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Assessment report for the month of August 2008

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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



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**NOTE**

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From	Secretariat
To	Political and Security Committee Third States contributing to EUPM
Subject :	European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina Monthly Assessment report for the month of August 2008

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Delegations will find attached the EUPM Monthly Assessment report for the month of August 2008.



## **EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION**

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Monthly Assessment Report 08/08

1- 31 August 2008

### **Executive Summary**

BiH Parliament Ad-Hoc Commission for establishing the Independent Board and the Public Complaint Board as the independent bodies of police in BiH officially requested expert assistance from EUPM; the Union of Border Police Officials has threatened to strike due to a possible delay in the drafting and implementation of the by-laws of the new Law on Salaries of State Employees; August saw a period of intense anti-drugs trafficking and major anti-organized crime activities performed by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in BiH; in an operation aimed against the production and issuing of forged identity cards and passports within CIPS (Citizens identification protection system), twenty four persons were arrested during May 2008 in the joint police action by SIPA, RS MoI and Brcko District, at the order of BIH prosecution; the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap (VLR) sets 40 conditions for BiH to meet before the EU will consider dropping the requirement for Bosnian citizens to have visas for travel to the member states (some of these requirements, however, have already been met); official start of local election campaigning is on 5 September.

## **Mandate Implementation**

### **Police Reform**

**Ad Hoc Commission of the BiH Parliament Requested EUPMs Assistance in Implementing Police Reform Laws** - BiH Parliament Ad-Hoc Commission for establishing the Independent Board and the Public Complaint Board as the independent bodies of police in BiH officially requested expert assistance from EUPM. The scope of assistance includes drafting the necessary decisions, vacancy notices and Rules of Procedure. The drafts of those documents are finalised and will be submitted to the HoM for his consideration. A meeting with the Chairman of the Commission is scheduled for 1 September 2008 when these documents will be delivered, and necessary clarifications provided to the Chairman. EUPM will underline that assistance from EUPM should be considered only as technical support for the work of the Commission, while the ultimate responsibility for reviewing drafts should remain with the Commission. As a follow up, the Commission would need to adopt the draft decisions and publish the vacancies in order to launch the selection of the members of the Independent Board and Public Complaints Board.

**Harmonisation Commission Continues to Prepare Amendments to Relevant State Laws** - The Harmonisation Commission established to prepare amendments to relevant state level laws in accordance with the new Police Reform (PR) Laws held its fourth session on 7 August. During the meeting, new versions of amendments to the Law on State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) were reviewed together with initial proposals for amendments to the Law on Border Police and the Law on Ministries.

At further meetings held on 19 and 26 August the Commission, with representatives of the Ministry of Security (MoS), Border Police, SIPA, NCB Interpol, Office of the High Representative (OHR), EUPM and International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP) attending, considered the amendments and changes to the Law on SIPA and final changes to the Law on Border Police, although the representatives of the Border Police and SIPA were obliged to make a draft that would reflect changes agreed at the meeting of the Commission. Regarding the Law on Ministries and other Administrative Bodies of BiH, Article 14 shall be further revised to

include tasks and duties of institutions that shall be established within the Ministry of Security in accordance with PR Laws.

**Possible Border Police (BP) Strikes regarding Salaries** - The Union of Border Police Officials has threatened to strike due to a possible delay in the drafting and implementation of the by-laws of the new Law on Salaries of State Employees (deadline for the by-laws is 15 September – the Law on Salaries was adopted and implemented in July 08). The Law supersedes the Law on Police Officials (LOPO) salaries' system and, though keeping the same structure, introduces some novelties, namely the compatibility of the so called police increment with compensation for overtime, night shifts, and holidays. For low ranking Police Officials it is the only benefit from the new Law, but the Ministry of Finance and Treasury is facing some difficulties in drafting the legislation and has requested assistance from the interested Institutions and Unions. Consequently, now is the time for BP and SIPA to make the Ministry aware of their specific requirements with regards to working conditions and geographical deployment of the Police officials.

SIPA and BP submitted their respective budget requests for 2009 by the 8 August, the deadline set by the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Although the upper limits established by the Ministry were significantly higher than the budgets adopted in 2008 (19% for BP, and 37% for SIPA), such amounts are not sufficient to cover the needs and plans of the Agencies. In the case of SIPA, the increase in salaries expenditures due to the new Law and financing the second phase of construction of the MHQ building will take most of the budget increase, leaving no room for the necessary investments in equipment within the 2009 budget. For the BP, the salary increase means that they will be left with less than 1.5 million Bosnian Konvertible Marks (BAM) for capital investments (in comparison with 6.5 in 2008). Therefore, both Agencies have submitted additional requests, amounting to 14.6 million BAM for SIPA and 3.5 million BAM for BP, which will be discussed in the meetings to be held with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury representatives scheduled for early September.

### **Support in the Fight against Organised Crime**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**Criminal Justice**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## Operational

**Citizens Identification Protection System (CIPS)** - Twenty four persons were arrested during May 2008 in the joint police action by SIPA, RS MoI and Brcko District, at the order of BiH prosecution. The operation was aimed against production and issuing of forged identity cards and passports within CIPS (Citizens identification protection system). Out of the arrested persons, BiH Court extended custody of 9 persons until 27 November 2008, while other suspects were released on bail. This is a very complex and ongoing investigation, and the operation has raised a number of issues: firstly the management and supervision of the CIPS database; initial enquiries reveal that each office is effectively autonomous and there is limited central control. Working practices are being supervised by the senior management of each office with no centralized management and supervision. Secondly the international perspective and the concerns regarding the integrity of BiH travel documents and ID cards. Information has been obtained that indicates that organized crime syndicates have identified the weaknesses in the system and have obtained falsified identity documents. The findings of this investigation coincide with a time when the international community is considering a relaxation on the visa regimes and the introduction of a Bio-metric system.

EUPM has worked closely with the International State prosecutor from the outset of this investigation. In line with the State prosecutor they have taken action to raise the awareness of the International community to integrity issues of the CIPS database and BiH travel documents.

To this end EUPM took the decision to approach the Office of High Representative (OHR) and engage them in identifying immediate and long term solutions to rectify the weakness of the CIPS system.

EUPM is closely monitoring developments in the current investigations and at the same time liaising with OHR at a Strategic level.

**EUPM attended Republika Srpska (RS) Director of Police (DoP) meeting with all chiefs of Public Security Centres (PSC)** - On 6 August, RS DoP Uros Pena held a meeting with all PSC chiefs, also attended by EUPM representatives, with the purpose of reviewing the operational report of the RS MoI's work during the first six months of 2008, and to plan future police activities based



on the problems identified. In general, the security situation in the Republika Srpska during the first half of 2008 was satisfactory. Considering that during the first half of 2008 many events occurred which could have provoked threats to the general security situation, e.g. Kosovo declaring unilateral independence, Srebrenica Commemoration, Kravice, arrests of Stojan Zupljanin and Radovan Karadzic, public gatherings etc., the police did a good job and prevented any serious incidents. The DoP praised the work of the police during first 6 months of 2008 which lead to a very high rate of solved crimes - 60.3%. Finally the DoP reminded that the upcoming period would be dominated with pre-election campaigns and possible political manipulations, and that the police should make regular assessments of the situation to be able to react efficiently and prevents incidents.

### **Six-monthly security situation assessment January-June 2008 in FBiH (selected statistics) -**

The security situation at Federation of BIH in the first six months of 2008, in comparison with the same period of 2007, characterizes a slight decrease in crime, an increased number of solved crimes, an increase in the of number of offences of breach of public peace and order, traffic accidents, persons killed or injured in traffic accidents and an increased number of assaults against authorized officials.

### **Detention Centres**

**Meeting on proposed handing over of the detention facilities to the Judicial Commission in Brčko District** - On 14 August EUPM met with the Deputy Chief of police of Brčko District (BD) regarding the proposed handing over of the detention facilities to the Judicial Commission. The detention system in Brčko is interesting because it is run by the police force since 2000 and under the budget of the BD Police. The process is ongoing but somewhat hindered due to administration issues. Since the budget for 2009 has been approved, the handover may take place in 2010. The process of negotiations and handover is ongoing and supported by EUPM.

**EUPM and Council of Europe Support Training For New Prison Directors** - On 21 August EUPM met with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to discuss the new Law on Enforcement of Sanctions and Detention, future cooperation as well as the joint training for the newly appointed members of the prison management in BiH. EUPM will organize a meeting with Council of Europe (CoE) and OSCE to make further plans on training for the new prison directors.

## Immigration

**Integrated Border Management (IBM)** - The process of drafting a Strategy and Action Plan for IBM, and to have them adopted by the Council of Ministers, has been ongoing for nearly four years. The original Strategy was adopted in 2005 but was almost immediately deemed not to be adequate. The latest version, along with the Actions Plans, was adopted in July and now the task of implementing them has to start. Many different domestic players will be involved not least the newly established State Commission for IBM which numbers amongst its members both Mr Sadovic, the Minister of Security in the Council of Ministers, and Mr Dumancic, Director of the Border Police. The IC will also be closely involved and EUPM is currently considering what its role should be in this process. Once this has been done a meeting will take place between EUPM and the EC Delegation to coordinate activities.

**Visa Liberalisation Roadmap (VLR)** - The VLR sets 40 conditions for BiH to meet before the EU will consider dropping the requirement for Bosnian citizens to have visas for travel to the member states. Some of these requirements, however, have already been met and were in fact achieved before the VLR final draft was received. Of particular note are the new Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum (LMSAA) and its Rulebooks and the above mentioned adoption of the Strategy and Action Plans for IBM. EUPM will be expected to contribute to the evaluation process regarding progress towards achieving VLR goals as many of them are fully covered by the mandate.

**Biometric passports** - Following on from the above, the Director of the Citizens Identification Protection System (CIPS) Project announced during August that it was expected that biometric passports would be introduced by late 2009. This is another requirement of the VLR although it is likely that such passports would have been introduced irrespective. There are currently some concerns about the integrity of the CIPS system which could have a knock on effect on biometric passport issuance.

*EUPM Comment: Of all the VLR requirements this one is the most relevant as it deals with documentation for Bosnian citizens. Member states will be reluctant to drop the visa requirement unless they can be sure (or as sure as it is possible to be) that the documents held by Bosnian*

*citizens travelling to their countries have been properly issued. Whatever progress is made elsewhere in the VLR process this issue will be decisive in any consideration by member states to drop the visa requirement.*

## **Political and Security Update**

**Gathering of Bosniak FBiH associations in Potocari/Bratunac** - On 29 August, approx. 1500/2000 participants from associations of war veterans, invalids/demobilized soldiers and families of killed soldiers from several FBiH Cantons gathered at the Potocari Memorial and Bosniaks Burial site of Veljaci in Bratunac. This gathering has been held once a year for the past few years for those who could not attend the Srebrenica Commemoration on 11 July (*see WMR 27/08*). After speeches by the Srebrenica Mayor and Director of the Memorial, a religious service was held, followed by a movie presentation and a photo exhibition. The gathering passed without incidents and the police secured the event efficiently

**Canton 7 (Mostar - Herzegovina Neretva Canton - HNC)** - While the summer months produced no significant outcomes of the work of Canton 7 (HNC) Government and not a single step forward on any disputed issue was taken, the pre-election period is instigating some attempts to resolve problems as well as stronger rhetoric aimed to attract voters.

On 2 September, HDZ 1990 and SDA party leaders are to discuss outstanding issues – (Croat) media, education (Stolac), and appointment of the Police Commissioner for Canton 7. The meeting might bring an idea about the direction the HNC Government is taking. HDZ 1990 President confirmed at the party Convention held on 29 August that Canton 7 Government might fall apart if these talks fail, as Canton 7 Prime Minister had already indicated .

**Posters in support of Radovan Karadzic appeared in Banja Luka and Doboj** - Posters in support of Radovan Karadzic, signed by the Serb National Movement “The Choice is Ours”, appeared in Banja Luka and Doboj on 28 August, a day prior to Karadzic’s second appearance before the Trial Chamber of The Hague Tribunal. The poster contained a message written in Cyrillic: “*Rise old Serbia and mighty Russia for the innocent man*” with images of Serbian and Russian flags, as well as an image of Radovan Karadzic in the background. Besides Banja Luka,

the posters have been seen in Bijeljina, but also in Belgrade and Novi Sad.

Again on 1 September posters with blue background and an image of Radovan Karadzic appeared in Doboj. The posters had message “Serb” written on it, and a logo as well as a website address of the Serb far-right organization “Obraz” (literal translation: ‘cheek’; figurative translation: ‘honour’) were printed at the bottom.

SECURITY PHASES	ALERT STATUS	THREAT ASSESSMENTS LEVELS	SECURITY SITUATION
Phase 0	Alfa	Low (Green)	Preparation---Normal situation
Phase I	Alfa Plus	Low to Medium	Warning and precautions (EUPM)
Phase II	Bravo	Medium (Blue)	Preventive & Partial withdrawal
Phase III	Charlie	High (Orange)	Gathering to Assembly Areas- AA's
Phase IV	Delta	Very High (Red)	Evacuation -Movement to CP's and SA's

## Security:

01. The EUPM SECURITY ASSESSMENT as of 04 September, regarding potential risks for the EUPM Staff security, related to the political and public order situation is:

### EUPM assesses as:

<b>LOW to MEDIUM</b> the risks against the <b>EUPM staff private property.</b>
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## Media

**Anti-Crime campaign to begin in September** - Aiming to raise awareness of organized crime and its affects on normal citizens, EUPM in partnership with all BiH police forces will launch “Dare and call Krimolovci (crime hotline)” anti-crime BiH wide campaign in September. The campaign will kick off on 19 September following the two week ‘teaser’ phase which was launched on 1 September. The ‘Krimolovci’ number will be highlighted in the campaign (free anonymous SIPA’s telephone line for reporting major crime), hoping to increase the number of quality calls thus helping police to obtain more intelligence to combat crime. The Director of SIPA (SIPA will play the major role in the campaign), pledged to improve the technical abilities of Krimolovci, proper staffing throughout the campaign, a constant flow of information received through hotline and

weekly analysis of the number and quality of calls. EUPM will present campaign to CIVOM/CPCC and to BiH police Directors/Chief Prosecutors in early September.

**EUPM supports strengthening of SIPA's image** - EUPM developed a press and public information strategy for SIPA for 2009, outlining activities needed for SIPA to raise its profile, deepen understanding of its work and highlight achievements in combating crime. This exercise is aimed at building up public confidence in SIPA and citizen's support for its anti-crime activities.

#### Relations with Host Country authorities

*As EUPM is an established mission, currently there are no issues to report under this heading*

#### Relations with EU, other IC organisations and representatives

*As EUPM is an established mission, currently there are no issues to report under this heading*

#### **Other aspects**

**Official handover of donated equipment for Border Police** - EUPM organised a press conference at the Border Police Headquarters in order to mark the official handover of the "Digital scanner for x-ray/RTG device" donated to the Border Police. The German Ambassador handed over the equipment to Mr Vinko Dumancic, Head of Border Police. Two German experts stayed in Sarajevo from 5 to 13 August 2008 to deliver the training for the bomb squad within the Border Police.

#### **Forecast for Next Month**

Official start of local election campaigning on 5 September.

#### **Comments by HoM**

**Approved by B.G. V. Coppola**  
**Head of Mission**

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