

OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference

High Representative's Visit to Zagreb

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, is meeting Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader today in Zagreb. This meeting forms part of the regular meetings, which the High Representative has with government leaders in the region. Discussions will cover the efforts being made by Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia to move towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

On Wednesday the High Representative will visit Budapest, where he will deliver a speech on European Security and Defence Policy at a conference organised by the French and British Embassies in Budapest.

PDHR Hays Addresses Mayors from Tuzla Region

The Principal Deputy High Representative, Donald Hays, is taking part at a Mayors' Forum in Tuzla today, where he will emphasise the crucial importance of seizing the opportunities that have been opened by the direct election of Mayors in BiH. The new intake of Mayors enjoy a popular mandate that brings with it new possibilities and new opportunities. If this mandate is used with common sense, creativity and determination, the mayors will be able to launch a "quiet revolution" that can start delivering the services that the citizens of a modern democratic state have a right to expect.

PDHR to visit BiH Cerebral Palsy Association

Tomorrow morning Ambassador Hays, will visit the Cerebral Palsy Association's premises in Grbavica.

Some of you may know this facility. It's a café and gym and it's run on a commercial basis for members of the general public, while the facilities are also used for physiotherapy by people suffering from cerebral palsy.

Ambassador Hays will be briefed on the financial and administrative provisions for services to the handicapped provided by the BiH authorities. He will meet the President of the Cerebral Palsy Association, Nevenko Novotni, and Sarajevo Canton Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic and Cantonal Health Minister Zehra Dizdarevic.

Journalists are invited to cover this event, which will highlight the predicament of citizens who are most in need, yet who are obliged to put up with very limited services because of the inefficient revenue gathering and fund allocation systems that exist in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Media Advisory later today.

SDHR Wnendt to Discus Local Community Development

The Senior Deputy High Representative, Werner Wnendt, will visit Srebrenica, Visegrad, Gorazde and Foca on 8 and 9 December. Ambassador Wnendt will meet local community representatives and discuss ways in which civil society can be strengthened and local government can be made more efficient. Ambassador Wnendt will visit a returnee village, Dubiste, and a milk factory and Land Registry Office in Gorazde. A Media Advisory covering details of this event will be issued today.