

In Focus



Human Smuggling: A Transnational Threat

At the beginning of April, as the international police operation dubbed 'Tara' was executed throughout the country and the region, Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police in cooperation with West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior arrested five persons suspected of human smuggling.

The arrestees were allegedly a part of an organized criminal group which smuggled people across the state borders of BiH, Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary. Within the same police operation, some 50 persons were arrested in Croatia, four in Austria and two in Slovenia.

'Tara' is one of the largest police operations against organized crime of human smuggling in the region in the past years.

Profiting off human misery

Human smuggling, or transportation of people across international borders without adequate formal travel documents or prior approval to enter the destination country, has become "the preferred trade of a growing number of criminal networks world-wide", states INTERPOL.

According to BiH Prosecution's statistical data, 154 cases of human smuggling have been reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2008, and 94 investigations were launched. Out of this number, 24 indictments were raised and all of them confirmed. Most of the persons charged with human smuggling are BiH citizens.

"We usually deal with dozens of human smuggling cases every year, and approximately 20 indictments are raised annually," says Spokesperson for BiH Prosecutor's Office Boris Grubešić. "In the last two years, we particularly worked on uncovering organized crime groups spanning several countries. We had a case last year where 28 persons were indicted. The group consisted of organizers, guides, taxi drivers and persons in charge of securing accommodations for the smuggled."

Although Border Police state that the illegal emigrants stay here only until they find a solution to continue towards European Union, EU Police Mission's Senior Immigration Adviser Neil Tuffrey says that BiH is both a transition country and place of residence for many of them.

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Editorial

Cristina Gallach
Spokesperson for Javier Solana,
High Representative for the CFSP

As the European Union Police Mission and law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina winds up their ninth joint public information campaign, the relevance of strong and effective communication has, once more, becomes apparent. The campaign which focuses on police accountability has echoed through the country. It has created a momentum for community relations and has sent a reassuring message to the broader public.



Communication with the BiH public is what we desperately need at this moment in time. Latest reports reveal a growing feeling of insecurity amongst the citizens of BiH. Such a phenomenon is understandable. It can be observed throughout the world particularly in the current economic climate. In BiH this unease has also led to the deterioration of the image of the International Community and increasing scepticism towards the European Union.

Citizens expect the EU and its organisations to create greater security both inside and outside the country's borders. However, with the transformations of EU actors in BiH, in particular the eventual adaptation of EUFOR and the announced transition of the OHR into a reinforced EUSR, the public witness changes they do not completely understand. We must explain that changes are necessary in order to adjust to the current situation in the country and to ensure the use of full potential of both external and internal aspects. If we don't explain it will lead to an increase of the feeling of insecurity and uncertainty.

Thus, reinforced and pro-active communication is paramount. EU actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially the EU Police Mission as an element most closely related to safety and security, need to ensure continued communication of our visions, actions and values. If not, the whole reform process, which is fuelled by the prospect of European integrations, is at stake.

Strategic communication in an environment such as BiH, a setting with no independent media, is expensive and time-consuming. However, such direct, proactive communication is key to the success of the EU in Bosnia and Herzegovina and thus key to creating a safer European Union.

A lot has been achieved in this respect. The EU and the EU Police Mission have a positive image in BiH. This needs to be upheld in the current increasingly negative political climate.

The expectations of Member States towards the EU engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina remain high. Communicating the successes and actions of the EU in Bosnia and Herzegovina will ensure continued support from Member States to EU actors on the ground. More importantly, it will send a reassuring message to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the EU is a strong partner capable of helping the country on its way to become a full member of the European Union. ■

"Being smuggled to some of the EU countries costs lots of money which many of the illegal immigrants do not have and are forced to stay here," he explains.

Media in BiH speculate that illegal travelers pay between 50 and 3500 Euros to get transferred to a country of their choice.

"The amount paid to human smugglers in BiH depends on the destination country," explains Grubešić. "If a person is smuggled to one of the EU member states, the fee amounts to several thousand Euros. The price is lower in case a person is transferred across the border to Croatia or Serbia."

However, the number of human smuggling cases decreased during the past few years, says BiH Border Police Spokesperson Sanela Dujković.

"The law enforcement agencies' activities, actions undertaken by judicial institutions, and the economic situation in the countries the illegal immigrants come from influence this number," explains Dujković.

Gearing up

Yet, EUPM's Senior Immigration Adviser Neil Tuffrey says that this form of organized crime is rather low in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to the fact that it is so easy to pass through the immigration control.

"Number of human smuggling cases in BiH is probably lower than one thinks, considering the fact that many people use the border crossings, knowing that they can get through unchecked or with very limited checks," says Tuffrey.

"It is as easy to get in and out of BiH through illegal border crossings as it is in many other countries in Europe," he explains. "There is a long border line and a limited number of officers, and it simply isn't possible for those officers to cover every single stretch of the border in any country."



But even if you have a lot of officers, assures Tuffrey, there are still ways for people to get through. An efficient method of gathering and analyzing intelligence and a proper system for profiling is necessary to understand that there are types of vehicles and people that might require further investigation.

This is one of the reasons why one of the projects within the joint EUPM and BiH law enforcement Integrated Border Management Strategy for 2009 is to establish the Joint Risk Analysis Centre. The purpose of the centre is for the border agencies to jointly analyze risks posed to the border of BiH and to find common responses, the idea being that this is more efficient than the current system where everyone does their own separate analysis - if they indeed do it at all.

"BiH has almost five border services within one," says Tuffrey. "To large extent, the commanders of the particular field offices are only interested in the results they achieved in their own area. [Until recently] there was no commitment to a common goal."

International response

In accordance with the law, state, entity and cantonal level police agencies all have their role to play in combating this problem, which makes the cooperation among them even more important. The cooperation

between the law enforcement agencies is based on exchange of intelligence, says Dujković.

Still, there have been cases where three or four law enforcement agencies have unknowingly been looking after the same group of people, reminds Tuffrey.

"That is why the prosecutors should be coordinating such actions to some extent and should be tasking certain agencies to undertake certain parts of the process."

Human smuggling in BiH involves minimum of three countries. The country they start in, the country they go through and the destination country. By its definition, human smuggling is a cross border issue. Therefore human smugglers need the assistance from the people from the other side of the borders.

"It is interesting that some of those groups consist of people that do not even speak the same language. Crime does not recognize borders and that is why the cooperation between the police and prosecution must be on an international level as well," says Grubešić.

That is why it is necessary to promote joint operations involving internal cooperation within the agencies, between the agencies in BiH and the international cooperation with the police from neighboring states.

"You can't tackle this problem in one country," states Tuffrey.

BiH Border Police has established an excellent relationship with respective border police services of all countries in the region and other involved law enforcement agencies in BiH, says Karl-Heinz Schenk, Chief of EUPM Border Police Department.

"With the positive results of operation 'Tara', BiH Border Police has proven its increased capabilities as a reliable partner in the field of inter-agency and international cooperation in the fight against organized crime," concludes Schenk. ■

Internal Affairs

Commissioner Feller awards ESDP Service Medals

At the 12th Medal Parade, which took place on April 24 in Sarajevo, the Head of EU Police Mission, Commissioner Stefan Feller, awarded more than 30 mission members with the European Security Defense Policy Service (ESDP) Medal and two national staff with the EUPM certificate of appreciation. Commissioner Feller also awarded the ESDP Service Medal to the members of the EUPM planning team of 2002.

"I'm proud that we are working in a real spirit of ownership and partnership. I'm also glad to see many of our BiH colleagues here to mark this occasion together," said Commissioner Feller.



Addressing the audience, which consisted of numerous officials from BiH law enforcement agencies and the international community, Commissioner Feller also spoke about the future engagement of the

EU in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"EU Member States currently discuss the future role of the European Union Special Representative. As an outcome of EUPM's last six months review, Member States have also indicated support to a possible civilian follow-on mission in the area of police and rule of law after 2009, to follow on to EUPM. The planning process has started"

Concluding his speech Commissioner Feller emphasized that the planning for a possible follow on mission would also be based on advice received from the BiH law enforcement agencies.

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Why EUPM still matters

At the present time, much talk surrounds a future reinforced EU presence in BiH. Within this larger discussion, importantly including the future role of the European Special Representative, Member States of the European Union have already indicated that they will support the continuation of a civilian mission in the field of the European Security and Defense Policy ESDP, beyond the expiry of EUPMs mandate at the end of 2009. The planning process for this has started. It includes comprehensive discussions between the Civilian Operations Commander and his staff in Brussels and myself and my staff here in Sarajevo. We enjoy strong links between us and the EUSR, EUFOR, the European Commission and the EU Presidency, tailoring our ESDP contribution to the future EU presence in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

EUPM does not lose sight of the basic shared objective of all the international presence in the country (including those which are non EU), which is to see the country enter the European Union. Whatever acronym is chosen and whatever future detailed role this mission might have, the basic principle of developing the country's law enforcement system, so that they can act strongly, with authority and accountable to the citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina, enjoying their support in the fight against organized crime will be the driving force in that role. Much attention will be given



to how we can assist the entire chain of the Rule of Law, from law enforcement to the criminal justice system.

Law enforcement in Bosnia & Herzegovina is performed by a complex and complicated structure of agencies on State, entity, Brcko District and cantonal level. Almost as many ministries as law enforcement agencies contribute to the safety and security of the citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina, coordinating the law enforcement work on a political/strategic level, improving the operational impact these agencies are supposed to have.

In an ever more complex world of regional and transnational crime, of securi-

ty threats for citizens in Bosnia & Herzegovina related to regional and international root causes, of the impact of global events on security and order here in Sarajevo, in Mostar, Tuzla or Banja Luka, no single law enforcement agency can meet the demands of the citizens here in the country and the requests of the European Union to contribute to global security and the Rule of Law alone.

That constitutes the compelling necessity that the existing LEAs coordinate systematically and more effectively than they do and to foster closer links between police and prosecutors. Moreover, it constitutes that politicians and administrative stakeholders in Bosnia & Herzegovina fully recognize the necessity of a joint development and security strategy for law enforcement and the Rule of Law. We do not need this on basis of any possible future organizational reform, including the Police. We do need it now. We do need it on basis of the acknowledgement that all existing stakeholders in Bosnia & Herzegovina need to be part of it.

An EU presence among police professionals within BiH can continue to assist in making this happen, for the benefit of the citizens here, the benefit of regional security and the benefit of EU accession. Assisting in this means assisting in yielding concrete results for the citizens here to improve their lives, their safety, their chances of economic prosper. ■



122 Campaign: Police Caravan

The 122-Your Police public information campaign, which commenced in February as a joint project of BiH law enforcement agencies and European Union Police Mission with an aim to further improve the communication and cooperation between the citizens and the police, is continuing full steam ahead. Police agencies are organizing events on almost daily basis, making sure they focus on the issues which are most significant or a cause of greatest concern in their specific areas of responsibility.

Phases of 122

Beginning of April saw 122 Police Caravan visit West Herzegovina Canton and host a live-action presentation of police operations in Široki Brijeg for the local community and BiH media, aiming to promote the emergency police number 122 and demonstrate the steps taken after a citizen's call is received.

Within the presentation, police officers reenacted a real-life situation, starting with a frightened woman calling the 122 emergency line to report a case of domestic violence. The Chief Operative Officer talked to the woman soothingly, trying to calm her down and get concrete information about the situation, including whether her husband is armed or not. He then suggested she should leave the house and go over to the neighbour until the police patrol arrives.

The spectators watched enthralled as the operative officer alerted the patrol, who apprehend the perpetrator, secured the crime scene, and debriefed the woman, her children and neighbours. The perpetrator was tested for alcohol and taken to the police station for further processing.



■ Široki Brijeg



■ Tomislavgrad

As the citizens and the media observed, a second call came to 122 emergency line, this time from an anonymous person who told the Chief Operative Officer that there will be a drug sale in the park near the high school. Chief Operative Officer notified the Police Commander and the Chief of Crime Police, who then quickly worked on the action plan, deciding to send three units of police officers in plain clothes to the site. The police officers spread around the park and a few minutes later the drug dealer showed up, followed by two high school students. He took the drugs from his car and sells them to the teenagers. The police rushed in and apprehend all three.

"These actions are just some of the duties police officers conscientiously perform on daily basis," said West Herzegovina Canton

Police Spokesperson Damir Čutura, adding that the scenario was created to show to the public the mechanisms behind the emergency number 122.

Prevention is key

The police of East Sarajevo Public Security Centre focused on drug and alcohol abuse amongst youngsters, the topic which they discussed at the roundtable organized in Lukavica on April 10. Students of two secondary schools from the region attended the public forum and watched the presentations on negative consequences of addiction and abuse given by a team consisting of Lukavica police station commander, a psychologist and a physician. After the question-and-answer session, the students received educational material on the roundtable topic, as well as informational cards on 122 number and how to contact the police.

"As there is a consensus that prevention and education are key factors in solving the problem of addiction amongst youngsters, we decided to meet youth in this format," said East Sarajevo Police Spokesperson Danka Tešić. *"We also plan to organize lectures and presentations in every school in the East Sarajevo area."*

Witness protection

The following week, on April 16, 122 Police Caravan joined forces with State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and organized a roundtable in Sarajevo on strengths and weaknesses of the witness protection programme in BiH.

The participants - representatives of SIPA Witness Protection Department, BiH Prose-

an Hits the Spot



cution, BiH Court, "Izvor" and "Woman-Victim of War" nongovernmental organizations - concluded that the existing laws on witness protection have to be amended.

"The roundtable also brought to light the necessity to organize an international conference on protection of witnesses of war crimes in order to exchange strategies, ideas and best practices," said SIPA Spokesperson Željka Kujundžija. "Furthermore, participants pointed out that the cooperation and coordination between all institutions involved in witness protection needs to be strengthened."

At the event, SIPA presented the information guide for potential candidates of the witness protection programme.

Livno Police organises football tournament

The April route of 122 Police Caravan ended on a lighter note as they travelled

across the country back to Herzegovina, this time visiting Livno Canton and Tomislavgrad to host a football tournament between police officers, and teachers of two secondary schools from that town.

The police team won but all participants had a great time.

"This was an excellent idea, although I am a bit sorry that we lost," said Vedran Prkačin, Tomislavgrad Gymnasium student.

"I am really glad for having a chance to participate in today's tournament," added his biology teacher Stipe Marić. "It shows how great cooperation can exist between students, teachers and the police. I am confident that, with our help, police will do even better."

Addressing the audience at the event, Livno Canton Police Commissioner Rafael Pivić spoke about the implementation of 122-Your Police campaign by BiH law enforcement.



■ East Sarajevo

"As far as we are concerned, the campaign has been very successful. In the past two months, the number of calls to 122 has increased, as well as the citizens' visits to our premises," he said, referring to Meet Your Police Chief project which Livno Canton police introduced within the campaign.

"This project is now being implemented in all police administration across the Canton and citizens do highly appreciate it," concluded Pivić.

122 Police Caravan continues on towards northeastern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, eagerly expected by police officers and citizens to bring education and fun to their communities. ■

Police in BiH

Border Police: Fighting Organized Crime through Risk Analysis

In scope of a project funded by the government of Spain, and implemented by the BiH Border Police in cooperation with the EU Police Mission, Spanish Guardia Civil and Spanish Agency for international Development (AECID), 30 BiH Border Police officers completed an intensive 10-day course on risk analysis, increasing the Agency's capacities to fight organized crime.

"This course is one step ahead of the current and future path of BiH Border Police," says Romana Fabbro, Deputy Chief Adviser to Border Police. "The risk analysis training is a starting point for involved Border Police officers to improve their professional knowledge and their potential."

The entire project consists of two components: human resources training and providing special equipment for BiH Border Po-



lice, aiming to strengthen the security of border crossings throughout the country. The EUPM has also contributed to that goal by producing and donating Duty Books, which will help Border Police officers in their daily work.

"I would like to emphasize the valuable cooperation with the EUPM, which supported this project through its activities focused on coordination, assessment of real situations, and identification of needs in the field," says Cristine Gutiérrez Hernández, general coordinator of Spanish cooperation in the Balkans.

After the successful completion of the training, Border Police officers received certificates which also carry certain responsibility and obligations for the recipients. Namely, the concept of the seminar was based on training of trainers approach, which means that each of 30 Border Police officers will act as an instructor for risk analysis. They will have an obligation to organize at least one training per month for their respective units. ■

Duty Books

Numerous assessments received from EUPM's Field Offices, as well as information from local counterparts, have shown that the quality of Border Police officers' inspections of persons and vehicles at the border crossing points is not yet at the desired level. To tackle this issue, EUPM Border Police Department prepared a Duty Book, a manual which contains:

- operational information about how BP officers should perform their duties, specifically regarding the profiling and interviewing the incoming/outgoing passengers, and including the proper check of drivers and their trucks;

- extracts of pertinent criminal code of BiH, RS, Brčko District and Federation BiH.

Other than this, the Duty Book contains personal data pages, calendars, important telephone numbers, organizational charts, and extendable border maps. That way, all Border Police officers have direct access to a helpful and usable quick-reference guide for standardized procedures. ■



122: Hallo, police!

Good evening! You have reached Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior. What can we do for you? ■ My name is Aleksandar Hršum and you are live in Zabranjeni Forum program. Could you please tell us to what extent are the citizens willing to cooperate with police via 122? ■ We are pleased with the willingness of people to dial 122. As far as Sarajevo is concerned, on average we receive 1000 calls a day. Five out of 10 resolved cases are solved thanks to the direct assistance of citizens. ■

This was the introduction to the show dubbed *122: Hallo police!* organized on TV Pink April 16, where panellists from BiH law enforcement, international community and educational sector addressed the importance of 122 emergency number and the need for reinforced and clear communication between the police and citizens as the confidence-building measure.

Building the trust

Explaining what she believes is the origin of a lack of trust in the police, psychology professor Jasna Barjaktarević said that post-war BiH is a society where people strongly believe that every politician, doctor, professor is corrupted, and in general there is no trust in institutions.

"Also, people tend to be attracted to

negative, sensationalistic stories," she added. "Police on the other hand cannot freely talk about all of its successes."

How to address this problem? Open and frank communication on what is functioning and not functioning usually works.

"We cannot neglect the fact that people have different experiences," said Barjaktarević. "The police need to know that there is a problem in communication with some people, and that they need to assess their own ranks. Secondly, police should register all negative reports and deal with them promptly for the sake of numerous honourable police officers who do not deserve their names to be mentioned in such a context."

Police integrity

A number of viewers were interested in procedures against corrupt police officers. The panellists were unanimous that corrupted police officers do not deserve to wear the uniform, let alone be referred to as police officers.

Warning that it is dangerous to generalise things, Deputy Head of EU Police Mission Colonel Domenico Paterna said that the police in BiH is aware of its task. *"We need to openly talk about corrupted individuals within the police structures and undertake certain actions. It has to be put in writing and thus formalised. It*

should be the mission of both the citizens and police officers to report such cases."

Fahrudin Selimović, Deputy Chief of Brčko District Police, said that the police service which wishes to be credible and respectable in society must constantly convey two important messages: *"Firstly, we are impartial, decisive and prepared to prosecute every individual regardless of his/her social status. Secondly, we are decisive and prepared to fight all unethical and unprofessional individuals within our own ranks."*

Would you call 122?

As for 122 emergency number and its efficiency, *"call and test us"*, said Chief Cabinet of Sarajevo Police Commissioner Dragan Mioković.

"Whether one would call 122 is a matter of choice. If you do not call when you spot vandalism in your neighbour's yard, you accept that the consequence might be vandalism of your own property."

Branimir Šehovac, Chief Sector Uniformal Police of East Sarajevo, stated that the increased number of calls and readiness of citizens to report criminal acts and communicate with the police are a sign that the level of confidence in the police is increasing. People are reporting acts such as racketeering and domestic violence, which they were hesitant to call on before. *"Republika Srpska Police received 4250 calls during the 122-Your Police campaign. This represents a 30% increase and we are very satisfied with it."*

The programme *122: Hallo police!* was organised within the *122-Your Police* public information campaign implemented jointly by EU Police Mission and BiH law enforcement agencies. ■

Amar's bravery

The importance of the emergency police number was reiterated thanks to 12-year old Amar Ribić from Sarajevo, who relied on 122 when three armed persons broke into his family house. *"He had such a presence of mind and was so brave that he managed to not only prevent the robbery but rescue the lives of his mother and grandfather,"* said Dragan Mioković, C9 Police official.

Primary School Ilidža which Amar attends was included in the programme of briefings about the importance of 122 number during the ongoing *122-Your Police* campaign. *"This is the prime example that education of youngsters is yielding results. Since the 1st grade, pupils are briefed about the importance of communication with the police,"* said Džeko Muhović, school principal. ■

Cracking Down on Child Pornography

New technology to help police in BiH fight cyber crime

As of recently, law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina have better technology for catching and prosecuting Internet pedophiles and protecting child victims of cybercrimes. Namely, the Federation Police Administration, Republika Srpska (RS) Ministry of Interior and Brčko District Police received 40,000 KM worth of computer hardware and software equipment which will enable direct work in detection of child pornography on the Internet and help its combating.

The equipment was provided within the "Comprehensive approach to fighting child pornography on the Internet" project, carried out by the BiH Ministry of Security and BiH Office of the State Coordinator for Anti-trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in coordination with the "Save the Children Norway" organization.

Hammered down

In May last year, BiH police forces seized computers, compact disks and other items from 22 locations searched as a part of a wider international child pornography investigation called 'Sledgehammer'. They investigated 48 people for allegedly visiting Internet sites featuring child pornography - their computers and disks were thoroughly checked. Nine months after Sledgehammer operation, only three of 48 suspects were convicted.

To avoid such situations in the future, the main goal of the "Comprehensive approach" project is to establish an efficient system and build appropriate mechanisms on state level for fighting child pornography, and provide information to children and their parents about dangers of pedophilia on the Internet and child pornography in general.

"It is a horrible crime, which leaves permanent consequences on children and all others who have to deal with video material and photos of abused kids in their daily work," says Tarik Sadović, BiH Minister of Security. "Global statistics show that highest numbers of suicides are committed by persons who were abused during their childhood. It is our obligation to make possible for the children to have a happy childhood and live without violence and trauma."



The donated equipment will help the police to take a step ahead in that direction.

"This equipment is the first step in that process, and after that we should harmonize laws, extend the cooperation of police agencies at all levels and invest more means into equipment and staff to create capacities to fight child abuse at all levels," said Bjørn Hagen, Head of the "Save the Children Norway" Regional Office for South-East Europe.

Society's fight

Hagen added that successful protection of children from child pornography requires greater engagement of all participants in BiH society, from institutions and authorities, through police, judiciary and educational institutions, to Internet service providers, nongovernmental organizations and media.

So far, within the project, BiH Ministry of Security and BiH Office of the State Coordinator formed a Task Force and analyzed the capacities, procedures and flaws in the system of protection of children from child pornography. They also offered recommendations for the development of a model to fight child pornography in BiH, and Minister Sadović announced further steps in this effort.

"Apart from the training for police officials, nongovernmental organizations and Internet service providers, starting in October 2009 BiH Ministry of Security will launch a public competition to choose and finance the best projects by nongovernment organizations, one from each entity, intended for prevention of and fight against child pornography." ■

SIPA, stronghold in fight against cybercrime

After the 'Sledgehammer' operation, EU Police Mission organized training for State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) officers in use of new technologies in fighting both "old" and modern forms of crime.

In addition, in November 2007, the French Republic donated two software packages to the Agency. Both designed by the French Gendarmerie, one software package allows investigators to read Subscribed Identity Modules or SIM mobile phone cards; while the other package, MARINA, aimed at

detecting child pornography pictures, scans hard disks and identifies suspicious pictures. How? By analyzing the numerical value or 'signature' of each picture - using the Media Digest 5 - and tracking down those which have been earmarked in a central child pornography database that contains 1,300,000 pictures and is shared by police forces in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Norway and Interpol. MARINA also allows investigators to extract and copy all images of a suspicious disk without altering its contents. ■

Run to Europe Day

Marking and celebrating - Europe Day - in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Commission Delegation to BiH and BiH Directorate for European Integration together with the nongovernmental organization Marathon will organise a four kilometre run titled "Run to Europe" in Sarajevo on May 9.

"It was the European Commission's idea and initiative to organise this race and they engaged our NGO to take over the coordination part," says Franjo Šola, President of Marathon. "The idea is to involve the citizens in the promotion of European values and European integration processes in BiH. Additionally, we would like to promote a healthy way of living."

Races on Europe Day are being organized for years all over the continent. Good experiences, and the fact that the number of participants increases every year, prove that this is a great way to mark the day when Robert Schuman presented his proposal on the creation of an organised Europe.

Explains Šola: *"It is the first time such a race is being organised in BiH and we are very excited to see the people's reactions,"* he adds. *"Such events are lacking in Sarajevo. We want people to take an active part in our event, not to just be passive observers."*

A relatively short race track through Vilsonovo promenade has been designed to allow participants of all ages and categories to participate in the event.



"In general, mostly young people take part in races, but also certain number of EUFOR and European Union Police Mission members. No special physical preparations are necessary to complete the race. That is why we hope to see around 500 participants," stresses Šola.

Winners of the first, the second and the third place in male and female competition will be awarded with 300, 200 and 100 BAM, while all participants who finish the run will receive T-shirts specially designed for this occasion.

The race will start at 11 o'clock on Saturday, May 9, in front of the building of BiH Institutions.

For more information please visit www.sarajevomarathon.ba. ■

Secure Office Space Available

Available Office Space, UN House Sarajevo, 2009 and beyond...



The UN House Building Management Committee would like to inform the International Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina that we currently have ample prime, secure, modern office space available for rent in Sarajevo. Running costs in the UN House are shared equally amongst tenants based upon square metres occupied.

If we fully occupy the building we would be in a position to offer an all inclusive rate covering maintenance, building insurance, security, parking, cleaning, electricity, gas, heating, air conditioning, water and waste disposal of €13.00 m2/month.

Expressions of Interest - If your organisation would like to view the building and discuss the possibility of occupying space in the UN House in 2009 and beyond, please contact Howard Tucker, Head of Mission, UN/ICTY Sarajevo or Guy Rolin, Chief of Administration and Support Department, EUPM.

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