



REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS **NEWSLETTER**

issue 2010/2

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE ITALIAN REGION OF FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA

The President of Republika Srpska, Mr. Rajko Kuzmanovic and the President of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Mr. Renzo Tondo, signed a cooperation agreement in Brussels on April 13, 2010. The agreement emphasizes the need to continue and strengthen the level of cooperation between the two regions in the field of the economy, SMEs, research & development, innovation, tourism, education, sports and culture. These activities will help to contribute to a more intensive cooperation and help to profile the region of Republika Srpska as a sustainable European Region. The region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia is in the North-East of Italy.



President of Republika Srpska Mr. Rajko Kuzmanovic and the President of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Mr. Renzo Tondo

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REPRESENTATION DIRECTOR ON PANEL AT CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH KEYNOTE SPEECH BY COMMISSIONER FOR ENLARGEMENT, ŠTEFAN FÜLE.



Mr Mario Djuragic speaking at the conference

The Director of the Republika Srpska Regional Representation, Mr Mario Djuragic, was one of the panel members at a recent conference entitled 'Where Europe Ends; Regional Contribution to EU Accession, A Conference on Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy' organised by the online news portal, EUObserver.com. The keynote speech was made by the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, Mr Štefan Füle.

Mr Djuragic spoke on a panel discussion on the topic of the experiences faced by regional officials of pre-accession countries and those in the eastern neighborhood. He said that "During the accession process, Bosnia and Herzegovina leaders will have years to work closely with EU officials to carefully identify and negotiate whatever constitutional changes are necessary to meet EU standards. Any

changes to B&H's Constitution must be closely tailored to the requirements of EU accession. B&H's first priorities now with respect to EU integration should be to finish visa liberalization and to fulfill the requirements of the Stabilization and Association Agreement."

The other panel discussion included Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the Assembly of European Regions and the Committee of the Regions. The event was attended by a wide variety of stakeholders from various European Institutions including the European Commission, European Parliament and European Regional Offices located in Brussels.

WORLD'S FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL IN BANJA LUKA

The international folk dance festival 'Dukat Fest' was held in Republika Srpska from 15th to 20th June. The festival is a member of the International Organisation of Folk Art, which is linked to UNESCO. Traditional ethnic dance clubs from around the world travelled to the capital of Republika Srpska to participate in the festivities. Countries that participated this year include Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Israel, Serbia, India, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ghana, Slovenia and Turkey.

The festival was opened by the Banja Luka Mayor Dragoljub Davidovic, and the opening ceremony was preceded by a parade of participants in the main streets of Banja Luka.



One of the competing entries taking place in Republika Srpska

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA PARTICIPATES IN OPEN DAYS 2010

The regional representation of Republika Srpska is an official partner of Open Days 2010, the European week of Regions & Cities, which will be held in Brussels between 4th and 7th October 2010. Over 200 regions will participate in this event and Republika Srpska has teamed up with other regions from Italy, Spain, Cyprus, England, Hungary and Poland. Together with their regional partners Republika Srpska will hold an event in Brussels on 5th October entitled 'Actors for Innovative Employment: Innovative solutions to employment issues'.

The event will attract speakers from the European Commission as well as experts from the regions participating. The key objective of the event is to develop ideas on how regions can create a framework that will enable firms to innovate more and create a positive culture for new employment.

In parallel with this event, a workshop in Republika Srpska on the theme 'Towards EU Membership: Government and Civil Sector Partnership' will be organised in October 2010.

More information and registration can be found on the website of Open Days: www.opendays.europa.eu

EU FUNDING TRAINING

On the 22nd and 23rd June 2010 the Representation of Republika Srpska in Brussels and the Assembly of European Regions organised with the Unit for European Integration of the Government of Republika Srpska in Banja Luka an EU funding training session for officials from regional ministries, development agencies as well as universities. The sessions were led by a representatives of Friuly Venezia Giulia and the Regional office of Valencia in Brussels.

The two-day program encompassed various elements, from practical tools to developing a European project from the idea to the application, through project management, monitoring and evaluation tools. It also covered information on funds available, including CIP and FP7.

Gathering Republika Srpska officials dealing with EU funding on a daily basis and being conducted in an interactive manner, the training was a good platform of exchanging experiences and giving feedback on what is needed to effectively apply for EU funds.

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MILAN JELIC FOUNDATION DIRECTOR FROM REPUBLIKA SRPSKA ATTENDS FOUNDATION WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Director of the Milan Jelic Foundation from Republika Srpska, Mrs. Tanja Đaković attended the first fair of European Foundations in Brussels entitled 'Foundation Week'. The fair is organized by the European Foundation Centre (EFC) – an organization made up of 233 foundations in 40 countries. During the visit Mrs Đaković met EFC representatives but also people working for many other organizations dealing with similar issues as that of the Milan Jelic Foundation. During the event representatives discussed their experiences of strengthening internal-Foundation structures as well as possible joint-actions in the future.

MARIO DJURAGIC, HEAD OF THE REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REGIONAL REPRESENTATION, ATTENDED THE ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) organised the conference 'From Subsidiarity to Success: Strong Regions for a Strong Europe' in Brussels, together with the Region Bruxelles-Capitale. Among the speakers were Jean-Luc Vanraes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bruxelles-Capitale, Danuta Hübner MEP, Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions and Jordi Pujol, former AER President (1992-1996) and former President of Catalunya (1980-2003). Together with AER Members and representatives of European institutions, they analysed the regions' evolution over the last 25 years, the contribution of EU policies to decentralisation, the role of the Regions in today's Europe and the perspectives for regions in the coming years.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA SUBMITS THIRD REPORT TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL

The Government of Republika Srpska submitted to the UN Security Council its Third Report on the Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist the Council with its deliberations on BiH which took place in May 2010. This issue was promoted by the Regional Office of Republika Srpska through a banner on EUObserver.com, an online European news portal.



Banner on the EUObserver.com website