



REPUBLIKA SRPSKA REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS NEWSLETTER

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REPUBLIKA SRPSKA PARTICIPATES IN OPEN DAYS 2010

The Region of Republika Srpska is participating in Open Days 2010 – the European Week of Cities and Regions – which will be held between the 4th – 7th October. Open Days is the biggest annual event on regional and urban development and this year has attracted a record number of 245 regions and cities from 34 countries across Europe. The event is organised by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General.

Regions work together to organise events and seminars. The Region of Republika Srpska has joined a group of seven regions to organise an event under the title of 'Innovative Employment in Europe's Cities and Regions'. The regions co-participating are Lazio (Italy), Castilla-La-Mancha and Extremadura (both in Spain),



Wielkopolska (Poland), North Hungary, Municipality of Stovolos (Cyprus) and Southern England Local Partners (a consortium of 29 organisations from the South East of England).

This is the second time that the Region of Republika Srpska has participated in Open Days which this year is focusing on Competitiveness, co-operation and cohesion for all regions. This will include seminars on 'competitiveness', debates



Republika Srpska Regional Representation Director Mr Mario Djuragic with the conglomerate partners

on territorial and cross-border co-operation and seminars and workshops grouped under the theme of 'cohesion' and on the question of how to better integrate different policies at the local level.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA HAS JOINED THE EURO MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL AND LOCAL ASSEMBLY

Regional and local officials from European, North African and Middle Eastern countries gathered in Barcelona in Spain on Thursday 21st January to inaugurate the 'Euro Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly' (ARLEM). This project was launched by the Union for the Mediterranean at the July 2008 Paris Summit to give a territorial dimension to the partnership. The Assembly consists of representatives from regions from countries of the Mediterranean rim as specified by the 'Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean'. It aims to foster co-operation between local authorities on all sides of the Mediterranean Sea and to help members tap into EU funds for environmental, energy and democracy-building projects.

BALKAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BANJA LUKA

The largest city in Republika Srpska, Banja Luka, will host the 2011 Balkans Junior Swimming Championships. This was recently announced at a meeting of the Presidency of the Swimming Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a regular competitor in this event and it is an honour for the region of Republika Srpska to have been designated the host city for the 2011 Championships. The competitors will be able to swim in a newly-built Olympic-sized pool which is pictured.



Recently built Olympic-sized swimming pool will be used to host the Balkans Championships

THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE'S DECISIONS TO IMPOSE FOREIGN JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS IN BIH VIOLATE THE RULE OF LAW

The government of the Region of Republika Srpska has protested against a recent decision of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina extending the mandate of foreign judges and prosecutors in domestic courts which overrules a decision made by the national Parliament.

The position of the government of Republika Srpska is that the High Representative does not have the legal authority to overrule decisions of the state Parliamentary Assembly.

The National Assembly of Republika Srpska voted to reject the decisions as they violate the law, the Dayton Peace Accords and the Bosnia and Herzegovina constitution.

The government of Republika Srpska will pursue all peaceful and legal means to protest against this decision.

The Regional Representation Office of Republika Srpska promoted this issue in Brussels through a banner on the website of the European newportal, EUObserver.com. More information on this issue can be found on the Representation website.



The banner promoting the issue on the website of the European newportal, EUObserver.com

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E.S.R.A. - ENERGY SAVINGS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND BUILDINGS

The Development Agency of Banja Luka, with the help of the Republika Srpska Representation in Brussels, is participating in the Energy Savings in Residential Areas (ESRA) and Buildings project.

The project is organised by the South East Europe Programme which aims to develop transnational partnerships in the region to improve territorial, economic and social integration. The project is being run under the leadership of the city of Teramo from the region of Abruzzo in Italy.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN REPUBLIKA SRPSKA



There is currently an attractive investment opportunity in Republika Srpska for the construction of a Technological Business Park in Banja Luka. The region of Republika Srpska is very attractive for international investments as it has low taxes (for example profit tax is only 10%) and low labour costs.

More information about the project can be found on the Representation website including a guide on investment opportunities in Republika Srpska from the City Development Agency of Banja Luka.

INTEL GRANTED THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA SOFTWARE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WORTH OVER €11 MILLION

The Vice-President of the Intel Corporation, Mr. John E. Davies, presented in February 2010 the Government of Republika Srpska with educational software and digital content worth over €11 million.

During the meeting the Prime Minister of Republika Srpska, Mr. Milorad Dodik and the Vice President of Intel Corporation welcomed the collaboration between Intel and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska as well as the introduction of new technologies in the teaching process. ■