

## In Focus



## BiH's Fight Against Money Laundering Measuring-up to International Standards

*The recent plenary session of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), concluded on 12 December in Strasbourg through the adoption of two evaluation reports that Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) had made significant progress in its ability and willingness to comply with best European practices in countering money laundering.*

BiH's delegation, chaired by the acting head of the Financial Investigation Department (FID) of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Mijo Golub, presented the recent work of BiH to the Committee in complying with the international standards set out by the Committee in the legal, financial and law enforcement sectors. The delegation provided examples of recent improvements of the country's effectiveness in combating money laundering and terrorist financing

and forwarded its case to be recognized as a country in line with international anti-money laundering standards.

Golub explained: "MONEYVAL experts visited BiH in May and June this year and spoke with the representatives of 60 institutions dealing with anti-money laundering measures and the financing of terrorism and subsequently checked the relevant laws and bylaws. The initial draft evaluation report based on their findings was negative. Consequently, we managed in the meantime to achieve significant progress in the field. The report was then amended accordingly and finally assessed as positive."

Robert Beczak, EUPM adviser to SIPA, who assisted in preparing the BiH delegation's presentation to the Committee, stressed the importance of the achievement: "Without the success in Strasbourg, BiH will have been left behind by several years in removing itself from the blacklist of critical countries in money laundering. Com-

Continued on page 3 >>

## Editorial



Commissioner Stefan Feller,  
Head of the EU Police Mission

New Year's Day 2010 saw the completion of a challenging transition of EUPM into its new, refocused mandate. Looking back on my first year here in Bosnia & Herzegovina, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all previous and current staff members for their dedication to make 2009 a successful year for EUPM. Yes, law enforcement and the rule of law never had it easy during 2009, but the dedication of our national colleagues and friends was able to produce progress even under difficult circumstances.

2009 has not met hopes for the development of Bosnia & Herzegovina on its path to Euro-Atlantic integration. We have noted with concern that the ability of political dialogue in the country was deteriorating even further. We have seen the International Community's efforts to assist Bosnia & Herzegovina struggling with this development. Personally, I would like to add that I have noted the growing concern of my national colleagues. All too often, the citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina were left disappointed, be it with the impact of the global financial crisis on the national economy and their chances for employment, be it with the failure of Bosnia & Herzegovina to achieve a positive assessment of the EU to achieve visa liberalization, be it with how, or better not, they felt represented by their own elected officials. In EUPM, we have felt the direct impact of weakening State level authority on our work to implement our mandate.

However, let us take stock of the positive developments, because they are significant and matter more: 2009 has seen our national colleagues from law enforcement and criminal justice coming together even closer than before. Assisted by EU and US friends, they met regularly and frequently, taking joint strategic and operational development forward. The results were outstanding operational success stories in fighting organized and other serious crime. We have seen the so-called "untouchables" being arrested, prosecuted and convicted!

Throughout 2009, the staff of EUPM has not only worked continuously in assisting our national colleagues in this endeavor. During the same time, EUPM's staff has assisted the Civilian Operations Commander in Brussels in establishing the path to our refocused mandate: For 2010 and 2011, EUPM has been invited by the Presidency of BiH to continue assisting the national authorities, with particular emphasis on organized crime and corruption. Not only have we successfully passed the organizational transition, we are also well prepared by having agreed with our national colleagues on a coherent, detailed and comprehensive strategy for the assistance rendered by EUPM to our BiH colleagues.

For this, I would like to put my sincere appreciation on record. ■

# The Reins in Spain: BiH a Priority of Spanish Presidency of EU

*Tackling the economic crisis and implementing the Lisbon Treaty have been set out as key domestic priorities for the Spanish presidency of the European Council. Abroad, it looks to continue the solid work carried out by previous presidencies. Continuation of the EU/US-led "Butmir talks" has been flagged as a major priority of Spain's agenda, while the Spanish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has asserted that constitutional reform "must be implemented".*

With the Spanish government taking up the rotating six-month Presidency of the European Council on the 1st of January this year, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, the Spanish Prime Minister - known for his open-mindedness, tolerance and fairness - has called for a stronger, more capable and more efficient Europe. He stated that chairing the Council will provide an opportunity to give "decisive impetus to the construction of Europe", coinciding with the new era coming into effect as a result of the Lisbon Treaty.

The Lisbon Treaty, which came into force on the 1st of December 2009, redefines the traditional functions of the rotating presidencies, alongside those of the Commission and the Parliament. Spain will effectively be test-driving the new legal framework of the EU. Working alongside the Spanish Presidency will be the new permanent President of the Council, Herman Van Rompuy. Both will be responsible for the important agenda-setting of the activities of the European Council over the next six months.

Dismissing speculation of potential difficulties between the two posts, Zapatero explained: "As presidents of the European Council and of the government of the rotating presidency, we would like the application of the Lisbon Treaty to be as diligent and rigorous as possible. In a spirit of co-operation, we will promote the EU's new institutional order so we can address and resolve the problems that concern us all." The Spanish government and Mr Van Rompuy have created a working group to coordinate their work over the next six months, to ensure that maximum cooperation is achieved.

## Strengthening Security

Zapatero has outlined ambitious plans for his tenure. The key priorities the Spanish presidency-in-turn has put to the fore include support of the new institutions created



■ José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero: Spanish Prime Minister

by the Lisbon Treaty, promoting a "people's Europe", tackling the fallout of the economic crisis, reinforcing Europe's energy security, the fight against climate change and consolidating a safer Union for its citizens. The latter priority is of particular interest. The Spanish government is looking to increase the effectiveness, coherence and visibility of Europe's external action and to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In that vein, Spain's priorities in matters of security and defence - an area of interest to BiH - is a commitment to reaffirming and building on the successes already achieved with the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) via the new Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) outlined in the Treaty of Lisbon.

Unlike previous presidents-in-turn, Zapatero will be working in close coordination with a new partner - the recently appointed High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. This may prove one of the more interesting new developments of the Lisbon Treaty and could pave the way for a potent European Union in its activities abroad and in strengthening its voice on the international stage. Ashton has already put Bosnia at the top of the EU's 'to-do' list.

BiH is therefore becoming one of the most important external issues for Europe. With the EU looking to integrate the Western Balkans into its structure, the incentive of EU-membership has raised the stakes for

leaders of the Balkan countries to push for key reforms. Meeting the requirements for the abolishment of the visa-regime has been one of the first tests of EU-compatibility. Spanish foreign minister, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, stated however that among the former-Yugoslav republics, BiH is the most fragile and, as a result, Spain will dedicate greater attention to it during its six-month Presidency. He added that: "there is no longer any reason to put obstacles in the way of a policy of open doors", dismissing concerns that certain EU member-states would attempt to block further enlargement.

## Following the Swedish Tenure

Accordingly, the situation in BiH has been earmarked as a key priority for the Spanish government's presidency-in-turn. The goal of accession to the Union is something that was worked on heavily by the previous Swedish Presidency - the so-called "Butmir talks" set out to pave the way for constitutional reform in BiH, with the ultimate goal being accession to the European Union.

Alejandro Enrique Alvargonzález San Martín, the Spanish ambassador to BiH, said: "We will continue the work that our predecessors started and try to harmonize it with the work of the US, Russia, Turkey and the OHR. There will be more visits by senior officials not only from Spain, but also from the EU". He continued: "We will not give up. There is not much time left because the Constitution has to be changed by the end of

April. Nobody can say that the current situation is OK. It certainly is not. These reforms must be implemented."

Ambassador San Martin recently announced that the door remains open for any kind of political meeting between BiH political leaders. High Representative, Valentin Inzko, has stated his support for the continuation of the talks. He also highlighted that considerable progress has been made on meeting the 174 conditions to allow citizens of BiH visa-free travel to countries within the Schengen area.

EU membership is unquestionably the

most important goal for BiH to pull itself out of the quagmire in which it currently sits. Overcoming disagreements between lawmakers over the future makeup of the country will prove a challenging task.

Strong leadership from the Spanish Presidency, working in cooperation with the High Representative and other stakeholders such as the United States, will prove vital in transforming the country's constitutional future. Accession to the EU is a duty BiH's politicians simply must carry out. Should the Spanish Presidency make headway, sighs of relief will be heard all around. ■

panies looking to invest in BiH will have been deterred from setting up business here due to its status as a blacklisted country".

He continued: "This will now create huge opportunities for BiH to attract foreign investment. This is a really positive achievement for BiH and for the future of its economy". Beczak added that a positive assessment by the Committee is one of the 174 steps in fulfilling the requirements of a visa-free regime with the European Union. ■

MONEYVAL is a monitoring mechanism comprised of ministers of the member-states of the Council of Europe that reviews measures in the countering of money laundering and the financing of terrorism for countries which are not part of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Established in 1997, the committee has 28 permanent members - BiH being one of them - and two temporary members designated by the FATF Presidency.

The stifling problem of money laundering is of particular concern in transition countries. These countries are often more vulnerable to money laundering operations due to the opportunities to infiltrate the less stringent financial regulatory frameworks in both the banking and non-banking sectors. As a result, MONEYVAL looks to monitor and evaluate the establishment of efficient anti-money laundering systems in accordance with international standards through "peer-groups", meaning that members of the Committee evaluate each other's work. ■

## News Brief



# Spanish Ambassador Visits EU Police Mission

His Excellency Alejandro Alvargonzález San Martin, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to BiH and representative of the Spanish Presidency of the EU, visited the EU Police Mission on 21 January 2010 where he met with the Head of Mission, Commissioner Stefan Feller, and senior staff.

Commissioner Feller briefed Ambassador Alvargonzález about the Mission's work as part of the overall EU engagement in the country and the Mission's objectives and priorities in scope of the extended mandate of the EUPM.

"We informed the Ambassador about our refocused and extended Mission mandate in 2010 and 2011. Upon the invitation of the BiH Presidency, the EUPM will continue to be a mission located throughout BiH, with Field Offices in Banja Luka, Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo, including specific capacities to assist and advise at EUPM HQ-level in Sarajevo. Our staff includes police experts

specialized in the field of organized crime and corruption, economic crime and financial investigations, prosecutors and judges advising the criminal justice system, as well as experts in the area of customs and penitentiary systems", Feller told the press today in Sarajevo.

Ambassador Alvargonzález expressed his satisfaction with the fact that BiH was moving in the right direction. He noted that while there still are certain technical requirements which are to be met he was optimistic about the country's progress in the coming six to twelve months. Reiterating that the responsibility for further progress clearly lies with the political leaders of BiH, he assured the citizens of BiH that Spain and the EU remain committed to assisting BiH on its path towards the European Union.

"Freedom and security are absolutely complementary. Social and economic stability can not exist without that. In that context I would

say that Judges, Prosecutors and Police in BiH need to be socially supported. Their efforts in serving the citizens need to be appreciated and rewarded by the citizens. Judges, Prosecutors and Police have a difficult task and must be well prepared and supported by society", said Ambassador Alvargonzález, emphasizing a need to make the public aware of the importance of the rule of law, as a base for a prosperous and stable country.

Speaking about the EU Police Mission, Ambassador Alvargonzález expressed his appreciation about the achievements of the mission to date in its support of the strengthening of the rule of law in BiH.

"I am impressed by the briefing that I just received from EUPM Commissioner Feller and his staff. The EUPM is very well equipped to further assist Bosnia and Herzegovina's rule of law system".

Commissioner Feller concluded: "I'm glad to say we have an excellent relationship with our counterparts, first of all the Ministry of Security, as well as the Ministries of Interior at entity and cantonal level. We have excellent relations with the High Judicial Prosecutorial Council, the State Court of BiH and the State Prosecutor's Office, as well as the police and other law enforcement agencies at the state, entity and cantonal levels. We are looking forward to continuing our successful assistance to BiH on its path towards the EU". ■

# Anti-Corruption Campaign "Corruption Takes Everything From You"

"Corruption takes everything from you" is the single most important message which the EU Police Mission and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) law enforcement agencies are conveying to the citizens of BiH as part of a joint anti-corruption public information campaign which launched on 7 December 2009 at the BiH Parliament in Sarajevo.



The campaign, which is set last for two months, aims to raise the awareness of citizens about corruption and its corrosive impact on the wider society. Police officers from across the country will be further educating the BiH public on the mechanisms individuals can use to help BiH curb corruption.

Within its two-month run, the "Corruption takes everything from you" campaign has placed a special emphasis on low-level corruption. It is present in everyday life, affecting citizens most significantly at a personal level. The campaign addresses the issue of the "habit" of giving gifts - which have in recent years turned into envelopes with substantial amounts of cash - to doctors, clerks and other public servants for the services they are supposed to provide as part of their jobs and the services already paid for with taxpayers' money.

It is in this light that the trademark of the campaign portrays a disgruntled BiH citizen feeling the effects of corruption. The non-descript "Mr BiH Citizen" is shown firstly looking content and wearing a suit. Having given a requested bribe, he is then portrayed stripped of everything, looking miserable.

The imagery aims to raise awareness about the unlawfulness of such behavior, emphasizing that both giving and taking bribes are criminal acts punishable by law. Through this vivid example, citizens are encouraged to report instances of corruption to the anonymous crime hotline "Krimolovci" (Crime-stoppers) which is manned by the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), - BiH's FBI.

From its very beginning the campaign has attracted a great deal of public attention, much due to the number of media and PR activities carried out by the local police and the EUPM.

One of the main features of the anti-corruption campaign is its

## TV Appearances in Scope of the Campaign

- FTV talk show **Respond to People**, 9 December 2009 (International Anti-Corruption Day)

**Guests:** Chief of Brčko District Police, Goran Lujčić, Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor, Oleg Čavka, Dani magazine journalist, Denana Karup-Druško, and President of Board of Directors of Transparency International BiH, Emir Dikić.



- TV Hayat's **Recipe for better life**, 14 December 2009  
**Guests:** SIPA Spokesperson Željka Kujundžija and FBIH Ministry of Interior Adviser Admir Katica

- TV Hayat's **Recipe for better life**, 15 January 2010  
**Guests:** Irfan Nefić, Chief of PPIO Sarajevo Canton Police and Slađana Lizdek, EUPM Spokesperson

- BHT's **Naked TV**, 14 December 2009

**Guest:** Brane Šuka from SIPA on the functioning of Crime Stoppers Hotline and educating youngsters as primary target group on mechanisms put in place to help curb corruption.



# "Corruption Takes Everything From You" Yields Results

focus on promoting its message via mass-media broadcasting and the internet. Numerous TV and radio talk shows have featured as prominent parts of the campaign, with Police officials, prosecutors, journalists, Transparency International officials, representatives of civil society and youth organizations, students, social scientists and academics, all featuring as panelists on the shows.

The guest panelists discussed the campaign's objectives and highlighted the mechanisms which citizens can use to fight corruption, all the while bringing the message of the campaign closer to citizens. Police and prosecutorial representatives used the opportunity to clarify a number of preconceptions people have when it comes to those responsible for the fight against corruption. They also presented their anti-corruption strategies and the results achieved so far.

Aside from promoting the campaign via the media, police officers organised a number of PR events and roundtables and took part in various activities in their local communities. On top of this, they distributed informational and educational materials throughout the country, including brochures appealing to citizens to report any instances of corruption they may witness to the police.

The campaign has yielded concrete, measurable results. More than 1,000 citizens have called the "Krimolovci" hotline since the launch of the campaign, representing a 200 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Of the calls received, 121 were considered useful, with most related to corruption, abuse of office or drug trafficking.

"The number of phone calls and the amount of useful information we have received is a clear sign that our message is reaching the citizens", says Mirko Lujčić, SIPA Director, adding: "It is a clear message to offenders and criminals that they cannot be complacent as citizens are gaining more and more trust in the police. We are deter-

mined to make Bosnia and Herzegovina a safe country."

The anti-corruption campaign "Corruption Takes Everything From You" is the sixth public information campaign jointly organized and run by the EUPM and local law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The campaign is set to last for two months, concluding at the end of January 2010. The fight against corruption, however, will continue indefinitely. ■



## ● TV PINK's Zabranjeni Forum:

**We can do it without corruption!**

17 December, 2009

**Guests:** Head of EU Police Mission, Stefan Feller, PhD Svetlana Cenić, Chief Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor, Nives Kanevčev, Chief Brčko District Police, Goran Lujčić, President of Board of Directors of Transparency International BiH, Emir Đikić.



## ● Alternative TV's Dossier,

21 December 2009

**Guest:**  
RS Police Director, Uroš Pena

The campaign was also promoted on numerous radio programs across BiH, hosting the police and EUPM representatives. On 15 January, 2010, West Herzegovina Canton Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with Radio Grude, organized a roundtable to discuss legal, criminal and social aspects of corruption alongside the mechanisms to fight it, with the participation of police, prosecutor and court representatives as well as NGOs and media. ■

# New Mandate: Focus on organised crime and corruption

*This year sees a new focus for the EU Police Mission's (EUPM) activities - a new mandate is currently being implemented. This means an internal restructuring to match the renewed focus of the Mission's aims as set out in the mandate, which is scheduled to carry the Mission to the end of 2011. This includes developing a new Mission Business (Implementation) Plan, which will clearly set out how the Mission will achieve its objectives in the coming period.*

There are three notable areas where the Mission will be undergoing significant changes. The first is the refocus on joint efforts aimed at building the local capacities and capabilities in order to better fight the pressing issues of organised crime and corruption. Working in-line with this, the second area is the new structure under which the Mission will operate country-wide - field offices around BiH will be merged and strengthened to concentrate on the new mandate issues. And finally, a new department is to emerge. The Strategic Advisory Unit (SAU) will consolidate the stock of specialized experts and police officers to make their assistance more readily available to the local counterparts as the Mission's approach is one of partnership.

*"We intend to build on the already excellent relations that exist between the police directors, commissioners and chiefs in the police and justice sectors. By working together in partnership with our local counterparts, we are striving to assist in improving the ability to identify and dismantle organised criminal networks,"* said Stephen



Goddard, the new Chief Advisor of the SAU. He explained that as the Mission focuses more sharply on supporting the fight against organized crime and corruption, it is important to improve the capacities and capabilities to use financial investigation to discover links between criminals and thereby weaken organised criminal networks.

*"We are looking to use our refocused capacities to assist the police and agency investigators in discovering and tracing more criminally gained assets, and to help and guide the prosecutors to use the courts to seize and confiscate such illegally acquired assets,"* continued Goddard.

A new approach to achieving this is currently being put into practice. A comprehensive combination of a strategic top-down approach and a horizontal approach are central in improving the structures for the efficient performance of local police. *"Regard-*

*ing the top-down approach, it primarily seeks to reinforce the cooperation, coordination and communication between police agencies and other parts of the criminal justice system, in particular with prosecutors,"* added Goddard. *"The horizontal approach is effectively a 'cradle-to-grave' method. In effect, it will see us monitoring, mentoring and advising our local counterparts from the inception of a case until after its conclusion with the overall aim of further improving the level of protection the public get from the activities of organised criminals".*

Ultimately, these key changes in the modus operandi will provide for an even more efficient effort in assisting BiH in the strengthening the rule of law, and continuing the successful establishment of a sustainable, professional and multi-ethnic police service operating in accordance with European and international standards. ■

## Sarajevo Canton Police Seize 50 kilos of Heroin

On the order of the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office, members of the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Intelligence-Security Agency of BiH (OSA) seized around 50 kilos of heroin and confiscated eight luxury vehicles, around 20,000 Euros and hundreds of mobile phones.

In the joint police operation conducted in Sarajevo's Ilidža settlement - considered the biggest ever operation of Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Interior against drug traffickers - the amount of drugs seized is

one of the biggest hauls in the last few years in BiH. Four suspects were also arrested.

*"Such results are encouraging, since drug addiction is possibly the biggest problem in this country and a phenomenon that we should fight against in every possible way,"* stated the Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor Oleg Čavka.

*"I will use this opportunity to send a message to the citizens of Canton Sarajevo: we are extremely focused on the fight against all types of criminal acts, especially in the*

*fight against drug abuse and those who are poisoning our youth,"* stated Sarajevo Canton Police Commissioner, Himzo Selimović.

The Sarajevo Canton Prosecutor's Office ordered a one-month custody against the four persons arrested. The operation represents a continuation of the activities initiated in December 2009, where four persons were arrested and three kilos of drugs were seized. Both operations targeted organized groups of drug dealers operating in the Sarajevo Canton area. ■

# The engine room behind the Mission

*With 23 years experience serving in the Italian Army in the Logistics Corps and abundant familiarity with the Balkans - both professional and personal - Neapolitan, Francesco Zurlo, Chief of the General Support Services of the EU Police Mission (EUPM) has been an ever-present driving force in the Mission since its inception in 2002. He was previously deployed with the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) on several postings around the Balkans, including Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia and finally as a member of the EUPM planning team in Bosnia.*

*With the current restructuring of the Mission, he has a colossal task in his hands. Shuffling and relocating every piece of operational equipment, from office utilities to vehicles, ensuring the Mission is able to operate without a hitch, one often takes for granted the finer details of what makes the Mission tick. We followed Zurlo around for a day, to get a real sense of what goes into the day-to-day management of the EUPM and how this charming Naples native works in the background to keep the show running.*

Wandering into an open-fronted outbuilding at the foot of the EUPM HQ, we found Zurlo huddled around a vehicle with its hood open, pointing and smiling at the engine parts with several of his colleagues. Taking care of the huge fleet of EUPM vehicles is something he takes pride in, and something that comes naturally to him after his vast experience in logistics both in a civilian and a military setting. Greeting us, he walked us into a backroom where we sat down and began to talk about the background of his job.

"Well, I've always worked in transport and logistics," he said, when asked how he became a member of the EUPM. "I was in the Italian Army for more than 23 years, making sure the vehicles are working and the supplies are there. Part of that time I spent working for the EUMM in a military capacity. I left the Army in 1999 to join the EUMM as a civilian. There were both professional and personal reasons for my leaving the Army", he continued.

"I met my wife in Zagreb in 1991 whilst stationed there with the EUMM. It was a life-changing decision to leave the army - the opportunity of a good civilian job alongside being able to commit to family life with my wife and family was a real motivating factor", he explained. Zurlo has now been in Sarajevo for almost eight years with the EUPM.

With its new mandate, the EUPM is undergoing significant restructuring. Changes are taking place all around the country with 17 field offices closing; meaning that the huge task of reorganizing the EUPM's field presence into four regional offices needs to be completed whilst keeping the momentum of the Mission going. More people are moving into new offices, vehicles are being shuffled from one place to another and equipment is being ferried around frantically to make sure work goes on.

It was surprising to hear about the small details that need to be combed over when moving one office to another: "Moving the equipment is very time consuming. We have to take care of the office furniture - the desks, the chairs, the fittings - sort out the computers, the internet connections, the telephone lines, repaint the place - it is a real logistical challenge", he explained. As the soon-to-be-vacant offices are being handed over to the local police, Zurlo added that he naturally wants the premises to be in excellent condition.

The job is set to be finished by mid-February. Everything needs to be accounted for, itemized and signed off. Add to that list the 120 vehicles the Mission will be using over the next two years, from EUPM-branded cars to the buses that ship staff members to and from work every day, and the enormity of the task begins to dawn on you.

We followed Zurlo up and down the floors of the Headquarters as he oversaw the relocating of a heap of office chairs. When asked what the most difficult part of the restructuring was, he said: "Without doubt moving the offices around to work in-line with the departmental reshuffle is the most difficult task. The Headquarters in Sarajevo are undergoing huge changes. Reconnecting all communications lines, itemizing every piece of furniture in the office and fitting everyone into their new offices without a snag is an arduous undertaking".

In the last few weeks at the EUPM Headquarters this responsibility has been clear for all to see. One day chairs and desks will be stacked on the landings outside office wings, drilling and maintenance work can be heard intermittently throughout the days, cables are strewn around the floors; the next day they are all but gone.

"I love this job, I feel really motivated to work here, it is what I've been doing all my life - logistics and transport!", he joked. With the chilly Balkan winter about to set in, more work lies ahead as Zurlo looks to keep the vehicles in pristine shape for the often treacherous conditions that face drivers on



the roads. Tires need to be changed, antifreeze needs to be taken care of and regular maintenance needs to be carried out on vehicles to ensure the Mission can keep operating throughout the winter.

When asked what kind of precautions need to be taken with winter-driving, he explained: "All ice and snow needs to be removed from the windows, mirrors and lights, the roof needs to be cleared, alongside the engine and luggage compartment hoods after heavy snowfall, and special attention needs to be paid to clearing snow from all the grilles to ensure proper airflow".

We met up later in the day over lunch to discuss more about himself. "My wife Finka and I got married in 2000. We met in Zagreb in 1991, as I told you earlier, but we had to wait a while until we could actually get married as I was never sure where the Army would send me. Before we met, I was actually deployed with the EUMM in Slovenia. From then on I spent time in Vukovar, Osijek, spent a year back in Italy, was then redeployed to Belgrade, then to Zagreb. After that I went to Split for seven months, then I finally went on to Podgorica when the EUMM shut down in Zagreb before joining the EUPM in 2002 as part of the planning team".

He told us that his family is currently based in Zagreb. We asked him if it was difficult to commute to and from Zagreb every other weekend: "Of course, it is difficult. I'm not young anymore and do get very tired with all then driving. I can't make it up there all the time, but I suppose it's a sacrifice you have to make if you want to create a good life for your family", he said bluntly.

Having been a permanent fixture here at the EUPM since its very beginning, he is a face known to all. Keeping the operation running, making sure that the finer details of the Mission are constantly in place, this delightful Italian is without doubt one of the behind-the-scenes stars of the show at the EUPM. ■

# Newcomers



FRANCE



**Jesus Garcia**, 55, from France, joined the EUPM as **Senior Immigration Adviser**. With a degree in law, he has held the rank of Chief Inspector since 1999 and has experience working in the Criminal Record Office, the Juvenile Squad in Paris and in counter-terrorism. From 1992 to 2000, he worked in the French Border Police focusing on the fight against trafficking in human beings. From 2000 to 2006 he was in charge of cooperation with several European countries in the field of immigration, including Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and England. From 2007 to 2009 he served as a police attaché at the French Embassy in the West Indies, working on immigration, drug trafficking and money laundering. He says that discovering a new country with a different culture and the pleasure of working in an international mission is what motivated him to join the EUPM. Jesus is married with two sons and one daughter. In his free time he enjoys swimming and practicing Tai Chi Chuan daily.



SLOVENIA



**Marko Rode**, 45, from Slovenia, joined the EUPM as **Chief Adviser in Tuzla**. He holds the rank of Police Superintendent and has 26 years of policing experience in Slovenia. His position in Slovenia's police, before joining the EUPM, was the Head of International Missions Section. He has extensive experience in anti-terrorism, VIP protection and the theoretical side of ESDP civilian missions. Rode has previous international police mission experience, as he spent one year in Jordan as an instructor to the Iraqi Police. He says that working under the umbrella of the EU is something he is keen to be involved in, in order that he can build on the theoretical experience he has already acquired in his work. With Slovenia sharing an important part of history with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and his career starting when the two countries were still part of the former Yugoslavia, understanding some of the challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently facing whilst turning theory into practice proved a huge motivator in joining the EUPM, Rode says. He is married with two children of 24 and 17. His hobbies are hiking and reading books on history.



SWEDEN



**Lars Lyden**, 58, from Sweden, joined the EUPM as **Adviser to Border Police**. He started his police career in 1972 and is a Chief Inspector. He has a high school education and has completed a wealth of police-specific qualifications and trainings. After first working as a mobile patrolling policeman for 10 years, he joined the Swedish Border Police. Before joining the EUPM he was working as a Duty Officer at Goteborg airport, running a team of officers involved in investigations, patrolling and security controls. Lyden has also served abroad in a number of Police missions: two missions in BiH IPTF (1997) and EUPM (2004), as well as missions in Cyprus, Croatia, Thailand and the Palestinian Territories. He says that being a member of the EUPM once again and the interesting and exciting nature of the work are big factors that drew him to returning to BiH, and that he did not hesitate for a moment when he was asked to join the mission once again. He has been living with his partner, Ewa, for about 10 years now. In his spare time he likes music, sports and traveling. ■

## Fun

# Holiday Season Continues in January with Orthodox Christmas and New Year

With the Serbian Orthodox Christmas working around the Julian calendar, Orthodox Christmas falls on January 7 of the Gregorian calendar. Even though the Serbs have their own practices and traditional customs to celebrate Christmas - as with Catholic Christmas - Orthodox Christmas is a holiday of joy and happiness, peace and forgiveness and is traditionally celebrated with the family and at home. "Peace from God, Christ is born" is a traditional Orthodox Greeting used at this time of the year.

## Burning the *Badnjak*

There are many customs unique to Orthodox Christmas - the burning of *badnjak* being one of them. A *Badnjak* is a young oak tree - or its branches - symbolizing wellbeing and strength, which is placed outside the front door of the house a few days before Christmas.

Traditionally, the head of the family would go to the forest early on the morning of Christmas Eve to cut the *badnjak* which would then be taken to the church to be blessed by a priest. The *badnjak* is then taken to the fireplace at home to be burned. The burning of the *badnjak* is a ritual of pagan origin and is considered a sacrifice to God so that the coming year may bring



plenty of food, happiness, love, luck and riches - as plentiful as the sparks it creates on the fire.

Nowadays, most go to their church service to be given a small parcel of oak and wheat to take home, or simply get it at the market place and set it afire on Christmas Eve, where the floor at home and in the church is covered with hay to remind worshippers of the stable in which Jesus was born.

## A Year of Luck

Christmas Day itself is celebrated after 40 days of lent with a feast, often featuring roast lamb and mouth-watering cookies. The most important Christmas meal how-

ever is *česnica*, a special kind of delicious bread baked with a lucky golden coin inside. The family breaks up the bread during the feast and whoever finds the coin is said to be assured an especially happy year.

Orthodox Christmas is not associated with presents as it is in the West. Presents are given on the day of Saint Nicholas (19 December), the patron saint of children. However, most Serbian families give presents on New Year's Day. Santa Claus - or *Deda Mraz*, literally meaning *Grandpa Frost* - and the Christmas tree are associated more with New Years Day, which according to the Julian calendar falls on the 14th of January.

## Slava

Of all Slavs and Orthodox Christians only Serbs have the custom of *slava* - the celebration of a saint, a family guardian. Each family celebrates the saint which it considers to be its guardian. A *slava* is inherited, mostly from father to son. Each household has only one saint it celebrates, meaning that the occasion brings the whole family together. Unlike Christmas, *Slava* is a loud and jolly celebration where friends and neighbors are also invited, often lasting for a few days. ■



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

Editor-in-Chief: **Kilian Wahl**,

e-mail: kwahl@eupm.org

phone: +387 33 752 766,

fax: +387 33 752 759

Editor: **Fraser Buffini**,

e-mail: fbuffini@eupm.org

phone: +387 33 752 885,

fax: +387 33 752 759