

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## MEDIA REPORTS

Ulica Kneza Domagoja bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel/Fax: +387 36 324 491 email: fpo@caausa.org



### **Croatian premier against regional free trade organization**

HINA

August 3, 2005

SALZBURG - Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader has rejected a proposal to establish a joint free trade organization of Southeast European countries which was made in Salzburg on Wednesday [3 August] at a meeting of the region's prime ministers.

Sanader told Croatian reporters he rejected the proposal because of the Central European Free Trade Agreement. "I suggested that we liberalize conditions for free trade and that the only condition for joining CEFTA be the institutionalised relationship between a country and the EU."

"It's very important to settle the free trade problems which have arisen after the signing of bilateral agreements between the countries in the region," Sanader said, mentioning some negative experiences with Bosnia-Herzegovina, which he added made some unilateral moves contrary to its free trade agreement with Croatia.

"There would be no games if we were in an organization like CEFTA," Sanader said, adding that rules would be known and have to be respected.

His positions were supported by prime ministers Vojislav Kostunica of Serbia, Milo Djukanovic of Montenegro, Vlado Buckovski of Macedonia, Calin Popescu-Tariceanu of Romania, and the host of the Salzburg meeting, Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel.

The prime ministers also discussed the European prospects of their countries.

Kostunica indirectly criticized Montenegro, saying that "some want to disintegrate as Europe is integrating".

Djukanovic said the definition of Montenegro's status would not endanger the processes going on in Europe. He added the main issues of Europe's southeast were the stabilization of Kosovo and finding a long term solution for Serbia-Montenegro relations.

Sanader told reporters he held separate talks with the participants in today's meeting. "Kostunica and I agreed that the normalization of relations should continue because there's no alternative to it."

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### Telephone in village, but not in homes of returnees

Vecernji list  
By Frane Matic

August 3, 2005

RATANJ/KRALJEVA SUTJESKA – The problems facing Croat returnees in the village of Ratanj near Kraljeva Sutjeska can be categorized under the heading “believe it or not.” Namely, for a year already returnees to this village have been fighting for telephone connections. Lines pass through their village, but their homes are not connected.

The telephone lines pass next to their homes and connections have been installed in the villages of Nazbilj and Lipnica, which are a few kilometers from Ratanj, while Croats in Ratanj are consistently being told that they simply are not a part of the project and that they will receive telephones together with villages in the Vares municipality.

After several interventions and requests to BH Telecom, asking for connections since the lines pass through their village anyway, Croat returnees were shocked to discover that Nazbilj and Lipnica had telephones.

Thus they protested two days ago and gathered on the street and near the telephone cable passing through their village.

“This is discrimination against the returnees of this village. We ask ourselves whether anyone else in the world faces this problem, where the phone lines pass through a village, yet the inhabitants are not connected, but rather villages located several kilometers away.

We do not care about politics, but only ask for what others have as well, although one cannot deny the fact that Bosniaks live in Nazbilj and Lipnica,” stated returnee Ilija Stojcic.

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### **New Catholic church in Sarajevo**

Slobodan Dalmacija  
By B. Jukic

August 3, 2005

Just three days after the pastor at the church of St. Luke the Evangelist in the Sarajevo municipality of Novi Grad Fr. Anto Jelic received a permit to build a church, construction is fully underway.

Namely, the church's construction began back in 1998 on the basis of urbanistic license, but after the crypt was completed, all work was stopped because the project did not possess a permit, which was finally issued after six years.

Mijo Rubcic, chemical engineer and member of the parish economic council, pointed out that the last permit issued for the construction of a Catholic church in Sarajevo was in 1940.

“That was the church of St. Joseph on Marijin Dvor. Sometime just before the last war, construction began on the first new church since World War Two, located in the Sarajevo neighborhood Brijesce. Construction has continued in recent years, although I believe a permit has not yet been issued,” stated Rubcic. (Excerpt)