

# NEWSLETTER

Delegation of the European Union to BiH

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## Celebrating the visa free regime for BiH



## The trip to Schengen countries

The BiH Ministry of Security in collaboration with the EU capitals concerned and People 2 People Programme of the European Commission organised a Tour to four towns in Europe to celebrate the entering into force of the visa free regime. In total, 66 persons, mainly students, but also some professors and representatives of NGOs, media and officials left BiH for Europe on 15 December 2010

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INTERVIEW: H.E. Laszlo Toth, Hungarian Ambassador to BiH

## Western Balkans has its place in the EU

At the beginning of 2011, Hungary has taken over a half-year Presidency to the European Union. That was the occasion for the interview with the Hungarian Ambassador to BiH



Your Excellency, Hungary has announced that it would continue to insist on the enlargement of the European Union, and it is believed that Poland, which takes over the EU Presidency in the second half of 2011, would do the same. Where do you see Western Balkans and especially BiH, since Budapest officially expressed its expectations that 2011 would be the key year for the integration process of Western Balkan countries to the EU.

It is Hungary's position indeed to continue with the EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and enhance the Eastern Partnership. We firmly believe that the well-managed and well-played enlargement of the EU creates a win-win situation for both acceding countries and the EU. I think the fifth round of accession is a good example and its results are hard to challenge. Coming to the Western Balkans region I am convinced that the region has its future place in the EU, which has been confirmed by EU Member States in several occasions. I think it is in the interest of the EU to have stability in its direct neighbourhood and the best tool for it is the EU accession.

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## QUOTING



*Boris Iarochevitch, Charge d' Affaires of the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

"The European Union has invested several million Euros in border security in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this is one of the areas where BiH showed progress in 2010. The progress that has been made in border security played a role in securing visa-free travel to the EU".

Celebrating the visa free regime for Bosnia and Herzegovina

# The trip to Schengen countries

The BiH Ministry of Security in collaboration with the EU capitals concerned and People 2 People Programme of the European Commission organised a Tour to four towns in Europe to celebrate the entering into force of the visa free regime. In total, 66 persons, mainly students, but also some professors and representatives of NGOs, media and officials left BiH for Europe on 15 December 2010

The journey started in Strasbourg, where the BiH delegation headed by BiH Minister of Security Sadik Ahmetovic, received a guided tour inside the European Parliament building and followed an extraordinary session of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with South-East Europe, held for the visiting delegations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania (the later followed the session from Brussels via a web link).

Eduard Kukan, Chair of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro

importance of people to people contact, which now shall be possible with the entering into force of the visa liberalisation. She emphasised the previous difficulties to talk about EU values without the chance to travel freely. Doris Pack, MEP and Rapporteur for Bosnia and Herzegovina, stated that the new government of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall focus on becoming an EU Member State, which means to carry out necessary reforms. MEP Jelko Kacin said that BiH shall now look beyond and strive for the Schengen Acquis and put an extra focus on becoming an EU candidate country.

cally pointed out the need for implementation of adopted laws and strategies. He also gave the authorities of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina credits for its information campaign, targeting the citizens on what visa free regime means, saying that this is an important message to spread as it goes with obliga-



Stefan Füle

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jaques Ralite, Senator and the President of the friendship group in the French Senate, Baudouin de la Kethulle de Ryhove, Ambassador of Belgium to France and Minister



Many meetings took place

and Kosovo, chaired the session and congratulated BiH and Albania, and pointed out that the entering into force of visa liberalisation shall lead to improved people to people contact, which is an important step in the EU integration process. Tanja Fajon, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur for visa liberalisation for Western Balkans, stressed the

Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for the Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, took the floor and praised the authorities of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the progress achieved, but made it clear that it does not end here. A number of issues in the field of justice, security and freedom are still to be tackled and he specifi-



Travellers in good mood

tions and duties and shall not be abused.

Minister Ahmetovic held a speech where he thanked everyone involved in the process and said that with visa regime it has been difficult to visit relatives, friends and to go on study trips as the procedure is cumbersome and takes time. Visa free regime will mean a lot for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The journey continued to Paris, where the BiH delegation visited the National Assembly of France and listened to speech by Francois Lamy, Member of the National Assembly and the President of the friendship group of the National Assembly between France and

Ahmetovic.

Apart from congratulating BiH's fulfilment of the visa liberalisation benchmarks, which lead to visa liberalisation and explaining the meaning of visa free regime, it was announced that BiH and France were to conclude a bilateral agreement on an exchange programme for students and support in obtaining residence permit for studying, but also for a period of working experience.

The next destination was Rome where the BiH delegation paid a visit to the University of Rome "La Sapienza" and talked to Rector of the University, Professor Luigi Frati. Professor Frati empha-



sised the excellent relations between La Sapienza and the University of Sarajevo for the past 15 years. He also informed about possibilities to place some parts of the University of Sarajevo in Butmir, which shall be available after the departure of the Italian contingent.

The final destination of the journey was Ljubljana, where the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Dragoljuba Bencina and Minister of Interior, Katarina Kresal, welcomed the BiH delegation. Director of Border Police, Melita Mocnik and the Director of the Service for Foreigners, Nina Gregori answered questions from the delegation related to visa free regime and possibilities to receive a residence permit for studying or working in Slovenia.

Some of the members of BiH delegation had never been to the selected destinations and were full of impressions; we have been able to



European Parliament

quote some of them:

Jelena from Laktasi: "The visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg was well organised and we really got a good picture of how the Parliament functions. The visit to the French National Assembly, where we also got a very interesting tour of the building, was amazing and it meant a lot".

Sandra from Gradiska: "I have heard a lot about the La Sapienza University, so I am so glad we paid a visit to the University. Even though it was heavily raining, I went with



Doris Pack

some other members of the group to see the town in the evening. We throw coins three times each in Fontana di Trevi, so hopefully we will be able to come back another time when the weather is better".

Redzo from Zavidovic: "I liked most the programme in Slovenia, as the Director of Border Police and the Director of the Service for Foreigners could answer all my questions. This is important as I am the President for the

'Romas without borders' and the Roma community have many questions about visa free regime and now I can explain to them".

Alma and Darmin from Bihac: "Our overall impression of Europe is very positive. However, we are now looking forward to go home. Being away from home is nice, but home is home!"

**Article by  
Elisabet Tomasinec**

*Adviser in the Political, Press  
and Information Section  
EU Delegation to BiH*

## Lajčák: Government should be formed as soon as possible

The European Union is carefully monitoring developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is concerned that governments at the State and BiH Federation level have not been formed five months after the elections, said Miroslav Lajčák, European External Action Service Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, at a press conference on Thursday in Sarajevo.

During his two-day visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (at the end of February) for the first time in his new capacity as Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the European External Action Service, Lajčák met with the members of the BiH Presidency in Sarajevo, and had meetings with political party leaders in Sarajevo and Banja Luka.

Lajčák said that the message he conveyed to party leaders was that they are expected to soon form a government that will pursue the reform agenda, then to start as soon as possible with the ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, and to make serious efforts to implement



the European Court's ruling in the Sejdić-Finci case.

"Without it there cannot even be talks about progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina on its road to the EU" he warned. "The European Union is ready for Bosnia and Herzegovina and it does not want this country to lag behind, but Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to do its homework. We are ready to do our part of the job." stressed Lajčák.

Miroslav Lajčák, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, also served as High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 2007 and 2009. He assumed the position of the Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the European External Action Service in January 2011.

## EU Supports BiH Border Security

The EU Twinning Project "Support for the Implementation of the BiH Integrated Border Management (IBM) Strategy and Action Plan" was launched at a conference in Sarajevo.

The project, which will run for the next 24 months, is jointly funded by the European Union in the amount of 1,425,000 Euros from IPA funds, and the BiH Ministry of Security in the amount of 75,000 Euros. The Austrian



Agency for European Integration and Economic Development will arrange for qualified and experienced experts to implement the project.

Boris Iarochевич, Charge d' Affaires of the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that the goal of the project is for BiH to have open but secure borders, and to use Twinning Projects to build partnership and cooperation with EU Member States.

*We are quoting*

EU stands ready to continue supporting the efforts of the BiH authorities to move forward on the path towards the EU. The future of BiH is firmly within the EU.

*Stefano Sannino, Deputy Director-General of the European Union's Directorate General for Enlargement.*



## An example of a successful project implementation financed by EU Farmers earn five thousand marks on greenhouses production only

*The Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers of Žepče has been established in 1999, with the aim of creating conditions for the development of entrepreneurship. Thanks to financial help of the EU, they have been able to start implementing very ambitious goals*

The fact that the small farmers and entrepreneurs can live of their own work, if organized well, can be seen the best in Žepče, as well as in a few surrounding municipalities. The Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers of Žepče has been active there for almost ten years.

This Association has been established in 1999, with the aim of creating conditions for the development of entrepreneurship. Thanks to financial help of the EU, they have been able to start to implement very ambitious goals.

The first step was made in 2003, when the business incubator was established on 920 km<sup>2</sup>, as the support to development of small and mid-size companies. The entrepreneurs could, in that way, use this space, equipped with all necessary infrastructures, at a very low price. The results are very visible.

There are meeting and education rooms at disposal, the use of ITC equipment, services of Association management and so on. The incubator has been used by 19 companies and crafts so far. All 8 available rooms have been in use so far and 42 people have been employed – says Mira Jović, Direc-

tor of Association.

Having in mind that Žepče area and the neighboring municipalities are mainly rural and most of the population is unemployed, after the first project the activities were di-



rected towards the support of agro-businesses. In partnership with the Association of farmers "Poljoprivrednik" from Zavidovići and the Association of farmers "Jedinstvo" from Bočinja, Maglaj, the experimental farm has been started in Žepče in 2005, the greenhouse production has been launched, as well as the cultivation of medicinal herbs and their processing. This project was also financed by the EU through EURED.

We have educated and trained 300 users from Žepče munic-

pality, Zavidovići and Maglaj, in medicinal herbs cultivation, growing vegetables, greenhouse production and use of bio-mass. After the project was finished, the users have continued, even expanded, greenhouse produc-

### The network

This project is financed by the EU and will last for two years. The Association expects to have multiple benefits for the end users. The first aim is to establish the network between the collectors, manufacturers and buyers, to create a ring machine in order to make production easier and of higher quality. The plan is also to find a way to present products to foreign markets. This project will help employment of people in rural areas.

It has been planned to plant around 20 acres of land with medicinal herbs and the Association expects to open good credit line for medicinal herbs sector, in order to further develop and expand its production.

for handhold of products from farmers, some spaces were enabled for processing, advisory service established etc... Jović points out that, so far, 250 soil analyses have been done with the fertilisation recommendations, 160 tons of balm have been distilled and turned into essential oil, around 25 tons of apples have been stored...

At the moment, the Association works on raising the competitiveness in medicinal and aromatic herbs production. The project has started in 2010 and has been implemented in municipalities of Žepče, Zavidovići, Maglaj, Banja Luka, Skelani, Mostar, Čapljina, Konjic, Stolac, Trebinje, Ljubinje, Vareš and Zenica.

tion, growing vegetables in the open and the cultivation of medicinal herbs. In this way, 20 users have increased the land used for greenhouses in average of 50 percent, which makes around 5,000 KM profit - says Jović.

During 2009, the project continued, also financed by the EU, and established agro-incubator as the infrastructural support to agro-business development. The reconstruction of a 630 m<sup>2</sup> production hall has been done, where the laboratory for soil testing is placed and 300 m<sup>2</sup> refrigerator space



David Sweet, Advisor to the Director General in the European Commission's DG Regional Policy

# Strategy for the Danube Region can help BiH

Strategy of the European Commission for the Danube Region was presented at the EU Delegation in Sarajevo, and the motif for the interview with David Sweet was the position and the role of Bosnia and Herzegovina



**E**U Strategy for the Danube Region is very important. Where do you see potential of Bosnia and Herzegovina?

- I think for Bosnia, for which I am not an expert at all, although I'm very glad to be here, it's a challenge to have a functional economy, I think that the Strategy will help that by offering a privi-

to BiH what is of current interest at the EU. It is what we did in Russia and Belarus, the Baltic Region. However, this is not a magic wand which will immediately make the situation better.

• **The Strategy includes many important issues such as sustainable transport, linking energy, protecting the environment. These issues, unfortunately, are not top priority in Bosnia and Herzegovina. You are not an expert for BiH as you said, but what do you suggest to BiH politicians?**

- It's not for me to tell BiH politicians what they should do, at all. But what I would say is, in the context of the Strategy, they should take advantage of

Region, than the Strategy can help. Let me give you one example from the Baltic, if I may: one of the issues in the Baltic is the transport links, just like here. Not the river in that case, but the motorways and so on, and as a result of the Strategy in the Baltic Sea Region, the ministers of transport now gather together, before they meet in Brussels with the other ministers to discuss the renewal of the transeuropean networks. So they have a common position. And they could do similar things in the Danube, so that instead of fighting between whether the north-south route goes through Croatia or through Bosnia and Herzegovina or through Montenegro, they can maybe come to some arrangement whereby each gets some benefit. But they can do this together rather than each fight on their own.

• **When do you expect creating of the macro-region similar to the Baltic?**

- Well, the macro-region is there. We are not moving anybody or anything. What we found within the Baltic region was that it takes longer than we first expected, maybe even a year for people to get together and to really start doing things. But, after one year the little bit of the action in the Baltic, things are really happening. So we think that, by the end of 2011, we should be seeing the first actions, but not necessarily a lot. By the end of 2012 to 2013 we expect to see some really good things to start, not everything will be finished, it takes time, but we expect to see good things by 2012 and 2013.

## 21 century Region

• **How do you see the Danube Region in the 2020?**

What we see in 2020 is what I've finished the presentation with. We see it as a 21st century Region. Of course every country and every region has its own character, most will be EU member states, some not, even in 2020 – Ukraine – no chance, no desire at this time, but every region will have its own identity, but will be a part of a wider system, will be conscious of a Danube based heritage, and will be effectively working together, both in visible big projects, but also in little ways, so that, for example, the floods that were resulting from failure of coordination across frontiers could not happen again.

leged access to cooperation with, for example research centers for financial bodies such as European Investment Bank in the area of the Danube Region. It won't change the relations between the Danube Region and the EU. It's not about changing laws, but about making those laws function as good as possible. So, we actually want to bring

the openness of the partners in the other countries, both EU member states and non-member states to work together on these areas where they can cooperate. That doesn't mean that the Strategy solves all the internal problems of Bosnia and Herzegovina, of course not, but when it comes to issues of the wider Region and Bosnia playing a full part in the wider

## Presentation on Judicial Progress



Bosnia and Herzegovina has clearly made significant progress, but it must continue to strive for a modern, independent, efficient and effective judiciary, EU Delegation to BiH Chargé d'Affaires Boris Iarochevitch said during a presentation on judicial progress at the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HJPC) in Sarajevo.

"The value of the EU assistance to judicial reform in BiH has exceeded 30 million Euros," Mr Iarochevitch noted.

He added that the aim of the EU assistance has been not only to modernise the judiciary, but also to help it achieve the standards required for EU accession.

HJPC President Milorad Novković stressed the importance of introducing a modern judiciary, which is not only a condition for EU accession but which will also respond to the needs of citizens.

## Local Economic Development



As part of a project funded by the European Union, "EU Support to Institutional Capacity Building for Regional and Local Economic and SME Development" (EURELSMED), a conference on local economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Zenica. EURELSMED has EU funding of €2.4 million

INTERVIEW: H.E. Laszlo Toth, Hungarian Ambassador to BiH

# Western Balkans has its place in the EU

At the beginning of 2011, Hungary has taken over a half-year Presidency to the European Union. That was the occasion for the interview with the Hungarian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, who talks in details about Western Balkans, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Budapests priorities and other significant issues

**W**hile taking over the EU Presidency, your country has pointed out three priority groups: 1. Economic growth and more employment (Social inclusion, demography...) 2. European cohesion (reform of European policies, energetic policy...) 3. Bringing closer Europe to citizens (strengthening cooperation in the fields of justice and internal affairs as well as enlargement of the Schengen area). These are very important goals, but also very demanding tasks to fulfil. What results do you expect?

The economic stability and competitiveness of the European Union is very important. The global financial crisis hit some of the EU Member States hard and revealed once again that monetary stability, economic growth, employment, coordination and cohesion of European policies is crucial. These are issues that we not only consider as important, but also that need to be dealt with and this needs to be started now. It is a continuation of the existing work on the EU agenda.

Among those tasks is the implementation of the future-oriented Europe 2020 strategy and the coordination of economic policies within the EU. Within the framework of this strategy we would like to move towards the creation of more jobs, sustainable competitiveness and we would like to particularly focus on the small and medium sized enterprises. Demography is also an important issue, since aging society is a long-term problem in the EU. We would also like to focus on child poverty and Roma

integration. It is crucial to agree on the 2011 budget of the EU, therefore we will focus our efforts on reaching a decision concerning the budget.

As regards to European cohesion, we believe that economic, social and territorial cohesion is one of the main pillars of the EU. An internally unified Europe is more

## Rubic's cube

We assume and we know that Hungary has a very good knowledge and a very good understanding of the issues in this region. That is why I'm sure that Hungary will understand the situation and will comprehend the issues and will contribute to the solution. That is why I used this Rubic's cube example, because I expect Hungary to make a solid contribution to resolve the puzzle in BiH, said Johann Hesse, Head of Operations Section for Economic Development, Natural Resources and Infrastructures at the EU Delegation to BiH

competitive globally and more efficient in terms of external actions. We need to ensure that this remains the central objective for cohesion policy and that the necessary means for achieving it are maintained and, indeed strengthened.

When discussing the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), EU Member States need to focus on two areas: preserving the values of the Common agricultural policy and facing up to new challenges. When it comes to

the instruments and objectives of the CAP, we should bear in mind citizens' expectation concerning the sustainability of a predictable food industry and guaranteeing food safety. Agriculture does not only provide food, but also contributes to the preservation of the landscape and rural life; it provides ecological services, increases employment and helps tackle demographic problems.

**T**he next Multiannual Financial framework has to be tailored to the future needs and developments identified during discussions on the future of our common European policies. We need to match our common goals with the appropriate instruments. The Hungarian EU Presidency plans to launch preparatory discussions of strategic importance on the future of the CAP and cohesion policy, with the aim of drawing the conclusions needed to serve as a basis for discussions on the next multiannual budget.

Various forms of macro regional co-operation have demonstrated their added value in strengthening cohesion and competitiveness. Consequently, the endorsement and the implementation of the European Danube Region Strategy is a priority for the Hungarian EU Presidency.

EU citizens can fully enjoy their freedoms and rights only if their safety is guaranteed. Further development the common area of freedom, security and justice based on the right balance between freedom and security is a major challenge. The EU Presidency will continue with the implementation of the Stockholm Programme, which provides the strategic

framework for the EU's objectives in this field up until 2014. One of the main items on the EU Presidency agenda during the first half of 2011 will be the promotion of fair trial rights and helping victims of crime. In order to enhance public safety, important priorities will be the fight against or-



Johann Hesse and ambassador Laszlo

ganized crime and cyber crime. Emphasis will be placed on the protection of personal data and making cross-border relationships easier by facilitating the adoption of a common set of rules on succession. Easier access to justice via the European e-justice portal is also an important part of our programme.

**S**ince the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union introduced a new level in protecting and promoting our fundamental rights. Assessing the implementation of the rights enshrined in the Charter will contribute to better use of the possibilities provided therein and could also lead to defining new measures. The EU Presidency intends to



adopt Council conclusions.

The European Citizens' Initiative opens new doors for citizens, enabling them to express their views directly. The initiative shall encourage citizens to join forces with others and start thinking together about European issues. It enables them to take action at an EU level – action which all European institutions will need to take into consideration. The Hungarian EU Presidency intends to ensure that citizens can use the instrument as soon as possible.

The abolition of internal border controls in the Schen-



lo Toth

**Hungary would do everything to make Europe more modern and more competitive, since a deep changes are taking place in the world at a great speed, and Europe needs to face it. Is Europe capable of turning to new solutions within the world competition which is, according to your Prime minister, stronger than ever?**

The competitiveness of the EU is of utmost importance that determines its future and success. I can just repeat Prime Minister Orbán's remarks that the world economic competition is stronger than ever, which is labeled by the development of China and India and the existence of 'classical' economic powers (USA, Russia). The EU is one of the world's strongest economic entities, since its GDP is amongst the top economic powers of the world. In order to maintain this position in an increasingly competitive world economy the EU has to implement its development strategies that were outlined above.

Talking about the capability of the EU to turn to new

common market or the common currency. Based on the last 53 years of development I am convinced that the EU can and will find new solutions to new challenges. One good example of this would be the development of a new energy market and energy policy in the EU. I think this is a strategic issue, and there is a strong will behind the idea.

**Y**our Excellency, what is your opinion of the idea of united European countries within a united confederation, as an answer to transferring economical and political influence in the direction of Asia? For example, Joschka Fischer recently called upon European politicians to make the idea popular in their countries, or, as he said, without those integrations the EU would lose its influence at the world political scene?

The political influence and the desired level of political integration of the EU have been long standing questions. Many claim that the EU's economic power and influence resulting from the common policies in

## Hard work

Hungary has put the EU-accession of the Western Balkans high on its Presidency agenda, and we would like to see major results by the end of our Presidency and in this year, said Toth.

As regards to BiH, there is a lot of work to be done to catch up with its neighbors. I have experienced that this is a country of

differing opinions, but political powers share the aim of EU-integration. In this context, I believe that 2011 is a crucial year for BiH, since the new government(s) can give new impetus to the EU-accession process. Hungary will be there to assist the new BiH government in overcoming the challenges resulting from EU-integration. We exactly know that the work is hard, professional and relevant assistance is needed during the EU-integration process.

gen area is one of the most tangible achievements of European integration for EU citizens. The Hungarian EU Presidency will make all efforts to promote and to bring about the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area. We wish to welcome these two EU Member States into the Schengen Area as soon as they meet all the requirements.

**Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stated that**

solutions, I would say yes it can. The EU itself is built up of a series of "new solutions" and is in the process of continuous developing. The free movement of people labeled by the Schengen zone was also one of those solutions by which the European Integration has become more effective and beneficial to its citizens, but of course I could mention a long list of other achievements, such as the

this field is not matched by its political power and influence. At this point we touch upon a sensitive question of EU Member States' sovereignty and competences. The political integration in this respect is a more difficult and longer process than economic integration. I agree that a more "united" political representation of the EU would increase its influence. But as with other EU policies this process is also step by step.

## Iarochevitch visits ICMP



Charge d' Affaires at the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Boris Iarochevitch visited the Tuzla premises of the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP) and the Institute for Missing Persons, where he was briefed on the process of finding and identifying missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2004, the European Union has supported the work of the ICMP with total contributions of more than three million Euro, and an additional two million Euro is allocated to the ICMP under the 2010 Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Strategies for sustainable policy dialogue

Between 02 and 04 February 2011, the Cidi project – Capacity building of civil society to take part in policy dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina - financed by the EU, held its fourth seminar for issue-based civil society networks, entitled Strategies for sustainable policy dialogue. The overall objective of the project is to engage BiH civil society in policy dialogue at different levels of government, in line with the recommendations of the European Union and the Enlargement Strategy, which states that "A culture of acceptance and appreciation of the role played by civil society need to be in place to allow civil society organisations to engage in effective policy dialogue" (Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2010-2011).

# Peace Work in Youth Policy

The Second Regional Youth Peace Conference was held in the conference room of the Municipality of Srebrenica. The conference titled "Peace work in youth policy" was supported by the European Union and organised by CARE International and youth organisations from Bratunac, Srebrenica and Vlasenica.

A large number of youth leaders from throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina took part, along with Natalia Dianiskova, Head of the EU Delegation's Section for Social Development, Civil Society and Cross-Border Cooperation, and Ćamil Duraković,



Deputy Mayor of Srebrenica.

The European Union and its citizens consider the development of this area to be extremely important," Ms Dianiskova said during the conference.

"The EU is a donor in

many projects in the region, but I have to say that we are a particularly proud donor in this project. This is the final year of the project, and that's why we can talk about achievements and finalize the goals we set at the beginning"

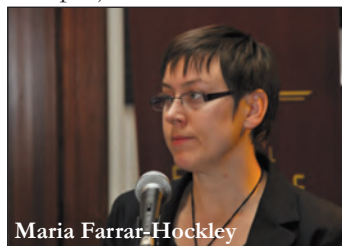
# EU Twinning Project Supports BiH Civil Service



It is essential to the European Union that every member state has an independent and professional civil service, Maria Farrar-Hockley, Head of the Operations Section for Justice and Home Affairs, Public Administration Reform, of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, told at conference in Sarajevo. The conference marked the completion of a one-year EU twinning project to strengthen the human-resources manage-

ment system in the field of civil service training in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EU provided 500,000 Euros from IPA funds for the project, and 46 civil ser-



Maria Farrar-Hockley

vants from 34 institutions went through training before being

designated as training managers, which means they will now train other BiH civil servants.

"It is important that in the Progress Report which the European Commission issued for 2010 it was noted that the Civil Service Agency of BiH has improved a lot in capacity building, although it is necessary to invest and work a lot more, and I hope that the 2011 Report will be even more positive," said Ms Farrar-Hockley.

The Finnish Institute for Public Management (HAUS) provided experts to train BiH civil servants.

"We wish to offer you our support on your way to the EU," Finnish Ambassador Ari Heikkinen told participants at the conference, adding that Bosnia and Herzegovina is moving closer to the EU, but that this process must be accelerated.

## Ten new projects to support the development of democracy and human rights

Ten new projects to support the development of democracy and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented at the EU Delegation in Sarajevo. The projects are part of a BiH-wide programme funded by the European Union through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

Gordana Šuvalija, EIDHR Task Manager for Gender and Science and Research at the EU Delegation to BiH, said the value of the projects is 1.2 million Euros. So far, the European Union has invested 7.7 million Euros in about 111 projects, which represents a significant contribution to the non-government sector.



Vladimir Pandurević, EIDHR Task Manager for Youth and Culture at the EU Delegation, said during the presentation that EIDHR was established in 1994, and pointed out that government approval is not necessary in the case of implementing these projects since they are undertaken by non-government and non-profit organizations. He said the value of funding for the projects ranges from 50,000 to 150,000 Euros, and he stressed that project contracts must be strictly adhered to and a full account of project implementation must be given in final reports.

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