

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Facts and Figures



The Dayton Agreement divides Bosnia and Herzegovina roughly equally between the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska. In 1995-96, a NATO-led International Peacekeeping Force (IFOR) of 60,000 troops served in Bosnia to implement and monitor the military aspects of the agreement. IFOR was succeeded by a smaller (32,000 troops), NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) whose mission was to prevent renewed hostilities and stabilise peace. SFOR troop numbers were gradually reduced first to 12,000 and then to the final 7,000. In 2004 they were replaced by the 7,000 troops of the European Military Force (EUFOR), which was the

third and largest EU mission under the ESDP/CFSP cap at the time. Apart from monitoring the security situation and the ongoing deterrence, the tasks of the EUFOR are to support the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and to provide the security environment in which police can work against organized crime.

The Dayton Agreement, signed in Paris on 14 December 1995, retained Bosnia's exterior border and created a joint multi-ethnic and democratic government. This State-level government - based on proportional representation of the constitutive nations - was charged with conducting foreign, economic, and fiscal policy. Since 2003 a ministry for security, a ministry of defence and a State Court for the BiH have been set up, thus strengthening common state institutions. The Dayton Agreement also recognized a second tier of government, comprised of two entities - a joint Bosniac/Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and the Bosnian Serb Republika Srpska (RS) - each presiding over roughly one half of the territory. The Federation and RS governments are charged with overseeing internal functions. The Dayton Agreement established the Office of the High Representative (OHR) to oversee the implementation of the civilian aspects of the agreement. About 250 international and 450 local staff members are employed by the OHR.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's tripartite presidency includes Zeljko Komsic for the Croats (current rotating chairman), Nebojsa Radmanovic for the Serbs and Haris Silajdzic for the Bosniacs. Three presidential and parliamentary elections (1998, 2002, 2006) were held after the war. The Parliamentary Assembly consists of the House of Representatives and of the House of Peoples. There are ten members in the Council of Ministers are ten: three Bosniacs, three Croats, three Serbs and one representing "the others".

Constitution: The Dayton Agreement, signed on 14 December 1995, included a new constitution now in force.

Legal system: Based on the civil law system Judicial branch, the Constitutional Court consists of nine members: four members are selected by the Federation of BiH's House of Representatives, two members by the Republic of Srpska's National Assembly, and three non-Bosnian members by the president of the European Court of Human Rights.

Area: 51,128 Km²

Population: 3,964,388 (estimate)

Population growth rate: 3.1% (2000 est.)

Birth rate: 12.92 births/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Death rate: 7.87 deaths/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Net migration rate: 25.92 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Population profile: Bosniak 44%, Serb 31%, Croat 17%, other 8% (estimate)

Distribution: 43% urban population, 57% rural population

Religions: Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Catholic 15%, Protestant 4%, other 10% (estimate)

Language(s): Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian

Economic profile

GDP per capita: 1,933€ (2005)

Economic growth rate: 5.9% (2006 est.)

Inflation rate: 7.0% (January 2006, following the introduction of VAT)

Currency: Convertible Mark (KM), 1€ = 1.95 KM (fixed exchange rate)

Composition by sector: Agriculture 19%, Industry 23%, Services 58% (1996 est.)

Timeline: 1990 to 2006

1990

Death of the League of Communists and first democratic elections

The failure to reach an agreement about the Constitutional settlement of Yugoslavia among the representatives of the different Republics causes a deep crisis within the Yugoslav League of Communists and leads to its end. The first democratic elections are being organized in the six Republics. The elections are all won by nationalists, except for those in Macedonia.

1991

Unrest and armed conflict in Yugoslavia

Slovenia and Croatia declare themselves independent on 25 June. An armed conflict breaks out between the Yugoslav Army and the Slovenian military. The then European Community (EC) mediates - a peace agreement is reached between Yugoslavia and Slovenia. In Croatia, semi-military Croatian forces fight local Serbian militias. Despite several ceasefires, battle continues. The medieval coastal village of Dubrovnik receives artillery and air fire.

UN response

The Security Council accepts Resolution 713 - sanctions towards weapons deliveries to Yugoslavian territory. UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali sends former American Foreign Minister Cyrus Vance as his personal envoy to Yugoslavia.

Slovenia and Croatia leave the Yugoslavian Federation

Civil war in Croatia continues. The 14th agreement of cease-fire, reached in Geneva, is violated. Serbs in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina proclaim an independent state called Republic of Srpska, thereby extending the war to include this area. Serbian and Yugoslavian forces continue attacks in Northern Croatia - the cities of Vukovar and Ojisek are destroyed. 600,000 people are homeless due to the war at this point and there are thousands of refugees.

1992

Division of Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia is divided into 6 republics. Slovenia and Croatia are recognized as independent states on the 15th January, first by the EC, then also by other states, despite warnings from UN Secretary-General (stating that such recognition is premature). Independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina is recognized by the EC on 6 April. Macedonia is not recognized as an independent state by the EC since Greece does not approve of the republic's name. The remaining members of the old federation of former Yugoslavia are Serbia and Montenegro, forming the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with Slobodan Milosevic as president. Serbs in Bosnia proclaim an independent state although they are not recognized as such by any states. Croatians also claim an independent state in Herzegovina.

Ethnic cleansing

The former Yugoslavian Army, mainly constituted by Serbs since the Milosevic's coming to power in the Eighties, supports Bosnian Serbs. Serb armies soon to dominate large parts of Bosnia and Croatia. Ethnic cleansing of Bosniaks and Croatians occurs. A part of Sarajevo is controlled by the army of the Republic of Srpska.

Increased UN engagement

Economic sanctions are imposed by the Security Council on Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in order to stop its support of Bosnian Serbs. The UN sends protection forces - UNPROFOR, constituting 14,000 soldiers, policemen, and civilians. UNHCR reveals there are 2,225,000 internal and external refugees from the conflict area.

1993

First peace plan launched in Geneva

The International Conference on the former Yugoslavia is held in Geneva in January - it's the first time that all three parties meet. Conference chairman is Cyrus Vance and EC-mediator David Owen. First plan is launched: Bosnia and Herzegovina to be divided into 10 semi-autonomous provinces. Bosnian government and Bosnian-Croatian party accept. Bosnian-Serb parliament rejects the plan. Former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg succeeds Cyrus Vance as UN Chairman of the Conference on former Yugoslavia.

1994

Reports on ethnic cleansing

Expert Commission reports ethnic cleansing, sexual repression and violations to have been systematic measures in the conflict.

Hague Tribunal for war crimes established

The first International Tribunal for War Crimes established since the Nurnberg Trials following World War II.

NATO and UN collaboration

NATO air forces support, for the first time in history, a UN operation maintaining a no-fly zone in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Until the end of February UN total costs amount to USD 1,6 billion, 924 wounded and 79 dead during first two years of UNPROFOR's mission. Battles between areas dominated by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serbs intensify during autumn. 350 UN staff taken hostage but later released.

1995

UN soldiers taken hostage

Ceasefire from 1994 violated by government forces, Bosnian Serbs fire at Sarajevo airport, stop emergency supplies to the city and make use of heavy arms that, according to agreements, should be handed over to the UN. NATO bombs Serbian positions to enforce UN resolutions. Serbs take 360 UN soldiers hostage and use them as human shields. Blockade of Sarajevo continues.

Executions and outrage

Several areas declared as protected zones by the Security Council such as Srebrenica, Zepa, and Gorazde are attacked by the Army of the Republic of Srpska.

Srebrenica

In Srebrenica, the Army of the Republic of Srpska led by General Ratko Mladic kills around 8,000 Bosniak men. In a report by UN secretary-general Kofi Annan in November 1999, Srebrenica is said to be the worst massacre of civilians since World War II.

Croatian offensive

In May, Croatian forces attack western Slavonia, an area controlled by Serb forces since 1991. The attack continues in August towards the Serb-controlled area of Krajina in western Bosnia. 200,000 Serb refugees escape to Bosnia and towards Serbia. Serbs retaliate by driving away remaining Croatians and Bosnians from the area of Banja Luka - approximately 40,000 - 60,000 people.

Partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Peace talks resumed on American initiative, led by a contact group consisting of France, Russia, Great Britain, the US, China, Germany, and Italy. US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke is chief negotiator. Foreign ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) come

to Geneva and sign the contact group's peace plan including the partition of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Dayton Peace Accords

A decisive moment in the peace process is the meeting on the 1st of November in at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, USA. All three presidents participate: Alija Izetbegovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Franjo Tudjman (Croatia), and Slobodan Milosevic (Serbia and Montenegro). Negotiations are led by Richard Holbrooke, Russian Vice Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and EU chief negotiator Carl Bildt. After three weeks, on November 21, a peace agreement is reached: Bosnia and Herzegovina remains one state within the present and internationally recognized borders, but divided into two parts: A Bosnian-Croatian federation (51%) and the autonomous Bosnian-Serb Republika Srpska (49%) with Sarajevo as its capital. NATO-led force IFOR (Implementation Force) of 60,000 troops will watch over the implementation of the peace agreement replacing UNPROFOR.

Humanitarian efforts

The civil part of the peace agreement prescribes humanitarian aid, reconstruction, reinforcement of political and constitutional bodies, support for human rights, repatriation of refugees and free and fair elections. Carl Bildt is chosen the High Representative, bearing the outermost responsibility. The peace agreement is signed by the three presidents in Paris on the 14th of December. The International Tribunal for War Crimes in Yugoslavia takes legal proceedings against Bosnian-Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic.

1996

First trial in the Hague Tribunal

Dusan Tadic, a 40-year old Bosnian Serb, is prosecuted for murder, torture, and rape and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Not since World War II and the Nurnberg trials has anyone been found guilty of having committed war crimes. On the 11th of July an international detention order is issued by the tribunal for the arrest Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic for mass murder.

1997

From implementation to stabilization

IFOR is replaced by SFOR as military monitoring of the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1996 shifts from the implementation to the stabilization phase. Number of troops reduced to 31,000. While IFOR's main task was to reduce hostilities between previous groups belonging to different sides, SFOR's mission is to prevent harassment and aggression towards refugees returning to their homes and villages.

Carl Bildt replaced

Carl Bildt is succeeded as High Representative by Carlos Westendorp, former Foreign Minister of Spain.

1998

Return of refugees

A UNHCR report in April states that 400,000 former refugees have returned, yet 1,800,000 refugees remain among which 800,000 are internal refugees within Bosnia and Herzegovina and 600,000 are abroad. Most of them belong to societies where they at present would constitute an ethnic minority.

EU/BiH Consultative Task Force

With an EU declaration an EU/BiH Consultative Task Force (CTF) is established. Its function is to provide technical and expert advice in the field of administration, the regulatory framework and policies.

Exodus of thousands of Kosovo-Albanians

A Serbian military offensive causes tens of thousands of Kosovo-Albanians to take refuge in Albania and Montenegro in June. 200,000 refugees are in the area. US envoy Richard Holbrooke meets with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic resulting in a withdrawal of Serbian security forces from Kosovo. Milosevic also allows 2,000 observers from the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) to monitor the cease-fire in the Kosovo region. Hostilities in the region arise once again at Christmas-time.

UN Tribunal for former Yugoslavia

Until 1998 the Tribunal set up in 1993 had tried, convicted, and sentenced two people to prison. 26 persons were held in custody, either in the Hague or with SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Search warrants were issued for eight other persons, among them former President of Republika Srpska Radovan Karadzic and Serbian Military Commander Ratko Mladic.

1999

Conflict escalation in Kosovo

The conflict escalates during first six months of 1999 - Serb forces push UCK towards Albania. French president Jacques Chirac and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright invite Serb and stationing of NATO forces. No agreement is reached as the Yugoslav government refuses to sign. The 1,000 OSCE observers in the region are drawn back.

Persecutions and ethnic cleansing

Serb forces continue the persecution of Albanians in Kosovo. By the beginning of April UNHCR estimates that the Serb assault has resulted in 226,000 refugees in Albania, 125,000 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and 33,000 in Montenegro. By the end of May 1999, over 230,000 refugees have arrived in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, over 430,000 in Albania and some 64,000 in Montenegro. Approximately 21,500 have reached Bosnia and over 61,000 have been evacuated to other countries. Within Kosovo itself, an estimated 580,000 people have been rendered homeless. It is estimated that by the end of May, 1.5 million people, i.e. 90% of the population of Kosovo, had been expelled from their homes. Some 225,000 Kosovar men were believed to be missing. At least 5,000 Kosovars had been executed.

Proposals for a solution

NATO initiates, without the consent of the UN Security Council, air raids against military and other strategic targets in Yugoslavia and Kosovo. In June, following

78 days of NATO air strikes, Slobodan Milosevic accepts a proposal for the solution of the Kosovo conflict. NATO bombings stop and UN Security Council adopts a resolution regulating the peace terms: immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of Yugoslavian forces as well as police and paramilitary forces from Kosovo, international military and civilian presence in the region including NATO forces, the installment of a temporary public administration, security guarantees for returning refugees and a political process leading to extensive autonomy for Kosovo and demilitarization of UCK.

The international mission in Kosovo

UN Security Council entrusts member states and relevant international organizations to carry out the implementation of the peace terms. KFOR (Kosovo Force) is stationed throughout entire Kosovo with troops from Russia, the UK, France, Italy, Germany, and the US. UN secretary-general Kofi Annan designates Bernard Kouchner for the position as Special Envoy and Chief in Mission for UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo).

Croatian President Tudjman dies

The father of independent Croatia, President Franjo Tudjman, dies of cancer at the age of 77. Tudjman's regime had authoritarian tendencies and thus was preventing Croatia from starting membership talks with the EU.

The Stabilisation and Association Process

The EU proposes the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) for five countries of South-Eastern Europe, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is the first clear prospect of integration into EU structures.

2000

Declaration on return of refugees

On March 9, Bosnian Serb Premier Milorad Dodik and Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula unveiled a declaration allowing tens of thousands of people who fled regional wars to return home after meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Both ethnic groups fled wars in the region over the past decade. About 30,000 Croatian Serbs are in the Serb part of Bosnia and 70,000 Bosnian Croats are in Croatia, according to UN figures. Ethnic hatred and bureaucratic obstacles have delayed any substantial returns, particularly under previous Bosnian Serb and Croatian governments who opposed ethnic reconciliation.

Potential candidates for EU membership

The European Council of Feira announces that the countries covered by the SAP are potential candidates for the EU. At the Zagreb summit the SAP is officially endorsed by the EU and the Western Balkans countries. Publication of the EU Road Map. This document sets out 18 essential steps to be undertaken by BiH in the short term before a Feasibility Study for the opening of negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement will be undertaken.

Yugoslav Presidential elections

Yugoslav Presidential elections are held. On September 27, Yugoslavia's Electoral Commission decide that President Slobodan Milosevic and his main opposition challenger Vojislav Kostunica must undergo a second round of voting. Kostunica adamantly opposes a runoff election. During the days that follow pressure mounts - students walk out of schools, businesses close, and protesters block roads, demanding the President concede defeat. Twenty thousand peaceful protesters

gather in downtown Belgrade. The situation becomes unbearable and finally Vojislav Kostunica is sworn in as president by the Yugoslav parliament on October 8. Two days later EU oil embargo and flight restrictions against Yugoslavia are lifted.

2001

CARDS Programme

A new assistance programme, specifically designed for the SAP countries, is launched. CARDS replaces both the Phare and Obnova programmes for the SAP countries.

International pressure on Bosnian nationalist parties

The Croatian member of the Collective Presidency, Ante Jelavic, is dismissed as his party threatens to declare an independent Croat Republic. Under international pressure the major party of the Republic of Srpska, the nationalist SDS, votes to expel all those suspected of war crimes, including former president Radovan Karadzic.

General condemned for genocide in Srebrenica

Wartime General of the Army of the Republic of Srpska, Radislav Krstic, is found guilty of genocide by the ICTY. Krstic is sentenced to 46 years for his role the massacre of thousands of men and boys in Srebrenica.

Reconstruction of mosques blocked by nationalists in RS

Bosnian Serbs in Banja Luka and Trebinje use force to break up ceremonies marking the reconstruction of mosques destroyed during the Bosnian war. Several Muslim refugees are injured, cars are set on fire and international delegates are forced to shelter in local buildings.

Milosevic is arrested and sent to the Hague

Former President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic is arrested in Belgrade and charged with misappropriation of state funds and abuse of his official position. US President Bush calls for an extradition to the ICTY saying that aid to Yugoslavia is dependent on such a move. Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic overrules the Constitutional Court and authorises extradition of Slobodan Milosevic to the Hague war crimes tribunal. Political rift opens up between Djindjic and Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica, a supporter of a Belgrade trial for Milosevic.

2002

New HR and first EU Special Representative

UK politician Paddy Ashdown becomes UN High Representative being also the first EU Special Representative to be appointed.

Nationalists win back power in FBiH

Nationalist parties win the local, parliamentary and presidential elections.

Former President of RS Biljana Plavsic sentenced at the Hague

Former Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic changes her plea at the UN tribunal in The Hague to that of "guilty of crimes against humanity". The remaining seven charges are dropped. She is subsequently sentenced to 11 years in prison.

Trial against Milosevic begins

Trial of Slobodan Milosevic on charges of genocide and war crimes begins in The Hague. Serbian authorities issue arrest warrants for Serbian President Milan Milutinovic and three other top Milosevic aides as international financial pressure for cooperation with Hague war crimes tribunal is stepped up.

Serbia and Montenegro in place of Yugoslavia

Yugoslav, Montenegrin and Serbian leaders sign EU mediated accord to set up new state to be called Serbia and Montenegro in place of Yugoslavia. Federal parliament ratifies accord on ending federation, clearing the way for the drawing up of a new constitution of Serbia and Montenegro.

Rugova Prime Minister in Kosovo

Ibrahim Rugova is elected as president by the Kosovan parliament after ethnic Albanian parties reach a power-sharing deal.

2003

EUPM being launched

The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) is launched as the first ever mission under the European Security and Defence Police (ESDP). It takes the place of the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF). Its tasks are to train the law enforcement personnel, assess threats to public order, inspect local police and promote overall reform of the police sector.

Progress towards the EU

In June, at the Thessaloniki Summit, the SAP is confirmed as the EU policy for the Western Balkans. This confirms the EU's perspective on the countries. In November the Commission produces a Feasibility Study assessing BiH's capacity to implement a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

New Government in Bosnia and Herzegovina and change in Presidency

Three months after the elections, parliament approves a new government led by Adnan Terzic (SDA). Mirko Sarovic, Serb member of the presidency, resigns following a report by Western intelligence services on an affair involving illegal military exports to Iraq and allegations of spying on international officials. Borislav Paravac (SDS) replaces Sarovic as Serb member of presidency.

HR's action in the Entities

High Representative Paddy Ashdown abolishes the Supreme Defence Council of Bosnian Serb republic. He also alters constitutions of Bosnian Muslim/Croat federation and Bosnian Serb republic removing all reference to statehood from both.

New State: Serbia and Montenegro

Yugoslav parliament approves constitutional charter for new union of Serbia and Montenegro. Yugoslavia formally ends its existence.

Serbian Prime Minister assassinated

Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic assassinated in Belgrade. This event will open a period of investigations and trials with the aim of eradicating the strong link between criminality, politics and business left behind by Milosevic.

UN conditions for Kosovo

In October Serbian and Kosovo Albanian leaders hold their first direct talks since 1999. In December the UN sets out conditions for final status talks in 2005.

Croatia applies for membership in the EU

Croatia submits formal applications for EU membership.

2004

EUFOR replaces SFOR

EUFOR ("Althea" operation) replaces NATO's SFOR mission. Operation Althea is the most ambitious EU military operation to date. Being a robust ongoing military presence, the EUFOR serves also to highlight the EU's strong political commitment to peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Clashes between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo

Worst clashes between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo since 1999 after deadly violence erupts in divided town of Mitrovica. 19 people are killed. Nato sends reinforcements.

Croatia getting closer to the EU

EU agrees to start accession talks with Croatia in March 2005.

2005

Opening of negotiations for SAA

In October the European Commission recommends the opening of negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with BiH. SAA Negotiations are officially opened in Sarajevo on 25 November after the Council adopted the negotiating directives.

HR Paddy Ashdown dismisses member of Presidency

High Representative Paddy Ashdown sacks Croat member of presidency Dragan Covic, who faces corruption charges. Ivo Miro Jovic appointed Croat member of presidency.

Bosnian soldiers in Iraq

Bosnian unit with members from all three main ethnic groups heads for Iraq to support forces of US-led coalition.

Support for police reform

Entity and central parliaments back establishment of unified police force. A structural police reform aimed at rationalising police services is one of the conditions laid out by the European Commission in its 2003 Feasibility Study.

Constitutional reform talks

Domestic constitutional reform talks intensify after a high-profile involvement on the part of the US embassy in Sarajevo.

Montenegrin leaders propose independence

Montenegrin leaders write to Serbian counterparts suggesting early end to union with Serbia and establishment of two independent republics. Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica rejects this.

Serbia and Montenegro begins talks on a SAA with the EU

Talks begin on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU, regarded as a preliminary step on the long road to membership.

Gotovina arrested

In March EU delays talks on Croatia's membership because of failure to arrest Gen Ante Gotovina, who is wanted by the Hague tribunal on war crimes charges. In October green light is given for EU accession talks to go ahead again even though Gen Gotovina remains at large. In December fugitive Croatian General Ante Gotovina, sought by the Hague tribunal on war crimes charges, is arrested in Spain.

2006

OHR to be closed

At its June meeting, the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, the international body guiding the peace process, concludes that BiH has made sufficient progress in its recovery to allow for the closure of the OHR on 30 June 2007, and calls on the authorities of BiH to take full responsibility for peace implementation as it moves towards Euro-Atlantic integration. At the same time as the OHR is being closed, the European Union is increasing its commitment to BiH. Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling is appointed as new High Representative/EU Special Representative. The mandate of EUPM is extended for two years.

New instruments for EU – Bosnia and Herzegovina relations

The first Reform Process Monitoring (RPM) meeting is held replacing the Consultative Task Force. An updated European Partnership for BiH is adopted.

Genocide case at the ICJ

In February International Court of Justice in The Hague begins hearings in genocide case brought by Bosnia-Herzegovina against Serbia and Montenegro.

Constitutional reforms fail

An agreement is reached by the main political parties on a package of constitutional reforms. These reforms follow the most of the Venice Commission's principal recommendations. However, in April a vote in the BiH lower house of parliament fails by a narrow margin to produce the required two-thirds majority to adopt constitutional changes. A bitter political campaign for the October elections has already started.

Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina

General elections reflect ethnic divisions, with Serb entity voting to maintain split from the FBiH. In the run-up to the vote, Bosnian Serb leadership threatens to seek complete secession in event of moves to end autonomy of Serb entity.

Bosnia and Herzegovina joins Partnership for Peace

In December Bosnia and Herzegovina joins NATO's Partnership for Peace pre-membership programme after the organisation overturns a decision to exclude it because of its failure to catch Radovan Karadzic.

Milosevic dies

Slobodan Milosevic is found dead in his cell in The Hague where his trial by the international war crimes tribunal is underway. He is buried in his home town of Pozarevac.

Montenegro independent

In March Montenegro's parliament agrees to hold a referendum on independence from Serbia on 21 May 2006. In the referendum Montenegro votes to separate from Serbia - 55.5% of votes were cast in favour of independence, just 0.5% above the threshold required. In June Montenegro declares independence. Serbia responds by declaring itself independent sovereign successor state to Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

Rugova dies

President Rugova dies in Pristina after losing his battle with lung cancer. He is succeeded in February by Fatmir Sejdiu.

Talks on the future status of Kosovo begin

In February UN-sponsored talks on the future status of Kosovo begin. In June first direct talks since 1999 between ethnic Serbian and Kosovan leaders on future status of Kosovo take place in Vienna. In October voters in a referendum in Serbia approve a new constitution which declares that Kosovo is an integral part of the country. Kosovo's Albanian majority boycotts the ballot and UN sponsored talks on the future of the disputed province continue.

Related Web Sites

SARAJEVO

<http://www.sarajevo.ba/en/>

Official web site of Sarajevo

<http://www.sarajevo-tourism.com/eng/default.wbsp>

Tourism Association of Sarajevo Canton

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

<http://www.bhtourism.ba/eng/>

Tourism association of Federation of BiH

<http://www.predsjednistvobih.ba/Home.aspx>

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Presidency

<http://www.parlament.ba/index2.php?jezik=e>

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Parliamentary Assembly

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

www.ohr.int

Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.eusrbih.eu

European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.delbih.ec.europa.eu

Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.euforbih.org

European Union Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.eupm.org

European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.oscebih.org

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.undp.ba

United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.worldbank.org.ba

Information about the World Bank's projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.usembassy.ba

United States Embassy in Sarajevo

INFORMATIONS ABOUT BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

www.insidebosnia.com

Local and worldwide news with focus on Bosnia

http://www.venice.coe.int/site/main/Coop_BIH_E.asp

Venice Commission – Cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1242>

International Crisis Group reports on Bosnia

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2006/78804.htm>

2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://www.hrw.org/doc?t=europe&c=bosher>

Human Rights Watch – Bosnia and Herzegovina

www.bildt.net

Carl Bildt's weekly revised update on Balkan and other current issues

<http://www.bim.ba/en/86/>

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network – Bosnia and Herzegovina

<http://www.ifbosna.org.ba/site/indexen.php?lang=en&sel=1>

International Forum " Bosnia "

www.bosnia.org.uk

The Bosnian Institute – London

www.balkantimes.com

Southeast European Times

<http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/section.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=4&tpid=28>

Transitions Online – Bosnia and Herzegovina

http://www.osservatoriobalciani.org/area/bosnia_erzegovina

Osservatorio sui Balcani – Bosnia Erzegovina (*in Italian*)