

OHR BiH Media Round-up, 7/12/2004

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on 7 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)	RTRS (12,00 hrs)
Tadic in Banja Luka	Dragomir Milosevic pleads not guilty	Tadic in Banja Luka
FBiH HoR in session	Tadic in Banja Luka	Milosevic pleads not guilty
Coric in Konjic	Afghani presidential elections	RS Govt on assistance to PIFWCs

TV news broadcast on 6 December

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	BH TV 1 (19,00 hrs)	FED TV (19,30 hrs)	RT RS (19,30)
Tadic in Sarajevo	Boris Tadic in visit to BiH	Tadic in visit t BiH	Tadic in Sarajevo
Competitiveness Council	Reactions to apology	Tadic meets HR Ashdown	Tadic in Banja Luka
BiH defence board in ZG	War crimes trials in BiH	Tadic on ICTY coop.	War crimes trials in BiH
Ivanic in Sofia	Update to Njegus	Prosper: ICTY after 2008?	ICTY reps visit Brcko

Oslobodjenje	Tadic apologized to citizens of BiH; Covic to present defence on 30 December; Thousands of war crimes suspects in BiH
Dnevni Avaz	Tadic apologized for crimes [committed] on behalf of Serbs; Dodik: Karadzic is the biggest pest

Dnevni List	Budget with a 128,5 million mark hole
Vecernji List	Indictments: The Hague of Sarajevo for 21 indictees
Slobodna Dalmacija	Pasko Ljubicic does not exist for BiH authorities?!
Nezavisne Novine	Bors Tadic in Sarajevo : We owe each other an apology; East Sarajevo: Djeric: Njegus said Lukic was armed; Medzida Kreso and Marinko Jurcevic announce new indictments from the Hague : BiH Court is ready for war crimes trials
Glas Srpske	After four-year research near Jerusalem : The cave of St. John the Baptisor!?
EuroBlic	Njegus admitted police made mistakes in "Visegrad" action; Mladic getting 30 thousand dinars
Vecernje novosti	Features Serbian related topics
Nacional	Features Serbian related topics

LATEST NEWS OF TODAY	
Tadic in Banja Luka	<p>RTRS at 12.00 – Boris Tadic, Serbian President, had separate meetings with Dragan Cavic, RS President, and Dragan Mikerevic, RS Premier today in Banja Luka. The Interior and Defence Ministers of RS, Darko Matijasevic and Milovan Stankovic respectively, attended the meeting Tadic-Mikerevic.</p> <p>BH Radio 1 at 12.00 – Later in the day, Tadic will meet RS National Assembly Speaker Dragan Stojicic, SNSD leader Milorad Dodik and Banja Luka Mayor Dragoljub Davidovic.</p>

<p>Milosevic pleads not guilty</p>	<p>BH Radio 1, RHB, RTRS at 12.00 – Dragomir Milosevic has today entered plea on the indictment before the ICTY, pleading not guilty on three the indictment counts for crimes against humanities and three counts for violations of laws and customs of war. Milosevic, who surrendered to the Serbian authorities and was transferred to ICTY on Friday last week, is accused of Sarajevo shelling.</p>
<p>FBiH HoR in session</p>	<p>BH Radio 1, RHB at 12.00 – FBiH Parliament's House of Representatives is holding continuation of its 15th session today (Tuesday). According to the Speaker of the FBiH HoR, Muhamed Ibrahimovic, the chamber will not be discussing the re-balance of the 2004 budget or the proposal of the 2005 budget.</p>
<p>RS Govt defines assistance to PIFWCs</p>	<p>RTRS at 12.00 – The RS Government Monday night enacted decision regarding material assistance to the persons indicted for war crimes by UCTY who voluntarily surrender and those already in detention, as well as to their families. According to the decision, children of PIFWCs in detention are entitled to monthly scholarship, the family to one average monthly family, travel allowance for two round-trips to the Hague per year, and PIFWCs will receive monthly amount of two average salaries in RS during the time of their detention.</p>

Boris Tadic visits BiH

**Tadic
apologises for
crimes
committed on
behalf of Serb
people; calls
on universal
apology**

BHT 1 by Damir Simic, **Dnevni Avaz** cover splash, pg 2 'Tadic apologized for crimes [committed] on behalf of Serbs' by A.M.— Serbian President **Boris Tadic** said in Sarajevo on Monday that *"everyone should apologize to one another"* for war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and he personally apologized *"for those who committed crimes in the name of the Serb people"*. However, he added that the genocide was not committed by the Serb people, but *"rather criminal individuals"* who should be tried by the international institutions of justices. He stressed that it is impossible to blame one nation *"because the same crimes had been committed against the Serbs. In this context, we all need to apologize to one another, and if I need to be the first to do so here I am,"* Tadic told journalists after his meeting with the members of the BiH Presidency. At the meeting with Presidency, they discussed the current situation in two countries, regional cooperation, issue of Euro-Atlantic integrations and the cooperation with ICTY. BiH Presidency President **Borislav Paravac** said: *"We have exchanged our opinions, and I am glad that cooperation between RS and ICTY, as well as cooperation between Serbia and ICTY, goes on well."*

FTV by Zeljko Tica— Tadic said that it was of extreme importance for all war criminals to be punished, adding that for both countries cooperation with the ICTY is an obstacle to path of Euro-Atlantic integrations.

RHB, RTRS by Dragana Knezevic, **Vecernji List**, pg 3 'Boris Tadic apologizes, wants apology as well', mentioned on front 'Tadic apologizes', by Eldina Medunjanin, **Dnevni List**, pg 3, mentioned on front 'Tadic apologizes for crimes', by Erna Mackic, **Slobodna Dalmacija**, pg 9 'Apology to all victims of war crimes committed in the name of Serb people', by D. Pasic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg 3 'We owe each other an apology' by M. Cubro; **EuroBlic** pg 3 'Let's apologise to each other'; **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Everybody owes an apology' by N. Zelenovic — also covered.

NOTE: Both print and electronic media gave the most prominence to the apology offered by Boris Tadic to BiH citizens for the crimes committed on behalf of Serbs.

<p>Reactions: Apology welcomed, but justices still sought</p>	<p>BHT 1 by <u>Mirela Cosic</u> – The Association of Srebrenica Mothers welcomed the apology offered by Boris Tadic, however they stressed they still want to see those responsible for war crimes to be punished. SDA member Seada Palavric commented: <i>“I think that he should have done this, but the part in which he talks about the general apology has no grounds when it comes to BiH, since neither a single Bosniak had committed war crimes or genocide in Serbia.”</i> SDP official Zlatko Lagumdzija stressed that Tadic was the first one who apologised, adding that BiH needed no apology but justice, and that those who committed crimes should be punished. Majority of RS politicians did not want to comment on Tadic’s apology.</p> <p>Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 3 ‘We owe each other an apology’ by <u>M. Cubro</u>; EuroBlic pg 3 ‘Let’s apologise to each other’; Glas Srpske pg 2 ‘Everybody owes an apology’ by <u>N. Zelenovic</u> – NN inset 1 on page 3 ‘Cavic welcomed Tadic in Banja Luka’</p> <p>NN inset 2 on pg 3 ‘Reactions in Serbia’ carry reaction of Tomislav Nikolic and Milos Aligurdic, Head of DSS Caucus, and SPS.</p>
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<p>Tadic meets HR Ashdown: We have no information where is Mladic</p>	<p>FTV by <u>Dzenana Zolota</u>– Boris Tadic met with the High Representative Paddy Ashdown. Tadic stressed at the meeting that all Serbian officials are ready to fully cooperate with ICTY, adding that the most wanted war crimes indictee, Ratko Mladic, was not in SCG. Tadic stated: <i>“I have to say that we have no information on Mladic being in Serbia. I was Serbian Defence Minister and during that mandate I started investigation on his whereabouts. I have to admit that we were not able to find out where he was hiding. We are now making great efforts, and if he is in SCG we are going to arrest him and send him to Den Hag.”</i> Tadic and HR discussed on cooperation with ICTY. Paddy Ashdown said: <i>“I did not hide from Tadic fact... that the cooperation [of] Belgrade [with ICTY] presents one of the key aspects which would allow RS to fulfil its obligations and arrest war crimes. I do not believe that all war criminals are in SCG, but I certainly do think that some of them are.”</i></p> <p>RTRS by <u>Dragana Knezevic</u>– Ashdown also stated at the occasions that any constitutional changes in BIH will happen if there is a willingness of 3 constituent people.</p> <p>RHB, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘If Mladic is in Serbia , we will send him in the Hague ’ by A.M. – also covers the meeting.</p>
<p>Tadic on cooperation with the ICTY</p>	<p>FTV – FTV also carries the explanation gave by Serbian President Boris Tadic on recent meeting with the RS officials held in Belgrade. Asked what he proposed RS officials to do, Boris Tadic said: <i>“RS representatives came to Belgrade in order to discuss only one topic cooperation with ICTY, concluding it was necessary... We discussed on how we could help each others in that sense and we agreed on future steps. As a consequence, General [Dragomir] Milosevic surrendered, several days after such our meeting.”</i></p>

<p>Tadic meets Hadzipasic, discuss economic issues</p>	<p>FTV by <u>Zeljko Tica</u> – Serbian President Boris Tadic also met with the FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic discussing the economic cooperation between the two countries. It was noted that there was a lot of room for joint promotion of Serbia and the Federation on third markets. Prime Minister Hadzipasic announced that an economic delegation would pay a visit to Serbia soon. Hadzipasic said: “We agreed that we have a lot in common regarding the special purposes industry. <i>We had been in a powerful military industry system, and we want to activate those potentials as well.</i>”</p> <p>RHB, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Hadzipasic goes to Belgrade next year with businessmen’, Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 ‘Progress of economic cooperation announced’ by <u>Fena</u> – also covered.</p>
<p>Tadic meets Radovanovic, discuss defence reforms</p>	<p>RTRS, Dnevni Avaz pg 2 ‘Get closer to Euro-Atlantic structures’ – Serbian delegation, headed by Boris Tadic, met with the BiH Defence Minister, Nikola Radovanovic. They discuss the pace of current defence reforms, and stressed the need for higher level of bilateral and regional military cooperation which would increase the level of confidence and the security in the region, thus speeding up the admission to Euro-Atlantic integrations.</p>

<p>Oslobodjenje's op-eds on Tadic</p>	<p>Oslobodjenje, op-ed pg. 9 'Tadic's messages' by <u>Mirko Sagolj</u> – The author comments on Serbian President Boris Tadic's visit to Sarajevo and his statements during the visit. The author says: <i>'As long as leaders from Serbia (and Croatia) do not get freed from their ambitions towards BiH and stop thinking this (as well) is their nationally marked territory, and as long as Bosniaks do not get freed from thesis on dominant rights of a majority people, the only thing that can be stabile in this region will be chaos'</i>.</p> <p>Oslobodjenje, op-ed pg. 9 'RS above everything' by <u>Zija Dizdarevic</u> – Editorial refers to Boris Tadic's statement in which he had said the Dayton Agreement should not be changed. <i>'Together with all of this, we should have in mind an unsolved status of Kosovo, which is often, with no reason, brought in relation with BiH and RS'</i>, Dizdarevic said and added: <i>'Those who think in this way should understand that bringing of statuses of BiH and Kosovo in connection means a very dangerous destabilizing of the region. As far as RS is concerned, it is obviously the main obstacle to peace and stabilization processes in BiH and region and, at the end, it causes a damage to Serbs too'</i>.</p>
<p>DL on Tadic's apology</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 2 'Is only apology enough?', by <u>Ivica Glibusic</u> – Commenting on the apology of the Serbian President, Boris Tadic, the author wonders what President Tadic and Serbian authorities are doing to bring the responsible before justice. In that context, the author says the genuine apology can be valid only if the Serbian authorities do everything and arrest the most wanted ICTY suspects. The author also notes that the Croatian President, Stipe Mesic, already apologized for crimes committed by the Croat(ian)s, saying it is down to Sulejman Tihic to apologize for crimes committed by the Bosniaks. However, the author wonders whether an apology only is good enough for the future in these areas.</p>

War Crimes
Chamber ready
to process
cases as of 1
January 2005

Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'First trials on crimes in Foca and Prijedor' by A. Basic, **Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Thousands of suspects for war crimes in BiH', mentioned on cover, by A. Omeragic – The first cases to be processed before the BiH War Crimes Chamber refer to the crimes committed in the areas of Foca and Prijedor, stated BiH Chief Prosecutor **Marinko Jurcevic** on Monday. He confirmed that the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, **Carla Del Ponte**, asked from ICTY to transfer two cases for crimes in Foca and one for Prijedor to BiH Prosecution, which in total includes 8 suspects. Jurcevic and the Chair of the BiH Court, justice **Meddzida Kreso**, repeated that they were ready to start processing the cases in January 2005. State prosecution said it cannot estimate how much time will Chamber and Prosecution need to evaluate every case individually, however they stressed it is certain that the process could take years. According to some statistics, every 389 citizen of BiH has been war crimes suspect. Kreso also said that currently BiH Court has place to detain 21 criminals, adding she hopes IC will help the construction of the prison.

BHT 1 by Boris Grubestic – One of the suspects in these cases is **Gojko Jankovic**, still on run. BiH Prosecution will also be given information from investigations that have not been completed by the ICTY. Department for war crimes within BiH Prosecution will also be in charge of both cases approved by ICTY and cases initiated by the local prosecutors against 10 000 persons. Five teams of prosecutors will cover 5 BiH regions.

FTV by Ognjen Blagojevic – War Crimes Chamber within BiH Court will have 4-6 court councils with 3 members, 1 local and 2 international judges. Registry Office will take care of administrative and logistical support.

RTRS by Branka Kusmuk – Jurcevic stated that if the decision is made regarding sensitivity of a particular case that case will remain in BIH Court jurisdiction and other cases will be delivered to local prosecutions and courts in BIH for further procedure.

Vecernji List, front pg splash 'Indictments: The Hague of Sarajevo for 21 indictees' and pg 2 'Sarajevo's mini-Hague awaiting 21 indictees', by Dejan Jazvic, **Dnevni List**, pg 2 'War crimes trials in domestic languages', by Erna Mackic, **Nezavisne Novine** cover and pg 2 'BiH Court is ready for war crimes trials' by N. Krsman – also covered.

<p>Update to Visegrad action trial [murder of Novica Lukic]</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 5 'Djeric: Njegus said Lukic was armed' by <u>D. Muminovic</u> – At the resumption of trial against two former RS special policemen, Drazen Bojic and Vedran Purisis, charged with murder during Visegrad action, Zoran Djeric, and Dragan Kalinic, dismissed from duties of RS interior minister and RS NA speaker respectively, said that they had not been aware of the police action in April this year, when Novica Lukic was murdered. Djeric also said that according to information Radomir Njegus passed on to him, Novica Lukic was armed, adding that <i>"there were many illogical issues regarding this case."</i> Djeric also noted that Milan Lukic, the brother of Novica, called him after the murder of Novica, threatening he would murder him over his brother's death. Radomir Njegus, former RS police director, said he had known of the action, stressing that <i>"many issues related to organisation of the police action itself remained unclear"</i>. During the cross-examination, Njegus admitted action had been carried out in spite of the fact there had been no reliable information regarding the whereabouts of Milan Lukic, adding that (according to NN): <i>"We were under the pressure of the international community over the failure to cooperate iht the ICTY. We had a sort of information and we reacted."</i></p> <p>EuroBlic cover and RSpg 5 'Njegus admitted police made mistakes in "Visegrad" action' by <u>Dusanka Stanisic</u> – According to this report, Djeric and Kalinic also stated they had not been informed of the action after it had completed.</p> <p>BHT 1, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 9 'Njegus, Djeric and Kalinic admitted Visegrad Action was badly carried out', Oslobodjenje pg 6 'Njegus admitted irregularities' by <u>A.N.</u> – also covered the trial.</p>
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<p>ICTY Coordinator for BiH visits Brcko District</p>	<p>FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje, pg. 10 'Trials to Brcko citizens before BiH Court to follow' by V. Jahic, Vecernje Novosti, pg. 19 'A priority to be given to domestic judiciary' by M. D., Glas Srpske, pg. 3 'Work for domestic courts' by M. Dj.– During the visit to the Brcko District that took place on Monday, the President of the ICTY Secretariat for BIH, Mattias Helman, announced that most of the war crime cases committed during the war in BiH, will be processed before domestic courts. He pointed out that the role of the Hague Tribunal would change in the upcoming period.</p> <p>After a meeting with the Brcko District Mayor, Branko Damjanac, Helman has stated that the goal of his visit was to point out the importance of the rule of law and processing of war crimes. <i>"The focus is still on work of domestic judicial institutions in processing war crimes, and I think it is very important to train domestic institutions for qualitative processing of war crimes. The Hague Tribunal will help as much as possible in providing training in international humanitarian law, but also by transferring evidence from the Hague to domestic courts,"</i> Helman said.</p>
<p>DA int with Dodik: 'Karadzic is the greatest pest for Serbs'</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz, cover 'Karadzic is the greatest pest' and pg. 5 'Radovan Karadzic is the greatest pest for Serb people' by Faruk Cardzic – In this interview to DA, SNSD President Milorad Dodik claims he would surely meet RS President Dragan Cavic to try to find solutions for outstanding issues RS is facing. Dodik explained: <i>'We want someone to determine elements of political and other responsibility in RS before Ashdown does it. We should not only wait for something to happen before reacting'</i>. He claims political responsibility of RS Government with regard to failure to arrest war crimes indictees should be determined, since it is responsible of this. According to Dodik, this should be followed by a dismissal of the current Government and election of a new Government. While commenting on possible sanctions against RS and asked to say whether he thinks BiH would be punished as well, Dodik said BiH would too, in a way, be sanctioned by non-admission to the Partnership for Peace. Nevertheless, Dodik emphasized: <i>'A political responsibility should be determined in a case of a failure such as this one, and the responsibility lies upon RS Government only. If Ashdown wants to determine the responsibility, he can focus on persons only'</i>.</p>

<p>Euroblic on Mladic military pension in SCG</p>	<p>EuroBlic cover and pg 3 'Mladic getting 30 thousand dinars' by <u>N. M. Jovanovic</u> – The paper reports that the former Commander of the RS Army, Ratko Mladic, is receiving the pension amounting to 30 thousand dinars in Serbia, in spite of pressures of the European Union and the USA. The paper also notes that the former Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, seems to be officially classified as "<i>socially vulnerable case</i>". Boris Tadic, Serbian President, confirmed this information, stressing that "<i>the right to pension does not go extinct</i>", adding that a family member of Mladic is most likely receiving the pension.</p> <p>Glas Srpske pg 2 'Serbia needs assistance' – also carries Tadic's statement.</p>
<p>Mikerevic says he will step down if Dodik could promise to arrest PIFWCs by 9 Dec</p>	<p>RHB, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'I will give my place to Dodik if he can arrest ICTY suspects by 9 December' by <u>Fena</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Prime Minister's seat in turn for arrest of ICTY indictees' by <u>Fena</u>, Vecernji List, pg 2 'Dodik and indictees', by <u>E</u> – The RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, stated at Banja Luka that he was ready to step down from the office immediately if the leader of the SNSD, Milorad Dodik, could promise that he could arrest war crimes suspects in short period of time, namely by December 9. "<i>In that case I am ready to withdraw even today and concede the office to him</i>", said Mikerevic, noting that Dodik, like any other citizen, is obliged to provide information on movements of war crimes suspects in order to save the RS.</p>
<p>Prosper says ICTY could continue to work after 2008</p>	<p>FTV, BHT 1, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Tribunal could continue to work after 2008' by <u>Sense</u>, Vecernji List, pg 23 'Extended mandate to The Hague Tribunal because of lack of cooperation by Serbia', by <u>H.</u> Glas Srpske pg 3 'Tribunal to move deadline' by <u>Tanjug</u> – Pierre Richard Prosper, US Envoy for war crimes, on Monday stated that the work of the Hague Tribunal would not have completed by 2008, mainly over the failure of Belgrade to cooperate with the ICTY. Prosper accused Vojislav Kostunica, Serbian PM, for this failure.</p>

<p>BHT 1 on Njegus case</p>	<p>BHT 1 by <u>Boris Gagic</u>– Radomir Njegus, who resigned to the position of RS Police Director last Tuesday, was appointed to the advisor of the Deputy BiH Security Minister. RS Interior Minister Darko Matijasevic asked Njegus to resign stating he was not satisfied with Njegus’ especially in the field of cooperation with the ICTY. BHT 1 comments that the International Community allowed Deputy Minister Dragan Mektic to appoint Njegus. Matijasevic said: <i>“Fact that I asked for Njegus’ resignation does not represent lack of confidence, but RS MoI has to give quality answer and by this I mean concrete activities and concrete efficiency. This means that a result has to be achieved and the one who is able to achieve the results is going to be in my team.”</i> Njegus has given no statements on his new appointment. Njegus previously admitted that during last several months he had not been involved in the activities of the RS police regarding the arrest of war criminals, due to Matijasevic’s decision. However, his new positions will demand from Njegus to be the one who is going to advise members of BiH Ministry of Security on how to improve cooperation with ICTY.</p>
<p>Bogdanic says Serb victims from Sarajevo minimised; Odobasic denies this claim</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 ‘Serb victims from Sarajevo region are minimised’ by <u>SRNA</u>; Glas Srpske pg 7 ‘Policy “drove” humanity away’ by <u>G. Klepic</u> – The RS Office for search after missing persons, released a press statement, signed by Milan Bogdanic, its Acting Director, saying that: <i>“For some years now, some members of the FBiH Commission have been minimising the number of Serb victims and prevent exhumations at the known and marked gravesites or those sites marked with NN.”</i> The release accused FBiH Commission for minimising number of the Serb victims in the Sarajevo region during the past war. RS Office assesses that this issue is <i>“widely used in daily political purposes”</i>. Dnevni Avaz pg 11 ‘Cemeteries in Belgrade and RS hide the secrets of missing Serbs’ by <u>E. Sarac</u> – DA also brings Bogdanic’s statement, as well as the reaction from the official of FBiH Commission for Missing Persons Jasmin Odobasic: <i>“At this moment I can provide Bogdanic with a list of 12 names of Serb nationalities whose bodies were hidden in Serbian cemeteries. The stories on preventing exhumations in Sarajevo region are really false. All locations that our colleagues from RS wanted to exhume were checked, and bodies were either found or not.”</i></p>

<p>Mikerevic says property of PIFWCs frozen</p>	<p>Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Property of Hague indictees frozen' by <u>V. Popovic</u> – Dragan Mikerevic, RS Prime Minister, stated that RS Government had ordered the institutions in charge to freeze the trade in real estate of the persons charged with war crimes, adding that all the state institutions have been respecting this decision for now.</p>
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<p>Economic issues</p>	
<p>BiH gets Competition Council</p>	<p>RHB, BHT 1, Dnevni Avaz pg 8 'Competition Council will take care of fair market competition' by <u>E. Dizdarevic</u>, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'More efficient control of the companies at the market' by <u>S.Se</u>, Dnevni List, pg 6 'Consumers to get cheaper and better quality products', by <u>D. Polovina</u> – <u>Mandic</u> – Establishment of the BiH Competition Council was officially announced at a press conference in Sarajevo on Monday. The Head of EC Delegation to BiH, Michael Humphreys, said that the role of the Competition Council was to protect free competition in the BiH market, since free competition was essential for free market economies. <i>"The European Union has financially backed establishment of the council as well as training of staff of the competition bodies in BiH through a EU single economic space support program,"</i> pointed out Humphreys.</p> <p>FTV – He added that <i>"this new concept of competition is necessary in order to control behaviour of participants in the BiH market, through... control of abuse of certain companies' dominant positions, as well as prevention of any kind [of misuse] of contracts that would diminish competition."</i></p>

**Hays visits
BiH Steel**

Dnevni Avaz, pg. 9 'Transportation capacities must be a support to industry in BiH' by A. Dzonlic – PDHR **Donald Hays** visited BH Steel in Zenica on Monday, on which occasion he stated that transportation capacities must serve as a support to industry in BiH. PDHR Hays visited BH Steel together with BiH Minister of Traffic and Communications **Branko Dokic** and representatives of entity Ministries and railroad companies. A conference on the necessity of reconstruction of infrastructure and communications in BiH was held after the visit.

Oslobodjenje, pg. 8 'Loans to run trains' by E. Beslic – also reported on the conference held in Zenica on Monday.

Development of infrastructure in BiH was the main topic of the conference, initiator of which was OHR, while the organizer was BiH Ministry for Traffic and Communications and EBRD. BiH Minister of Traffic and Communications **Branko Dokic** has stated it is planned to invest approximately 300 million € in railroad development in the following six or seven years. PDHR **Donald Hays** has stated that EBRD and EC and participants from BiH were considering an extensive program on development of infrastructure and railroads in BiH.

Dnevni List, pg 4 '170 million Euros for reconstruction of railways', by ZEDA,

Slobodna Dalmacija, pg 18 'There is no Steelworks without development of railways', by Ivica Milesic – also covered.

**Oslobodjenje
says Covic
to present
denfece on
30 December**

Oslobodjenje, pg. 2 'Dragan Covic to present his defense on December 30', mentioned on cover, by Az. Kalamujic – According to attorney **Josip Muselimovic**, BiH Presidency member **Dragan Covic** will present his defense, upon claims that he had been at the head of a criminal economic organization while he was Federation of BiH Minister of Finances, before BiH Prosecutor's Office on December 30.

Other political issues

OHR: 'Terzic has not understood PIC message'

FTV, Dnevni Avaz, pg. 3 'Terzic has not understood PIC message' not signed, **Dnevni List**, pg 7 'OHR in favour of more regular sessions of Council of Ministers', by De. L., **Slobodna Dalmacija**, back pg 'Lack of regular government sessions', by D. Pasic—Irregular sessions of BiH CoM is hampering the efficiency of the work of this institution, which can be seen in "delays in implementation of certain reforms", as OHR press release reads. The press release was issued upon a statement of CoM Chair **Adnan Terzic**, who has said he would not allow anyone to interfere with the work of CoM and way of holding of sessions. The press release goes on to say that *"all too often, planned CoM sessions are cancelled due to the absence of Ministers – which makes a quorum impossible. In the six-month period between 3 June and 2 December 2004 the COM met only 14 times"*. OHR reminded that EU's Feasibility Study, states that among the 16 Feasibility study conditions it states CoM meetings must be convened *"with sufficient regularity to tackle government business expeditiously"*. The Political Directors of the PIC Steering Board last week concluded that *"among the core causes of the government's inability to carry through the full range of its legislative commitments on time is the irregularity of meetings of the BiH Council of Ministers."*

Dnevni List, pg 2 carries in its 'Statement of Day' the Chairman of BiH Council of Ministers, **Adnan Terzic**, as saying: *"I do not allow that someone interferes into my job"*.

<p>Ivanic addresses OSCE Foreign Ministers</p>	<p>RHB, Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'It is important that OSCE continues to support BiH' by <u>Fena</u>, Dnevni List, pg 8 'Minister Ivanic stresses importance of continuation of OSCE Mission to BiH', by <u>NINA</u>, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'The exact date of BiH admission into EU needs to be determined' by <u>Agencies</u> – Mladen Ivanic, BiH Foreign Minister, on Monday in Sofia</p> <p>addressed the participants of 12th Ministerial Session of the OSCE member-states Foreign Ministers and expressed expectation that the exact date when BiH would be admitted into EU would be determined in the near future.</p> <p>Glas Srpske pg 3 'Reforms bore fruits' – Ivanic called on the OSCE to continue with reform implementation process in BiH in 2005 as well. Since <i>"it is important for BiH that OSCE continues implementing ongoing reforms on security, administration, democratisation, human rights, judiciary and education."</i></p>
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VN int with
Ivanic

Vecernje Novosti pg 2 'I am constantly attacked' by M. Labus – This is an interview with **Mladen Ivanic**, BiH Foreign Minister, who speaks about his ministerial activities in Sarajevo for two years now. On BiH, he says: *"The world states do not regard BiH as the state of Islamic terrorists, but neither as the state of war criminals. The majority regards it as the state with problems, since its general image is rather negative and overburdened with the war."* He stresses he is trying to defend the constitutional position of RS as much as possible, adding it is not an easy task at all, since he has been *"subject to numerous pressures. My each act of defending Constitution is viewed as nationalism in Sarajevo. Any attempt to defend the right of the Serb people is also regarded as nationalism."* He doubts international community would undertake such a serious institutions sanctions against RS, adding that *"it would represent an institutional punishment of the RS, which is out of question, since it would open the Pandora's Box. In this regard, the international institutions would be creators, instead of interpreters of the DA."*

<p>DL on FBiH budget for 2005</p>	<p>Dnevni List, front pg splash and pg 5 'Budget with a 128,5 million mark hole', <u>not signed</u> – The FBiH Government determined yesterday (Monday) that the FBiH budget in 2005 should be amounting to 1.300.371.400 KMs. This amount includes the budget deficit set at 128,5 million KMs. The FBiH Government plans to cover up the deficit by funds from 4 sources, namely by loans from international financial organizations (49 million KMs), from the ESCROW account (18 million) and on top of these, the Government is counting on funds blocked in the Hercegovacka bank (22,9 million) and profits from the GSM licences that should amass to 38,5 million KMs. The Government stresses that the 2005 budget reflects the current economic situation, with the focus being on the reduction in expenditures as requested by the International Monetary Fund.</p>
<p>Cavic to meet SNSD on 8 December</p>	<p>RTRS by <u>Nada Arlov</u>– The RS President Dragan Cavic scheduled a meeting with SNSD delegation for Wednesday, 8 December. SRS supported the demand of SNSD for this meeting and said that all major parties in RS should participate it. Milanko Mihajlica, SRS Chairman, stated that the Government of National Unity should be appointed since RS is in a difficult situation at the moment. Sinisa Djordjevic from PDP stated that the Government of national unity is impossible in RS since Serbs are not the only people living in it.</p>

<p>DL: Beslic becomes Mayor if Velez returns to 'Bijeli Brijeg' stadium</p>	<p>Dnevni List, pg 13, mentioned on front 'If Velez returns to Bijeli Brijeg, Beslic will become Mayor', by <u>S. B.</u> – DL learns from sources close to HDZ of Mostar that the HDZ and SDA held intensified talks over the last weekend, during which they achieved certain progress, however nothing concrete was agreed upon. DL's source notes that the talks are still open because the SDA has agreed to back the candidacy of Ljubo Beslic for the position of Mostar Mayor, under condition that pre-war employees of 'Aluminij' be reinstated, that the 'Velez' football club returns to the 'Bijeli Brijeg' stadium and that a Bosniak editorial board be in place at the Hercegovacka TV. DL also notes that, if the Mayor is not elected this coming Thursday, the situation can unfold in many different directions, including the scenario in which the OHR installs a provisional Mayor.</p>
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<p>DA on assistance to Srebrenica</p>	<p>Dnevni Avaz pg 4 'Millions of KM spent to reconstruct premises from which people of Srebrenica were later expelled' by <u>A. Hadzic</u> – Article reads that about month ago, the Municipality of Srebrenica sent a letter to all embassies in BiH, humanitarian organizations and associations asking them to submit information on donations provided for assistance to Srebrenica by their governments. According to Abdurahman Malkic, the Head of the municipality, so far only few have responded. <i>"We have decided to do this because on daily basis we hear stories on hundreds of millions KM given for Srebrenica, and none of us knows about it,"</i> said Malkic. Malkic says that a lot of assistance goes to other projects in FBiH. <i>"Millions of KM were given to construct some settlements in FBiH, especially in the area of Tuzla Canton. People of Srebrenica were mostly expelled from those premises at the time they returned the ruins [of their homes] in their place of origin,"</i> says Sadik Ahmetovic, chair of the Commission for reconstruction and return of Srebrenica Municipal Assembly.</p>
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