

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

Ulica Kneza Domagoja bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel/Fax: +387 36 324 491 email: fpo@caausa.org



“Mostar – World Cultural Heritage” round-table held

Mladi.info

July 27, 2005

The inclusion of the Old Bridge in Mostar and the Old City on UNESCO's list of world cultural heritage is a huge achievement for Bosnia and Herzegovina and introduces a brighter future for B&H cultural heritage, concluded the round-table discussion “Mostar – Global Cultural Heritage: Perspectives for the Coming 10 Years”.

Zeljana Zovko, the B&H Ambassador to UNESCO said that Bosnia and Herzegovina has no other object on the UNESCO list, but that nominations of other B&H areas, such as Vjetrenica Cave and the Menhirs near Mostar, are expected in near future.

Amra Hadzimuhamedovic from the National Commission for Conservation of Cultural Monuments, mentioned several other likely candidates: Blidinje, the Bridge at Visegrad, the towns of Pocitelj and Blagaj, and added that the Commission intensified its activities on the set UNESCO criteria.

"We have to establish a national fund for permanent protection and conservation, adopt the appropriate legislation and unify the executive procedures", emphasized Hadzimuhamedovic.

Zovko and Ljubo Beslic, the Mayor of Mostar, agreed that Mostar's entry onto the world cultural heritage list was, primarily, the project of the City of Mostar, which should bring prosperity to the city and the state. Beslic also mentioned the need to create a good economic environment and educate the citizens about the culture of living, in order to keep Mostar on the UNESCO list in the coming decade.

Ambassador Zovko thanked the media for their positive reporting on B&H, presenting the country in better light as capable of creating a better future for all. The media reporting was an important step towards the entry of Mostar on the cultural heritage list.

Mayor Beslic thanked all people and institutions that lobbied for Mostar and this project, the Presidency of B&H, Government ministries, the National Commission of Conservation of cultural monuments, political parties and citizens of Mostar.

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Herzegovina – aluminum region

Vecernji list

By Zoran Kresic

July 27, 2005

Mostar's Aluminij has for the last 30 years been producing and exporting aluminum to European and world companies. That aluminum is then imported as building material, rims and window frames, at a much higher price.

Yesterday's manifestation, where FEAL from Siroki Brijeg and Aluminij entered a new joint venture, marks a new era which opens the door for Herzegovina to become a European aluminum region.

This is the most significant project on the territory of Herzegovina since Aluminij began operations in 1997. The new aluminum refinement plant is symbolically situated next to the old closed Alumina Plant. It will employ 100 people and the total investment is worth \$32 million. Construction is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

Aluminij director Mijo Brajkovic and FEAL director Mate Cuic agreed that the new plant offers enormous potential for small businesses.

Brajkovic pointed out that Aluminij has finally rounded out its aluminum production and aluminum and alloy refinement processes, which will benefit the entire region. He emphasized that simultaneous with the FEAL joint venture, Aluminij will continue to increase aluminum production by 12,000 tons, which he claims will be the "basis for a new electrolysis."

Brajkovic judged that the agreement with the Federation Government on Aluminij's ownership structure is a compromise in the best interest of the company's further development.

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Zeljana “lifts” Old Bridge

Slobodna Dalmacija
By Zlatko Tulic

July 27, 2005

News that Mostar’s Old Bridge and old city core entered onto UNESCO’s World Heritage list caused excitement in the city on the Neretva River.

As often occurs with activities requiring immense lobbying efforts, those who had nothing to do with them decorate themselves with praise. The same happened in the case of the Old Bridge.

The Sarajevo media ascribed merits to everyone, from singers and athletes to politicians and bureaucrats. However, they always managed to avoid the name of Zeljana Zovko, BiH Ambassador to Paris and UNESCO.

Only her closest friends know how much effort this young woman put into her work, which was recognized by the whole world in Durban [South Africa].

These days Zeljana Zovko arrived on vacation to Mostar. Her plane landed in Sarajevo where she was greeted by several close friends wearing t-shirts bearing her picture as she “lifts” the Old Bridge with both hands.

The shirt designer is a private businessman from Kiseljak who wanted to show the ambassador how the Sarajevo media behaves towards someone who invested serious efforts towards this achievement, but is not a Bosniak. Besides, the Old Bridge is the pride of all of Mostar’s citizens.