



REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS **NEWSLETTER**

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REPUBLIKA SRPSKA IN OPEN DAYS 2011

Together with the regions from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia the Regional Representation of Republika Srpska set up a partnership on Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. A workshop and debate organized by the conglomerate in Brussels addressed a new framework for cross-border cooperation. Common challenges and opportunities linked to EU Enlargement as well as successful cooperation and projects implemented by the partner regions were prevailing as a motive of the discussions by different participants from the regions and the EU institutions.

Under the framework of the Open Days - the biggest event in Europe focusing solely on European regional issues, Banja Luka – the capital of the Republika Srpska hosted a Roundtable on Regional Cooperation – Enhancing the Inclusion of Southeast Europe Regions to EHEA and ERA with an aim to strengthen the regional cooperation particularly in the fields of higher education and research and technological development.



REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REPRESENTATION HOLDS RECEPTION FOR 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAYTON



Held in the Hotel (ex Hilton) in Brussels this was an excellent opportunity to remind people of the Dayton Peace Accord's significance in stopping the war and establishing the current political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina and as the most fundamental foundation for any reform or constitutional change, said in his announcement Mr. Mario Djuragic, Director of the Representation in Brussels.

A guest of honor, Mrs. Zeljka Cvijanovic, the Minister for Economic relations and Regional Cooperation in the Government of the Republika Srpska addressed the audience and appealed that the peace had no alternative and it was the time the OHR leaves and give Bosnia and Herzegovina a chance to finally step out towards real sovereignty and responsibility for its own destiny.

PREDA PARTICIPATES IN EUROPEAN SME WEEK 2011

Delegation of Agency for Economic Development of the Municipality of Prijedor – PREDA participated on the MaP-EeR SME project conference “Making Progress and Economic enhancement a Reality for SMEs”: new approaches towards RTDI Program. The Conference was held in the framework of European SME Week 2011 with distinguished participants from the Committee of the Regions, DG Research – EC, European Parliament and MAPEER SME FP7 project.



During the Conference the main findings and conclusions of studies on more than 200 national and regional RTDI programs from across Europe and the related views of over 800 SMEs were presented. An opportunity was provided for European SME program managers, policy-makers, representatives and other SME stakeholders to discuss how to improve the participation of SMEs in the RTDI arena and how to enhance the regional, national and European RTDI programs which specifically target SMEs in order to make those programs more attractive to potential participants.

PRESIDENT OF EMUNI VISITS BANJA LUKA

Prof. Dr. Joseph Mifsud, President of EMUNI, the Euro-Mediterranean University, visited Banja Luka. There is a hope that a series of the meetings held during the visit, with the representatives of the institutions and universities of the Republika Srpska will contribute to future mutual cooperation particularly in the fields of higher education and research and technological development. He attended a roundtable on Enhancing the Inclusion of Southeast Europe Regions to the European Research and Higher Education Areas (ERA and EHEA) and presented the opportunities EMUNI provides.

INVESTMENT CONFERENCE IN REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

Potential investors and participants from the three continents – America, Asia and Europe gathered in Republika Srpska for an investment conference. The investment opportunities in energy, metalworking, and tourism and food industry were the major topic during the two days event. Financial support for the Conference was provided by the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and Conference sponsors were: Telekom Srpske, Power Utility of the Republika Srpska, Banjaluka Brewery and Cellars of Tvrdos Monastery. More information on www.investsrpska.net.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA HOSTS AER PLENARY

Republika Srpska and its capital Banja Luka hosted this year's fall plenary meeting of AER (Assembly of European Regions) Committee 1 Economy and Regional Development. Along with the plenary session a conference “Future European funding: Regions get ready for new financial instruments” took place.



REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDED A MEETING OF THE ECOTER

Republika Srpska Representative 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 Poreč (Croatia). The priorities in the work of ECOTER during 2011 have been earlier adopted thereby the Reports on “The role of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Mediterranean” and “Preserving and promoting cultural heritage in the Mediterranean region” were a major of discussion during the meeting.

WORLD BANK: BANJA LUKA MOST BUSINESS – FRIENDLY IN SEE

The WB analysis updates a previous survey done in 2008. According to the report, “Skopje (FYR Macedonia) and Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) took top honors with the most improved business regulation in the past 3 years. They implemented business reforms in all 4 regulatory areas: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property and enforcing contracts.” The report surveys business performance of 22 cities from seven countries in the South Eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia.

MAYORS FROM REPUBLIKA SRPSKA IN BRUSSELS AS A PART OF THE COVENANT

The representatives from the six cities and municipalities from Republika Srpska: Banja Luka, Prijedor, Bijeljina, Laktasi, Lopare and Foca attended the third Covenant of Mayors ceremony in Brussels. By signing the Covenant they voluntarily accepted a commitment to implement sustainable energy policies to meet and exceed the EU 20% CO₂ reduction objective by 2020 through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources. The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories.



A COMPANY FROM REPUBLIKA SRPSKA AT BRUSSELS INNOVA 2011 FAIR

At the world fair on intellectual property, research and new technologies “Brussels Innova 2011/ Eureka”, a company from Republika Srpska presented their own intellectual property in the area of trademarks. Products of art, high values, high quality and old crafts in traditional Serbian style by Radinost Co. Banja Luka (www.miris-mojezemlje.com) were recognized for their presentation and creativity, and awarded a gold medal.



PRESIDENTS TADIC AND DODIK OPEN A HIGHWAY SECTION IN RS

Republika Srpska (RS) President Milorad Dodik and Serbian President Boris Tadic opened a section of the Banja Luka – Gradiska highway in RS, which will contribute to building stronger ties between the Serbian entity in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and economic strengthening of the region. The section opened for traffic is 26.5 kilometers long, and will also ease connections with Belgrade – Zagreb highway.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA SUBMITS THE 6TH REPORT TO THE UNSC

The President of the Republika Srpska sent a letter to UN Secretary General and submitted the 6th Report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UNSC in order to assist the Council with its deliberations on BiH during a session which took place in November 2011. The full content of the both is still available at www.rep-srpska.eu.



CONTACT DETAILS:

Republika Srpska
Regional Representation
Rond-Point Schuman 11
1040 Brussels

www.rep-srpska.eu

representation@rep-srpska.eu
Tel: (+32 2) 256 75 72/73
Fax: (+32 2) 256 75 03