

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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10.7.2005

Rehn: EU could serve as a model for reconciliation in Balkans

FENA

July 7, 2005

STRASBOURG – The European Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn, on Wednesday declared that the European Union could serve as a model for peace and reconciliation in the Balkans, ten years after the massacre of 8.000 Bosniaks in Srebrenica.

“The European Union was the greatest project of peace and reconciliation and it could serve as a model for the Balkans”, Rehn said before the European Parliament on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.

“However, there will be no reconciliation until the war criminals are brought to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia”, he added.

“The main culprits” for this massacre, Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and his military chief Ratko Mladic, are still at large. “This is unacceptable”, said Rehn.

“Ten years after this dramatic event time has come for the authorities in Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia fulfill their international commitments and cooperate with the ICTY in order remove all obstacles, so that they could finally take their place in the European family”, said British Minister of European Affairs Douglas Alexander.

Alexander particularly insisted that Croatia “remove its sole obstacle” before opening negotiations on EU accession – arrest general Ante Gotovina, who has been on the run since 2001.

Communication Ministers Launch Broadband Initiative – Tool for Development of Southeast Europe

[UNDP](#)

July 7, 2005

The Memorandum of Understanding on the Unified Broadband Initiative for Southeastern Europe (bSEE) has been signed at the Ministerial Conference in Thessalonica. The participants have also agreed about a joint regional input to the second World Summit on Information Society, which will be held in Tunisia in November. Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in a Conference which gathers Communication Ministers from South-eastern Europe in Thessalonica, Greece from 30 June to 1 July.

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The aim of the South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference was to take stock and review the progress achieved so far under auspices of Stability Pact eSEE Initiative and to discuss continuation of the eSEE Agenda as a joint action plan for development of information society in this region, as a prerequisite for more profound integration of SEE region in European technological and developmental currents.

The plan was to provide input for the review of eSEE Agenda, as the key regional action plan for development of Information Society in Southeastern Europe. It presents an opportunity to synchronize the priorities of eSEE Agenda to the changed reality in order to increase effectiveness and continued relevance of this document for the signatory countries and to the EU-wide mainstream developments.

The South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference on the Information Society has been held at the invitation of the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Development Programme and INA Research Institute, Ministers and representatives from the eSEE Initiative member states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, Kosovo, Greece, Romania and representatives from private sector and research organizations.

In the context of this Ministerial Conference, countries of the region have acknowledged the importance of the eSEE Initiative and reaffirmed their commitment to the eSEE Agenda – a plan for development of Information Society in the region – particularly to the need to align national policies for the development of Information Society and to establish the legal framework for the development of Information Society harmonised with the EU Acquis Communautaire.

Conference have also provided the platform to present UNDP RBEC Bratislava funded Interim impact assessment of eSEE Agenda in the Western Balkans, which points to significant progress in information society development in the eSEE Initiative member countries.

From 2002, UNDP has been backing eSEE Initiative through Sarajevo based eSEE Secretariat. Assessment affirms that eSEE Secretariat championed in providing regional identity and visibility to the Initiative, thus acting as an anchorage, knowledge base and key focal point for regional cooperation.

Strasbourg: European parliamentarians support amending of Dayton accords

FENA

July 7, 2005

STRASBOURG – The European Parliamentarians on Wednesday, marking ten years since the massacre in Srebrenica, supported amending of the Dayton Accords from 1995, which ended the war in BiH.

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German representative and leader of the influential Green Party in the European Parliament Daniel Cohn-Bendit said that the Dayton Accords was necessary at that particular time, but that it contains an ethnic designation of the region.

“If we do not have the courage to bring Dayton Accords into question, we will never be able to deal with the past”, he said.