose the police reform, because it does not suit them. But, according to RHB commentator, the main problem is that International Community believes that the solution can be reached by preferring one of the two ‘strong players’ – i.e. Serbs and Bosniaks – when they need to. That strategy proved to be completely wrong, because marginalized Croats have managed to stop the constitutional changes, partially thanks to the fact that Party for BiH was also against those changes. Serbs were against the proposed concept of the police reform, and the result is – blocked reform process. RHB commentator deems that International Community, and especially United States and Great Britain, made a crucial mistake when they tried to incorporate their own experiences into the solutions for BiH, instead of taking Switzerland as a model. It seems like the International Community does not want to start the discussion about the key thing: internal organisation of BiH, concluded RHB commentator.

<p>GS op-ed: reforms go around in vicious circles, RS PM Dodik was right to react</p>	<p>Glas Srpske pg 2 'Reforms in words' op-ed by <u>Pantelija Matavulj</u> – Author refers to the news on two currently most spoken reforms in BiH – constitutional and police – wondering whether all developments only makes us spin around in "<i>vicious circle</i>". However, he did note that RS PM Milorad Dodik, timely send the letter to the members of the Police Reform Directorate Steering Board reminding that the decision must be brought by consensus. Everything else, says <u>Matavulj</u>, would mean that the solution is imposed. He is also critical of the statement by the UK Ambassador, Matthew Rycroft, who stated last week that due to the failure of the constitutional reform elections results could be disputed, and author strongly argues "<i>that the elections and its results cannot be crossed out.</i>"</p>
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Economy

<p>RS Special Prosecutor to fight organized crime appointed</p>	<p>BHT 1 by Zoran Sarenac – Milan Tegeltija has been appointed as the RS Chief Special Prosecutor whose main task would be to fight corruption cases outside of competencies of the state or entity prosecutor in accordance with the RS law on prevention of the organized crime and grave economic crimes, which went into effect on Friday. RS Chief Prosecutor Amor Bukic presented Tegeltija at the press conference stating that he would be authorized to conduct separate investigation and file charges. Tegeltija stressed that this is a demanding task but he expects the first results very soon. <i>“Those innocent have nothing to fear. For this prosecution there are no those privileged and untouchable regardless of their financial powers. The criminals are the only opposition to RS Special Prosecution”</i> noted Tegeltija.</p> <p>PINK – Bukic welcomed establishment of the RS Special Prosecution and said it would not be not be a competition to the RS Prosecution and District Prosecutions. According to Bukic, trials will be held before the Special Department of District Court. RS Special Prosecution should start working in two months. In the meantime, Tegeltija is supposed to appoint his deputy and six prosecutors. RTRS, Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Criminals only opposition’, mentioned on cover – Bukic underlined that Special Prosecution would not be a parallel structure to current judiciary. Oslobodjenje pg 2 ‘There will be no those privileged and untouchables’, Nezavisne novine pg 5 ‘Tegeltija is Chief Special Prosecutor’, mentioned on cover – also reported.</p>
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<p>RS Energy Minister Jellic: Buyer of Oil Refinery Brod to be known in 15 days, privatisation in 2 months</p>	<p>RTRS by Vid Blagojevic- Milan Jellic, RS Minister of Economy, Energy and Development announced privatizations of “Oil refinery Brod” and “Oil refinery Modrica”. Jellic visited Brod Refinery on Friday and met with representatives of Syndicate informing them that the RS Government dissociated itself from earlier possible strategic partner Israeli company “Alon”. Glas Srpske cover splash story ‘Giant wakes up slowly’ by <u>B. Teofilovic</u> – Jellic announced that the buyer would be known in about 15 days, while its status is to be entirely solved within 60 days. PINK, Oslobođenje pg 6 ‘Potential buyer to be known in mid-May’, Nezavisne novine pg 4 ‘Oil refinery would be sold in two months’ – He noted talks with several European and world companies are undergoing, but rejected to identify them.</p>
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