

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## NEWS BULLETIN

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### **BiH/Prosecutor's Office: No comment on police intrusion on premises of company "Lijanovici"**

FENA

June 27, 2005

The spokesperson of the BiH Prosecutor's Office, Edita Pejovic, and Chief of the Public Relations Service to the Court of BiH, Refik Hodzic, were unable to comment on this morning's intrusion by the FBiH police and EUFOR on the premises of the "Lijanovici" Meat Industry at Visoka Glavica near Siroki Brijeg.

"We never comment on such events, because in line with the law comments cannot be given if there is not a confirmed indictment in the case", said Hodzic.

The spokesperson of the FBiH MoI, Robert Cvrtak, told Fena that "members of the FBiH MoI PA in line with the warrant of the Court of BiH are carrying out certain activities on the premises of Meat Industry 'Lijanovici'", but refused to provide any details.

Although there is no official confirmation, it is presumed that the Federal police are searching documentation regarding the current trial on customs fraud before the Court of BiH.

### **Analysis: Strength for positive competition Croats launched businesses without any support**

Vecernji list  
By Miroslav Vasilj

June 27, 2005

Croats in BiH have access to the sea, one of the most famous Marian shrines in the world, the largest exporters... One of the greatest Croat advantages in BiH is business. While socialist companies waited for foreign help, Croats launched small family businesses and restarted destroyed companies without the help of the international community.

Research shows that the highest living standards in BiH are in territories with a Croat majority, even though this is still far from western standards.

### **Positive image**

Croats also took advantage of natural resources, especially in winter tourism. Another advantage for Croats is that they are Roman Catholics and thus belong to the so-called western European civilization.

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This fact by itself does not mean anything. However, in a majority of European countries support has recently been growing for peoples' and Christian democrat parties, which show goodwill towards Croats.

Croats could utilize all this for both improving their position in BiH and improving BiH as their homeland, as well as for being initiators for BiH's quicker accession to the European Union. Another advantage of BiH Croats is the positive image Croatia has built for itself within international circles in the last few years.

Thus, official Zagreb together with BiH Croat leaders could and should undertake much more to point to the current position of BiH Croats and work to improve it.

### **Success in sports**

Croats are almost never, or perhaps very seldom, considered as the nucleus of BiH statehood. The fact that all Bosnia's rulers were of Croat blood and mostly Catholic could be employed much more effectively.

In terms of culture, BiH Croats can be proud of one of the greatest cultural manifestation in Southeast Europe – Days of Matrix Croatia, and the Franciscans in Siroki Brijeg possess a fund of paintings every European capital would love to have.

In the sporting field Croats are absolute winners. This years Croat clubs won the title in soccer, women's and men's handball, and last year in men's basketball. Furthermore, BiH will be represented by Croat clubs Zrinjski, Siroki Brijeg, and Zepce in European soccer cups.

All this proves that Croats, although least in number and constitutionally in an unequal position, have strength to compete with the other two ethnic groups.

Thus, instead of "daily complaints" of vulnerability, the Croat leadership should make use of the advantages and improve the unenviable position of Croats in post-Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Croats least wish to leave BiH**

Only 40.8 percent of Croats, least among the three ethnic groups in BiH, wish to leave BiH, according to the UNDP's June survey. The largest percentage wishing to leave is the Serbs with 60.5 percent, while 48.7 percent of Bosniaks wish the same.

Likewise, only 12.4 percent of Croats consider themselves living on the edge of existence, while 21.8 percent of Bosniaks and 22.9 percent of Serbs, respectively, consider the same.

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### **Not a single customs violation proven**

Vecernji list  
By Zoran Kresic

June 27, 2005

There is not a single judgment against Lijanovici meat industry from Siroki Brijeg for customs violations, event though the Covic-Lijanovici indictment mentions the famous 48 million marks. This amount was originally “confirmed” by the Federation Customs Administration in 2002.

After the judgments were reversed before the Federation Supreme Court and BiH Constitutional Court, all customs trials against Lijanovici were remanded back to the first instance body – the Directorate for Indirect Taxation’s office in Mostar, established in the meantime.

There are 2154 cases in progress before the Directorate and not a single one has shown a customs violation. The Federation Supreme Court and BiH Constitutional Court accepted Lijanovici’s appeal because they were not allowed to present their defense before the Customs Administration. (Excerpt)