



## Commission adopted a proposal for visa free travel for citizens from the Western Balkans

The European Commission could envisage a new proposal, which would include Bosnia and Herzegovina by mid-2010 if all conditions are fulfilled

The European Commission's long standing commitment to visa free travel for the people of the Western Balkans was confirmed on 15 July with the adoption of a proposal for granting visa free travel to the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The proposal enables the citizens of these three countries to travel to the Schengen countries with the new biometric passports. The Commission's proposal needs to be approved by the Council after having consulted the European Parliament.

"The Commission remains fully committed to support the reform process so that the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina will soon be able to enjoy visa-free travel to the Schengen area. If the pace of reforms is maintained and if all the conditions are fulfilled, the Commission could envisage making a new proposal, which would include Bosnia and Herzegovina, by mid-2010. The speed of your country's progress towards visa-free travel is in your own leaders' hands," says the message by Jacques Barrot, Vice President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, and Olli Rehn, Enlargement Commissioner, to the citizens of the Western Balkan countries.

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## Commissioner Rehn's message: EU Cares about Bosnia and Herzegovina

A summary of the speech by Olli Rehn, EU Enlargement Commissioner, addressed to BiH Parliamentary Assembly, end July 2009

When I visited Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of last year, I said that the year 2009 would offer new opportunities. These chances are still here.

The EU wants all the people of the Western Balkans to travel freely in Europe. We have set the same conditions for visa liberation for each country concerned. No-one got any short-cuts or preferential treatment.

I welcome the Action Plan adopted by the Council of Ministers to complete the remaining requirements, and the efforts made by this Parliament as well.

What Bosnia and Herzegovina still needs to do is not difficult; it just has to be done. Above all, biometric passports must be introduced on a wide scale, and measures taken to protect them against fraud and corruption.

In parallel, Bosnia and Herzegovina must step up its fight against organized crime and corruption, it must improve its border controls, and it still needs to do a lot better on police reform, something the EU has insisted on for years!

We sent a detailed list of these requirements to your Ministry of Security. It cites every new law to be passed, every existing law to be implemented better, and every other problem that must be fixed – nearly 50 actions in total. We have invited your government to report back to us by the 1st of October this year.

Another opportunity that Bosnia and Herzegovina should not miss this year is the transition from Dayton stabilisation to European integration. By this I mean the closure of the OHR, once the conditions have been met, and the start of a new chapter where EU membership takes centre-stage.

If you meet the conditions for OHR closure this autumn, and if EU-related reforms pick up speed, then the objective of starting EU accession negotiations could become real in the coming years.

The closure of the OHR, when the day comes, will not mark a loss of interest by the international community. Quite to the contrary.

The EU will increase its presence greatly, and we will sharpen our tools to help BiH progress towards Europe – and deal with those who obstruct it.

The European Commission and the EUSR's Office will become one. It will in fact be the largest EU office anywhere in the world. Moreover, I and Javier Solana both insist that other members of the international community must be part of this office too.

EUFOR and the EUPM will stay, and the EU will not tolerate any challenge to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

national blue-print, but the EU has two conditions that are set in stone for any country that wants to join: it must be able to enforce the EU's rules throughout the country, and it must be able to speak with one voice in EU and international affairs. Need I say that the current situation where BiH presidents, ministers and officials travel abroad presenting different, sometimes conflicting, positions is utterly impossible?

The EU accession process will entail a number of other reforms as well: Institutions that need to be created at the state-

plant and support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Joining the EU will take time, several years. But if the history of the European Union and its enlargement tells us anything it is that the journey is worth travelling and that the destination of EU membership is the ultimate guarantee of lasting peace and social progress.

In closing, allow me a personal reflection. No matter how much we long for a better future, the past lives in our minds and our souls. I was in Srebrenica on the 11th of July 2005, ten years after the genocide. No words can fully capture the enormity of the crimes committed, or the abyss of grief left behind. The day will mark me for life.

The EU has named the 11th of July the Day of Commemoration of the Srebrenica Genocide. We know from our own histories that remembrance is as necessary as it is painful. It is necessary not least to counter the "selective remembrance" of those who remain in denial – until this day – about what really took place, both in Srebrenica and in many other towns and villages across this country.

All those who are indicted for war crimes must face their day in court and pay for the crimes they committed.

In addition to the justice of the courts, there is a second and equally lasting form of justice that we can offer for the victims: a better future for their loved ones who survived. This is what the men and boys who died at Srebrenica, and victims everywhere, would have wanted for their families.

And this is what the EU wants for Bosnia and Herzegovina too.

Joining the EU will take time, several years. But if the history of the European Union and its enlargement tells us anything, it is that the journey is worth traveling and that the destination of EU membership is the ultimate guarantee of lasting peace and social progress.

We cannot travel the road to the EU for Bosnia and Herzegovina. But we can help, we will help, and we want this country to succeed in its journey from era of Dayton to the era of Europe.



Olli Rehn

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This leads me to constitutional reform.

Constitutional reform is not a precondition for OHR closure. Nor is it required to apply for EU membership. But constitutional reform is a necessary part of the EU accession process.

Bosnia and Herzegovina will not be able to join to EU with its present constitution. It is that simple. In fact, we will not even be able to grant candidate status without certain reforms.

The EU is ready to help BiH find a constitutional model that is acceptable to all and delivers a functional and effective state.

We may not have a constitu-

level, competencies that have to be clarified between different levels of government, and steps required for fiscal sustainability.

There is no miracle cure. Everyone in Europe is struggling with the same problems. But this is my message: the EU cares about Bosnia and Herzegovina. We set aside nearly €40 million for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of EU's own economic crisis response package, together with the €440 million we had already planned for BiH until 2011.

This money will be spent on investments that create jobs quickly and inject money into the economy, such as the construction of a hydro-power

## Seminar on EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion

Once BiH becomes the EU member, your citizens living and working in the EU countries shall have equal treatment and employment opportunities in all the EU countries, stressed Dimitris Kourkoulas at the Seminar on EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion

Social policy is an area where citizens can directly see the benefits of European integration, said Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of European Commission Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina at the "Seminar on EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion", held on 2 June 2009 in Sarajevo. The Seminar was organised by TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange - an instrument of the Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission that helps countries with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation), together with the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Directorate for Economic Planning of BiH Council of Ministers (DEP).

The overall objective of the Seminar was to inform civil servants from the public administration, the representatives of national and local authorities, social security institutions, social service providers and NGOs about the EU social protection and social inclusion process.

"Once your country becomes the EU member, your cit-

izens living and working in the EU countries shall have equal treatment and employment op-



Dimitris Kourkoulas

portunities in all the EU countries. It will increase the mobility within the EU and strengthen the rights the citizens are entitled to in the field of social security. These are the advantages BiH shall have once it joins the EU", said Kourkoulas.

He stressed that a lack of reliable statistical data was a big problem in BiH and without such data, no social policy could be developed. The statistics planned to be completed in 2011 should be used for the creation of future social policy.

Ms. Ljerka Marić, Director

of the Directorate for Economic Planning, BiH Council of Ministers, emphasised that

DEP was working on two strategies: the Development Strategy and Social Inclusion Strategy.

"The goal of this Seminar is to obtain information from the institutions on the state of play of the Strategy, while the European Commission will let us know what needs to be done in order to become a candidate country. We hope that the EC shall continue to support us, as it has been doing through numerous programs", said Ms. Marić.

Mr. George Fischer, Head of DG Employment, Social Affairs

and Equal Opportunities Department said that EU do not have a uniform European social model. "But we have set common goals. With the Treaty of Lisbon we want to achieve full employment; we want to fight against poverty and social exclusion; we want to promote social inclusion. All of these are the goals defined at the European Union level. The European Union institutions have no specific ways to promote how to achieve all of this. The Treaty on European Union clearly stipulates that all the Member States are responsible for organising social policy schemes organised in their respective countries. Therefore, it is clear that we in the Union want to have member countries with good social policy systems. I think that you in BiH have to accept the fact that the EU shall not tell you, or any other country, which model is adequate to be implemented in your country. We are ready to help with these processes and should any country obtain the member status, there are certain processes that the country needs to undergo in terms of being informed on the policies to be implemented", explained Fischer.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina needs social security system reforms

The high-level meeting on social security co-ordination, organised in Sarajevo as a part of the joint programme of the European Commission and Council of Europe, is being conducted in the framework of the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina needs a rational social framework, and the European Commission is providing support that will help transform policy decisions in this field into actual reforms," stated Johan Hesse, Head of Operations Section for Economic Reform and Natural Resources at the European Commission Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, at a high-level meeting on Social Security Coordination which took place in Sarajevo on 19 June 2009.

"We would like to show the future EU member states that good European social policy means good economic policy as well", he said.

The high-level meeting on social security co-ordination was organised as part of a joint programme of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, "Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms", which is being conducted in the framework of the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession.

Speaking at the start of the conference, Caroline Ravaud, the Special Representative of the Council of Europe's Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed the hope that the meeting would help participants familiarise themselves with best practice in the social security field.



Caroline Ravaud i Johan Hesse

The conference was attended by representatives of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council of Europe in BiH, the European Commission Delegation to BiH, and experts on social security co-ordination from Germany and

Switzerland. The joint programme of the European Commission and the Council of Europe "Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms" is designed for the Western Balkan countries and Turkey.

## International Donor Conference in Agriculture Sector

**A**griculture Donor Conference for BiH, organised by the BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations in cooperation with the Delegation of European Commission to BiH on 17 June 2009 in Sarajevo, aimed to showcase the projects which were prepared by the interested parties in the areas of agriculture, processing and rural development, in coordination with the relevant ministries of the state, entities, and Brčko District, as well as co-operative associations in BiH.

Mladen Zirojević, the BH Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, who opened the Conference, said that the intention was to establish an efficient coordination between donors and the BiH Government, and to develop a future programme of financial assistance in agriculture, directly linked to the BiH Strategic Plan for Harmonization of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers in 2008.

Johann Hesse, Head of the



Donor Conference in Sarajevo



Mladen Zirojević and Johann Hesse

Operations Section for Economic Reform and Natural Resources in the Delegation of European Commission to BiH, addressed the participants of the Agriculture Donor Conference. Mr. Hesse pointed out the significance of this Conference, particularly with respect to the funds provided by the EU through the European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for institutional development of BH agricultural sector.

The Annual Report 2008 on the situation in the fields of agriculture, food and rural development in BiH was presented at the Conference. "Priorities in the upcoming period are closely related to the EU Accession process, primarily to the fulfillment of all the obligations arising from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement," read the Report's foreword, written by Mladen Zirojević, the BH Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations.

## Successful Completion of the Twinning Assistance Project "Support to the BiH Border Police"

**T**he end of implementation of the second Twinning assistance project of the BiH Border Police and the Hungarian State Police was marked at the HQ of the BiH Border Police in Sarajevo on 30 June 2009. The Twinning project lasted for 14 months during which the partners worked together toward enhancing the BiH Border Police capacities in the areas of investigations, intelligence, effective information

management and designing strategies in human resources planning and development. The partners supporting this project were Finland Toll, the Polish Border Police, the United Kingdom Home Office and EUROPOL.

Ferdinand Kopp, Head of the Operations Section for Justice, Home Affairs and Reform of Public Administration at the Delegation of the European Commission to BiH, said that



Vinko Dumančić and Ferdinand Kopp



From the meeting in Sarajevo

this was part of a wider assistance of the EU in support to strengthening of the BiH Border Police, under the EU's Justice and Home Affairs Programme. The aim was to contribute to the security and stability of BiH by enhancing performance and efficiency of the BiH Border Police forces, particularly in fighting organized cross-border crime, through knowledge, experience and police practice.

Vinko Dumančić, the Director of BiH Border Police, explained that the result of joint work between the BiH Border Police and the Hungarian Border Police in this project was development of the general Border Police Strategy for the period from 2010 to 2014, as well as two other strategies for information management and human resources development in the field of criminal intelligence and investigations.

## Opening of Trebinje Business Incubator

Within the project “Establishment of the Regional Entrepreneurship Centre in Herzegovina” which was financed by the EU, a new facility has been established in Trebinje as part of the Business Incubators in BiH programme. The project value is €337,120 out of which EU provided 88% of the total amount. The project was implemented by the Mostar Business Association LiNK in cooperation with the partners and co-financers, the municipalities of Trebinje and Jablanica.

The Business Incubator will be used by recently registered companies or by people who intend to start a private business. In the context of the current financial crisis and in times when it is hard to get a loan, the key goal of this incubator is to support small and medium enterprises, especially start-up companies by reducing initial costs of setting up a business.

The Head of Operations in the Delegation of the European Commission to BiH, Boris Iarochevitch, speaking at the opening Ceremony, noted that the EU fund for regional economic development 000000, which financed this project, was founded in 2003 with the aim to fi-

nance projects that promote economic growth across BiH. The total amount of the projects financed so far is 60, ranging in value from €25,000 to €300,000, which comes to a total of more than €10 million.

Small and medium enterprises are the main generators of business in BiH and it is necessary to take all possible measures to support the existing companies and encourage the establishment of new ones. Further support by the government is also necessary on all levels in order to loosen administrative obligations for companies and reduce the restrictions that make establishment of businesses more difficult, Iarochevitch said. He added that the second important achievement of this project is fostering a network of incubators in Herzegovina and working together on, what should ideally be recognised as a single economic space.

The Mayor of Trebinje Municipality, Dr. Dobroslav Ćuk, listed the main data of this project in the municipality, emphasising that for the purpose of this project, a facility with 15 business areas had been reconstructed and adapted. The facility takes up 570 square meters and is equipped with the necessary infrastructure.



Boris Iarochevitch and Dobroslav Ćuk

Dr. Ćuk said that the services that the business incubator will provide will be diverse and available under very good conditions: in obtaining business premises under the best possible conditions, in providing assistance in the selection and analysis of business ideas, registration and partnerships, in linking potential business partners and in facilitating business initiatives. The business incubator will offer possibilities for development of new businesses and application of modern technology, as well as new business, technical, organisational and marketing structures and methods.

The President of the Associa-

tion LiNK Mostar, Tomislav Majić said they managed to fulfil three of four goals in the implementation of this project. All infrastructural preparations have been made, for the accomplishment of the fourth goal of the project, which is the opening of the regional entrepreneurship centre in Mostar, but in agreement with EC the centre will not be opened until September this year. It is also important to note that public announcement for allocation of the business incubator was published on 12 May 2009 and will remain open until all premises are taken.

## Phase Two of the EU Funded Project “Development of Entrepreneurial Incubator Prijedor” Completed



Two facilities within the project “Development of Entrepreneurial Incubator Prijedor” were officially opened on 22 June 2009 in the former military barracks Palančište near Prijedor. This event marked the end of the second phase of this project, financed by the European Union and Prijedor municipality.

The total value of the project is €280,979, out of which the European Union provided €248,892, while the share of Prijedor municipality amounted to €32,087. The reconstruction of these two facilities within the Entrepreneurial Incubator, which cover the total surface area of 688 square meters, has provided business premises for five manufacturing companies, thus creating 20 new jobs.

The project was implemented

by the Prijedor Municipality Economic Development Agency (PREDA-PD) and supported by local development agencies from Novi Grad/Bosanski Novi and Kozarska/Bosanska Dubica. Active involvement of municipalities in the region as project partners contributed to the sustainability of the project, the promotion of entrepreneurship and economic development, as well as to the creation of new jobs. Such a positive action of the local governments will make the region more attractive for start-ups and increase investments in the region, both local and foreign.

Johann Hesse, Head of Operations Section for Economic Development and Natural Resources with the Delegation of the European Commission to BiH, expressed his satisfaction with the successful completion of the second phase of this project and underlined that the incubators were going to play an important role in the development and operation of SMEs in this region, not only by reducing start-up costs for businesses, but

also by providing services to other companies and thus becoming even more competitive.

Hesse pointed out that the EC supported the project in order to help the private sector to create more jobs. He said that the Entrepreneurial Incubator definitely could not resolve all problems of the local entrepreneurs. However, he added that the possibility of accommodating manufacturing facilities in reconstructed premises, as well as business counselling and technical support services would significantly assist the companies starting their business in these facilities.

“I hope that this Entrepreneurial Incubator will serve its purpose and enable, at the time of the economic crisis, the private sector to function normally and increase its income,” Hesse stressed.

Branislav Vujašin, Project Manager for the construction of the Entrepreneurial Incubator Prijedor thanked the Delegation of European Commission in BiH for financially supporting the completion of the second phase of this project, which, in addition to the

reconstruction of the two facilities also included the provision of utilities – water supply, sewerage and telecommunications networks, as well as the access road.

“The purpose of the Entrepreneurial Incubator is to accommodate start-up businesses for a period of up to five years. After that, they are expected to move to industrial zones, thus making room for new businesses”, Vujašin stressed.

Marko Pavić, the Mayor of Prijedor, said that the development of the Entrepreneurial Incubator was a step forward in reducing unemployment - the main challenge this local community was facing.



Johann Hesse

## News from EU

### Five Years of European Health Insurance Card

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) – now held by 180 million Europeans – celebrated its fifth birthday in July. Citizens from 31 European countries can use the card to get the medical care they need if they fall ill or have an accident in one of the participating countries (the EU, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland). The EHIC covers all health care which is needed during a temporary stay in one of the 31 participating countries, be it for travel, work or studies. The card was introduced progressively between June 2004 and December 2005 to replace the previous paper form called the “E111”, and is now held by 180 million citizens, or 35% of Europeans. However, there are significant differences between countries: in Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland, almost the entire population has an EHIC, while in Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Poland and Spain, less than 5% has one.

### EU State Aid to Banks is One Third of GDP

The EU's main regulator has approved state aid to banks worth almost a third of the 27-member bloc's GDP. According to a review published by the European Commission on Monday (10 August), between last October and mid-July 2009, the EU's executive approved guarantee measures designed to boost lenders' confidence worth €2.9 trillion and capital injections for struggling banks which amounted to €313 billion.

In its June report, Brussels predicted that public aid to the banking sector would cost Europe up to 16.5 percent of GDP. Ireland, one of the EU countries most hit by the financial clampdown, received a green light from Brussels for aid representing 231.8 percent of its GDP and banks have taken up almost the whole package. In contrast, nine states – Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia – have not applied for permission to use public funds for such purposes.

## The Swedish Presidency of the EU

As of 1 July 2009, the Swedish Presidency of the EU was launched. Now Sweden is in the driving seat of the world's largest integrated economy with nearly half a billion citizens. “It's going to be a very exciting six months, but the task before us is not an easy one. I'm looking forward to tackling the autumn's challenges together,” said Sweden's Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, on the eve of the handover.

Until the end of the year it will be Sweden's task to drive the EU's work forward. “The most important thing is to ensure that we are able to gather the EU together to respond to the challenges that people care about and where strong European co-operation can make a difference. This is a matter of dealing with the financial crisis together and tackling the rising unemployment that is currently affecting the whole of Europe. It is also matter of doing our bit to rally the

whole world to tackle climate change. These two priorities

adopt an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region, in order to



will dominate our Presidency”, Fredrik Reinfeldt added.

But there are also other important issues Sweden intends to pursue during its Presidency. One is the development and strengthening of EU cooperation on justice and home affairs in the Stockholm Programme, in order to be in a better position to fight cross-border crime. Another task is to

deal with environmental problems and increase the region's competitiveness, along with continuing the work to form closer ties between the EU and its neighbouring countries, and EU enlargement. The Swedish Presidency will also work to strengthen the EU's role as a global actor with a clear agenda for peace, development, democracy and human rights.

## 10,000 Erasmus Mundus Scholarships for 2009-2010



The European Commission has awarded almost 10,000 new grants to be funded by the Erasmus Mundus programme in the academic year 2009-2010. Thanks to this, 8,385 students and academics will come to study or teach in Europe, and 1,561 Europeans will spend periods at partner institutions in countries outside Europe. Erasmus Mundus is a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through co-operation with countries outside the European Union.

In 2009, a new selection of

students and academics from all over the world will receive scholarships to study or teach in one of the 103 Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. These courses are provided by consortia of Europe's top higher education institutions, and lead to the award of a recognised double/multiple or joint Masters Degree.

The courses and the scholarships together meet the overall objectives of Erasmus Mundus to enhance the quality of European higher education and promote it around the world.

Starting in the academic year 2009-2010, 1,833 students are being awarded scholarships to study for one or two years at the Masters course of their choice, alongside students from Europe. Students follow these Erasmus Mundus courses at two or more universities within the Masters consortium. 489 academics with outstanding academic track records will come to Europe for shorter periods of teaching, re-

search or tutoring activities within one of the Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses.

The scholarship-winners come from 105 countries: China is the most-represented country, followed by India, Brazil, Mexico, Bangladesh, the US, Ethiopia, Russia and Indonesia. The academics come from 75 countries; the best represented in this category are the US, China, India, Australia and Canada. Ten students from BiH were awarded the Mundus Erasmus programme scholarships. There are different groups of countries (Lots) for the respective world regions and there is a consortium established for each of them. Students, researchers and staff from these regions can apply to the respective consortium for scholarship. Bosnia and Herzegovina is grouped in Lot 10, together with Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo, sharing the budget of € 8.5 million.

## European Commission adopts a Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina for the years 2009-2011

For the period 2009-2011, the overall indicative amount of the EU financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina – in the form of grants from the Community budget - is 303.2 EUR million

The Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document – MIPD for the years 2009-2011 defines that financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to support the country in three main areas, namely political reform and building up of democratic institutions, economic reform, and ability to assume the obligations of membership - approximation to European standards in the internal market, sectoral policies, justice, freedom and security. A special component of the programme will finance cross-border cooperation.

For the period 2009-2011, the overall indicative amount of the EU financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina – in the form of grants from the Community budget - is 303.2 EUR million. The main share of the budget is allocated to support activities under IPA Component I for Transition Assistance and Institution Building (EUR 287.3 million). A smaller share will be allocated to IPA Component II for Cross-Border Cooperation activities (15.9 EUR million).

To ensure the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the EU financial assistance the definition of the major areas of intervention and the type of actions to be financed has been closely coordinated with the International Financial Institutions and other bilateral international donors, active in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In more detail, the first political sub-component will focus on public administration reform - including support for the customs and taxation administration, the reform of the judiciary and of the police. The emphasis will be on institution building. It will support domestic efforts on the constitu-

tional reform process as well as the media and civil society in order to contribute to the democratic stabilisation and the social and economic development of the country. IPA will also put emphasis on the protection of the cultural heritage in the context of the "Ljubljana Process".

The second economic development sub-component will focus on support the establish-



ment of regulatory capacity and the enhancement of the entrepreneurial know-how. It will support the development of the SME sector, the economic development of the regions and will improve trade policies. Education reform and developing a national strategy on research will promote the development of economy and society and active labour market measures will assist in combating unemployment. The health sector will be reformed to ease the burden of public finances and to deliver adequate health care to citizens.

The third sub-component will finance actions to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina to cope with the approximation to the European acquis in the internal market, sectoral policies, justice, freedom and security. Emphasis will be placed on the development and implementation of strategies and policies

and a regulatory framework compatible with European standards. IPA will support the implementation and enforcement of the sectoral policies and the preparation for IPA components III, IV and V.

Through component II, IPA will support cross-border cooperation by supporting joint projects at the borders with Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and with EU Member

States and other Western Balkan Countries (Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia) through the IPA CBC Adriatic Programme and by supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in joint projects under the European Regional Development Fund's (ERDF) and transnational programmes "South-East Europe" (SEE) and "Mediterranean" (MED).

In order to soften the impact of the financial and economic crisis, IPA will provide support to the financial sector, the development of SMEs, job creation, support the institution-building of regulators and supervisors in the financial sector, investments in infrastructure, strengthening the roles of economic and financial regulators and cooperation with International Financial Institutions.

### News from EU

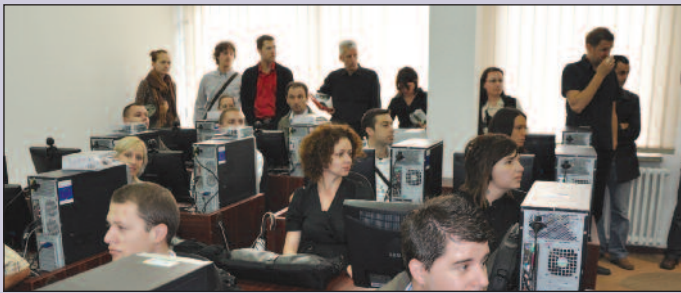
#### Agreement on Standardised EU Phone Charger

The world's ten major mobile phone manufacturers have agreed to produce a harmonised charger for users across Europe. The phone manufacturers Apple, LG, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Qualcomm, Sony Ericsson, Samsung, Research in Motion (the producer of the blackberry), and Texas Instruments submitted a memorandum of understanding to the Commission. At the moment, there are more than 30 different types of chargers for phones across Europe. Making the situation worse, anyone who wants to change their mobile phone needs to throw away the old charger as well. Under the fresh agreement, a universal charger, which will use a mini-USB connection, should be made available from 2010.

#### EU's Top Ten for Passengers

- In the event of an accident, call toll-free European emergency number 112, which covers the whole territory of the EU.
- Keep in mind that one out of four road accidents can be attributed to excessive alcohol or drug consumption.
- Check the black list of airlines banned in the EU.
- When you check in at the airport, only take small quantities of liquids in your hand luggage (a maximum of 100 millilitres is permitted per container). The total amount of liquids per person cannot exceed one litre.
- If your flight is cancelled without notice or if you are denied boarding, ask for reimbursement or rerouting.
- If you are denied boarding because you are suspected to have Influenza A (H1N1), be aware that you are entitled to reimbursement or rerouting combined with monetary compensation if the measure was not based on a decision of a sanitary authority or on a medical certificate.
- If you are an air passenger with disabilities or reduced mobility, you have the right to free assistance before, during and after your travel.
- When you book your flight ticket online, remember that the final price must be clearly indicated on the first page.
- If your luggage gets lost or damaged, you have the right to a reimbursement of up to € 1,100. You have only one week to claim if your luggage is damaged and 21 days if it is delayed.
- When you buy a travel package, always make sure that both the price and all relevant information are clearly indicated.

## European Union funded Multimedia Centre at Zenica University



The European Union provided funds for the establishment of the Multimedia Centre (MMC), which was opened at the University of Zenica on 22 June 2009. The EU funding was made available through the TEMPUS program (Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies).

The MMC was established as part of the EU funded project "Centre for entrepreneurship and innovation at Zenica University". This project was also supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the University Business Incubator. The main goals of the MMC project are to create a centre of entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of Zenica, to train trainers, to create workshops in future technology and practices, to provide consulting services to enterprises, and to spread knowledge and expertise that will contribute to Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic development.

## New publication translated: IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession – A new focus to EU assistance for enlargement

The Delegation of the European Commission to BiH has published a translation of the brochure entitled "IPA - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance - A New Focus to the EU Assistance for Enlargement". This publication offers a snapshot of what IPA is, why it has been created, how it operates, and how it benefits both the EU and the countries currently seeking to join it. It is available on the EC Delegation's web page: [www.europa.ba](http://www.europa.ba) and in EU Info Centres in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Tuzla and Brcko.



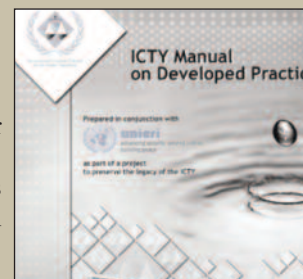
## Support to the cross-border cooperation between BH and Croatia

Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Croatia, in cooperation with the Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina are seeking grant proposals for cross-border activities (financial assistance from the 2007 and 2008 allocations). Encouraging cross-border cooperation and partnerships creation activities are the key elements of the Component II (Cross-border Cooperation) of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Under

this Call for Proposals, an indicative amount of the € 3,600,000, equally divided per country, is available for cross-border cooperation project proposals. Priority areas on which this Call for Proposals will focus are: encouraging cross-border cooperation and partnerships, encouraging joint cross-border activities with a view to revitalizing the economy, protecting nature and the environment, and increasing social cohesion of the programming area. The Call for Proposals will be open until 16 October 2009. All the details on this call are available on the following web sites: [www.mrrsvghr](http://www.mrrsvghr), [www.dei.gov.ba](http://www.dei.gov.ba), [www.safu.hr](http://www.safu.hr), [www.cbc-cro-bih.net](http://www.cbc-cro-bih.net), [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm).

## Promotion of ICTY Manual on Developed Practices

The Manual of Best Practice by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), produced through cooperation between The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Hague Tribunal, was publicly presented at a regional conference on "Promoting the Legacy of International Tribunals", held on 15 June in Sarajevo. The Manual is the first publication to provide a comprehensive description of the most efficient and innovative practices developed by the Hague Tribunal since its establishment. Addressing the participants, Ferdinand Kopp, Head of the Operations Section for Justice, Home Affairs and Reform of Public Administration at the Delegation of the European Commission to BiH said that the EU accession by the Western Balkan countries would only be possible if they fully confronted the recent tragic events, found war criminals and brought them to justice.



## Kids Festival 2009

Under the motto "All different – all equal", the 6th Kids Festival took place in Sarajevo from 12 to 17 June 2009. The Festival gathered around 40.000 children from all parts of BiH, of different cultural and geographical backgrounds, to enjoy a week of movies, educational and entertainment workshops and various performances. At the opening ceremony, Mr Constantino Longarres Bario, Head of Operations Section for Democracy and Social Development at the EC Delegation to BiH, stressed that the Festival helped overcoming isolation of children in BiH by building entity-crossing networks and strengthening mutual understanding among different ethnic groups. The children of BiH are vital to ensuring that the country has a healthy future, looking forward rather than backwards. The European Union provided 100.000 € for this largest and most ambitious event for children and youth in the entire Balkan re-



Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Skenderija 3a, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tel: +387 33 254 700

European union home page: [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

The EU's actions in BiH web page: [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/bosnia\\_herzegovina/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/bosnia_herzegovina/index.htm)

European Commission Delegation to BiH: [www.europa.ba](http://www.europa.ba)

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