

OHR's Statement at the International Agency's Joint Press Conference in Banja Luka

PIC Political Directors meeting today

The Political Directors of the Peace Implementation Council are meeting this evening and tomorrow morning at the OHR in Sarajevo. The Political Directors last met in September. Prime Minister Terzic will brief them on the progress that BiH has made since then in implementing reforms that are necessary for Euro-integration. Chief ICTY Prosecutor Carla del Ponte will also brief the Political Directors. The Political Directors will be interested in hearing from Carla del Ponte her view of the level of cooperation that the BiH and Entity authorities are giving to the ICTY following her presentation to the UN Security Council in which she pointed to systemic weaknesses that exist in the RS. This cooperation is a key requirement placed upon the domestic authorities by the Dayton Peace Agreement.

There will be a short photo-op when Prime Minister Terzic addresses the PIC and also when Prosecutor del Ponte addresses the PIC.

Infrastructure conference

On Monday, PDHR Hays will join BiH Transport Minister Branko Dokic, the Entity transport ministers, Country Representative of the EBRD, Mr. Aygen Yayikoglu and others at conference that will be held at LNM-BH Steel-Zeljezara in Zenica. The

conference will focus on the urgent steps that must be taken in order to rehabilitate BiH's transport infrastructure. As the economy begins to show signs of modest but self-sustaining momentum, a small number of crucial policy priorities have to be addressed. Infrastructure is at the top of this list. Factories can't receive raw materials and parts with a frequency and at a price that is competitive as long as rail and road links are thoroughly inadequate – and for the same reason they can't deliver their finished products to market cost-efficiently. The current state of BiH's infrastructure is blocking economic recovery. There will be a press opportunity inside BH Steel's factory on Monday morning. More details will follow.