

In Focus



Photo courtesy of Dnevni Avaz

The Curse of Hooliganism

A black mark was permanently stained into Bosnia and Herzegovina's history books on October 4, with the harrowing death of a young football fan killed during vicious clashes between two sets of rival football fans and the police in the small Herzegovina town of Široki Brijeg. Twenty-four-year old Vedran Puljić died in hospital after receiving a gunshot wound to the head. A further 31 were admitted to hospital with slight to severe injuries, with 16 police officers also sustaining injuries as a result of the violence.

FK Sarajevo fans travelled to Široki Brijeg in larger numbers than had been expected by the organizing bodies. Reports suggest the local fans of Široki Brijeg attacked the traveling supporters upon arrival, spurring a backlash of brutal violence forcing the police to intervene. In the ensuing turmoil, according to the pathologist's report, Puljić was shot in the head. Further media reports claim several other gunshots were heard.

Marring public order and rattling citizen confidence in the competency of local police forces, the ugly scenes of football hooliganism that unfolded on Sunday inflicted a double blow to the public image of security in the country.

The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) acutely condemned the acts of brutality. "We are outraged over the violence and hooliganism by the football fans who clashed yesterday with the police in Široki Brijeg," stated Head of EUPM, Commissioner Stefan Feller. "The incident had most tragic consequences and we are all saddened by the loss of one young life."

The events have raised questions about the structures in place set out to prevent and control such corrosive acts of violence. Buck passing and finger pointing among the coordinating bodies responsible for ensuring the safe and orderly conduct of the event has proved an unwelcome distraction from the core of the issue.

Ultimately, confining the hooliganism problem rests deeper in the structures of society. State-level legislation setting out clear responsibilities and a coordinated approach to tackling football hooliganism has been on hold for several years due to inter-entity and inter-cantonal disagreement. Regardless, the events illustrate the need for a meaningful breakthrough by lawmakers. Feller added in his statement to the media: "I urge authorities to pass relevant laws, such as the Law on Prevention of Violence in Sport, which will help in the prevention of such incidents".

Editorial

Kees Klompenhouwer
EU Civilian Operations
Commander and
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Capability



EUPM in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the first-ever mission launched under ESDP in January 2003. Much has been achieved since. Police structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina are now more efficient, professional and sustainable. A track-record of achievements in the fight against organized crime and corruption, including high-level cases, has started to emerge.

Entrenching the rule of law is crucial both for Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the EU. The fight against organized crime and corruption is a priority. This is why the mission will refocus its mandate on the support to the fight against organized crime and corruption, across the rule of law chain. We have two more years to make a difference.

I used my visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the mission end of August to underline our priorities and give a new impulsion. With the Head of Mission, Commissioner Stefan Feller, we met with counterparts in police, judiciary and ministries. Real partnership with the local authorities is crucial to create sustainable ownership as well as professionally tackle organized crime and corruption from "crime" to "prison".

The fight against organized crime and corruption goes beyond national borders. We have seen improved professional international police cooperation and use of international legal assistance mechanisms. However, we need to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in strengthening its regional and international cooperation. It is our objective to foster the signing by Bosnia and Herzegovina of an operational agreement with EUROPOL. This is why I have engaged a dialogue with EUROPOL and participated in the EUROPOL Ministerial Conference in The Hague on 1 October 2009.

Its new mandate will be a challenging task for the EU police mission, but it can build on years of experience. It has set an example and will continue to do so. In particular, the mentoring methodology developed by the mission can serve as a model for other ESDP missions.

Finally, I want to thank all the mission members for their dedication and commitment to our common objective. I also want to commend the Head of Mission, Commissioner Stefan Feller, for his impressive work on the ground. Ultimately, the mission's success depends on the men and women who compose it. In this time ahead, we need more than ever to support Bosnia and Herzegovina and all its citizens on its path towards the European Union. ■

The European crackdown

Football hooliganism is a phenomenon far from unique to the Balkans region. Similarly, Europe has been burdened with the disease for decades. The Council of Europe adopted the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events, drafted in the wake of the

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Heysel stadium disaster of 1985, where 39 fans were killed and more than 600 injured. The first major European response to football hooliganism, it sets out to secure adequate public order resources to counter outbreaks of violence, facilitate close co-operation between the police forces and the different bodies involved, and to adopt legislation that provides appropriate penalties for those found guilty of offences related to football violence.

The European Union also has a strong policy on football hooliganism, seeing it as having an anti-social and dangerous side. Alongside adopting a number of recommendations and Council Resolutions, its main institutional approach to preventing football hooliganism was through the publishing of the Handbook for International Police Cooperation under Council Decision of 6 December 2001, which aims to develop common action among the member states. The specific aims the Handbook has in mind cover intelligence gathering, reconnaissance, spotting and crowd control under police supervision.

Success has been found through this coordinated approach. Looking at recent high-profile events such as the European Championships and the World Cup, these events took place with relatively few incidents and were, on the whole, well policed. Police agencies from around Europe were able to share information about known hooligans through a network of national football information points.

Although violent incidents still occur from time to time at European football games, police agencies around the European Union have the structures in place that allow them to effectively use preventive action and coordinated measures among localities involved in the organizing of such events.

An English disease

Football hooliganism became notorious during the 1980s in particular. Being primarily associated with England, it caught worldwide attention as "the English disease". Many violent football fans around the globe have claimed to have modeled themselves on the British hooligan. The 1980s saw the tragic loss of many lives in Britain in a trail of events that led then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to effectively declare war on hooligans. This significantly changed Britain's approach to dealing with football-related violence. Policing methods were revamped and effective legislation was developed. Many other countries followed suit.

"Following the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 which saw the devastating loss of 96 lives, new legislation was implemented requiring that all stadia upgrade their safety and security features, with many becoming

all-seater venues", explains Brian Donley, the Chief of EUPM SIPA and a British police officer. "The Football League and the clubs were required to take responsibility for the behavior of their supporters and enforce repercussions such as the canceling of season tickets and refusal of entry into stadia if convicted of violence or inappropriate behavior related to football matches."

"After the public enquiry into this tragedy, which made a large number of recommendations, the training of senior and junior police officers was completely reorganized and only those staff who was fully trained were allowed to police these events," he continues.

In addition, stewards working within stadia and employed by the clubs were given extensive training which included crowd control, first aid and the identification and exclusion of known troublemakers. Police in the UK make broad use of CCTV in stadia, which has proved a highly effective tool in identifying and convicting criminal offenders recorded committing acts of violence.



This dual strategy of stewarding and cooperative policing has been met with considerable success - violent scenes surrounding football matches are now considered a rarity at football events in the UK. Donley explains that this strategy has been compounded by a more intelligence-led approach by the police in the prevention and control of hooliganism, a model other countries often look to.

One of the essential elements, alongside a partnership approach, was the enforcing of international and national legislation which branded violent fans as criminals and prevented them travelling abroad or to home games at the grounds.

"The response from the public to regain the football stadium as a place to take young families and exclude the violent criminals has resulted in the return of the game to where it should have always been - entertainment for all sectors of society," he adds.

Lessons from Italy

In 2007, Italy saw a markedly similar string of events to those in Široki Brijeg on Sunday. While police tried to stop fighting between two sets of fans, a young Lazio fan was killed by a shot to the neck from a police officer's firearm, sparking a cata-

clysm of violence with around 40 police officers injured in the nationwide disaster.

A few months before the disturbing events, significant institutional changes were made on the back of riots at a football match in Sicily, which saw the death of a police officer. New legislation was adopted in a bid to prevent the recurrence of such widespread football related violence.

"The Anti-Hooliganism Law which was adopted put effective preventive measures into place," explains Michele De Pasqua, an Italian police officer working for the EUPM with extensive experience in policing football matches in Italy. "One of the important aspects of the Law gives the police the ability to arrest a fan up to 48 hours after any incident on the basis of photo or video surveillance. This is extremely useful as when the crowd sees arrests being made, it only serves to inflame the situation."

Italy's Anti-Hooliganism Law also means that preventive bans can be issued to suspected hooligans, more severe punishments can be imposed for resisting arrest and bringing fireworks and weapons into stadia, and the buying of bulk tickets is restricted. No significant football-related violence has occurred in Italy since the events in 2007.

BiH: Convoluted structures

Although the saddening events in Široki Brijeg have, correctly, led to public scrutiny of the local coordinating bodies and police agencies responsible for running the event, attention needs also be focused on lawmakers in order that legislation giving coordinating bodies greater resources, power and structures in curbing football hooliganism can be adopted. Lessons have been learned by numerous countries around Europe, often under the most tragic circumstances. But it is the follow-up action that proves pivotal in keeping a lid on football hooliganism.

At present, only Republika Srpska has the Law on Prevention of Violence at Sports Events in place. In the Federation BiH, Una-Sana, Tuzla, Zenica-Doboj, Bosansko-podrinjski, Zapadno-Hercegovački and Sarajevo Cantons have similar laws providing for the issue. Hercegovina-Neretva Canton, witness to the awful scenes of violence, has its own law - the Law on Prevention of Riots in the Sports Fields.

With a national football league including both entities, it seems crucial then that BiH adopts the Law on Prevention of Violence in Sport at the State level to give authorities stronger cooperative capacities and repressive powers in effectively working together to stop such tragic occurrences taking place again. Should this not come to fruition, promises of Federation-level action seem more than welcome, as the status quo is simply too unpalatable for the citizens of BiH. ■

No agreement, no rejections

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt and United States Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg convened the so-called 'Butmir meeting' in Sarajevo on October 9-11 to give an opportunity to Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders to show the will to overcome the stalemate and establish a platform from which BiH can deliver concrete progress on both the NATO and the EU reform agenda.

To what extent did the political leaders use this opportunity? Statements given after the meeting mirrored their previously expressed positions.

"We clearly said that we did not want to see constitutional reforms added to the requirements for the closure of the OHR [Office of the High Representative]," said Milorad Dodik, President of the SNSD, Republika Srpska's leading party. "Only the RS institutions can approve possible corrections of the Constitution."

President of the leading Bosniak party SDA, Sulejman Tihić, stated that the detailed discussion was not seen at the meeting. "However, I can tell you that this is a kind of 'April Plus' package. Not much, but plus. 'Plus' might perhaps imply the establishment of a State-level Supreme Court."

Representatives from Croat leader HDZ BiH said: "NO to the present division of the two entities and we want an adoption of the plan of activities for overall constitutional changes." Božo Ljubić from other Croat leading party, HDZ 1990, said that they accept the principles of the international hosts, which are BiH as a functional state and an equal position for all constituent peoples.

President of Social Democrats, Zlatko



Lagumdžija, expressed dissatisfaction with the behavior of the ruling parties' leaders. "However, my dissatisfaction is overshadowed by the fact that the International Community is incomparably stricter, clearer and more decisive."

Rehn: We believe in what we do

At the press conference held after the meeting, officials of the International Community were unanimous in saying that the process had been launched.

Bildt assessed that certain positive steps had been made and that rough bases had been set, as expected. "We want BiH to prosper. However, BiH leaders should pass decisions on that. And it's time to do so. We will not let the rest of the region be a hostage of BiH."

Underlining the determination of the US and the EU to work alongside BiH politicians in order to achieve progress, Steinberg said that BiH political leaders must understand that no one will get their maximum demands.

"We want the parties to become fully engaged, to talk, to discuss the issues and to enable achieving of certain conclusions," he said.

EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Olli Rehn, assessed the meeting as constructive.

"I am positive that all are aware of the seriousness of the situation and that the European future of BiH is in question. Thus I believe that all leaders will create a positive momentum and make steps forward," said Rehn.

He added that there is still the chance to influence, with a constructive stance, an annual report of the EC that will be presented

on 14 October. He stressed that the issue of the visa regime and the decision that needs to be adopted in regards to it are of key importance.

Rehn added that an adequate constitutional structure of the country is a requirement for the accession to the EU and "that's why there are certain elements in relation to the Constitution, as well as the PIC prerequisites", which BiH failed to meet.

The meeting will continue on October 20, giving Bosniak, Croat and Serb political leaders time to consider the proposals. Rehn added that the next 10 days will be the most important for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"BiH political leaders have ten key days and we believe that we can all make the best of that time to create a positive dynamic of events to achieve these important aims for BiH citizens," concluded Rehn. ■



■ James Steinberg



■ Carl Bildt

Training for Excellence, Fighting with Style

Hailing from Wiesbaden, Germany, Robert Beczak has served with the German Police in the State Crime Office of Hesse for more than 19 years. A large part of that time was spent operating in countries throughout Europe, training, advising and working with local counterparts in specialist policing techniques. On his first international police mission, he was stationed in Kosovo for 13 months from 2006-2007, setting up and heading the first anti-organized crime unit which was established alongside international investigators holding executive power.

Currently working with the European Union Police Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina as an Adviser to the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), responsible for the Agency's Finance Intelligence Department, Murder Review Team, Anti-Corruption Section and Special Support Unit (SSU), the oversight of his local colleagues encompasses a broad range of activities. We followed Robert on one of his daily activities with SIPA SSU to get a real sense of what life is like working with the EUPM and to see some of the positive effects EUPM police officers are having on policing and security in BiH.

En route to a counter-terrorist training exercise at a bus depot in West Sarajevo, Robert Beczak explained that the training exercise we were attending was the culmination of a three week course he had recently set up for SIPA's Special Support Unit (SSU). He outlined the types of training activities the unit has been involved with and his role in the program: "Firstly, I deliver lectures to the SSU on several different topics. These include lectures on dealing with sudden deaths during arrest or transit, how to act when shootings occur that affect both the subject and the police officer, and the view of both the

investigator and the prosecutor in cases after fatal shootings by police officers."

"Secondly, I coordinate the training of the SSU in theoretical and practical work. This involves training situations in various environments such as in buildings, on buses, trains and aircraft, training in the use of helicopters, training in the use of firearms using both simulated and live ammunition, the use of the taser pistol - something which is new to BiH - door opening techniques and the use of special tools and equipment on operations. I brought over a specialist instructor from Frankfurt's S.W.A.T. Unit to advise the SSU on tactical matters."

Building foundations

After arriving at the bus depot, we met with SIPA Director, Mirko Lujić, who was observing the exercise together with key international community figureheads. Robert then introduced us to the Chief of the SSU, Mirsad Vilić, who alongside the specialist instructor from Frankfurt - who cannot be named for security reasons - outlined the plan and tactics of the exercise to the attendees, explaining that the Unit would be simulating a terrorist hostage-taking scenario on a bus, with the objective to neutralize the assailants and secure the area as quickly and safely as possible. Vilić announced to the guests: "This is not a demonstration. It is a live exercise. The organization, presentation and motivation of my team are at a very high level". He added: "We are grateful for the support the EUPM has been providing us".

As the exercise began to unfold, Beczak stated: "These guys are highly motivated and highly disciplined. I wouldn't wait for one second to involve this Unit in operations back in Germany in organized crime, suicide terrorist or hostage-taking situations".

We watched the SSU speedily and fluidly

deploy, repelling from a helicopter hovering 20 meters above the ground. Concealed snipers were positioned in nearby buildings, providing fire support as the Unit successfully neutralized the target and safely released the hostages. Following the exercise, Vilić conferred with the specialist instructor to reflect on the success of the exercise.

"This exercise is the final stage of a three-week training course, which is part of a bilateral program between Germany and the EUPM. The foundations are already there with the SSU, the idea with this training course is to build on those foundations," Beczak explained. "Each and every one of the members of this Unit has been very interested in the topics we have covered and the exercises we have been carrying out. We can see they have their own style, which is professional and close to the European standard. I feel it is important to maintain your own style, we don't want to change that."

Financial commitments

Back at the EUPM Headquarters, a short drive from the exercise, we went on to discuss how he feels about his role with the EUPM. "At the beginning, I was unsure about the position, but after a while I recognized that I can help my counterparts with my ideas and suggestions. I don't collect their weekly reports, but instead try to discuss with them their daily problems and of course try to find the best solution when needed".

We sat down in his office to discuss ongoing projects and commitments. Beczak mentioned that he also works closely with the Financial Intelligence Department (FID) of SIPA, tasked primarily to deal with the issue of money laundering. "A lot of this involves meetings with counterparts within FID. At the moment, we are working together with the Acting Chief of FID - a really hard-working guy - on the restructuring of the department. We are looking for professional new members who can provide valuable contributions to the team."

"On top of that, I am also working on several cases involving financial crime. This means frequent meetings with local and international prosecutors. On a day-to-day level, report writing is something I spend a fair amount of time on", he added. "All these reports and meetings may sound really boring, but believe me, they aren't! The meetings involve some very exciting discussions and lots of interesting opinions. The working climate within SIPA really is excellent. Not to mention within the EUPM. Our assistants are extremely professional - to me, they are more like experts".



Farewell to International Judges and Prosecutors?



■ Robert Beczak

The family unit

Further discussion with Beczak revealed a unique and highly skilled individual who seems fully equipped to carry out his specialist role. "I am an instructor in several martial arts. I don't forget to train daily to stay in good shape for the mission and life afterwards". He joked: "The guys from the Support Unit are always challenging me in fighting, running, swimming, shooting - it's pretty hard to keep up with them!".

Already speaking fluent German, English, Russian and Polish, he explained how he has always tried to embrace the varieties in human communication: "I feel it is important to remain open-minded to language and culture. Twice a week, I have my Spanish lessons and this week I am going to start with my next Bosnian course". To keep himself focused and busy, he described how he enjoys regular exercise: "I am very grateful the EUPM provide us with a fitness centre, you don't always have such facilities in other missions. For me, it is a way to keep my mind off being without my family".

Describing life working and living in the country, he added: "Even though you have your international colleagues, you are still alone out here without your family. They are going through problems in daily life without me there to support them, but they have always understood of the requirements of my job. I must remember, however, that I am not only a member of my family, but also a member of my unit".

Beczak drew the day to a close with a rather poignant conclusion on SIPA's role in BiH society.

"Of course you can recognize that SIPA, as a young agency, faces a lot of difficult obstacles, but its performance is improving every day," he explained. "The international acceptance is already there. What we have to increase is acceptance from within BiH itself, something that appears to be more difficult to succeed in for a state-level agency". ■

In 2003, Bosnia and Herzegovina's judiciary was strengthened by the introduction of international magistrates appointed by the High Representative to aid in the processing of high-level cases. Currently, 16 international judges and prosecutors are working in the BiH Court's War Crimes Department and the BiH Prosecutor's Office Special Department for Organized Crime, Economic Crimes and Corruption (SDOC), leading more than 500 cases. The mandate of the international judges and prosecutors is set to expire on December 31, 2009.

Despite the appeals of the highest BiH judicial officials to support the extension of the mandate of international judges and prosecutors, the BiH Parliament's House of Peoples (HoP) did not support the Amendments to the Law on BiH Court and Prosecutor's Office. Thus, international judges and prosecutors who are working for these two institutions are scheduled to leave end of 2009.

At this decision, BiH Minister of Justice Bariša Čolak stated: "I think that a good opportunity has been missed, taking into account that the BiH Court will face a num-

ber of difficult war crime cases in the upcoming period, which will be transferred by The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia [ICTY]."

The ICTY also expressed its disappointment with such decision by BiH HoP.

"The role of the international judges and prosecutors in the ongoing process of strengthening the capacity of the BiH judiciary to deal successfully with complex cases of breaches of international humanitarian law cannot be overemphasized," said ICTY Spokesperson Nerma Jelačić. "The ICTY therefore calls on political representatives to reconsider the matter and not to undermine the progress made to date in strengthening the rule of law."

In the joint press release, President of BiH Court Meddžida Kreso and BiH Chief Prosecutor Milorad Barašin stressed that "such a decision shows that the Parliament members have not taken into consideration the proposals of judicial professionals, and have thus compromised the efficient work of these institutions."

Whether the BiH political representatives will reconsider their decision remains to be seen. ■

News Brief

Book of Rules for Selection of Police Officials

September 11, 2009 saw the constituting session of the Independent Board, an autonomous body of the BiH police structures with competencies to select the candidates for and propose the removal of the directors and deputy directors of police bodies in BiH. As the first duty, the Independent Board completed the work on the draft of their Book of Rules.

"The first thing the Board had to do was prepare a rulebook on its work and send it to the Parliament for adoption," said Board's Chairman Žiko Krunić. "After the Parliament adopts the rulebook, the Board will work in accordance with its competencies."

The first issue on the Board's table is the selection of the Director and two Deputy Directors of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, Deputy Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), as well as the Director and

Deputy Director of the BiH Border Police. Directors will be appointed by BiH Council of Ministers as before, but now based on the results of the selection process conducted by the Board.

"After both Houses of BiH Parliament adopt the Book of Rules, we will announce vacancies for the appointment of the heads of police agencies," added Krunić.

The Board is one of seven police institutions set under the BiH Police Reform laws, which includes the Board for Complaints of Police Officials and the Public Complaints Board, as well as the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH, the Agency for Forensic Examination and Expertise, the Agency for Education and Advanced Training of Personnel and the Agency for Police. The adoption of these laws back in 2008 was the precondition for Bosnia and Herzegovina in signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union. ■

Baring Teeth: Police to Campaign against Corruption

Police public information summer activities and anti-crime campaigns proved to be an efficient tool to fight crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the feedback from citizens and public opinion survey conducted by an independent research agency.

The Forum of BiH Law Enforcement Agencies' Spokespersons gathered in Ljubuški on September 29 to collectively analyze the results of their public information activities and share ideas and recommendations for future activities.

Two key campaigns launched by the agencies sought to draw attention to the issues of traffic and property safety. The forum concluded that the summer public relations campaigns had broadened community policing projects by implementing a significant number of activities focused on the well-being of citizens.

Getting closer to the citizens

Police officers played a major role in all the regional events over the summer, and the citizens reacted positively to the opportunity of direct interaction with the police.

"During summer campaigns, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior introduced each community-policing officer to the representatives of local communities, and presented the citizens with a business cards containing information on all possible ways to contact their police officers," said Damir Čutura, WHC Police Spokesperson.

Personal contacts with police were also regarded as a preferred form of communications with citizens in Republika Srpska.

"The citizens were bored of printed material and police communication has achieved much greater impact via community policing officers who established direct contacts with the citizens and gave them useful advice," said Mirna Šoja, RS Ministry of Interior Spokesperson.

However, some public relations materials were not so boring - car air-fresheners, branded with the "122" police num-



ber, were warmly welcomed by the drivers.

Ale Šiljdedić, Spokesman of Una-Sana Canton Police, praised the creative approach of traffic police officers who distributed air-fresheners to drivers who obeyed traffic regulations: *"These PR activities generated a lot of attention among public and a great media coverage since nothing like that was done before in Una-Sana Canton."*

Inspiring initiatives

External PR activities also contributed to strengthening of internal communication among various bodies in police agencies' structures.

In some law enforcement agencies, using top-down approach, spokespersons managed to get aboard all police units in the implementation of the campaigns. Tuzla Canton is a good example for it.

"Tuzla Canton Police involved community policing officers in creation of PR materials and tasked them with including local media in their regular activities," said Miralem Malkić, Tuzla Canton Police Spokesman, who emphasized the good cooperation with and support of senior police management in this process.

The Forum generally emphasized that these campaigns were used successfully

by the police officers as a platform to deliver information on topics central to the security of citizens.

Police public relations activities over the summer period spurred additional initiatives by the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior and Sarajevo Canton Police.

The Republic of Srpska Ministry of Interior used the summer mini campaigns to inform the public about the establishment of an internal system directed toward the fight against corruption, as well as the project on the work of police in a multi-ethnic environment.

Sarajevo Canton Police implemented a mini campaign, raising public awareness about the renewal of licenses for the possession of firearms and the overall problem associated with the illegal possession of weapons. This campaign was particularly welcomed by all Forum members and police spokespersons from other regions consequently decided to implement similar PR projects in their respective regions.

Increasing trust

Police spokespersons determined that the summer campaigns and other public information initiatives facilitated by the EU Police Mission and the Forum

enhanced the positive perception of police work among BiH citizens. Their views were supported by a public opinion survey illustrating that almost 60 percent of the population is satisfied with the way police in BiH are operating.

Public information campaigns, jointly implemented by the EUPM and BiH Law Enforcement Agencies contributed to a positive public image of police work. According to the survey, conducted by an independent research agency, the campaigns were very persuasive. More than 85 percent of respondents who saw the "122" Police Accountability campaign in 2009 said that they would call the emergency police number 122 if they had information about a crime or if they had any problems. This is a significant increase from the 2008 survey, where only 67 percent of respondents were willing to call the police.

The survey also showed that the most important channel of communication was television, as more than 80 percent of the audience received the campaign messages through this medium.

The Forum Chairman and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Police Spokesperson Srećko Bošnjak strongly suggested that the BiH law enforcement agencies make a more comprehensive use of the

EUPM Receives Recognition Awards from Herzegovina Cantons

The EU Police Mission Press and Public Information Office received the annual West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior award in recognition of the dedication to duty and aiding in the establishment of closer ties between the police and the community. The award was handed over by Ivica Gašpar, West Herzegovina Canton Interior Minister and Zoran Galić, Police Commissioner at the ceremony organized in conjunction with the celebration of Police Day and marking the 12th anniversary

of West Herzegovina Police. The EUPM Press and Public Information Office is the only department of an international organization which has received this award from the West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior.

At the same time, EUPM's staff from Field Office Livno took part in that Canton's Police Day celebration and were pleasantly surprised when, during the award ceremony, they were asked to come forward and accept the certificate for good cooperation. ■

Internet and "new media" in future communications activities.

Fighting the evil

The Forum further discussed the platform for the forthcoming public information activities and suggested using the upcoming campaign to address the issue of corruption and the damage it causes to the society.

Bošnjak welcomed the idea by saying: "We hear about corruption every day and we must fight against this malign evil."

"The campaign will be a good opportunity to present what the police are really doing to fight corruption," concurred Halid Emkić, Spokesman of Brčko District Police.

The new public awareness campaign will be starting on December 1, 2009 and

continue until January 31, 2010.

"The EUPM will use this campaign to communicate its new and refocused mandate," said Kilian Wahl, Chief of EUPM Press and Public Information Office, and stressed that the EUPM will be 'focused on the support of the fight against organized crime and corruption' in the forthcoming period.

The Forum meeting was for the first time attended by the Spokesperson of the BiH Prosecutor's Office, Selma Hećimović, who was optimistic that a joint meeting of police and prosecutors' spokespeople will be organized in the near future. The next meeting of the Forum of BiH Law Enforcement Agencies' Spokespersons is tentatively scheduled for mid-October 2009 in Sarajevo, to allow for the timely preparation for the upcoming campaign. ■

BiH Judiciary

BiH Prosecutors Discuss War Crimes and Corruption Cases

Beginning of October, chief prosecutors from all levels of authority in BiH met in Trebinje at the Fifth Conference of Chief Prosecutors to, among other matters, discuss how to expedite management of the war crimes and corruption cases, and improve the cooperation between the prosecutors and the police.

The conference, which also gathered representatives of the BiH Ministry of Justice, Centers for Education of Judges and Prosecutors, Ombudspersons as well as International Organizations, was hosted by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council BiH (HJPC).

The participants adopted a set of conclusions which are to contribute to the

greater efficiency in the work and improvement of the status of judicial employees.

"We discussed the strategy for processing war crime cases and used the opportunity for best practices exchange among the prosecutors who deal with such cases," said HJPC President Milorad Novković, adding that the forum agreed on the establishment of a single database of war crimes cases.

The prosecutors' attention was also consumed by the issues of investigation management and evidence presentation techniques.

"We have also concluded that we need to consider a possibility of establishing specialized departments within both the

police and prosecutorial institutions for the fight against organized crime and corruption," added Novković.

The conference also presented an opportunity to discuss matters of a more internal nature - personnel and financial difficulties these institutions face.

The HJPC has pledged to offer financial support to the prosecutorial offices, as well as to ensure that the employees are entitled to all benefits as other BiH institutions employees.

"These mainly refer to the travel expenses, on-duty compensations, fees for living separately from the families, etc., which the employees have been deprived of," concluded Novković. ■

Good Will Goes a Long Way

After finding out the police in Public Security Centre Trebinje is in need of a rechargeable sound buffer, an ear protection device used for shooting practices, Adviser at EU Police Mission's Field Office in Trebinje, Cindy Muller, took it upon herself to aid her local colleagues. She contacted her home unit at the Federal State Brandenburg, Germany and, together with her supervisor from the Police Station Finsterwalde Training Center, obtained this tool which will greatly improve the training of the Trebinje Police.

Goran Zubac, Chief of Trebinje PSC, said that "this help is very much appreciated," as they were not in position to obtain such equipment.

"We are aware that local police need many items and not all resources are currently open, but we certainly hope that this device will serve its purpose and be of help to our local counterparts," said Muller. ■



■ Goran Zubac and Cindy Muller

In Focus

Visa Regime Liberalization: Stumbling Towards the Finish Line



Filling a great deal of airtime and column space in the media of late, the neuralgic visa liberalization issue has become a focal matter for both lawmakers and citizens alike. Should the conditions set out by the European Commission be fulfilled, citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) would see an easing of restrictions on travel within the Schengen area. The European Commission Delegation to BiH recently confirmed that 90 percent of the requirements had been met.

Headway has been made by the country's lawmakers in fulfilling the requirements of the Road Map, albeit at a dawdling pace. Politicians have been publicly accusing one another of feet-dragging and blocking key processes. This has acted as a wearisome distraction from collectively continuing on the path forward.

BiH Council of Ministers Chairman, Nikola Špirić, however announced last week that the biggest step in fulfilling the requirements had been achieved and that he

would "do everything in his power" to reach agreement on the final requirements - the establishment of a local server for exchange of police data and the adoption of a strategy for the fight against corruption.

Nevertheless, the implementation of biometric passports, stalled by problems with a German printing house and concern over fraudulent birth certificates, is a requirement yet to be achieved. Furthermore, disagreement over the reappointment of a state-level Minister of Security has compromised meaningful direction in the adoption of a strategy for the fight against corruption - although some claim it has created breathing space.

However, benchmarks within the Road Map and the consistent work of the EU Police Mission have served as parallel incentives in improving security conditions within BiH. Besides the drawn-out political squabbling, the strategies and action plans legislated through parliament will be of genuine benefit to the country's security.

On this, EUPM Senior Immigration

Advisor Neil Tuffrey says: "Many Roadmap issues need to be addressed for the sake of the security of the citizens and not just because there is a reward on offer from the EU. Clearly, the International Community will wish to use 'soft power' such as the Roadmap to its maximum extent, but the progress made on a range of issues needs to be continued long after visa free travel is granted to BiH citizens."

Top-level International Community representatives, including EUPM Commissioner, Stefan Feller, and EU Special Representative, Valentin Inzko, have welcomed agreements reached by the country's politicians, while the European Commission expressed its optimism that BiH could be added to the White Schengen list by mid-2010, dependent on the final conditions being met. The White Schengen List is a list of countries outlined by the European Union where no visa is required for their citizens to enter the territory of EU member states for a maximum period of 90 days. ■



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