

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## NEWS BULLETIN

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### **Association BiH 2005 presents Platform for a new constitution**

Slobodna Dalmacija  
By B. Kristo

June 21, 2005

**There would be three territorial and organizational levels: state, region and municipality. Only the state level would have legislative powers. For now, five regions are being considered: Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Zenica, Tuzla and Mostar**

SARAJEVO – Members of the working groups Association BiH 2005 Vehid Sehic, Slavo Kukic and Sahbaz Dzihanovic presented their Platform for a new BiH constitution in Sarajevo on Monday.

“This platform, a draft for a new constitution, gives the state the name Republic of BiH. The state would be organized as an independent, sovereign, democratic state of equal citizens and protection of all vital citizen interests, and would contain all that is stipulated by human rights and European standards documents,” stated Sehic during the press conference.

As Dzihanovic presented, the republic would be organized into three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. There would be three territorial and organizational levels: state, region and municipality. Only the state would have legislative powers.

At the head of the state is the president elected by Parliament. Parliament is bicameral, with 123 members in the House of Representatives and 58 delegates in the House of Peoples (17 representatives from each constituent people and 7 from national minorities and others).

For now, there are five regions being considered: Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Zenica, Tuzla and Mostar. This number is not final. (Excerpt)

### **Analysis: How and why did Croats go from war victor to political loser?**

Vecernji list  
By Miroslav Vasilj

June 21, 2005

In June of 1992, HVO actions known as “June dawns” liberated the Neretva valley and destroyed the myth of Serb invincibility. Until then, the Serbo-Montenegrin aggressor was victorious in the Homeland War both in Croatia and BiH, and did not choose his method, often genocidal politics. Only a year later, the Muslim-Croat war broke out. Without asking legally elected representatives of the Croat people in BiH, officials in Zagreb,

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under pressure from the American Administration, forced BiH Croats to sign the Washington and Dayton Agreements.

Although the agreement guaranteed some sort of equality, through its revision, lack of implementation, and false interpretation, Croats were reduced to a national minority. Such developments turned Croats in BiH into one of the few peoples who came out of war as the victor only to become the loser in peacetime. However, the Croat position is not the fault of Bosniak representatives, Serb representatives, or the international community, as is often portrayed, but rather Croats themselves, who were not able to politically organize themselves and rightfully attain what is guaranteed in all international conventions, including the unfair BiH Constitution.

Incapability, non-qualification, over-dependence on Zagreb, and corruption of HDZ personnel in leading positions since Dayton to today, are the fundamental reasons for the unenviable position into which they pushed their own people. The weakening of cantonal authorities and greater centralization of the Federation occurred concurrently while Croat (exclusively HDZ) representatives sat in cantonal and federation institutions. All this resulted in systematic deprivation of Croat areas, as well as systematic outvoting of Croat cadres at all levels of government, which later led to unjust and discriminatory laws against Croats. Even though Croat political representatives currently cannot compare with them, representatives of the other two groups should not take advantage of such a situation, and the international community headed by Paddy Ashdown cannot have double standards towards BiH peoples.

The other two peoples and the international community are currently picking the fruits of such a power ratio. Speaking in the long-term, the injustice being imposed upon Croats will eventually rise to the surface and cannot bring any sort of good to BiH. Nevertheless, it is illusory to expect the other two peoples to fight for Croat rights. Of course, such a job, for which they receive pay, will have to be carried out by Croat political representatives. In such a context, certainly the greatest responsibility, in not complete, is upon HDZ.

### **Financial Police: Federal Ministry of Interior ordered to submit requested material on 500,000 KM payment in Leutar case**

24sata.com

June 21, 2005

After BiH Federation President Niko Lozancic forwarded information on the "Leutar" case to Federal Prosecutor Zdravko Knezevic, calling for an immediate investigation to finally ascertain responsibility for the assassination of Deputy Interior Minister Leutar, we learned that Knezevic ordered the Federation Financial Police to verify who authorized the 500,000 KM reward payment for identifying the assassin.

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According to unofficial information, the Financial Police request, sent some 20 days ago, is still at the Federal MoI because, allegedly, Police Director Zlatko Miletic considers the information an official secret. Thus, information on the half million KM payment and who authorized the release of the funds from the budget remains unknown.

To recall, the Federation Finance Ministry paid 500,000 KM April 27, 2001 to the account of an unknown UN official for assistance in the Leutar assassination case. The last received information from the Federation MoI indicates that the account was opened in Raiffeisen Bank. The same account was used to pay 237,122 KM to Merim Galijatovic, a protected witness in the same case. (Excerpt)

### **Terminate Herzegovina and – peaceful Bosnia**

Slobodna Dalmacija  
By Petar Milos

June 21-22, 2005

In the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina everything is a problem, even its name. It is long, made up of two words, so it is truly impractical to say that Bosnians and Herzegovinians live in BiH. Maybe that is what prompted SDA Vice-President Bakir Izetbegovic to attempt to simplify the matter and suggest that the state be known as Bosnia and its inhabitants as Bosnians. Because, according to him, Herzegovina is merely a region, like Krajina or Semberija.

Thus, he tried to convince the foreigners at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation meeting in Sarajevo that between 80 and 90 percent of the BiH population accepts a Bosnian identity. If Herzegovina is officially terminated, then according to Bakir the remaining 10 percent of hard-line Herzegovinians will also become Bosnians.

Philosophers say that genius is in simplicity. Thus Bakir, like Alexander the Great, solved the Bosnian knot. He simply takes a sword and cuts off “malign” Herzegovina from the “healthy” Bosnian flesh. Wise, undoubtedly. Terminate Herzegovina and peaceful Bosnia. As much as you shorten the name, you widen Bosnia.

At the same time, you get rid of Herzegovinians, who are a greater evil than Herzegovina itself. In fact, Herzegovina would not be so much a problem were it not for the Herzegovinians living there.

With his idea of a Bosnian identity and terminating Herzegovina, Bakir illustrated that he is his father’s son. Alija Izetbegovic and his party colleagues dealt with names a lot. First they called their people Muslims, then Muslims-Bosniaks, and finally Bosniaks.

Then they needed to give their people a language. Although it would be logical to call that language Bosniak, Bosniaks chose to refer to it as Bosnian. And since the language is Bosnian, then the people who speak should be known as Bosnians. And since, according to Bakir, all the citizens of Bosnia and (former) Herzegovina are

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Bosnians, that means that we shall have one people – Bosnian, one citizenship – Bosnian, and one language – Bosnian. (Excerpt)

### **PDHR L. Butler attends Munich Conference - OHR**

ONASA News Agency

June 21, 2005

SARAJEVO - The Principal Deputy High Representative, Larry Butler, is speaking today at a conference in Munich on the Economic Challenges and Regional Implications of the Dayton Process, OHR spokesperson Sanela Tunovic said on Tuesday.

In his speech, Ambassador Butler notes that "the constitutional evolution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is beginning to be directed by circumstances that five years ago few would have hoped could have been achieved by now. Efforts to modernize the system of administration and government and make it more cost efficient are being undertaken in the context of European integration and in the context of BiH's needs as a normal European state. The arguments that are now advanced for streamlining the expensive and inefficient multilayered bureaucracy are not about changing Dayton per se. They are about joining Europe, saving public money, and delivering better services to citizens." Ambassador Butler will tell his audience of international parliamentarians and policymakers that although the Euro-integration process has been stalled due to problems related to police reform and the establishment of a single Public Broadcasting System, "as soon as we have resolved these political obstacles - and there is a consensus among the relevant stakeholders to do this by the tenth anniversary of Dayton, backed by near universal public support for getting the accession process back on track - we can focus again on implementing economic reforms that will deliver benefits to citizens so that citizens even before the tangible milestones of European integration have been passed." Ambassador Butler will also point out that reforms only be effective if they are treated as a single package - one won't work without the others. "Judicial reform and tackling organized crime came late in the reconstruction process - and the grizzly consequences of this, in terms of endemic corruption and widespread public cynicism, testify to the fact that you have to deal with all the elements in the package."

### **COMEUFOR receives report on Capljina ceremony**

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June 21, 2005

SARAJEVO - The EUFOR Commander has received a report from EUFOR observers present at the conscripts' ceremony at Capljina on 17 June 2005.

He has noted that the ceremony was conducted in a dignified way, EUFOR said in a statement Tuesday. "The oath to Bosnia and Herzegovina was sworn solemnly and correctly.

Unlike the ceremony at Manjaca on 16 April 2005, there was no collective disobedience of the law or a collective violation of military discipline." "Nevertheless, the playing of the Croat national anthem in the ceremony - especially in such a prominent position - does raise serious and important questions, particularly in the light of the public disquiet over the events at Manjaca," the statement read.

"It is important that there are no doubts about the constitutional loyalty of any of the components of the Armed Forces of BiH." "It is regrettable that Minister Nikolic did not take the opportunity to review the propriety and legality of the playing of the Croat anthem when concerns about the protocol were brought to his attention, and knowing that the Defense Reform Commission has yet to develop and approve a new book of rules on military ceremonies." COMEUFOR expects that Minister Radovanovic will commission a report setting out the current practice and addressing the legal questions relating to the playing of anthems at military ceremonies.

"As the BiH Ministry of Defense report noted in relation to the Manjaca incidents, the rulebook on military ceremonies needs to be rewritten. This is primarily the responsibility of the BiH authorities," according to the statement.

EUFOR alongside the rest of the international community will provide strong support to this process.

With the completion of defense reform and the creation of a single Ministry of Defense and an all-professional army, the problems raised by the ceremonies at Manjaca and Capljina will belong firmly to the past.