

OHR RTRS News Summary, 14 February 2000

News Headlines

- BiH Presidency determines text for new BiH Council of Ministers law
- Conference on Transparency and Combating Corruption held in Sarajevo
- BiH Council of Ministers session postponed
- Mihajlovic meets with [World Bank](#) Resident Mission Head to BiH Rory O'Sullivan
- International organizations give high marks to RS privatization projects at privatization seminar in Vienna
- European Investment Bank to finance priority reconstruction projects in Balkans with 900 million euros – Bodo Hombach
- Roundtable on Stability Pact Security held in Sarajevo
- 540 persons still missing in RS – RS Association of Families of Fallen Soldiers and Missing Persons
- Change in Croatia could bring about political turning-point of BiH Croats in direction of greater national tolerance – Frowick
- Kosovska Mitrovica calm in past 24 hours
- KFOR arrests 40 people in Kosovska Mitrovica for illegal possession of weapons
- 22 Albanians in northern Kosovska Mitrovica surrender to KFOR
- Two Serbs injured near Kosovska Mitrovica
- One Albanian injured near Pec – KFOR
- Serb-owned house in Kosovo Polje bombed
- Norwegian KFOR intensifies patrols in Kosovo Polje area
- Yugoslav [UN](#) Ambassador Jovanovic letter to [UN](#) Security Council and Annan requesting immediate [UN](#) Security

Council session to discuss current events in Kosovska Mitrovica

- Robertson condemns attacks on French KFOR in Kosovo
- French KFOR in very difficult position in Kosovska Mitrovica – Hubert Vedrine
- [NATO](#) must hold itself accountable for violence in Kosovo – Russian General Ivashov
- [EU](#) expects to send 400 police officers to Kosovo
- [EU](#) lifts Yugoslav flight ban on six months
- Before establishing cooperation with [EU](#), Croatia must act in many fields – EC President Romano Prodi
- Mesic visit presidential residence in Zagreb
- Cyanide levels usually high in Danube River
- World News
- Carl Bildt praises Montenegro for constructive policy and preservation of peace in Yugoslavia
- IMC decisions on media in BiH
- Democratic Progress Party on pre-election campaign rules
- RS Democratic Patriotic Party condemns SDA President Alija Izetbegovic inflammatory statements that all Serbs are chetnicks
- Banja Luka police arrest Aleksandar Trifunovic, who was indicted of committing several criminal acts in that town
- RS celebrates and commemorates First Serb Uprising
- Sports
- Weather
- Radisic meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Avdeyev in Serb Sarajevo
- [EU](#) Ministerial Council condemns attacks on KFOR in Kosovo
- Ambulance full of munitions and weapons found near Vucitrn – KFOR
- French Interior Minister denies Kouchner claim that small number of French police officers respond to Kosovo mission call
- Belgian KFOR command decides to send 50 more

peacekeepers to Kosovska Mitrovica

News Summary

BiH Presidency determines text for new BiH Council of Ministers law

The BiH Presidency held a session in Sarajevo at which it determined the final text version of a new draft BiH Council of Ministers law. After its determination, the text was forwarded by the Presidency to the BiH Parliamentary Assembly for approval. The new draft law on the BiH Council of Ministers will include the posts of chairman and two deputy chairmen who would also head new ministries being added to the Council of Ministers: the Ministry for Human Rights and Return and the Ministry of the Treasury and Finance. According to Alija Izetbegovic's Legal Advisor Kasim Trnka, the BiH Presidency agreed on further steps in the implementation of the BiH Border Service Law. On the basis of the BiH Constitution, Ante Jelavic transferred the duties of presidency chairman to Alija Izetbegovic. During his farewell speech, Jelavic stressed that the full harmonization of the BiH Council of Ministers Law with a ruling of the BiH Constitutional Court and the establishment of the BiH Border Service were the two most significant achievements of the BiH Presidency during his term in office. Presidency member Zivko Radisic said that many important issues had been resolved and highlighted future priorities the BiH Presidency would tackle. They would include refugee return and economic development. BiH Presidency Chairman Alija Izetbegovic, who will chair the presidency in the next eight months, announced an initiative for the more active participation of entity authorities in the work of BiH common institutions. Izetbegovic also stressed the contribution made by the International Community in the reconstruction of BiH and reminded of the country's obligation to cooperate with the [ICTY](#) in future.

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IMC decisions on media in BiH

The IMC has ordered RTV Visegrad to cease broadcasting its program because it is broadcasting without a license. Also, the Independent TV Patria and TV BEL were fined KM 300 and KM 200, respectively, because they aired films without having the right to do so, i.e. the stations violated the terms and conditions regarding copyright obligations. Furthermore, the IMC sent warnings to four other stations: HTV Mostar, HTV Mostar-Oscar C, Croat RTV Herceg-Bosna and Croat Radio Postaja Mostar because, during the pre-election campaign period for parliamentary elections in Croatia, they promoted the interests of one party at the expense of other political parties.

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Democratic Progress Party on pre-election campaign rules

The RS Democratic Progress Party held a press conference in Banja Luka at which Vice-president Zoran Djedovic stated that, according to election rules, political advertising is forbidden on commercial media. Djedovic believes that ruling political parties and coalitions are being favored through this measure. According to him, these parties and coalitions adjust the work of the republic's organs and institutions in the pre-election campaign period by organizing roundtables in which many blanket promises are made. According to party Main and Executive Board member Stevan Pasalic, no institution in the RS knows the exact number of people who have left the RS. According to the unofficial data, about 50,000 persons have left the RS so far, while twice as many are waiting for visas to leave.

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