



Dimitris Kourkoulas

Dimitris Kourkoulas presented the EC 2009 Progress Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina has made little progress over the reporting period. The domestic political climate has deteriorated and challenges to the functioning of the institutions and inflammatory rhetoric have continued. Reform implementation has been slow, mainly due to a lack of consensus and political will, but also to the complex institutional organisation of the country. A very limited number of European integration-related laws have been adopted.

These are the key findings of the European Commission Progress Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina covering the period October 2008 to September 2009, presented at a press conference on 14 October 2009, at the premises of the EC Delegation to BiH, by Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of EC Delegation to BiH.

●Continued on page 2

In this issue:

Commissioner Rehn and Ambassador Kourkoulas receive specimens of the new BiH biometric passports



Annual Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture from South Eastern Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Olli Rehn, European Enlargement Commissioner: Sovereign and functional Bosnia and Herzegovina – a precondition for obtaining candidate status for the EU membership



European Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Meglena Kuneva visits Bosnia and Herzegovina



Tanja Fajon, Member of the European Parliament: I'm trying to get strong support for BiH



Dimitris Kourkoulas presented the EC 2009 Progress Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Report encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue the reforms necessary to fulfill all visa liberalisation requirements

As for the political criteria, there are several positive things: progress made in relation to the transition of the Office of the High Representative, changes related to the amendments to the Constitution regarding the status of Brčko District, cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), processing of war crimes at state level is satisfactory, the Anticorruption Strategy was adopted, several positive laws were adopted, such as the Law on Fight against Discrimination”,



Dimitris Kourkoulas

stated Ambassador Kourkoulas.

The Report encourages Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue the reforms necessary to fulfill all visa liberalisation requirements but it also draws attention that more action is required in establishing compatibility between BiH's and the legislation of the EU, especially in the area of respect for fundamental human rights. In order to illustrate it, Mr Kourkoulas gave the example of the elimination of ethnic separation of children in schools and return process strategy, which are part of the political criteria.

Political criteria

Few positive developments can be outlined as regards political criteria. The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina was amended for the first time to regulate the status of the Brčko District. The public administration reform strategy is being implemented and the public administration reform fund is operational. Cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has remained satisfactory. As prosecution of war crimes, at State level, trials have been generally held within reasonable time and in compliance with internationally recognised standards.

However, the domestic political climate has deteriorated over recent months, and lack of con-

sensus on the main features of state building and inflammatory rhetoric have adversely affected the functioning of institutions and slowed down reform. The authorities have not yet demonstrated sufficient capacity to take the necessary political ownership and responsibility. The role played by ethnic identity in politics has continued to hamper the functioning of the executive, the legislative and the judiciary as well as the country's overall governance. A process for the reform of the constitutional framework has not been initiated. The requirements for the closure of the Office of the High Representative have not been fully met. Corruption remains prevalent in many areas and is a serious problem.

Economic criteria

Bosnia and Herzegovina has made little further progress towards a functioning market economy. Further considerable

reform efforts must be pursued with determination to enable the country to cope over the long term with competitive pressure

and market forces within the Union.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been severely affected by the economic crisis. Nonetheless, financial and monetary stability has been preserved thanks to the timely reaction from the Central Bank when the financial crisis erupted in autumn 2008. The currency board arrangement has continued to enjoy a very high degree of credibility and the banking sector has so far weathered well the impact of the crisis.

However, the quality and sustainability of public finances have

further deteriorated. Restructuring and liquidation of state-owned enterprises has advanced slowly and the privatisation process has not proceeded further. The weak productive capacity and structural rigidities hamper job creation. Unemployment continues to be very high and the large informal sector remains an important challenge. The business environment is still affected by administrative inefficiencies. Progress towards the creation of a real single economic space within the country has been very limited.

European Standards

As far as European standards are concerned, some progress has been made in the fields of customs, taxation, education and transport. Progress has also been made in number of justice, freedom and security-related areas, which has brought Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to the fulfilment of the visa roadmap requirements.

The country still needs to intensify its efforts in many areas, such as free movement of goods, persons and services, employment and social policies, state aids, energy and environment. Sustained efforts in sensitive areas such as police and the fight against organised crime are also necessary.

Commissioner Rehn and Ambassador Kourkoulas receive specimens of the new BiH biometric passports

These passports should be the key for free and faster travel of BiH citizens in the EU

European Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn and Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas met with Nikola Špirić, Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, on 19 October in Sarajevo. At the press conference Špirić handed over the specimens of BiH biometric passports to both Commissioner Rehn and Ambassador Kourkoulas as a symbolic gesture thus presenting the biometric passports to the gathered journalists.

“I am honoured to be here today, witnessing that Bosnia and Herzegovina started the issuance of biometric passports. These

passports should be the key for free and faster travel of BiH citizens in the EU. But the issuance of biometric passports should be done in a reliable and safe way, so that they do not fall into wrong hands. When a certain number of biometric passports is issued, the EU will verify and assess the issuance itself,” stated Commissioner Rehn to the press. He emphasised that there were still some more elements that BiH had to implement: the adoption and implementation of several important laws and the formation of agencies, primarily those relating to the fight against crime and corruption.



Olli Rehn, Dimitris Kourkoulas and Nikola Špirić

9th Agricultural Policy Forum



John Bensted-Smith

Support to the systems of the South East European countries and their complementarities with the EU Common Agricultural Policy, as well as the influence of the global economic crisis on the investments and food production in the South Eastern Europe countries, were the topics of the 9th Agricultural Policy Forum held on 8 and 9 October in Jahnina. The Forum gathered Ministers of Agriculture from South Eastern European countries

(Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) as well as representatives of the European Commission, SEE Working Group for Regional Rural Development, Food And Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and GTZ.

John Bensted-Smith, Director of the Department for International Affairs within the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, spoke of the “influence

of the global economic crisis on the agriculture and food production in Europe“. He emphasised that the agriculture was not immune to the crisis and spoke of the consequences which were mostly evident in the exports and in the production of certain agricultural products which led to the reduction of prices of other products as a result of the change in demand on the market but also as a result of the fuel price increase.

„The European Commission is your partner in the European integration process and progress in that process was made“, stated Kay Mortensen, Head of Department for Preaccession Funds within the DG for Agriculture and Rural Development. He emphasised several key issues: it is important to understand that the enlargement process entails the adjustment to the EU legislation, constant efforts and consensus in the Parliament are required when it comes to the Road Map. “There is a need for coordination be-

tween all the ministries which is often lacking due to political reasons and it is necessary to ensure educated and capable human resources in the administration, who will be able to establish a close cooperation with the European Commission.

Mladen Zirojević, BiH Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, spoke of the necessity to harmonise national legislations of the South Eastern Europe countries with the EU legislation. He presented information related to the progress made in the area of agriculture and rural development in BiH and emphasised that the agriculture in Bosnia and Herzegovina was at a turning point. The inter-entity and regional cooperation, create preconditions for larger assistance to farmers and taking necessary actions for the increased export of products from SEE countries to the European market.

It was agreed that BiH take over the presiding over the SEE Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development Assembly as of 1 December 2009.

News from EU

Lisbon Treaty Endorsed by All EU Member States

On 10 October 2009, Poland concluded the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. At a ceremony in Warsaw, Polish President, Lech Kaczynski, signed the ratification instrument in the presence of President of the Council Fredrik Reinfeldt, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek. With the Polish approval, all obstacles to the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty have been removed in 26 of the EU's 27 Member States. Meanwhile, the Czech Constitutional Court found that the Lisbon Treaty was not inconsistent with the Constitution of this country, thus removing last obstacle to its endorsement by all EU Member States.

The European Parliament Approved Re-appointment of José Manuel Barroso



José Manuel Barroso

In mid-September 2009, the European Parliament approved the re-appointment of José Manuel Barroso as the President of the European Commission. It will be Barroso's second five-year term as the Commission President. Barroso was elected by 382 votes in favour, 219 against and 117 abstentions in a vote held by secret ballot. Former Portuguese Prime Minister, 53-year-old Barroso, is the first President of the Commission to have been re-elected to this duty after the Frenchman Jacques Delors, who headed the Commission from 1985 to 1994. Barroso must now form a new team of commissioners. The Lisbon Treaty foresees maintaining of the existing system which allows every member state to have one member in the European Commission.



Meglena Kuneva

Commissioner Kuneva: BiH society Understands the Importance of Consumer Protection

Bosnia and Herzegovina must start preparations for participation in the EU internal market much before it joins the EU

During the two-day visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, European Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Ms Meglena Kuneva, met the representatives of the state institutions and representatives of NGOs dealing with consumer protection and discussed the EU consumer protection policy, consumers' rights in the EU and the problems that BiH consumers and related associations have in BiH.

At the press conference which followed after her meetings, Commissioner Kuneva stated that she learned from discussions that BiH society understood the importance of consumer protection.

„I have learnt in the course of these discussions that BiH has the

majority of the required legislation and institutions in place, which is a very good sign. It will take time to implement the legislation, but implementation would be impossible without the required legislation in the first place.”

“Bosnia and Herzegovina must start preparations for participation in the EU internal market much before it joins the EU”, stated Ms Kuneva. “Consumer policy can be a driver in one of the most important areas of accession talks – discussion of the internal market,” Commissioner Kuneva said, adding that “consumer policy is a major part of internal market policy.”

She underlined that the priority

for Bosnia and Herzegovina now must be creation of a sustainable market and ensuring a sustainable economic growth that would in return ensure a sustainable growth in jobs. Monopolies and lack of transparency, which undermine economic growth and job creation, are not problems that exist only in countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina but are also present in all EU countries.

Commissioner Kuneva warned that the countries commonly make two mistakes when faced with economic crisis. The first is to reduce the access to their own markets, which encourages domestic monopolies that damage consumer interests. The second big mistake is underestimating the importance of market transparency and allowing such practices that would not be tolerated in a normal economy. She said this was a problem not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but also in EU countries with developed economies, and stated that they can be overcome by constant fostering of healthy competition and open market.

Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas informed the participants that Ms Kuneva was the chief negotiator for Bulgaria's accession into the EU and its first Minister for European Affairs. Bulgaria nominated Meglena Kuneva in 2006 as its first member of the European Commission.



Meglena Kuneva and Dimitris Kourkoulas

Rehn: Sovereign and functional Bosnia and Herzegovina – a precondition for obtaining candidate status for the EU membership

I came to Sarajevo because we care for Bosnia and Herzegovina, its citizens and the speeding up of its European integration process. Together with Mr Carl Bildt, Swedish FM and Mr James Steinberg, Deputy State Secretary of the USA, we convened this meeting because we are concerned about certain political blockage which, to a large extent, prevents before all the European integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its path to the membership in the NATO and its path to a visa free regime", stated Olli Rehn, European Commissioner for Enlargement on 8 October 2009,

"Our objective is to speed up BiH's path in the European integration process and to bring it soon to a candidate status for the membership in the EU – stated Rehn. He added that the transformation of the OHR represents a necessary step which BiH needs to take in the European integration process.

„We will work on the basis of the Dayton Peace Accords in



Olli Rehn

order to improve the functionality of the state. It is important to us because we want to see a country which will one day become EU member, a sovereign and functional BiH, able to

speak with one voice in the European institutions and capable to respond to the requirements that the associations process entails" - stated Olli Rehn in his address to the journalists.

Fajon: I'm trying to get strong support of the European Parliament for BiH

The European Parliament Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) supported on 19 October the call of special rapporteur for visa issues, MEP Tanja Fajon, for the acceleration of visa liberalisation for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, once the two countries met established criteria. Tanja Fajon, Slovenian Member of the European Parliament and the Rapporteur of the EP (LIBE), was in a two-day visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina at the beginning of October. At the press conference on 1 October 2009 Mrs. Fajon stressed the importance of fulfilling remaining requirements of the Visa liberalisation Road Map by Bosnia and Herzegovina. „I got confirmation from

the authorities that BiH is strongly committed to fulfil the benchmarks set by the European Commission which is very important for what I'm trying to do in the European Parliament. - said Ms Fajon, stressing that „she proposed an amendment to put BiH and Albania, , on the so-called White Schengen list“, once all requirements are fulfilled.

Ms Fajon presented to the Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs the Proposal for a Council Regulation amending the EC Regulation, which regulates the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visa for EU Member States and in which she emphasised the importance of integration of Western Balkans countries in the EU, which will be voted in November in European



Tanja Fajon

Parliament session.

„Despite the fact that the opinions of political groups are not the same, I'm trying to get strong support of the European Parliament. If we get positive results for your country, it will pave the way forward.

News from EU

Website for Exporters

The Export Helpdesk has recently launched its revamped website to facilitate market access from developing countries to the EU. Besides information on import tariffs, import requirements and trade statistics, the site now offers detailed information on the preferential arrangements in place between the EU and developing countries. It also offers a series of help tools to further assist exporters in developing countries to take advantage of export opportunities offered by these agreements. This website http://exporthelp.europa.eu/index_en.html is available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Opening of Accession Negotiations with FYROM has been recommended



Skopje

Four years after accepting Croatia and Turkey as official EU candidate countries, the European Commission (EC) told FYROM, on 14 October, that it is ready to begin its accession talks with Brussels. "The country has made convincing progress and substantially addressed the key reform priorities," Commissioner Olli Rehn said, as he presented the EC's annual reports on candidate and potential candidate countries' accession progress. On the basis of that conclusion, the Commission recommended that the 27-nation bloc open accession negotiations with Skopje. EU member-state leaders will take a decision on that matter during their Summit in December.

Bosnia and Herzegovina needs state-level strategy for tourism development

Mr. Hesse has announced two new projects which will be financed from the IPA 2009 programme

On the occasion of the World Tourism Day, 28 September the Round table on „Perspectives and Challenges of the Tourism Sector development in Bosnia and Herzegovina“ was organised at the premises of the EC Delegation to BiH.

The Round table was supported by the European Commission Delegation to BiH.

“This country has a lot to offer in terms of diversity: Winter sports, cultural heritage trails, wine routes, religious attractions, as well as great opportunities for hiking, hunting and fishing. Indeed, all people of BiH should be proud

of the richness and the diversity of their country” stated Johann Hesse, Head of Operations Section for Economic Development, Trade and Natural Resources at the European Commission Delegation to BiH at the opening and emphasised that the motto of the World Tourism Day was “Celebrating Diversity”.

BiH as a potential candidate country, is eligible for the first two components of IPA: transition assistance and institution building and cross-border cooperation. Mr. Hesse informed the participants that the EC would, under IPA component 1, provide a 2-million-euro worth support for two new

projects in 2009 aimed at improving human resource skills. “Furthermore, we will have a 2 million € project to provide technical assistance to the tourism industry in BiH. The proposed assistance is designed to strengthen the capabilities of the BiH tourism support structures at the state, entity and Brčko District levels to address the challenges a growing tourism industry has been facing. By facilitating the harmonisation of strategic approaches, the mandated institutions in BiH will have the tools, know-how and enhanced institutional framework to build a sustainable tourism industry which is addressing all requirements in relation to the EU standards and legislation“, stated Mr. Hesse, emphasising that BiH needed a state level strategy for tourism development.

Under IPA component 2, cross border cooperation, EC will support economic and social cooperation between regions across borders with the ultimate goal to promote cohesion and minimise structural differences between re-

gions across borders. BiH is eligible to participate in six programmes: three bilateral programmes with Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro; one interregional programme – IPA Adriatic CBC Programme; and two transnational programmes – South East European Space (SEES) and Mediterranean Transnational Programme (MED). The budget allocated to BiH under these programmes for period 2007 – 2009 amounts to more than 14 million €.

Mr. Nevenko Herceg, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Federation of BiH, stressed that the European Commission’s pre-accession funds are of great importance for the tourism sector and environmental instruments. Mr. Vilim Primorac, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, said: “At the state level, we are working on better coordination between state and entities organisations, and we will do everything to adopt the state laws”.



Round table organised in the premises of the EC Delegation to BiH

Launch of the EU Project “Capacity Building of the Human Resources of the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina”

Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the first and most successful state institutions but it also has to evolve and to improve its operations in order to meet the challenges of developing economies and European integration”, stated Mr Johann Hesse, at the press conference, organised on 2 September 2009 to mark the launch of the EU funded project “Capacity building of the Human Resources Department of the Central Bank of BiH”.

The Deutsche Bundesbank and Czech National Bank will help Central Bank of BiH establish a modern system of human resources management in accordance with European standards, stated Mr Hesse.

He explained that this Twinning project will bring expertise from the EU Mem-

ber States with human resource management skills and knowledge, who will help BiH in the development of a modern and efficient administration needed to implement the EU legislation to the same standards as in the EU Member States.

Mr Kemal Kozarić, Governor of the Central Bank of BiH, expressed his gratitude to the EC for the assistance provided for the implementation of this project.

“As a part of its long-term strategy, the Central Bank of BiH plans to develop and improve its activities in all areas, especially in the area of human resources development, as one of our most important goals. The objective of this project is to increase the efficiency and to develop a modern human resources management system because we are aware that an



Kemal Kozarić and Johan Hesse

institution cannot be successful if it does not invest in its human capacities. The investment in people is the best business investment and that is why we decided to implement this Twinning light project. This project will be finalised next year with international conference, when

we will present, I hope, successful results” stated Mr Kozarić.

The EU provided 250.000 € for this Twinning light project through its IPA funds, while the Deutsche Bundesbank and the Czech National Bank will provide qualified and experienced experts.



Strengthening Public Health Institutes in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The two-day Workshop on strengthening public health development in Bosnia and Herzegovina was finalised on 1 October 2009 in Sarajevo. It was part of the project financed by the European Union through IPA funds with 1.5 million euro, which will be implemented over the next two years. The Project has three main elements: to support the Public Health Institutes in strengthening health promotion and prevention in order to improve preparedness for public health threats, to support further development in the collection, monitoring and evaluation of health related data and to support the reporting of public health data in compliance with international recommendations and requirements.

Jadranka Mihić, Task Manager for Social Cohesion and Development within the EC Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, stated that the first part of the Project was related to the reform of the public health institutes which needed to be prepared for the process of collection of certain information related to the population's health conditions, in compliance with the requests of various international institutions and organisations, such as World Health Organisation, EUROSTAT, UNICEF and other partner organisa-

tions. "It is necessary to harmonise the reporting and adjusting health indicator sets with the requirements of the international community. The second part of the project includes trainings for all employees of the public health institutes in order to facilitate collecting and reporting on collected health related data".

The objective of the Project is also for all the health related information for the population from cantonal and entity levels, to be collected at state level in order for the public health institutes to have comprehensive information on health situation of the whole population.

Lothar Springer, Leader of the Project said that the creation, collection and distribution of reliable health related data enables us to focus on priorities which is very important for decision making process in health sector. "It is one of the preconditions of the European integration process", Mr Springer added.

The main conclusion of the Workshop was that the implementation of this Project required primarily an increased communication and cooperation between the health institutes in Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brčko District in order to have the necessary information at state level.

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Reinforcement of Local Democracy

Memorandum of Understanding for the Reinforcement of Local Democracy, a project financed by the European Union, was signed on 29 September 2009, at the BiH Institutions building, between United Nations Development Programme and 14 partner municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European Union provided 1.5 million euro for this Project with aim to contribute to the democratic stabilisation, reconciliation and further development of Bosnia and Herzegovina through support to the selected municipalities for improving rela-

tions between the state institutions and the civil society organisations, to promote future democratisation and economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is only the first step – in one year's time, when the Project is over, it will be up to the municipalities and the civil society organisations to continue this dialogue. Good governance at all levels, development of responsible civil society organisations and a strong civil society able to participate in the decision and policy making process, represent one of the corner stones of a functional democracy", stated Mr Iarochevitch.



Signing of Memorandum

tions between the local authority and the civil society and facilitating financing mechanisms for improved service delivery.

Boris Iarochevitch, Head of Operations sector of the EC Delegation to BiH, stated that the objective of the Project was to establish a long-term dialogue between the municipalities and the non-governmental organisations.

"This Project is aimed at a better and a more transparent use of the funds allocated for the civil society sector. We are happy to see that a large number of municipalities participated in this Project and signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Our objective is to establish a long-term dialogue

Christine McNab, Resident Representative of the UNDP BiH stated that "Civil society is a fantastic developing force and this Project will give us a new opportunity for it".

Mr Srđan Arnaut, Deputy Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, stated that the Project will assist in establishment of a permanent partnership between the local authorities and the civil society organisations.

Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the mayors of Banja Luka, Bihać, Bugojno, Doboj, Gračanica, Laktaši, Maglaj, Mrkonjić Grad, Novi Grad Sarajevo, Široki Brijeg, Travnik, Velika Kladuša, Višegrad and Zenica municipalities.

Closure of the EU funded project "Vrbas Adventure Resort"



As the part of the EU funded project "Vrbas Adventure Resort", the Tourist Organisation of the City of Banja Luka, "Exit" Centre and Tourist Organisation of Republika Srpska built the necessary infrastructure in the Vrbas river canyon, provided the equipment for extreme sports, such as rafting, canyoning, paragliding, mountaineering, climbing, training on eco- and adventure tourism for entrepreneurs as well as prepared a strategy for the development of tourism. European Union provided 297.000€, which represents 90% of the total value of the project, while the City of Banja Luka, the co-funder, provided the remaining 10%.

The First Business Matchmaking Fair in Bihać

As a part of the 7th International Eco Fair EKOBIS 2009, the First Business Matchmaking Fair took place in Bihać from 3 to 6 September 2009.

The Business Matchmaking Fair, financed by the European Union through the project "Establishment of Regional Business Matchmaking Centre Bihać", was organised by PLOD Centre, Bihać Municipality and the Chamber of Commerce of Una-Sana Canton. The objective of the Fair was to enable business matchmaking between the small and medium enterprises from North West region of BiH and foreign SMEs. The Fair also aimed at business matchmaking between Una-Sana Canton municipalities and both BiH and foreign investors, interested in investing private capital into municipal projects through public-private partnership. During the Fair, Memorandum on business cooperation was signed between Development Agency of Varaždin canton - AZRA d.o.o. Varaždin, Guarantee Agency of Varaždin County - GARA d.o.o. Varaždin and PLOD Centre. The signatories of the Memorandum committed themselves to co-operate in the area of fostering and creating cross-border partnership in order to increase cross-border activities, creation of better business environment and regional competition, transfer of know-how and expert assistance.

European Union provided 250.000 euro for the project "Support to the Personal Data Protection Agency in BiH"

Increasing the level of personal data protection in public, especially in the police sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is the main objective of the project "Support to the Personal Data Protection Agency in BiH", which was presented on 14 October 2009 at the premises of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH by Mr Nikola Špirić, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH, Mr Petar Kovačević, Director of the Personal Data Protection Agency, Mr Boris Iarochevitch, Head of Operations, Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr Joachim Schmidt, Ambassador of Germany to BiH and Mr Tino Nauman, Team Leader and Deputy Director of the Personal Data Protection Agency Saxony.

Project, worth 250.000 euro, is funded by the European Union, and will be implemented as of 1 October 2009 by the Personal Data Protection Agency of Saxony in cooperation with the Personal Data Protection Agency in BiH. The project will last for six months.

Promotion of the EU Info Centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina



„European Way – Safe Way“ was the slogan of the event which took place on 25 September 2009 in front of the Sarajevo Cathedral, promoting EU Info Centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“It is very important that the level of knowledge and the awareness on the EU and its membership is increased, especially in the countries that wish to join the European Union. “, stated Boris Iarochevitch, Head of Operations of the European Commission Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The activities of the EU Info Centres are aimed at encouraging the general public, especially young people, to participate actively in the European integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a part of the event, a quiz „How much do you know about the European Union“ was organised for the citizens of Sarajevo, while the youngest participants were offered a possibility to draw and leave messages about the European Union.

The EU Info Centres are open in Banjaluka, Brčko, Mostar and Tuzla. The EU Info centres were opened in cooperation with the non-governmental organisation Kyodo and universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This project was supported by the Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Embassies of the United Kingdom and Republic of Hungary in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

The EU's actions in BiH web page: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/bosnia_herzegovina/index.htm

European Commission Delegation to BiH: www.europa.ba

If you wish to be added to the mailing list for this publication, please send an e-mail with your name and address to: DELEGATION-BIH@ec.europa.eu or send a fax to: +387 33 666 037