



REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA VISITS HIS COUNTERPARTS IN FLANDERS AND WALLONIA



President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska, visited his counterparts in the Parliaments of Flanders and Wallonia. During the meetings the Presidents discussed position of the Flemish and Walloon Parliament within the Belgium Federal system, their fields of competencies and role in the Belgium position to the EU, international par-



liamentary cooperation and cooperation of the other kind between the two Belgian regions and Republic of Srpska. President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska invited Mr. Jan Peumans and Mr. Patrick Dupriez, the Presidents of the Flemish and Walloon Parliament to visit Republic of Srpska which they gladly accepted.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA AT OMMEGANG 2012 IN BRUSSELS

Republika Srpska as a member of Assembly of European Regions was a guest of honor and participated at the 2012 Ommegang festivities. This was an opportunity for the Republika Srpska to present itself in an original way, in the European Capital, Brussels. Ommegang is a magnificent event held at the Grand Place in Brussels every year in early July. At first, the Ommegang was a religious procession, but today it is part of the Brussels folklore. It is from 1549 onwards that this grand tradition for the citizens of Brussels has been linked to the name of the Emperor Charles V. The Ommegang was chosen as the major reception event that the city of Brussels organized in honor of Emperor Charles V, when he introduced his son, the future Philippe II, to the regions forming his empire. Emperor of Spain, Netherlands (Belgium and nowadays' Netherlands), Austria and the kingdom of Naples, Charles V is an outstanding figure of our European history, and his idea of harmoniously bringing together a heterogeneous group of regions is still relevant.



REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE CONTINUES ITS WORK AT ARLEM - ECOTER



A representative from the Republika Srpska in ARLEM – Local and Regional Authorities of the Union for the Mediterranean participated in the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Territorial Affairs (ECOTER) in Brussels. General debate on economic and social perspectives in the Mediterranean, the follow – up of the reports and the launch of ARLEM projects were main points on the agenda. As a result of the previous discussions a reporter from Egypt is expected to draft a report on technical and vocational training in Mediterranean.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA SUBMITS A REPORT TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

In a light of the discussion in the United Nations Security Council on Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) in May 2012, the Republika Srpska presented a report on the current developments in the country in order to assist the Council with its deliberations. As a treaty party to the agreements comprising the Dayton Accords and as one of the two Entities

that comprise BIH, the Republika Srpska has a duty to encourage the international community to promote continued progress in BIH while respecting its sovereignty, the human and political rights of its citizens, and other fundamental principles of international law and democracy. Full report is still available at www.rep-srpska.eu.



REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE BECOMES A MEMBER OF INFORMAL NETWORK OF REGIONAL OFFICES FROM THE EU AND BALKANS IN BRUSSELS

The network was established by regional offices in Brussels which are interested in EU Enlargement policy, in particular cooperation with Balkans countries. An idea was to set up an open informal network that gets together Brussels based regional offices interested in decentralized cooperation between the EU and the Balkans without formal membership and available to all to join and participate.

Main goals and activities of the network have been compromised and are as follows:

- to organize regular meetings and brainstorming session to improve the cooperation among Brussels offices: discuss cooperation and projects, share information like events, call for proposals, partners search, disseminating best practises etc.
- to set up an advocacy strategy and develop common projects (positions papers, briefings with EU institutions, events etc.),
- to discuss and cooperating with the EU institutions in Brussels, raising the awareness of European institutions on decentralized cooperation between the Balkans and the EU,
- to promote cooperation between LRA and other stakeholders (EU networks, civil society, universities etc.).

TOURISM POTENTIALS ADVERTIZED IN BRUSSELS

Republika Srpska Regional Representation in Brussels and Tourism Organization of the RS run a campaign of tourism promotion in public places throughout this European capital. This was the first project of this kind aimed at a better promotion of tourism in this market. The campaign of the Republika Srpska's tourism promotion lasted for a month. Creative advertising with a unified tourism offer through a collage of the attractive elements of Srpska's tourism were placed on buses, trams, as well as metro stations and mostly in the so-called European district of Brussels.



MINISTER OF INTERIOR VISITS UNFICYP



On the occasion of UN Peacekeepers day, the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Srpska, Mr. Stanislav Cadjo visited police officers of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Srpska (RS Mol) who are deployed in UN

Peacekeeping mission in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The Minister said that he was proud of the members of the RS Mol who are involved in UN Peacekeeping missions around the world and expressed his support and gratitude to the members of the RS Mol in the UN mission in Cyprus, Liberia and South Sudan for representing Republic of Srpska with dignity. A current contingent of 14 members of the RS Police in three UN Peacekeeping missions was going to be increased according to the needs and possibilities. RS Mol remains committed to its further efforts and engagement in UN peacekeeping missions abroad.

PARTICIPANTS FROM THE RS COMPLETED PAT COX PROGRAM



Tijana Bijeljac and Natasa Gavric, the both from the Republika Srpska, successfully completed

the three-month international Pat Cox program to gain work experience in the European Parliament. The program was launched in 2004 as an initiative by Mr. Pat Cox, then MEP from Ireland and it included full time work in MEP's office as well as teaching in international organizations and companies that cooperate with the European institutions (e.g. United Nations Development Program, International Crisis Group, Open Society Institute, the lobbying firms etc.). The Program is implemented by Humanity in Action Network on an annual basis and involves 10 to 15 young professionals and eminent students from across the globe.

WORLD'S FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL IN REPUBLIKA SRPSKA



The 5th international folk dance festival "DUKATFEST 2012" which is a member of the International Organization of Folk Art and thereby linked to UNESCO was held in Republika Srpska.

Folklore ensembles from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, Brasil, France, Slovakia, Turkey, Poland and Egypt competed in the three categories: the best presentation, authenticity and style and brought all the magic of the traditions and cultures from their countries to the stage of Kastel fortress.

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