

## In Focus



## EU integration: BiH could fall far behind its neighbours

With the European Commission's report on Bosnia and Herzegovina due in November, police reform is again on the forefront. The clock is ticking and High Representative Miroslav Lajcak warns that an agreement on police reform is crucial for the country's well-being.

*"Unless party leaders show a greater responsibility towards BiH and a clear readiness for compromise on police reform, it will be impossible to reach an agreement in time for the Commission's report [due in November]."* High Representative Lajcak said at a bilateral meeting with European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn in Brussels on 10 September.

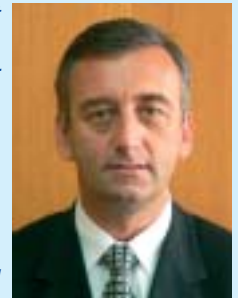
Bosnia and Herzegovina could, as a result, fall far behind its neighbours in the EU integration process.

A day later, at the Political and Security Committee, one of the EU's key foreign policy bodies, High Representative Lajcak reiterated his commitment to reaching an agreement on police reform by the end of September, which would represent a "key confidence-building measure" and "reverse the current negative trend that has prevailed since April 2006".

Technical discussions on the police reform protocol presented by High Representative to BiH party leaders late last month started on 12 September. ■

## Editorial

*It is with great pleasure and appreciation for our excellent cooperation that I address the readers of the Mission Magazine. I would like to use the opportunity to inform you all about some recent successes of which the Border Police is especially proud.*



■ Vinko Dumancic

*One of our main achievements is the recruitment and training of a fourth generation of Cadets. Once this training session is completed the Border Police will recruit 95 police officers and 18 junior inspectors. Our training concept, combining theory and practice, allows us to believe that this generation will also produce officers able to respond to high professional requirements, thereby continuing the tradition of the previous three generations.*

*Another significant achievement is adoption of the law by which the 'State Border Service of BiH' became the 'Border Police of BiH'. This legal alteration did not affect the status of the BiH Border Police, which remains an administrative organization within the BiH Ministry of Security with operational independence to supervise the entire 1,551 km of borders the country shares with its neighbours.*

*We are also proud to announce that the working conditions of our officers on the field will soon considerably be improved. Funds have been allocated to place eaves and repair sanitary installations, for instance. Although unpretentious, these projects will considerably facilitate our officers' work.*

*Last but not least, thanks to a donation of the EC Delegation and a portion of our funds that were invested, the Border Police's Headquarters will soon be located in a modern building, responding to European standards, next to the Sarajevo International Airport. Moving into these premises should motivate us to boost our efficiency even more and to enhance the professional development of this agency, which is our main imperative. ■*

By Vinko Dumancic,  
Director of the BiH Border Police

# History of police reform to date

- **July 2004:** The High Representative, Lord Paddy Ashdown, establishes a **Police Restructuring Commission** chaired by **Wilfried Martens**, former Belgian Prime Minister and President of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament.
- **July-August 2004:** EUPM creates a **Police Restructuring Working Group (PRWG)**.
- **January 2005:** The Police Restructuring Commission publishes its final report, often referred to as 'Martens Report'.
- **January-March 2005:** EUPM and OHR conduct an information campaign, presenting the concept to the police, politicians and citizens.
- **March 2005:** **Political negotiations** start
- **5 October 2005:** A political agreement is reached:

1) The so-called **EC three principles** are accepted:

- All legislative and budgetary competencies for all police matters must be managed at state level,
- No political intervention over operational police matters,
- Local police areas are established according to professional technical criteria.

2) The reform will be **implemented over a five-year period**, starting from October 2005

3) A single **working body** will prepare an **implementation plan** for police reform



- **December 2005:** The Council of Ministers establishes the **Directorate for the Implementation of Police Restructuring (DIPR)**. The DIPR consists of a **Steering Board** and an **Executive Body**. EUPM HoM is a member of the SB. EUPM Police Restructuring Department provides **technical assistance and support** to the Executive Body.
- **22 December 2006:** The **Steering Board** adopts the **final proposal of the implementation plan** for police reform
- **27 December 2006:** The proposal is submitted to the **Minister of Security**.
- **January 2007:** BiH Minister of Security forwarded the "Proposed Plan for Implementation of BiH Police Structures Reform" to the Council of Ministers during the first week of January.
- **February 2007:** On 16 February the Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikola Spiric convened a meeting all of the political parties. The participants discussed the Directorate for Police Restructuring Implementation's (DPRI) *Proposed Plan for the Implementation of the Reform of Police Structures in BiH*. Subsequent meetings were held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The outcome of these meetings was not as positive as the first. OHR Principal Deputy High Repre-

sentative, Raffi Gregorian submitted a document which, in his mind, reflected RS PM Dodik's ideas, as discussed at the previous meeting. It made reference to part of the "Vlasic Agreement" but omitted key elements which are of significant importance to the Bosniaks. This proposal was met with mixed reviews and no consensus was found regarding its adoption.

- **March - April 2007:** Government of RS, at its 5<sup>th</sup> extraordinary session held on April 10, 2007 adopted conclusions, which basically leave no space for further discussions on police reform in the capacity exhibited so far.
- **July-August 2007:** The new High Representative, **Miroslav Lajcak**, undertakes **bilateral talks** about police reform with the leaders of the main political parties in BiH.
- **End of August 2007:** High Representative Miroslav Lajcak presents a new police reform proposal.
- **06 September 2007:** High Representative Miroslav Lajcak addresses the **BiH Parliament**.
- **12 September 2007:** **Technical negotiations** start. ■

*By the Police Restructuring Department*

## Debate

# Why Bonn powers cannot be used

Police reform has been in a deadlock for the last few months and some may wonder why the High Representative does not use his so-called 'Bonn powers' to impose it on the country:

Here are the main two reasons:

- The High Representative can use his Bonn powers only if the *Dayton Agreement* is not properly implemented. Even though it can be claimed that certain politicians are being obstructive towards police reform, this does not mean that they obstruct the *Dayton Peace*

*Implementation Process.*

- The signature of a Stability and Association Agreement (SAA), the first step towards EU integration, cannot be imposed on a country. It is up to the country's free will to join the EU. Police reform is one of the main pre-requisites for the signature of such an agreement and using the Bonn powers to impose police reform would equal to imposing EU integration on a country. ■



■ Olli Rehn and Miroslav Lajcak

# An hour with the bike patrol

Sarajevo suddenly has something of Los Angeles when you see them bike around the city. We spent one hour with them to get to know more about their work, from how they cope with the constant physical pressure to the main advantages of their means of transport to regulate the traffic...

In 1997 the Sarajevo Canton launched a bike patrol to regulate the traffic. The first team was formed in the Central Police Station, and due to the efficiency of such traffic control, bike patrols now exist in all Police Administrations in the Canton.

Boris Mihalj and Damir Jusufspahic are two of the 27 police officers working in the 18 bike patrols of the Sarajevo Canton.

Boris remembers the early days: *"In the beginning people thought that we were some youngsters who'd printed out police insignias on our T-shirts and were fooling around with drivers."*

But times have changed and citizens are now used to those young and fit police officers biking in downtown Sarajevo. Whenever a fast intervention is needed downtown and there are huge traffic jams, nobody can compete with the bike patrol.

*"The advantage of our patrol is that we can easily circumvent traffic jams and get to the scene of an accident, for instance, in no time,"* explains Damir.

The main purpose of the bike patrol is to regulate traffic in Sarajevo's downtown, i.e. report vehicles that block the traffic because they are badly parked, for instance. But that's not all.

*"We also deal with traffic jams, as we are often the first to arrive on the spot,"* adds Damir.

At the time of major public gatherings, such as the Sarajevo Film Festival, the bike patrol is overloaded with work.

*"There are limited parking spots in town and the city is overcrowded during the festival,"* says Damir. *"Everybody wants to park in the narrow centre, which is impossible, and is then our*

**"People have started recognizing us not only as those who write fines, but also as people who assist them in their everyday lives."**



■ Boris Mihalj and Damir Jusufspahic

*task is to redirect people and escort them to any other available parking spots."*

But, again, this is only part of a long list of other services to the citizens. And the latter often show their gratitude. Boris and Jusuf are often asked to pause next to proud children and other fans for photographing.

This summer, for instance, the bike patrol was particularly appreciated for their assistance to people who suffered health problems because of the extreme weather conditions.

To carry out all their activities, the bikers have to be in top physical condition, and this needs a high level of personal commitment.

*"Apart from regular police training, we go to fitness centres and jog as much as we can in order to make sure that we can put up with the daily physical pressure,"* Boris explains.

The most frequent traffic violations the bike patrol has to deal with are speeding and people talking on mobile phones while driving. Both Boris and Jusuf then get a wide variety of reactions from the people they stop. ■

**"We are not there to collect as many fines as we can, but to caution people of dangers,"** says Jusuf. **"We would like to tell citizens that we expect them to be kind to us as our work may save them from an accident - we may even save their lives."**

*By Vedrana Dimitrijevic*

## News brief

# European Gendarmerie Force visits EUPM

**Sarajevo, 6 September 2007** - On 6 September a delegation from the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) paid a visit to EUPM's Headquarters. Head of Mission Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola briefed them on EUPM's mandate, as well as ongoing and future projects.

Officially launched in January 2006, the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is an initiative of five EU Member States - France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain - aimed at improving the crisis management capability in sensitive areas.

Drawing on the experience of peace-keeping missions, EGF's goal is to provide the international community with a valid and operational instrument for crisis management, first and foremost at the disposal of the EU, but also of other international organizations, such as NATO, the United Nations, the OSCE and *ad hoc* coalitions ■



# BiH Police Spokespersons Secretariat - A profes



■ PPID and Secretariat members at the press reception

Established two years ago by the EUPM PPID, the so called Secretariat of the BiH Police Spokesperson's Forum has a very demanding task to perform - to 'translate' and present police activities in a format understandable for the ordinary citizens.

"The institution of a spokesperson is rather new within the BiH law enforcement agencies. It was only two years ago that the majority of the spokespersons assumed these positions," Kilian Wahl, Chief PPID explains. "The EUPM's offer to share its expertise in the PR field was

welcomed by the local spokespersons and this is how the project was initiated and two bodies were formed: The Forum of the BiH Spokespersons, which is comprised of all spokespersons of the local law enforcement agencies and the Secretariat of the Forum which is the main decision taking body."

Three successfully implemented nationwide public information campaigns have been implemented by them with the support of the EUPM PPID: "Choose life not drugs", "Not faster than life" and "Your se-

curity our obligation". Over the years the body became more and more professional.

"The successful outcomes of our work have actually made our superiors to recognize that effective communication and good relationship between police and the media is of key importance for a successful outcome of police activities, as well as for further building up of the citizens' confidence in police," Jusuf Zornic, Sarajevo Police Spokesperson says.

The new approach coincided with the refocused mandate of the EUPM - strengthening of the local police accountability and local ownership.

Mr. Wahl: "We felt that having the LEAs taking care about every single aspect of the campaign's activities would actually help them be more independent and proac-

## Secretariat meets in Banja Luka to discuss upcoming Organised Crime campaign

BiH police in cooperation with the EUPM is soon to launch the fourth joint public info campaign which will focus on the fight against organised crime.

"The intention is to focus on issues that affect people's life such as human and drugs trafficking, vehicle theft, money laundering, fraud, etc and educate them about the ways in which they can contribute to the resolution of this problem," says Mark Wise, PPID's campaign coordinator. "In return, we expect citizens to come forward with intelligence necessary for successful implementation of the police activities."

The campaign is supposed to kick off in November. In the meantime "there is a lot of preparation work to be done as this is one of the most challenging campaigns implemented so far," says Robert Cvrtak, the Secretariat Chairperson and FBBIH Police Administration Spokesperson.

"The law enforcement agencies will lead the efforts in getting aboard all the stakeholders, the Prosecutor's Office in particular. We are determined to set forth a long-lasting foundation for the combat against organised crime," Cvrtak concluded. ■



■ Secretariat discusses Organised Crime campaign

## Professional PR engine

ive. We wanted them to develop a network inside their own institutions, i.e. the finance people, procurement, logistics, etc and build on their own reputation and credibility."

Members of the Forum and the Secretariat are rightly proud of being pioneers in this area. "No other body like this one exists in any other institution in BiH. The credit for our successful work goes to the PPID and their selfless assistance, openness and professionalism," Jusuf Zornic, Sarajevo Police Spokesperson proudly notes.

Their determination to continue to upgrade their knowledge, professionalism and thus improve the work of PR offices is undisputable. So is PPID's intention in assisting them in the process.

"Ahead of us are plenty of projects aimed at improving the image of our institutions and police accountability," Alma Efendic, Border Police Spokesperson says. "And we are looking forward to implementing them together with the EUPM." ■

By Monja Koluder



■ Killian and Sladjana of PPID chatting with Danijela of the Economist

## PPID hosts reception for Banja Luka journalists

PPID hosted a reception for the Banja Luka based journalists on 11 September in order to introduce the members of the Secretariat and brief journalists about the plans for the upcoming period.

The opportunity was seized to inform the media about the upcoming organised crime campaign in which the media will have to play a significant role.

"The role of the media will be vital in this campaign. The media will be one of the stakeholders. I think that more than ever before it is important that journalists understand the objective we want to achieve with this campaign - we want to educate citizens and prompt them to react, and we need their genuine commitment and assistance to achieve that," says Tamara Despenic, member of the Secretariat and the RS Ministry of Interior Spokesperson. ■

### News brief

## Prison experts join us for short-term mission

Two prison experts from the Civil Response Team (CRT), Claus Andersin, from Finland, and Florin Radulescu, from Romania, will be with us from 10 to 28 September to assess the security situation in prisons throughout BiH.

Together with Patrick Kerrins, from the Inspection Team, they will travel around the country for three weeks to analyze all security aspects, from security equipment to prison staff's readiness to deal with any form of disorder.

"We are here to provide first aid to prisons in order to prevent disorder," explains Andersin.

The experts' visit was requested by Head of Mission Brigadier General Coppola upon completion of the Inspection Team's analysis of the circumstances of Radovan Stankovic' escape. At the time Head of Mission Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola asked the High Representative to BiH for special permission to assess the security situation, a matter that is beyond EUPM's mandate.



■ Florin Radulescu and Claus Andersin

Both Andersin and Radulescu are impressed with the amount of information and assistance they have received from the EUPM staff since their arrival: "We have been welcomed and briefed

extremely well, and we would like to use this opportunity to thank everybody," Andersin said. ■

By Ann Vaessen

# Always ready to face new challenges

For a year and a half, Tamara Despenic has been successfully running the Information and Public Relations Bureau of the RS Ministry of Interior.

Although she had a promising career as a journalist at RTRS, she decided to join the RS Ministry of Interior in 2005. Shortly after her arrival, she was appointed Chief of the Press Office and she since then been aiming to raise the image of the police and their relations with the public.

This would all be impossible without her team - three associates and five spokespersons, one in each Public Security Centre - Tamara insists.

## Minister Cadzo's leading department

The Press Office is positioned as the leading department in the Minister's Cabinet „which reflects the importance this institution grants to public relations and

modern transparent policing,” Tamara says.

In close cooperation with two journalists, Goga Davidovic and Milana Todorovic and a secretary, Gordana Blagojevic, they deal with journalists' requests, gather information and draft articles for the Ministry's website and other publications.

“I am responsible for all information given to the media and the public,” explains Tamara. “I also coordinate and

*“I make sure that no media are privileged in comparison to others,” explains Tamara “I know that some of them are not happy with this, but I hope they will get used to it.”*



*guide the work of the press offices in all five Public Security Centres.”*

## Improving spokespersons' working conditions

Tamara says her biggest challenge is to improve her spokespersons' working conditions, as well as their status and role within the respective Public Security Centres.

“Their job is very demanding and quite often requires prompt reaction,” says Tamara.

“My new challenge and goal will be to try to help them get assistants or associates. They do everything by themselves and it is very hard, sometimes even impossible,” says Tamara.

Her other main concern is to make sure that all media are treated equally and in the best possible way.

## Some projects would be impossible without EUPM's support

Tamara says her relation with EUPM is excellent and adds that she is sure that all her colleagues from the Public Security Centres share her opinion.

She says that some awareness-raising campaigns and other joint projects would never have been possible without EUPM's support. Spokespersons and press officers through-

out BiH have also considerably benefited from the various seminars, workshops and training sessions organised by EUPM's Press and Public Information Department. ■

*“EUPM made a major step in enhancing the role of public relations in policing in BiH,” says Tamara. “Everything gets more value and seriousness when EUPM is involved.”*

*By Sladjana Lizdek*



## News brief

# Travnik police complete training on forged documents

On 5 September 18 police officers from the Travnik Canton completed a three-day training course on forged documents.

The training session took place under the initiative of EUPM's Local Observation Team (LOT) in Travnik, with the support of EUPM.

It was provided by two police experts from the Dutch Royal Marechaussee (Military and Border Police), from the

Expert Centre on Identity Fraud and Documents.

The course covered such topics as counterfeit banknotes, driving licences, identity cards etc.

The Expert Centre has offered the use of their extensive data base to the police. All 18 police officers passed a final test and were awarded official certificates. ■

## Viking - Our Connection to EUFOR

Coming from Iceland, a non-EU country and military-free zone, Gudmundur, called 'Balu' by his friends, admits it was at first a bit awkward to enter EUFOR's realm.

"The only war we had to deal with was the cod war against the British," he jokes. "The last crisis took place in 1974 when the United Kingdom transgressed our fishing boundaries and our Coast Guards used their scissors to cut their nets."

Gudmundur started as a Liaison Officer to EUFOR and NATO on 2 August and since then his friendly approach and great sense of humour have already made him as famous in EUFOR as he is in EUPM.

As a Liaison Officer, his main task is to process all requests from law enforcement agencies throughout BiH to get EUFOR's support to carry out their operations. So far, Gudmundur has mainly had to deal with requests for equipment, such as metal detectors, for instance, as well as requests for air support, mainly helicopters, and intelligence.

"When these requests come in, I have to act as a 'bumper' between local law enforcement agencies and EUFOR," he explains. "I sometimes need to step back and suggest that they first get in touch with their own army. EUFOR is not going to stay for ever. Hence, it is important that they get used to using their own resources."



On the other hand, Gudmundur also tries to provide EUPM with as much information about EUFOR's latest activities and operations as possible. When he spots anything that may be of interest to our Mission, he goes ahead and provides us with it.

Recently, for instance, Gudmundur provided all EUPM Field Offices with topographical maps of their area of responsibility: "If anybody needs a detailed map of a particular area of the country, there's great stuff out there."

The most bureaucratic aspect of his work revolves around the EUFOR access cards, most commonly known as 'Pink cards'. Sometimes Gudmundur then wonders how it can take "so long to do so little". The security screening process is quite lengthy and the amount of paperwork scary. But EUFOR is really doing us a favour there and we should hence certainly not complain about lengthy procedures.

"Our mission members should know that these Pink Cards are just for official use," he reminds us. "A lot of people use it only to go to the PX or to the restaurant. I'd just



like to remind that his is a privilege that EUFOR is doing to us. We should hence not abuse it."

For these reasons, access will soon be closed to those who do not have Pink Cards. If this is you, it is high time to go and meet Gudmundur! He will certainly tell you a good joke and make your day! ■

By Ann Vaessen

Those who work at the EUPM Headquarters in Sarajevo have certainly already noticed that Gudmundur very rarely circulates without his camera. He simply loves taking pictures and uses every opportunity to immortalize his great experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since he's been in the country, there are two places that affected him to the extent that he says he still hasn't managed "to store them in his mind". The images of Bosansko Grahovo are still "attacking him" because everything is still so destroyed over there. And the mountains around Konjic also had a huge impact on him.

If you are in search of similar impressions and like to be surprised, Gudmundur gave us his top three of places to visit:

- Gradacac and its armoured train
- Tito's bunker in Konjic
- The Željjava Air Base, also known as Bihac Air Base

### News brief

## SIPA arrest suspected war criminals

On 6 September, in two operations conducted in Trebinje and Nevesinje, SIPA's War Crimes Department arrested two individuals suspected of war crimes committed against civilians.

One of them is the former Head of the



Trebinje Public Security Station. Both arrestees were handed over to the State Prosecutor for further processing.

On 5 September, following an order issued by the State Prosecutor, SIPA officers searched the premises of the Police Station and the municipal building in Kalinovik. A number of firearms and ammunition, along with documents, were seized during the search.

The searches were related to the recent arrest of three persons suspected of war crimes committed against civilians in the Kalinovik area. The Republika Srpska police cooperated and assisted SIPA members in these searches. The searches were monitored by EUPM. ■

The news crew of *Pièces à conviction*, an investigative news show on **France 3**, one of the main French television channels, will air a documentary on the manhunt against Karadzic and Mladic on 5 October at 8 p.m.

They approached our Press Department to find out more about SIPA's role in this manhunt. EUPM's War Crimes Adviser Don Kerr put them in contact with the Director of SIPA's War Crimes Centre Sefik Halilovic. ■



# EUPM discovers cricket

An EUPM representative team, together with seven other teams, including the Dutch and UK embassies, EUFOR and an all female team, named the Pink Panthers (which included our own Erica Paine), participated in the annual UK embassy sponsored 6 a side cricket tournament which was held in Sarajevo on Sunday 9th September.

Despite all the recent bad weather, the



■ EUPM team with DHoM Ari Sarjanen

sun emerged from the hillside for the day, allowing the children to run and play to their hearts content in and around the Hrasnica stadium. Some even ventured onto the cricket field, causing everybody to hold their breath: "Child on the field! Child on the field!". "This is just not Cricket" screamed one of the English guys. !!

To the watching supporters, cricket is a slow game, but it gave them the ideal opportunity to socialize with other members of the international community, whilst enjoying cevapi and a few afternoon beers in the process.

As in previous years the competition was strong, but the EUPM sadly failed at the last hurdle to make the eventual final. The winners of the tournament were a representative team from the Phoenix Pub, who coincidentally also sponsored an



■ Team captain for the day and coach: Mark Wise

enjoyable social event following the tournament.

The winners were presented with the trophy by the UK ambassador Matthew Ryecroft.

The EUPM team consisted of Mark Wise, Hamish Fink, Jon Fryer, Jonas Helgason, Boyd McKechnie and David Scott.

Thanks as usual to the EUPM mascot, Gudmundur Fylkisson who managed to take 600 photographs throughout the day, as well as supplying the brandy and Icelandic "Engine Oil"! ■

## Fun & Team-building

# PPID goes to Bijambare

EUPM's Press and Public Information Department (PPID) organized a barbecue in Bijambare in the afternoon of 29 September as a team building exercise.

Nevzad Rasljanin was the 'master of ceremony'. Without him and his two lovely assistants, Natasa Kuljic and Sanela Osmanovic, who did all the shopping, there wouldn't have been any cevapi or those tasty fried zucchini! And all the rest...

Nevzad was also the one who chose the location. Most of the team had never been in Bijambare and were impressed by the beautiful landscape and the quiet atmosphere.

The great food and the scenery made for a perfect relaxing afternoon! ■



Never heard of Bijambare? It is a huge cave complex (370 ha) in the northeast slopes of Canton Sarajevo. It is only half an hour away from Sarajevo and is accessible by the main road Sarajevo-Tuzla. If you want more information, including a map: <http://www.sarajevo-tourism.com/eng/bijambare.wbsp>



The Mission Mag is produced by the EUPM PRESS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT (PPID)

Editor-in-Chief: **Kilian Wahl**, e-mail: [kwahl@eupm.org](mailto:kwahl@eupm.org), phone: + 387 33 752 766, fax: + 387 33 752 759  
Editor: **Ann Vaessen**, e-mail: [avaessen@eupm.org](mailto:avaessen@eupm.org), phone: +387 33 752 760, fax: +387 33 752 759