

OHR SRT News Summary, 11 December 1998

Headlines

- Two-Day Donors Conference Completed in Banja Luka With Aim of Market Affirmation
- Contact Group Requests Urgent Dialogue in Kosovo
- Strengthening of Economies – Topic of EU Summit in Vienna
- Snow Burdens Traffic on All RS Roads

The two-day Donors Conference was successfully completed in Banja Luka today, with more than 100 representatives of donor countries. After today's discussion in working groups on reconstruction of physical social infrastructure, development of private business and foreign investments, participants of the Conference expressed pleasure about the active approach of the RS Government. PM Dodik said that the conclusions of the Conference are an important basis of preparations for the forthcoming Madrid Conference. An initiative was taken for establishing of Agency for Foreign Investments and for market affirmation, while the Government especially appealed for larger investments in production programmes in order to increase employment.

01:10

RS President, Nikola Poplasen today received Dr. Robert Haydn, professor at the US University in Pittsburg and Director of University Centre for Russian and Eastern Europe Research. They discussed international legal aspects of the DA and its implementation.

00:15

The order of the Contact Group from last night's meeting in Paris is the urgent beginning of dialogue between Serbs and

Kosovo Albanians, in order to achieve political agreement on Kosovo.

00:20

Co-Chairman of the BiH CoM, Boro Bosic assessed that there has not been enough pressure on establishing democratic institutions at all levels of BiH and also that little has been done on building and strengthening of the economy on free market principles. He said that the BiH primarily needs financial assistance for initiating of production and revitalisation of the economy.

00:28

The ICG report categorically calls for return of refugees into places they used to inhabit in 1991, and also their direct inclusion into the economy of the entity they return to. With the aim of strengthening national minorities, the report suggests the introduction of special economic benefits and donations to companies which employ people of different nationalities. The ICG expects the OHR to introduce the above mentioned principles on two levels; the first one would be a request addressed to recipients of investments or assistance to employ minorities; while the other level would include a warning and request to foreign donors to invest only in the local companies assessed as adequate by the OHR.

00:52

RS Deputy PM, Ostoja Kremenovic, announced today, at a two-day conference in Prijedor "Mayors in Dialog", that the Law on Self-Management of the RS and Reform of Local Self-Management should be passed in March at the latest.

00:18

HR in BiH, Carlos Westendorp, stated today that return of refugees will be the symbol of the forthcoming PIC in Madrid. Westendorp also said that he is more worried about the political situation in the BiH Federation than about the RS, due to lack of understanding between Bosniaks and Croats. The

HR said that he thinks the Federation should be revised with the aim of functioning of institutions.

00:23