

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	TV PINK (18,00 hrs)	BHT 1 (19,00 hrs)
RHB, RTV Mostar's press release	Obama new President of the USA	Barack Obama wins USA elections
Obama is new US president	Two arrests in Zvornik	BiH politicians on Obama's victory
Change in USA is good for BiH	EC report on BiH progress	EC report on BiH progress published
EU questions BiH's commitment	Solana on situation in BiH	EU reps. worried about reform block
NTV Hayat (19,00 hrs)	FTV (19,30 hrs)	RTRS (19,30 hrs)
US Embassy hosts election night	Barack Obama wins USA elections	SIPA arrests Pelemis and Peric
SIPA arrest war crimes suspects	Obama addresses US citizens	RSNA brings new law
Obama is voted US president	Bush greets Obama's victory	EC report on BiH progress
Karadzic witnesses in Krajsnik trial	World reactions to Obama's victory	Dodik invites for cooperation in region

Oslobodjenje	Historic victory of President Obama
Dnevni Avaz	USA will be more engaged in BiH [Daniel Serwer re: US presidential election]
Dnevni List	Obama writes new history
Vecernji List	Obama – president for new America
Slobodna Dalmacija	Barack Obama changing the world
Glas Srpske	America elects Obama (US presidential election)
Nezavisne Novine	Jointly with neighbors to EU (Int with BiH Presidency's Radmanovic)
EuroBlic	Obama's American dream (US presidential election)
Vecernje Novosti	Obama for changes! (US presidential election)

Obama wins US presidential election/Reactions

Obama wins US presidential election

BHT 1 By [Samra Krehic](#) – **Barack Obama** is the new president of the USA, which is the first time in the history of USA that an African-American President was elected. **FTV** also carries the statement of the current US President **George W. Bush** regarding Obama's victory, noting that the USA showed vitality of its democracy. **Vecernji list** pg 8 'English: Like election of Kennedy in 1960' by [Dejan Jazvic](#) – carries ambassador English who compared Obama's victory to **John F. Kennedy's** victory from 1960. **Vecernje Novosti** pg 16 'Status quo in Bosnia' not signed, **EuroBlic** pg RS1, announced on cover 'Obama defeated McCain and English' by [Dusanka Stanic](#) covered English. **Pink**, **RHB**, **Hayat**, **Dnevni list** front pg splash and pgs 4-5 'Obama writes new history' by [Predrag Zvijerac](#), **Vecernji list** front pg splash 'Obama – president for new America' – VL features several articles running from pages 2 through 7. **Slobodna Dalmacija** front pg splash 'Barack Obama changing the world' SD features several articles running from pages 3 through 5, **Oslobodjenje** cover splash pgs 2-5 'Historic victory of President Obama' by [Oslobodjenje team](#), **Dnevni Avaz** pg 23- 25 Barack Obama is new president' by [agencies](#), **Glas Srpske** cover pg splash, pgs 3, 22-23 'America elects Obama' by [AP](#), **EuroBlic** cover pg splash, pgs 6-7 6 'Obama's American dream' by [T. Trikić, N. Vlaco](#), **Vecernje Novosti** cover pg splash and pgs 16-17 'Obama for changes!' by [Slobodan Pavlovic](#), **Nezavisne Novine** pgs 22-23, announced on cover 'Historical victory of Barack Obama' by [agencies](#) covered Obama's victory.

Reactions of BiH politicians to Obama's victory in US presidential election

BHT 1 By [Edis Deljkovic](#) – carries the first reactions of BiH politicians regarding the USA presidential election. BiH Presidency Chairman **Haris Silajdzic** stated that this victory should be an inspiration for BiH to move on into a normal democratic state where citizens are in the center of attention and not ethnic groups. BiH Parliament MP (SDA's) **Bakir Izetbegovic** said he expects a positive and more active relation of the USA towards BiH. Speaker of the BiH House of Representatives (HDZ BiH) **Niko Lozancic**, stated that the US citizens gave another democracy lesson to the world, expressing hope that BiH citizens will also know how to improve the situation in BiH in future elections. RS National Assembly Speaker (SNSD) **Igor Radojicic** said that a change in the US policy towards BiH should not be expected, since some directives of their policy are constant throughout the years, like the Dayton Peace Agreement for BiH. **Oslobodjenje** cover splash pgs 2-5 'Historic victory of President Obama' by [Oslobodjenje team](#)- BiH Presidency Chair **Zeljko Komsic** welcomed the victory of Obama, adding he expects positive results for BiH, considering that BiH's friend Biden is a new Vice President. SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** is of the same opinion, adding that this means that the USA could become more active in solving of the issues within BiH. The BiH Finance Minister **Dragan Vrankic** however, does not believe that the

For further information please contact MIA Media Monitoring Unit:

MMU Head Bojana Batinic (033 283 836); Deputy MMU Head Tanja Arapovic (036 512 639)
EMM Coordinator Arijana Luckin (033 283 783);
MIA Sarajevo Media Monitor: Roman Ivankovic (033 283 947);
MIA Mostar Information Officer: Dejan Juric (036 512 640);
MIA Brcko Information Officer: Lejla Murselovic (049 240 324);
MIA Banja Luka Media Monitor: Irena Egic (051 330 262)

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election's outcome will influence the global financial crisis. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 2 'We will all profit from Obama's victory' by [F.Vele](#)- HDZ BiH's **Miso Relota** expects the USA to become more involved into constitutional changes, while SNSD's **Rajko Vasic** believes that Obama's victory will not change the US global policy. **Vecernje Novosti** pg 16 'Status quo in Bosnia' not signed – RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** stated that the Obama's victory will change nothing related to the stance of the American administration towards BiH. *"BiH is a strategic political goal of the American administration and I do not think that will change, regardless of Obama's victory"*, Dodik added. **Glas srpske** pg 3 'USA will not change its policy in the Balkans' by [Miroslav Filipovic](#) covered.

Cropress on election of Obama

Dnevni list pg 6 mentioned on front 'New American policy towards BiH?!' by [Dario Pusic](#) – notes that the victory of **Barack Obama** did not leave the political scene in BiH indifferent since there are different views about the role of the new US administration in solving of numerous problems in BiH. According to DL, the Bosniak and Croat parties are welcoming Obama's victory and expecting the US foreign policy to be more engaged in solving big problems in BiH, among others the Dayton-based organization of the country. On the other hand, DL says politicians from the RS do not see Obama's victory as an opportunity for a stronger US engagement in BiH, as noted by the PDP leader **Mladen Ivanic** who believes the US have a lot more important issues to deal with such as the Middle East, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. **Vecernji list** pg 8 'Unites Croats, Bosniaks and Serbs' by [Zoran Kresic](#) – notes that BiH politicians welcomed Obama's victory and goes on to say it is difficult to expect a dramatic change in the US' policy. According to [Kresic](#), politicians in BiH are carefully announcing changes especially following rumors that the new US administration will include the chief architect of the Dayton agreement **Richard Holbrooke**.

BHT1 Late News:
Alkalaj, Mistic: Obama's election victory brings new climate to the world

BHT 1 By [Vanja Furtula](#) – Guests of the BHT1 late news were BiH Foreign Minister **Sven Alkalaj** and former BiH Consul in New York **Ivica Mistic**, who discussed possible effects of **Barack Obama's** election victory on the Balkans, especially BiH. Alkalaj commented that the very fact Obama is not a *"stereotypical"* President will bring *"a new climate"* to the world, especially in multi-ethnic countries that should support similar political processes within. He added that so far the US policy has always been consistent in supporting BiH's unity and Euro-Atlantic integration and that BiH officials will probably be able to increase the US' interest for BiH. Mistic noted that many problems have emerged since the international community primarily dealt with BiH, which is why the Balkans will not be the top priority of the new administration. He argued that BiH citizens should follow the example and elect politicians who offer changes. Editor noted that many are speculating that the future Obama's team could include **Richard Holbrooke**, **Madeleine Albright** and other Clinton-era officials. Alkalaj and Mistic agreed that Vice President-elect **Joe Biden** has done much for BiH, and that the vice-president's role is now more influential in foreign policies.

Daniel Serwer: Role of Europe is crucial for BiH

Dnevni Avaz cover splash pgs 2-3 'USA will be more engaged in BiH' by [S.Numanovic](#) – Commenting the results of the US presidential election, the former senior official in the State Department **Daniel Serwer** told daily that as far as BiH and the Balkans are concerned, the role of Europe is of crucial importance. *"As for BiH, the changes of the Constitution need to be top priority,"* said Serwer.

Oslobodjenje op-ed:
Election of Obama for US President does not mean much for BiH

Oslobodjenje pg 10 'Their' problem' op-ed by [Svjetlana Salom](#) – Editorial reads that the election of **Barack Obama** for the new US President does not mean that BiH will suddenly come into focus of the US interest in the region. [Salom](#) notes that, except the fact that Obama's Vice President **Joseph Biden** was supportive of the NATO air intervention during the war in BiH, there are no other clues that the USA will pay special attention to BiH. *"Obama was elected president thank to fact that more than 60 percent of voters had economic reasons in mind, while only 10 percent was led by foreign policy of the world's most powerful state. This should be enough to get a message,"* concludes the author.

NN, GS op-eds comment results of US presidential election: one more proof everything is possible in USA

Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 11 'Black man in White House' by [Jelena Pralica](#) – [Pralica](#) comments the US presidential election and victory of **Barack Obama** by saying one sentence circled the globe: *"a black man will sit in the White House and he will be neither a security guard nor a waiter or a chef"*. The author says this is both encouraging and sad at the same time, since it took more than two centuries for the first African-American to be elected the US President. **Nezavisne Novine** op-ed pg 11 'New president' by [Muhamed Filipovic](#) – reminds it took 40 years for the USA to transform from a USA in which black people and human rights activists were being killed to a USA in which a black person is elected the President. [Filipovic](#) concludes by saying Obama represents a hope. **Glas srpske** op-ed pg 4 'Barrack Obama' by [Milenko Kindl](#) – [Kindl](#) says America once again proved itself to be a country in which everything is possible, and comments Obama will face many difficult tasks such as Iraq or recovering USA's reputation worldwide. The author concludes that, according to unofficial information, Obama might show more interest in the Balkans issue too.

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EC' report presented/New EU's strategy in BiH/Other related stories

EC reports on BiH progress in last 12 months; EC' Kourkoulas: Report is not as positive as we wanted it to be

RTRS By [Branka Kusmuk](#) - The Head of the European Commission Delegation to BiH Ambassador **Dimitris Kourkoulas** delivered to BiH authorities the EC report on BiH progress in the last 12 months and presented the strategy of expansion for 2008. The report states that the progress is made in fulfilling political criteria in the first half of this year, when, apart from the events that led to signing of SAA, BiH went on with the strategy of public administration reform. One more progress was made by the Court of BiH in processing the war crimes cases. The report also states that local elections this year were conducted according to international standards. However, Kourkoulas stressed that *"the lack of consensus and inflammatory political rhetoric are more obvious than ever"*, adding that the reform processes are significantly slowed down and that this situation affected the report itself, underlining that *"the report is not as positive as we wanted it to be"*. Kourkoulas also said that no progress was made in the field of the constitutional reform, predicting *"the Constitutional evolution, not a revolution"* and saying that the Constitution must be compatible with human rights respecting and that BiH becomes able to speak with one voice as a future candidate and EU member. **BHT 1** – The report also states that a better coordination between the BiH Parliament and BiH Council of Ministers is needed, as well as among entity and state levels. Additional handicap for BiH's accession to the EU is also nonexistence of a census. **Hayat** By [Elma Kazagic](#) – Kourkoulas also stated that the EC is not going to identify the good and the bad guys. **FTV** By [Blazica Kristo](#) carries that the EC' report has only one bright point – signing of the SAA and the Agreement on Visa Regime Facilitation. Everything else was described as a blockage and slowing down, stressed the presenter. Kourkoulas stated that sometimes the RS is to blame because it is not willing to transfer certain powers to the state level and sometimes the problem is the lack of coordination between the state and entity levels. **Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'Progress discredited by inflammatory rhetoric', mentioned on cover 'Mark 2' by [Sanita Rozajac](#) – *"In scale from 1 to 5, report on progress of BiH would be get mark 2.5, aiming for 5. BiH made limited progress on the issue of functioning of the state institutions, and there was no progress regarding the constitutional reform,"* underlined Kourkoulas. *"Without census, there are no talks on the EU admission. It is necessary to conduct census in the entire state. Hence, census in one entity has no use for the EU,"* he concluded. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8, mentioned on cover 'Nationalism endangers BiH's European perspective' by [S. Skuletic](#), **Pink**, **Dnevni list** pg 8 'Domestic politicians not assuming responsibility' [not signed](#), **Vecernji list** pg 10 'Corruption – obstacle for BiH on road to EU' by [Zlatko Tulic](#), **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Reforms slowed down after SAA' [not signed](#), **EuroBlic** pg RS2 'Progress towards EU failed quickly' by [Suzana Stambol](#), **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2, announced on cover 'European perspective seriously jeopardized' by [Mirza Cubro](#) covered.

GS int with EC Delegation Head Kourkoulas: if situation in BiH stays same like in past several months, BiH will never join EU

Glas Srpske pg 2 'If it stays like this, BiH will never join Europe' by [Perica Pecanac](#) – In an interview Head of the European Commission Delegation to BiH **Dimitris Kourkoulas** stated BiH can make a fast progress if there will be consensus and political agreement but, if the situation stays the same like in past several months, BiH will never join the EU. *"All questions related to the closure of OHR are in hands of the Peace Implementation Council. I cannot speak on behalf of (High Representative Miroslav) Lajcak, but I do know he is very interested to see terms for the closure of OHR be fulfilled as soon as possible"*, Kourkoulas stated. Asked to say if a constitutional reform is really necessary for the closure of OHR, as some politicians claim, Kourkoulas replied a constitutional reform is a precondition neither for the closure of OHR nor admission of BiH to the EU. *"However, we cannot accept BiH to be a member of the EU if its Constitution, for example, does not reflect a full respecting of human rights"*, Kourkoulas added.

HR Lajcak on EC's report: Report precisely defined areas where progress was achieved and where it was not

BHT 1 By [Elvir Bucalo](#) – The High Representative **Miroslav Lajcak** stated the European Commission (EC) report has very precisely identified areas in which BiH has achieved progress as well as those where such progress, unfortunately, has not occurred. He added that on Monday, Foreign and Defense Ministers of the EU will discuss the situation in BiH and will take into account this report. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 9 'Inflammable rhetoric halts reforms' [not signed](#) covered.

RS PM's Advisor: EC's report was expected

Glas srpske pg 2 'Not surprised with report' [not signed](#) – Advisor of the RS Prime Minister for European Integration **Zeljka Cvijanovic** thinks this year's Report of the European Commission on Progress of BiH in the Process of Stabilization and Accession contains both positive and negative remarks. *"This is no special surprise, because we had a chance to get acquainted with contents of this document while it was still a draft"*, Cvijanovic added. **Glas Srpske** pg 2 'Unclear addresses in BiH that are being criticized' [not signed](#) – Vice President of PDP **Slobodan Nagradic** thinks it is unusual that such a distinguished institution like the EC published a press statement, from which it is unclear which addresses in BiH are being criticized for slowing down of reforms and for an inappropriate rhetoric.

EU's officials prepared reorganization of EU's work in BiH; EU Ministers to

FTV By [Blazica Kristo](#) High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy **Javier Solana** and the EU Enlargement Commissioner **Olli Rehn** prepared reorganization of the work of the EU in BiH in order to help BiH in the accession

discuss situation in BiH on
Nov 10

process. **BHT 1** By Elvir Bucalo – Presenting the BiH's progress report Rehn announced that he will meet with Solana and the Foreign Affairs Ministers to look for the way of protecting the European investment and to strengthen EU's presence in BiH. All this will not be enough without the local political leaders, to whom Rehn sent a message: *"The challenge for BiH leaders today is to achieve such a level of political consensus, which achieved progress in European integration in other countries of the region. The reforms which bring BiH closer to the EU should be at their peak today and all the energy should be focused on these issues"*. Head of Unit for Albania and BiH within the EC Directorate General for Enlargement **Dirk Lange** stated *"There is no consensus on the main political issues and a more worrying fact – there is no sense of emergency in responsibility to overcome this political blockage... Politicians in BiH have to take responsibility and speed up the reform process. They cannot leave this to the international community"*. **Pink** - Solana expressed his worries in Brussels about the return of extreme nationalistic rhetoric in BiH stressing that EU will have to send a clear message to BiH leaders to respect the Dayton Peace Agreement. **Hayat** By Elma Kazagic – EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Defense will discuss the situation in BiH on November 10, taking into account the EC' report about progress in BiH. Shorter version of this document will be published on Friday. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'Solana: BiH leaders have to honor Dayton' by Srna, Glas Srpske pg 6 'Leaders must respect Dayton' not signed, **EuroBlic** pg RS2 Inset 'Rehn and Solana have been concerned for long time' not signed, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'Structure of BiH must not be tempered with' by Dejan Sajinovic covered.

DL: Solana and Rehn to EU
foreign ministers - PIC
could close OHR down at
session on Nov 19

Dnevni list pg 8 mentioned on front 'Office of High Representative to be closed down' by P. Zvijerac – writes that the EU High Representative for Foreign Common and Security Policy **Javier Solana** and EU Enlargement Commissioner **Olli Rehn** sent the EU foreign ministers a letter. According to the article, the two of them presented a position that the Peace Implementation Council could on November 19 take a decision to abolish what DL calls *"the position of the international representative for BiH"*. (headline refers to the Office of High representative). Further on, the letter says the mandate of the future representative of the EU in BiH would have to be strengthened and in harmony with the current needs and would still have to be focused on political and security issues. In addition to that, the letter reads the constitutional reform is not a pre-requisite for closing down of the OHR, what is important is an evolution towards and functional and efficient state that is able to meet obligations in the process of accession to the EU.

HR Lajcak: Our mission in
BiH is not over, USA must
remain fully engaged in
Western Balkans

Glas Srpske pg 6 'Mission in BiH is not over' not signed – In a statement to German magazine 'Spiegel', the High Representative **Miroslav Lajcak** said: *"Our mission in BiH is still not over. There are serious threats that could endanger the whole process in its final phase."* He added that the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed only after the USA took over the leading role in negotiations. *"From the perspective of BiH, our priority is that the USA, together with its international partners, should remain fully engaged in providing the support for the Western Balkan countries,"* underlined Lajcak. **Oslobodjenje** back pg 'USA helps BiH' by Fena, also covered.

Politicians' comments to
possible change in role of
IC in BiH: reflection of
weakening of American
influence in BiH

Glas Srpske pg 5 'EU like diplomatic advisor' by Z. D. – Commenting possible new strategy of the international community in BiH, Deputy Speaker of the BiH Parliament **Milorad Zivkovic** stated the new strategy is just a reflection of weakening of the American influence in BiH. He assessed the EU will have an advisory and diplomatic role in BiH, unlike the system that was present in past and that reflected in *"a system of blackmails and use of the Bonn powers"*. SDS' **Mirko Okolic** said the OHR failed to fulfill expectations of both the international community and BiH. *"Many political options expected the impossible from the OHR, i.e. they expected imposed solutions to be accepted and implemented"*, Okolic noted, adding the international community will now let domestic institutions do their jobs. Deputy Speaker of BiH Parliament **Beriz Belkic** added he thinks BiH still needs OHR, while HDZ 1990's **Martin Raguz** stated he expects from the EU to play a more active role in the constitutional reform.

RS PM Dodik: Foreigners
should leave BiH to people
who live here

Pink - The RS Prime Minister **Milorad Dodik** said during the Economy Forum of Serbia held in Belgrade, that the International Community should leave BiH to people who live here, because it is *"unacceptable that foreigners decide on BiH progress to the EU"*. Dodik also said that there is no alternative to the EU and that he is convinced that this is the road that BiH will take and that by signing of the SAA, BiH showed its ability to lead its own politics. **RTRS** – Dodik also invited Serbia to invest in the RS and he also suggested the cooperation with Serbia to the FBiH. *"If the FBiH is ready, I am inviting them to sign the agreement with Serbia, just like the RS did, and I am asking them to help me to sign the agreement with Croatia"*, said Dodik, adding that this would significantly relax the relations in the region. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 5 'Dodik recommended FBiH to sign special relations with Serbia' by Srna, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Europe is our strategic goal' by Aleksandra Diklic, Vecernje Novosti pg 9 'Serbia constructs in Srpska', announced on cover 'Serbia constructs Srpska' by D. I. K. and T. S., **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'RS wants FBiH and Serbia to adopt agreement' by Srna covered.

On behalf of EU officials
French FM Kouchner warns
BiH political leadership

RHB - In a letter to members of BiH Presidency, Chair of BiH Council of Ministers and FBiH and RS Prime Ministers, French Minister of Foreign Affairs **Bernard Kouchner**, on the occasion of the French EU Presidency and on behalf of the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy **Javier Solana** and European Commissioner for Enlargement **Olli Rehn**, expressed EU willingness to support prospective members. Kouchner stressed that in turn, the EU expects the countries to accept the values on which the EU is based, causing serious worries about political situation in BiH created by politicians at all levels. Inciting fear rather than cooperation and questioning the reform process is in contradiction to the stated aim of EU membership, Kouchner wrote, adding that challenging the basic structure of BiH as defined by Dayton Peace Agreement by denying BiH territorial integrity or the existence of the RS must stop. **FTV** The letter further reads: *"You are risking distancing BiH from the EU by this behavior. It is time to show the will for the European path and to prove that you are ready for dialogue and compromise"*. **Oslobodjenje** pg 9 'You are risking European future of BiH' by **J.Fetahovic**, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 'Prove competence for dialogue and compromise' by **Fena**, **Nezavisne Novine** pg 3, announced on cover 'Structure of BiH must not be tempered with' by **Dejan Sajinovic** covered.

Avaz interview with former
HR Schwarz-Schilling: EU
and USA must work
together in BiH; EUSR has
to have special powers

Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'EU and USA must work together in BiH' by **Sead Numanovic** – In an interview to daily, the former High Representative **Christian Schwarz-Schilling** stated that the US presidential election will influence the entire world. *"I know the newly elected US Vice President Joseph Biden. He had a huge role in BiH, and I am sure he will dedicate himself to this country,"* underlined the former HR. Schwarz-Schilling said he expects the US and the EU to harmonize their plans for BiH: *"In the paper prepared for the EU by [the EU High Representative] Javier Solana and [European Enlargement Commissioner] Olli Rehn, the USA was not mentioned. This has to be changed now."* He underlined that besides the role of the USA, the EU must also solve the issue of special authorities of the EU Special Representative (EUSR). *"I think that the Union must have adequate approach to the problems in BiH. There must be certain mechanisms in this package that would be used in case that peace, integrity or stability of the country are in peril,"* stressed the former HR. He noted that the Solana-Rehn document also advocates evolution of the constitutional reform in BiH. *"This process is not precondition for continuation of the European path of BiH. I believe that some (Bosniak) parties will not like such stance,"* he added.

NN int with Presidency
Chair Radmanovic:
Priorities from constitution
must be respected by all,
whether they like it or not

Nezavisne Novine cover splash, pgs 6-7 'Nebojsa Radmanovic: Together With neighbors to the EU' by **Sasa Cavrag** – carries a lengthy interview with BiH Presidency member **Nebojsa Radmanovic** who is assuming the office of Presidency Chair. Speaking about his priorities in the next eight months of rotation, Radmanovic underlined those are set under the BiH Constitution which all Presidency members must oblige whether they like it or not. He emphasized the role of Presidency in coordination of Euro-Atlantic integration activities, as well as improvement of cooperation with the neighboring countries. *"Goals of BiH foreign policy have been set earlier, but they are an important part of the road to the EU. This is a task where we have not achieved major results in earlier period. I think that it is important now...in the next eight months, to make big steps towards that cooperation and try to solve some issues which have been open for years"*, said Radmanovic. Speaking about relations between Presidency members, Radmanovic said that they are equally good both with Presidency member **Zeljko Komsic** and with **Haris Silajdzic**: *"Another question is our political stance or political principles of Presidency members and that is where the difference between me and Mr. Silajdzic regarding the past and future of BiH is fully visible. Mr. Komsic is a bit calmer there, and that is why it seems that both I and Mr. Silajdzic have better relationship with him."* Asked what he would say if he had the opportunity to address the UN General Assembly, Radmanovic said that he would focus on achievements of BiH in the post-war period, concluding officials do not have the right to send out messages damaging for BiH's image, like Silajdzic did in his speech before the UN GA. Speaking about relations between Sarajevo and Banja Luka, Radmanovic said that the attitude of Sarajevo needs to change. He finally argued that situation will improve only when the role of the International Community becomes advisory in the first place. *"OHR should have been closed down long time ago. That would be better both for BiH and for the International Community"*, said Radmanovic. **Glas Srpske** pg 6 'Divided stances about BiH' **not signed** also covered.

BiH Pres' Silajdzic: I am
against RS

Glas Srpske pg 6 'I am against RS' by **Miroslav Filipovic** –Incumbent BiH Presidency Chair **Haris Silajdzic** stated for **GS** that he is against the RS, because *"this entity violates the Dayton Peace Agreement and basic human and international rights"*. He added that he expects the members of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board to finally say that *"the RS Government is slowing down BiH's progress towards the EU"*. He accused the RS of preventing the completion of return process and full implementation of the Dayton Agreement. Silajdzic added that OHR should not be closed until new BiH Constitution is adopted. Asked to comment the criticism against him coming from some members of the International Community, Silajdzic said that the International Community does not have the right orientation, and it trying to treat equally those who are working to make BiH part of EU, and those working against

that. Commenting the election of new US President, Silajdzic said that he expects the new US administration to secure rule of law and implementation of human and international rights. Insert 'Consensus' – Commenting the statement of Silajdzic about his expectations from the new US administration, US Ambassador to BiH **Charles English** said that there can be no change in internal structure of BiH without internal consensus, and that there can be no secession. *"Everybody who speak about the Dayton Peace Agreement must enable its full implementation"*, added English.

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FBiH ruling parties mtg/Other political developments

Leaders of ruling political parties in FBiH hold meeting without reaching an agreement

RHB - SDA President **Sulejman Tihic**, SBiH President **Haris Silajdzic**, HDZ BiH President **Dragan Covic**, HDZ 1990 President **Bozo Ljubic**, FBiH President **Borjana Kristo**, FBiH Vice Presidents **Spomenka Micic** and **Mirsad Kebo**, FBiH Prime Minister **Nedžad Brankovic**, FBiH Deputy Prime Ministers **Vjekoslav Bevanda** and **Gavrilo Grahovac** held a meeting of leaders of ruling political parties in the FBiH in Sarajevo on Wednesday. **BHT 1** *By Anesa Prasljivic* – noted that after the meeting that it can be concluded that there will be no reshuffling in the FBiH Government. No concrete agreements were achieved at the meeting. FBiH President **Borjana Kristo** stated that the FBiH Government was obliged to state whether it has the capacity and the will to implement certain decisions. FBiH Vice President **Mirsad Kebo** stated that the talks will be continued in order to achieve permanent solutions. The FBiH Government should reach proposals regarding the reform of public administration, improvement of financial and energy sector, as well as the standard of veterans. Reporter noted that it seems the issue of reshuffling the FBiH Government was not discussed. SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** noted that the situation in social sectors is bad, results are weak and reshuffling of the government should be done in this area. SBiH leader **Haris Silajdzic** said that the FBiH Government works well and that those who are disabling the government should be reshuffled - that is those who demand government reshuffling – SDA and HDZ. HDZ BiH wishes the Government reshuffling to happen, but did not to name the ministers whose work they are dissatisfied with. FBiH Prime Minister **Nedžad Brankovic** does not wish to resign, noted the reporter, and his party leader will not replace him. **Dnevni list** pgs 2-3 mentioned on front 'Another fiasco of FBiH leadership' by **Goran Mrkic** –labels the meeting as yet another fiasco of the FBiH leadership. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'FBiH Ministers still on hold', mentioned on cover Decision on FBiH Government postponed' by **T.Lazovic** reads that SBiH and HDZ 1990 sharply objected the reshuffling of the Government. Even more Silajdzic underlined that the most criticized FBiH Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining **Vahid Heco** is working most of all. Silajdzic further on accused Tihic and Covic of obstructing the energy sector and ignored their remark that the process of selecting the strategic partner was illegal. **Oslobodjenje** pg 7 'Brankovic requested to assess work of FBiH Government' by **Senita Sehercehajic** – The FBiH Government was tasked to prepare report on reforms of public administration, social and energy sectors, and assess its capacities to implement them. Inset 'Who is to blame for lenience?' – HDZ BiH leader **Dragan Covic** stated it is high time to do something with regard to the work of the FBiH Government: *"If this opportunity is missed, I am afraid we will wait the next election in same manner."* **FTV, Pink, Hayat, Nezavisne Novine** pg 3 'FBiH Government stays for now' by **R. Cengic, Vecernji list** pg 9 mentioned on front 'Government given one-week deadline' by **Dejan Jazvic** covered.

Law Proposal on Witness Protection discussed at HoR session as well as changes to Law on Civil Service in BiH Institutions

BHT 1 - BiH House of Representatives (HoR) held a session on Wednesday, where the Law Proposal on Witness Protection was discussed. MPs from the RS stress that this law represents transferring competences from the entity to the state level, while the MPs from the FBiH disagree. HoR MP **Sefik Dzaferovic** stated this proposal is a harmonized proposal of the BiH Council of Ministers and therefore it is strange for RS MPs to insist on reducing this program only to the Court of BiH. HoR Second Deputy Speaker **Milorad Zivkovic** stated that this is obviously an issue where an agreement cannot be reached. HoR discussed the law proposal on changes to the Law on Civil Service in BiH Institutions, which foresees increasing the number of members in the commission for electing civil servants. The High Representative **Miroslav Lajcak** sent a letter to the Collegium of HoR on Tuesday, appealing for this proposal to be withdrawn from the parliamentary procedure in order to base the process of employment of civil servants on qualifications and capabilities and not on political influence. HoR First Deputy Speaker **Beriz Belkic** stated that they wanted to give a deciding role to those who are receiving the civil servants. He added that OHR probably sees this as creating a position to receive suitable and not capable candidates. **Glas Srpske** pg 7 'Obvious abuse of law in RAK' by **Z. D.** – Zivkovic commented the BiH Law on Civil Servants by saying even expert services established that the Law is being abused. Zivkovic noted the abuse of the Law is the most obvious on examples of employees' structures of the BiH State Service Agency and Communications Regulatory Agency. **FTV** *By Mirza Huskic* – BiH HoR also decided to discuss the current security situation in BiH at the following session. Law proposal on witness protection was discussed at this session. **Nezavisne Novine** pg 2 'Bankruptcy proposed for BHRT' by **M.Cubro** – Dzaferovic said that witnesses are not obliged to enter the protection program, adding this is just a possibility. **Hayat, Vecernji list** pg

10 'Protection of witnesses at courts' by [f. Oslobodjenje](#) pg 12 'Izetbegovic: Asylum for criminals only' by [Almir Terzic](#), [Dnevni Avaz](#) pg 12 'From physical protection to change of identity' by [S. Skuletic](#), [EuroBlic](#) pg RS3 'House of Representatives ignored Lajcak' by [D. S.](#), [EuroBlic](#) pg RS3 'Witness protection in two levels' by [Srna](#), [Nezavisne Novine](#) pg 2 'Bankruptcy proposed for BHRT' by [M. Cubro](#), [Glas Srpske](#) pg 7 'Obvious abuse of law in RAK' by [Z. D.](#) covered.

RS CoP failed to reach consensus on national interest protection

Pink – The RS Council of Peoples (RS CoP) has not reached the consensus on starting the procedure about the protection of vital national interest regarding the RS flag, and anthem, said the RSNA Speaker **Igor Radojicic**. This issue was initiated by Bosniak and Croat Caucuses in RS CoP, which was not supported by Serb Caucus. **Pink**, **Vecernji list** pg 16 'No agreement on Croat veto' by [Fena](#), [Glas Srpske](#) pg 6 'Without agreement' by [Z. Do.](#), **Vecernje Novosti** pg 21 'Consensus' by [J. G.](#), [Nezavisne Novine](#) pg 8 'RS CoP starts working' by [Vesna Popovic](#) covered.

RSNA discusses law proposal on restitution despite HR Lajcak's appeal

FTV By [Miso Vidovic](#) – Although the High Representative **Miroslav Lajcak** demanded for the law proposal on restitution to be removed from the agenda of the RS National Assembly (RSNA), it was not done. The RS Justice Minister **Dzerard Selman** stated that the RSNA has full competences to pass such a law. SNSD's **Perica Rajcevic** stressed that the Peace Implementation Council did not disabale such a law from being passed. SDS' MP **Ognjen Tadic** said that they expect the RS Government to solve this issue with the OHR. SDA MPs announced that they will not support this law, as well as SBIH MPs. SBIH's **Muhamed Murselovic** stated that this means defying to the international community which clearly stated that such laws cannot be passed in this manner, since they have importance for the whole state.

Bishop Conference: Census where all citizens would declare their ethnicity and religion should be held

RHB By [Zana Rebo](#) – The 44th regular three-day Bishop Conference has finished in Sarajevo, where BiH political and social, as well as religious issues were discussed. BiH Cardinal **Vinko Puljic** stressed that BiH Croats' basic human rights are endangered due to the constitutional structure and failure to implement Dayton Peace Agreement, adding: *"I cannot understand why some people are afraid of identity in the census. It should be clear and definite who is where."* Puljic reaffirmed his commitment of administrative division of BiH into four regional units. **FTV** Puljic stressed that census where all citizens would declare their ethnicity and religion should be held. He commented the possibility of the priest **Franjo Topic** for the position of Sarajevo Mayor, saying that he is afraid of a political game. *"I am especially sorry if this is again a manipulation with Croats in Sarajevo"*. **RTRS**, **Vecernji list** pg 16 mentioned on front 'Bishops for census with ethnicity and religion' by [Zdenko Jurilj](#), **Dnevni list** pg 2 'Cardinal: Identity is part of every citizen' not signed, **Dnevni Avaz** pg 8 'It is up to Topic to choose' by [F. Vele](#), [Glas Srpske](#) pg 2 'People are afraid of identity' not signed covered. **Dnevni Avaz** pg 4 'Why do Croats do not look at positive side of the story' by [F. Vele](#). Topic did not want to comment Puljic's statement that in case he would be nominated for Sarajevo mayor he would have to choose between Church and mayor position.

RS Government to discuss census issues on Thursday

Vecernji list pg 10 'About census today' by [f](#) – announces that the RS Government will on Thursday discuss the proposal of initiative of the Council for Demographic Policy of RS related to the census in BiH. [Glas Srpske](#) pg 3 'Census' not signed covered.

Radmanovic takes over BiH Presidency Chair function

Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Radmanovic takes over presidency from Silajdzic' not signed reads that Serb member of the BiH Presidency **Nebojsa Radmanovic** will take over Presidency from the Bosniak member **Haris Silajdzic on Thursday**. Daily adds that at the same session the BiH Presidency will discuss the Proposal Decision on Ratification of Stabilization and Association Agreement. **Oslobodjenje** pg 6 'Radmanovic takes over function from Silajdzic' by [Fena](#), **Dnevni list** pg 3 'Radmanovic taking over duty of Presidency Chairman' by [Da. S.](#), **Vecernji list** pg 8 'Radmanovic taking over chairmanship' by [id](#), [Glas srpske](#) pg 6 'Nebojsa Radmanovic Chair' not signed, **Vecernje Novosti** pg 21 'Silajdzic finally leaves' by [S. M.](#) covered.

Candidates for BiH Ombudsmen proposed

BHT 1 By [Ivana Crnogorac](#) – A Joint Commission of BiH House of Representatives and House of Peoples harmonized the candidates for the position of the BiH Ombudsmen on Wednesday, nominating **Jasminka Dzumpur** as Bosniak and **Ivo Bradica** as Croat representative. **FTV**, **Vecernji list** pg 10 'Ivo Bradica or Jasminka Dzumhur' by [Zlatko Tulic](#), **Oslobodjenje** pg 12 'Election of ombudsman unblocked' by [A.T.](#), [Nezavisne Novine](#) pg 4 'Names of BiH Ombudsmen agreed upon' by [R. C.](#) covered.

SNSD's Markovic: BHRT should declare bankruptcy, new public broadcaster could be established if necessary

Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Bankruptcy proposed for BHRT' by [M. Cubro](#) – SNSD's MP in the BiH House of Representatives **Milica Markovic** stated that BHRT should declare bankruptcy. *"It is obvious that this house has been managed under suspicious circumstances. This is why its work should be returned to the legal framework. BHRT faces insolvency and the way out is to declare bankruptcy. If there is a need, we can establish a new one [public broadcaster],"* she stressed. [Glas Srpske](#) pg 5 'Commission plays role of executive power' by [Z.D.](#) – SNSD's MP in BiH HoR **Lazar Prodanovic** said he is concerned by the work of the parliamentary Commission for Traffic and Communication, adding that it must not play role of executive power. The

article reminds that Croats and Serbs were outvoted in the Commission.

Oslobodjenje op-ed:
Peoples in BiH do not know
how to leave their ethnic
sheepfolds

Oslobodjenje pg 10 'About people and apartheid' [op-ed by Gojko Beric](#) – commenting ethnic divisions within the BiH education system, the author reminds of an interview of the former Head of OSCE to BiH **Douglas Davidson**. Speaking about devastating effects of mono-ethnic schools, Davidson said: *"If you think that you are in political dead-end now, wait for another 10 or 20 years – if your current politicians ever leave the politics, this generation will come to replace them... I used to blame only the politicians. Now, I only put one part of blame on them."* **Beric** concludes it is true that ethnic division of BiH was materialized thanks to aggression, genocide and ethnic cleansing: *"When all of this was over, peoples found themselves in their ethnic sheepfolds. It seems they do not know how or do not wish to leave."*

Avaz op-ed: Tihic's visit to
Belgrade showed that
unlike Silajdzic he
possesses characteristics of
statesman

Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Tihic in Belgrade' [op-ed by Fadil Mandal](#) – Praising the recent meeting the SDA leader **Sulejman Tihic** had with Serbian President **Boris Tadic** in Belgrade, **Mandal** notes: *"In general increase of threats, blackmails, mistrust and awakening of spirits from the past, talks between the president of the strongest Bosniak party and leading Serbian official is as a good, efficient medicine for immediate decreasing of high political temperature."* Author further notes that these two officials sent a message that political adventurism will not be tolerated. **Mandal** further notes that *"opponents of Tihic's real-politics"* will declare this visit as a scandal. Author explains that here he refers to people around SDA leader **Haris Silajdzic**. **Mandal** stresses that Tihic is in fact doing Silajdzic's work, adding he shows characteristics of a true statesman. The author concludes that those who are criticizing Tihic are forgetting that *"what Tihic is doing, by opening doors of dialogue with legitimate representatives of Serbian people, is much more important for future of Bosniaks and state of BiH than the educational-tourism trips to Kuwait and Turkey."*

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War crimes

SIPA arrests war crime
suspects Pelemis and Peric

Pink - Members of the BiH State Information and Protection Agency (SIPA) arrested **Momir Pelemis** and **Slavko Peric** from Zvornik. They are suspected for committing genocide over Srebrenica Bosniaks in July 1995. **BHT 1** - The arrests were ordered by the BiH Prosecutor's Office, and their places of residence were raided. Confiscated objects will be forwarded to the Court of BiH. **Hayat, FTV, RTRS, Vecernji list** pg 11 'Plemisa and Peric suspected on committing genocide in BiH' [by f. Dnevni Avaz](#) pg 10, mentioned on cover 'Criminals who killed Srebrenica citizens arrested' [by M.Kukan, M.Micic, Glas Srpske](#) pg 4 'Pelemis and Peric arrested' [by S. S., Nezavisne Novine](#) pg 6 'Pelemis and Peric behind bars because of genocide' [by N. Moraca, S. Savic](#) covered.

Karadzic testifies in
Krajisnik's case

RTRS [By Branimir Djuricic](#) - Former President of the RS **Radovan Karadzic** testified on Wednesday in the case of former President of RSNA **Momcilo Krajisnik** before The Hague Tribunal. Karadzic said that Krajisnik did not pass key political decision and that he did not have any influence on army and police. He also said that Krajisnik could not have been the member of *"so-called extended Presidency of the RS because it was never formed"*. Karadzic stressed that *"the RS was formed at the moment when it was offered by the European Commission and the army was defending what was offered to us"*. **Dnevni list** back pg 'Karadzic acquits Krajisnik?!' by [Vanja Bjelica](#) – according to Karadzic, only he, late **Nikola Koljevic** and **Biljana Plavsic** had a role in decision making process. *"(...) If Krajisnik's signature is on some of decisions, it is because I ordered so (...)"*. **Vecernji list** pg 17 'Karadzic praises agreement between Bosniaks and Serbs in courtroom' [not signed](#) – Karadzic was elaborating about talks between representatives of Serbs and Bosniaks from the summer of 1991, the aim of which was to keep BiH inside the then Yugoslavia. According to him, when talks reached the point of making a draft agreement, the then Chairman of BiH Presidency **Alija Izetbegovic** rejected a possibility of agreement *"obviously under influence of (Croatian) president Franjo Tudjman"*. **BHT 1** [By Aida Omerhodzic](#) – ICTY rejected the proposal of ICTY indictee **Radovan Karadzic** to reject the changed indictment for procedural reasons. **Hayat, Pink, FTV, Dnevni Avaz** pg 11 'Karadzic defends Krajisnik and manipulates the courtroom' [by A.Hadzic, Oslobodjenje](#) pg 14 'Karadzic defended Krajisnik' [by J.F., Glas Srpske](#) pg 4 'Krajisnik was not number two in Srpska' [by agencies, Vecernje Novosti](#) pg 18 'Karadzic defended Krajisnik' [by E. R., Nezavisne Novine](#) pg 7 'Karadzic: Krajisnik was not reaching decisions' [by Beta](#) covered.

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Crime

Avaz: Leading people of
BiH police agencies met to
discuss cooperation

Dnevni Avaz pg 10 'Police structures in BiH join in combating crime' [by E.S.](#) – Avaz learns that leading people of police agencies in BiH met in Banja Luka on Wednesday night to discuss improving of cooperation within state borders. The RS Police Director Uros Pena hosted the meeting, which was also attended by SIPA Director **Mirko Lujic**, Director of the FBiH Police Administration **Zlatko Miletic**, Director of BiH Border Police **Vinko Dumancic** and Sarajevo Canton Police Commissioner **Himzo Selimovic**.

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Representatives of the international community were also present. Daily's anonymous sources stressed that murder of co-owner of Croatian weekly **Ivo Pukanic** alarmed BiH police agencies and showed them that they have to be more organized.

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