

## War Crimes



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## No reconciliation without justice

*"Solving war crimes should be regarded as a priority for this country. Full reconciliation cannot be achieved without war criminals being prosecuted."*

This - and much more - is what Sefik Halilovic, the Director of the War Crimes Investigations Centre (WCIC), told us in an interview. He also told us all about his team's methods, the obstacles they sometimes face in their daily work, their wishes for the future and why it is so difficult to catch Mladic and Karadzic.

There are 26 of them and they are scattered around the country in a constant effort to hunt down war criminals. With 10,000 suspects and more than 13,000 ongoing cases, there is no time to lose. They have been particularly active recently, with a whole series of arrests,

not only in the Kalinovnik area, but also in Trebinje and Nevesinje.

Yet, the WCIC still lacks staff and equipment. Therefore, they have recently submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Security and the Council of Ministers to increase their staff to 47 investigators at the Centre itself and 12 investigators in each of the four regional offices.

Mr. Halilovic also pleads for a central database of search warrants, which would be managed by SIPA, no matter which agency issued it in the first place. This would prevent cases in which a search warrant is issued in one entity and that person is walking freely in the other entity. ■

For a full version of the interview, go to page 5

## Editorial

By Mr. Bulent Tulun, Turkish Ambassador to BiH

Twelve years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, we are happy to see that



Bosnia and Herzegovina has come a long way in terms of security sector reforms. Progress achieved in judicial, intelligence and defence reforms must be particularly celebrated.

The role of EUPM is vital in these developments. One important pillar of EUPM's work is to support the fight against organized crime networks. We would like to celebrate all local and international efforts aiming at establishing mechanisms to support this fight. Turkey has been contributing to the efforts of EUPM since the beginning of its mandate, and has provided it with skillful experts in this area. Turkey is pleased with the recent success achieved in this area, yet there is a long way to go.

Criminal networks hinder reform processes, which reversely affects political stability and the security situation. Economically, they create unfair competition and damage the functioning of the market economy.

Organized crime is not confined to national boundaries. In this respect, establishing effective regional mechanisms of cooperation is very important, especially in terms of intelligence gathering and information sharing with regards to issues such as human trafficking and combating drug networks. Turkey supports and take part in these initiatives, and has excellent cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in this field.

The prevalence of organized crime decreases the chances of integration of the country within Euro-Atlantic structures. It is not a surprise that reform of the security agencies that will deal with this phenomenon was a key requirement for the beginning of negotiations towards a Stability and Association Agreement with the EU.

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# EUPM's crime busters

They are the eyes and ears of our Mission. They carry out inspections and audits, review murders and coordinate investigations. Whenever they suspect that there is room for corruption, our two Inspection Teams, located in Banja Luka and Sarajevo, are on the spot to provide the EUPM with a full state of affairs.

"Our task is basically to provide the Head of Mission with the complete picture of any situation he may find suspicious, either because he has received an anonymous letter or because he has received information from other sources," explains Federico Fazio, Team Leader of the Sarajevo staff.

## More than a 'super Internal Control Unit'

They are sometimes called the 'super Internal Control Unit', but Jean-Michel De Souza, who has been managing the team since January this year, believes that their mission goes well beyond police accountability in general.

"Accountability is a matter of practical 'know-how' on one hand, and ethic behaviour, or 'how-to-be', on the other," he explains. "We are supposed to focus on the latter, while EUPM's Regional and Field Offices deal with the first, but in real life the margins are not so clear."

A few weeks ago, for instance, the Inspection Team dealt with a pure matter



■ From right to left  
 First row: Hajrudin Gasal, Danijela Vladusic, Mediha Slatina, Patrick Kerrins  
 Second row: Federico Fazio, Martin Knieling, Salvatore de Blasio  
 Third row: Jean-Michel de Souza, Jasmin Kreso

of know-how, when the Head of Mission had been tipped off that police academies may be the 'dustbins' for 'bad' police officers. The Inspection Team visited the premises of some police academies and checked the competences of all instructors.

Of course, such operations require involvement of other EUPM members. Thus, to carry out their work efficiently, the Inspection Team largely relies on the knowledge and expertise of their colleagues in the field, and vice versa.

"Frequent interaction with Field and Regional Offices is essential, as our col-

leagues provide us with crucial information and advice," says Mircea (alias Mitch) Preda, Team Leader of the Banja Luka staff.

## Almost 50 cases in six months

Thanks to this cooperation and to their hard work, the Inspection Team opened almost 50 cases in the last six months, some of which led to crucial findings.

When asked which cases they are most proud of, De Souza, Fazio and Preda focused on the Stankovic case and the recent inspection of the Traffic Police Unit in the Federation and Republika Srpska.

"In both cases, we identified some major flaws," says De Souza. "If appropriate action is taken, and we are of course closely monitoring whether this is the case, these findings will have great impact."

In the Stankovic case, while analyzing the circumstances of the escape, the Inspection Team identified a major communications problem - they found out that there had been very little, if at all, radio-communication between the Foca Prison, the Foca PSC and the Border Police immediately after the escape.

In order to examine this matter further, the Inspection Team is currently carrying out audits into the radio-communications system throughout the country.

"We will recommend that they implement a common emergency channel to better cooperate in these types of crisis situations," De Souza explains. "We will



■ From left to right: Predrag Milijatovic, Mircea-Aurelijan Preda, Violeta Lemic, Pavlo Serhalev, Valentina Vukovic, Thomas Romme

also look into their emergency procedures and reaction time in the event that a child goes missing."

As far as their other recent success story is concerned, the Inspection Team identified several flaws when checking the speedometers and breathalysers used by the traffic police in the Republika Srpska.

"We found out that, in most cases, the data recorded by the speedometers and breathalysers could not be verified because the police did not have the necessary software to check the devices' memories," explains Preda.

When they used the proper software to check the devices, the Inspection Team discovered that there was very little correlation between the number of registered offences and the number of registered

fines. Obviously, the impossibility to verify data had left a lot of room for bribery.

Upon these findings, the RS police took immediate action, forbade the use of the devices without memory chips and bought the necessary software. In parallel, Internal Control Investigations were ordered against suspicious Traffic Unit police officers and their chiefs, which resulted in three redeployments, five suspensions and two criminal charges.

"I think we were successful in introducing a new wave or trend within the Traffic Police Unit," Preda concludes. "Now, they are aware of the fact that they can be checked, and consequently punished. This, I think, significantly reduces the possibility for officers to abuse their power."

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An effective and functioning police force is the most important pre-requisite for the fight against organized crime. In this respect, we will continue to support local and international efforts in reforming the BiH police, which will bring BiH closer to the EU and contribute to the stability and security of the country. In this respect, we fully support efforts to reform the police of BiH, not only as a member of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, but also as a regional partner of BiH in its fight against organized crime. ■

Currently, the Inspection Team focuses on seized vehicles and the reasons why they are so rarely returned to their owners. We will keep you updated! ■

By Ann Vaessen

## News brief

# Acting Civilian Operations Commander appointed

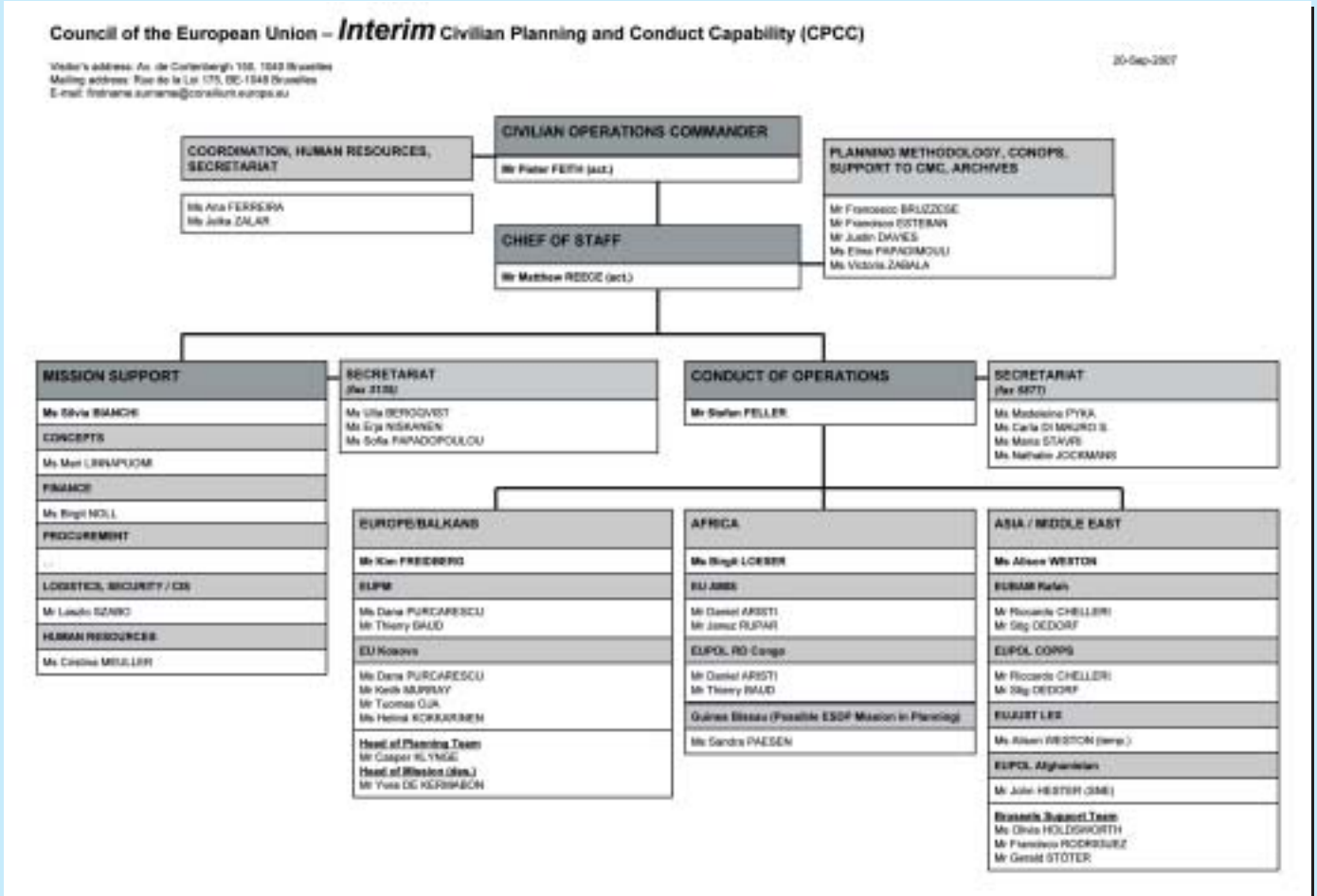


Mr. Pieter Feith has assumed the position of Acting Civilian Operations Commander of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability Unit (CPCC), the Brussels-based operations centre for ESDP missions.

For EUPM this recent appointment introduces an

important change in the chain of command. As of today, Brigadier General Coppola reports directly to Mr. Feith, who in turn reports directly to the Secretary General/High Representative Javier Solana.

As for the EU Special Representative in BiH he will provide local political guidance to our Head of Mission. ■



# No reconciliation without justice

**Mr. Halilovic, your department has been very successful recently. Could you give us an overview of your achievements?**

With two arrests and 70 finalised investigations in eight months, I think you will agree with me that this year's results are outstanding so far! We have made an enormous amount of progress in comparison with the previous years, and the State Prosecutors have recently expressed their satisfaction about our work. The two persons who were arrested are suspected of genocide. Since the Centre was established (in December 2004), we have arrested 37 people. It means a lot to us when we manage to track down such people. Solving war crimes should be regarded as a priority for this country. Full reconciliation cannot be achieved without war criminals being prosecuted.

**Could you describe your department for us?**

We have a great team spirit! Most of our team members are young and well-trained professionals who speak foreign languages and know how to use computers. All 32 members of our department are dedicated to their work. Basically, I think they serve as a perfect role model for interaction and good cooperation amongst members of various ethnic groups. I believe that they have all great prospects for the future.

*Solving war crimes should be regarded as a priority for this country. Full reconciliation cannot be achieved without war criminals being sanctioned.*



■ Old man walking in between the graves at the Srebrenica commemoration on 11 July 2007



**Going back to these two recent arrests, could you tell us how you proceed to track down war criminals?**

The success of our investigations relies very much on witnesses' and victims' testimonies. The latter often experience great difficulties sharing their memories with us. For some while now, we have decided to meet witnesses and victims at their homes. It is less stressful for them. They feel more at ease, and are thus more open and trustful.

**Once you have collected evidence through victims' and witnesses' testimonies, you have to carry out arrests. Could you tell us how you operate?**

When it comes to arrests, we need the assistance of SIPA's Special Support Unit. We couldn't do anything without their support. Everything is highly confidential at that stage and risks are very high. Everything needs to be planned meticulously, and only a very narrow circle of people are informed about the action. Before the action is carried out, the suspect is closely monitored. We know everything about his/her life and habits. We observe every single detail for days, even sometimes weeks or months, until we find the appropriate moment.

*Let's face it; the people of this country have always needed a leader. Some found a leader in Mladic and/or Karadzic. No matter what happened, they still believe in them.*

**What happens after the arrest?**

After the arrest, a special team composed of investigators and crime technicians carefully search the suspect's house and business premises. At this stage, the team is usually supported by the local police, who secure the scene, while our war crimes investigators search for evidence: documents, laptops, mobile phones, computers, address books etc. Quite often they also find weapons, ammunition or hand grenades, which they then seize and hand over to either the local police or the court as evidence. As to the suspect, he is safely brought to the police station and interrogated. We then hand him over to the Prosecutor.

*Both Karadzic and Mladic are precious assets in any negotiation process. I think they can feel safer here in BiH than in Serbia, Montenegro, Russia or anywhere else in the world.*

**There is a question I cannot refrain from asking you and I guess you will not be surprised to hear it. Why do you think Karadzic and Mladic are still at large? Why is it so difficult to catch them despite the international arrest warrants against them and the huge amount of money offered in exchange for information?**

We get a lot of information from citizens who think

they have seen either Karadzic or Mladic. We spend a lot of time checking that information and most of the time it does not lead anywhere. To mention Karadzic, there are still a lot of people in this country who regard him as an idol and I believe he can still count on a great amount of support. Both Karadzic and Mladic are precious assets in any negotiation process. I think they can feel safer here in BiH than in Serbia, Montenegro, Russia or anywhere else in the world.

**If you believe that they are still in BiH, why is it then so difficult to catch them?**

Because they can count on a great deal of support from certain people. Let's face it; the people of this country have always needed a leader. Some found a leader in Mladic and/or Karadzic. No matter what happened, they still believe in them. The political situation in the country is difficult.

Another thing is that a long time has

passed since they were last seen, and that they could have changed their appearances or even done some plastic surgery. Some progress has recently been made when some bank accounts were frozen, for instance, but a great deal remains to be done. We have an excellent cooperation with the ICTY office in Sarajevo, to which we submit all the information we obtain.

*I wish for a central database of search warrants. This would prevent cases in which a search warrant is issued in one entity and that person is walking feely in the other entity.*

**What are the main obstacles your department faces in its daily work?**

We still lack staff and equipment. According to the Book of Rules, our department should consist of 36 investigators. There are only 26 of them. We have recently submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Security and the Council of Ministers to increase our staff to 47 investigators at the War Crimes Investigations Centre itself and 12 investigators in each of our four regional offices (respectively



in Banja Luka, Mostar, Sarajevo and Tuzla).

Since most of our investigators are constantly in the field, we need more vehicles, laptops, mobile printers, digital cameras etc. We also haven't got enough office space. When our investigators are back from the field and need to draft their reports, there aren't enough chairs, let alone computers!

**Have you got any other wishes for the future?**

Besides having our own properly secured premises, I wish for a central database of search warrants, which would be managed by SIPA, no matter which agency issued it in the first place. This would prevent cases in which a search warrant is issued in one entity and that person is walking freely in the other entity. ■

*By Selveta Hot and Ann Vaessen*

**Biography**

Well-known as a sportsman who played in ex-Yugoslavia's national handball team, and later as a coach, Sefik Halilovic joined the police in 1976. He is very proud of the fact that he had the privilege to be a personal security. Mr. Halilovic was appointed Director of the War Crimes Investigations Centre in 2004, after spending ten years in managerial positions in the BiH police forces. ■

**News brief**

**EUPM III concept for operations forwarded to EU member states**

In July 2007 the 27 EU Member States unanimously agreed to extend the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina for another two years.

In September the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) of the Council Secretariat, together with the Head of Mission Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola, have produced a draft concept of operations (CONOPS) for the new mission.

The CONOPS does not foresee to change the mandate of the mission. EUPM shall also in the future focus on supporting the fight against major and organised crime, enhance the accountability of local police, support police reform efforts and monitor the implementation of police restructuring once a political agreement has been reached.

The mission is proposed to keep its current co-locations and personnel. Member



States are expected to have agreed on the CONOPS by mid-October.

The next steps in the mission's extension process are the adoption of a Joint Action

which is the legal basis for EUPM. The Joint Action is expected by the end of October at the latest. ■

*By Tobias Flessenkemper*

# New Headquarters for BiH Border Police

Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of the EC Delegation to BiH, Vinko Dumancic, Director of the BiH Border Police, Tarik Sadovic, Minister of Security, and other officials of the 'EU family' in BiH, including Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola, Head of the EU Police Mission, officially inaugurated the BiH Border Police Headquarters on 26 September.

The construction of the brand-new headquarters was financed by the EU with over €2.8 million and co-financed by the Ministry of Security and the Border Police of BiH with €850,000.

"The EU is ready to invest more funds if an agreement is reached regarding police reform and its implementation," said Ambassador Kourkoulas. "A quick fulfillment of the conditions to sign the Stability and Association Agreement (SAA) would send a positive

message to the EU tax payers and ensure them that their money is well invested."

This project is part of the wider assistance of the European Union in support to the strengthening of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all the judicial and other policing structures in the country.

"By moving into this new building we are going to strengthen the Border Police's capacities even more," said Dumancic. "This is no doubt going to reflect positively upon all our efforts to fight cross-border crime."

Minister Sadovic also welcomed the inauguration of the new headquarters, stressing that strong institutions make for a strong state. ■



■ From left to right: Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola, Head of the EU Police Mission, Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of the EC Delegation to BiH, Vinko Dumancic, Director of the BiH Police, Tarik Sadovic, Minister for Security and Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Wittbauer, EUFOR Commander.



## Internal Affairs

# Ukraine to continue supporting EUPM in BiH



■ Vasili Marmazov, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Interior and Vitalii Kasap, Chief of EUPM's Ukrainian Contingent talking to Ari Sarjanen, EUPM's Deputy Head of Mission.

An official delegation of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs paid a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 16 and 17 September 2007. The Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Interior Vasili Marmazov met with Deputy Head of Mission Ari Sarjanen to discuss the future presence of the Ukrainian contingent within the EU Police Mission.

"I have been given an update on the work of each of the six members of our contingent within EUPM and I believe that it is important that we continue to contribute staff," said Marmazov.

That decision was warmly welcomed by EUPM's Deputy Head of Mission: "We are very pleased that Ukraine is planning to keep its contingent in the extended mandate of EUPM. This will surely be of great benefit for the mission."

Mr. Marmazov also visited the BiH Ministry of Security to discuss their mutual cooperation in the fight against organized crime. ■

# Domestic violence is not a private matter - it is a criminal offence

*"Dear citizens, do you know that maltreatment and abuse of family members is not a private affair? It is a criminal offence! We encourage you to timely report every case of domestic violence to the police!"*

This is how the information leaflet that is currently being distributed by the Posavina police reads. Sponsored by the EU Police Mission, their ongoing campaign aims to raise awareness about domestic violence and the rights of victims of such violence.

Although the Criminal Codes of both the Republika Srpska and the Federation have been treating domestic violence as a criminal act since 2003, it is still very rarely reported to the police, let alone put in front of a court. Worse, domestic violence is on the rise throughout BiH.

Why? One of the main obstacles in the fight against domestic violence is the victims' fear, their embarrassment and lack of knowledge. Domestic violence is a still taboo.

## A more sensitive approach

In order to raise public awareness and inform citizens about their rights the Posavina Canton police and the EU Police Mission, in cooperation with the Centre for Mental Health and the Brcko Youth Centre, organized a round table in Orasje.

Participants emphasized that domestic

violence is a criminal offence, and advocated for an urgent reinforcement of institutional mechanisms and a better partnership between NGOs and institutions.

*"Police officers are trained on how to treat victims and now have a more sensitive approach, taking them to the doctor, negotiating with NGOs to accommodate them in safe houses etc.,"* explains Josip Dominkovic, Spokesperson of the Posavina Canton police.

Police distribute educational and promotional material with basic information regarding the Law on Domestic Violence and the hotline for victims of domestic violence. Thanks to the police's good cooperation with the religious committees in their canton, the leaflets are also available in religious facilities.

## Better coordination between NGOs, mental health experts and police

A reception centre for the victims of domestic violence has been recently opened in the area of the Domaljevac-Šamac municipality.

*"The office is adequately equipped and provides 24-hour accommodation for victims,"* Dominkovic goes on. *"Upon completion of the procedure, victims are referred to safe houses."*



*"Due to their poor economic situations, victims are very often not independent and they hence go back to their spouses and families who maltreat them again,"* says Doctor Zlata Papić, Head of the Centre for Mental Health.

*"A better coordination between NGOs, Centres for Mental Health and Police is needed in order to ensure the psychological and mental integrity of victims,"* she concludes. *"But the first step is to make people understand that domestic violence is not a private affair or conflict - it is criminal offence!"* ■

*By Sladjana Lizdek*

## News brief

# Head of Mission briefs EU Military Committee

On 21 September Head of Mission Brigadier General Coppola briefed the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) on the EU Police Mission's achievements and future prospects.

The Chiefs of Defence of the 27 EU Member States showed a lot of interest in the general security situation of BiH, the ongoing police reform process and EUPM's leadership in the fight against organised crime.

General Coppola also seized the opportunity to thank all member states' representatives *"for the dedicated and qualified personnel they are seconding to the mission."*

Currently chaired by General Henri Bentégeat, the EUMC is the highest military body set up within the Council of the European Union. It provides the Political and Security Committee (PSC) with advice and recommendations on all military matters within the EU. ■



# Autumn retreats: Tajan Nature Park

According to the BH Tourism, Nature Park Tajan is the place to be. Although the mountains in this area aren't like the towering peaks of the central Dinaric Alps, the thick conifer forests and endless tracks of hills provide nature lovers with a wide range of nature activities.

## Eco-tourism

A successful grassroots movement of environmentalists, mountain associations, caving clubs and nature lovers from the Zavidovici area have recently succeeded in making this beautiful little corner of northern Bosnia a protected area.

They are just getting started, so expect a few hitches organization-wise - but the knowledge and passion that has gone into the eco-tourism development of this area should be an example for the rest of the country.

Adventurers will enjoy the many canyons and caves this area hosts. Canyon Macica is one of the most beautiful canyons in the northern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was shaped by the water cutting through Triassic limestone. The floor of the canyon, only three metres



wide in some places, is full of caves which are ideal for bear hibernation during the winter months.

## Bliss for cave explorers

Rock Face Masicka reaches as high as 250 metres on the right banks of canyon Masice. It is an ideal place for free climbing, offering some fun and challenging routes. At the base of the rock faces are

many small caves, fun for leisurely exploration - but only in the summer. These caves are often inhabited by bears during the winter. There are over a hundred caves and pits in the region between the peaks of Tajan Mountain. The most prominent one is the Middle Rock Cave, situated close to the Lukina Cave. Found in May 2004, this is a cave with lots of large caverns and domed rooms with beautiful cave decorations.

Mountain biking in Tajan park is excellent. Due largely to forestry roads, a large system of bike trails has been developed. Every year in May the hiking association organizes a mountain biking competition. For those interested in more leisurely pastime, the upper flow of Tajan Park's Gostovic River has all the conditions for fly-fishing. ■

By Sanela Osmanovic

## How to get there

From Sarajevo follow E 762 and E73. The distance Sarajevo-Kakanj is 54 km or 50 minutes of driving, and then Kakanj-Ponijeri is another 19 km. Ponijeri is between 1144 to 1200 meters above sea level and is a mountain picnic and popular winter recreation area. Alternative route is from Sarajevo to Zavidovici, (distance: 128 km or approx. 2 hours of driving), and then Zavidovici Kamenica. Kamenica is recreation/picnic area 15 km from city and it is located by river Gostovic. ■

## Climbing

Alpine climbing in the park offers a lot of possibilities for climbing fans. The routes are easy and fun for climbers of all ages. The rock faces of Duboke Tajasnice, Suhe, Rujnice, Ljevickog stone, Masice, Middle Rock are all doable, but the small climbing community there has only developed two routes: Ljevicki stone (45 m) and Rock face in Rujnice (15m). Pioneers can set the stage on the other more difficult routes. ■

For information about Nature park Tajan, you can contact the Scientific Research Club ATOM. Contact persons are Admir Bajraktarevic (+ 387 61 985 333; admir.bajraktarevic@bhtelecom.ba) and Stadan Ilic (+387 61 788 835). Information is available in English and Italian language. The club also organizes guided tours of the park and of the caves, each for 50KM.

## Welfare

### EUPM donates blood



EUPM's Chief of Personnel organized a blood donation session on 26 September. With 25 people turning up, including some EUPM and other UN House members, it was a real success.

"The turnout was great - beyond expectations," said Bernardo Simovic, Personnel Assistant. "The medical staff was exceptionally satisfied and grateful for EUPM's assistance in this matter."

The Personnel Department provided all blood donors and the medical staff with free drinks, cakes and sandwiches. ■

## Police in BiH

### Maks wins drug detection competition

Police dog Maks, from the Una-Sana Canton police's dog unit, won a competition held in Stubice Toplice in Croatia on 22 September. From all 20 competing dogs he proved to be the best at detecting drugs.

"We may not always have the best equipment, but these results show that we take any task professionally, including dog training," said Mario Ivankic, the officer who has been training Maks for seven and a half years. ■



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