

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 23 September 1999

News Headlines

- Peace Implementation Council Executive Board supports Petritsch concept
- Special Coordinator for Stability Pact Bodo Hombach barely passes eligibility check by Foreign Policy Human Rights and Security Board
- World news
- European Council Parliament Assembly holds session
- [UN](#) General Assembly session in New York, BiH delegation led by Prlic
- Council of Ministers adopts Law on Refugees and DPs, still undecided on working plan
- Barry attempts to influence resolution of RS crisis in Banja Luka, where he met with Sloga officials
- Izetbegovic delegation is Bosniak, not state – Jelavic's office
- Izetbegovic and delegation visit earthquake site in Turkey
- World news
- Jelavic extends condolences over death of Raisa Gorbachev
- BiH natural gas problem still unresolved, unofficial information on talks of replacing gas company head Enver Kreso
- BiH Electrodistribucija to help rebuild Kosovo Electrodistribucija
- Sarovic needs approval of High Representative to assume position of RS President – Stiglmayer
- Launching of public campaign for help with investigation into Leutar assassination expected, 1000,000 DM reward still stands – Klein

- PEC does not accept participation of court, military or police representatives in political party activities or possibility to freeze their political functions – Tanja Domi
- Mehrez Amdouni issued BiH passport as BiH Army member, not as person with criminal record – Jahic
- Amdouni arrest justifies our claims for citizenship revision – Republican Party
- Zubak holds first official meeting with Zenica-Doboj rule on return of refugees
- Mass sale of property throughout BiH, interesting example sale of Church in Donji Vakuf by Father Stepanovic, IC and OHR informed
- Sports
- Weather

News Summary

Peace Implementation Council Executive Board supports Petritsch concept

“The Peace Implementation Council Executive Board supports the concept of national responsibility for success in implementing the [Dayton Agreement](#) as presented by High Representative [Wolfgang Petritsch](#) in his Wednesday address to the Board in New York” reads an announcement from the OHR. The Board concluded that BiH political leaders must responsibly implement the transformation of the country from a state of war and ethnic conflict to pluralism and modern society. The Board also required independent media and strengthening of rule of law. The Board supported the decision by Petritsch to direct efforts toward continued returns, economic reforms and the development of joint institutions. Board members expect a permanent election law to be effective by February 2000 and support implementation of the final Brcko arbitration decision.

European Council Parliament Assembly holds session

The European Council Parliament Assembly held a session on Thursday and dealt mostly with the Kosovo situation. However, regarding BiH, most attention was drawn to its bid for membership in the Council. BiH Federation Prime Minister Edhem Bicakcic led the BiH. "I believe we presented a consolidated approach" he stated. "I asked for significant economic assistance to rebuild the infrastructure to help BiH develop stronger ties and make bridges in south-to-east and north-to-west directions." Bicakcic also commented on launching a resolution against violations of human rights in Yugoslavia, adding that all non-Serb communities are endangered. Bicakcic believes that BiH is closer to the European Council after this visit, since they spoke before a liberal group that demanded detailed information. Much depends on the report of a special investigator, who will visit BiH in October.

02:38

Council of Ministers adopts Law on Refugees and DPs, still undecided on working plan

The BiH Council of Ministers adopted the Law on Refugees and DPs, but is still undecided on their own working plan, especially regarding the jurisdiction of the Council and the Parliament. "We asked the OHR to assist us in this and will see within 15 days how they will react" said Co-chairman of the Council of Ministers Haris Silajdzic. They agreed that the Council's legal service will draft a law in accordance with the constitutional law on evaluating their constitutionality. Co-chairman of the Council of Ministers Svetozar Mihajlovic said, "the Council needs to declare itself precisely and clearly on the Presidency, Parliament and entity governments." They also discussed the restitution law crucial to privatization.

02:05

Izetbegovic delegation is Bosniak, not state – Jelavic's office

On Wednesday and Thursday, the office of Chairman of the BiH Presidency Ante Jelavic issued statements regarding the visit to Islamic countries by BiH Presidency Member Alija Izetbegovic. "The composition of the delegation and the fact that the visit was performed without consultations with the other two members of the BiH Presidency makes this mission Bosniak, not BiH state" stated Jelavic's office. Izetbegovic's Advisor Mirza Hajric reminded that the Presidency members have the right to conduct independent visits, but not to take on any obligations.

00:37

Amdouni arrest justifies our claims for citizenship revision – Republican Party

The republicans believe that their efforts to revise citizenship criteria and lists were fully justified with the arrest of Mehrez Amdouni. Party Secretary General Nedam Sarija says that terrorism seems to have become a normal thing in BiH. "Having so many unresolved murders and terrorist actions is a defamation of this country" he stated.

00:23