

NEWSLETTER

Delegation of European Union to BiH

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IN FOCUS

Peter Sørensen new Head of the EU Delegation to BiH

Peter Sørensen brings unique experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider Balkans region to this job, Catherine Ashton said

Following the closure of the publication for the post as EU Head of Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton announced her intention to transfer Peter Sørensen from his current posting as EU Head of Delegation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the post of EU Head of Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This announcement came at a crucial time for the Western Balkans region and Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular.

„Peter Sørensen brings unique experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider Balkans region to this job,“

Catherine Ashton said: „I can think of no-one better qualified to take over this enhanced role of Head of Delegation.“

Short biography:

Peter Sørensen has over 15 years experience in the Western Balkans region. His previous assignments include the posts of Personal Representative of the EU High Representative in Belgrade (2006-2010); Deputy Head of „Pillar IV“ (Reconstruction and Economic Development) of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (2002-2006); Senior Adviser to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (2001-2002); Legal Adviser to



Peter Sørensen

the United Nations Secretary General Special Envoy for the Balkans (2000); Head of Political Department and Senior Adviser to the Head of OSCE in Croatia (1997-1999); Legal Adviser to the

High Representative in Sarajevo (1996-1997); and Political Adviser to and Observer in the European Community Monitoring Mission in the former Yugoslavia (1995-1996).



BiH in EU Colours

The EU Delegation to BiH and the BiH Directorate for European Integration organised numerous sports and cultural events between 04- 17 May as part of the Europe Day celebration.

●Page 5



IN THIS ISSUE



Photo story
EU Support to
T.A.J.A.N. Nature Park

●Page 2



Interview with Bakir Dautbašić:
It is a great feeling when you have
all the answers ready in negotiations
with the EU

●Page 3



Economy
EU Supports BiH SMEs

●Page 7

EU Support to T.A.J.A.N. Nature Park

The EU has provided 350,000 Euro through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the development of Tajan Nature Park as an attractive tourist destination. TAJAN (Tourism, Adventure, Joy, Attractions, and Nature) is the only nature park in Central Bosnia.

The project promotion was attended by international and local officials, as well as a large number of citizens, mostly nature lovers. A bicycle race in Mitrovići Nature Park, near Zavidovići, was arranged. The program consisted of a promotional race - recreational cycling along a 23 kilometer route – and an XC (cross-country) race at the nature park, with five laps of 3.5 kilometers each. Fifty

competitors from throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the cross-country race, among them a number representatives of embassies and international organizations.

In the next 30 months Tajan will develop major tourism infrastructure: mountain bike and hiking trails will be equipped with GPS navigation, towers for wildlife observation will be built, the Srednja stijena and Lukina pećina caves will be opened for visitors, and a tourist information centre will be opened in Kamenica to facilitate renting of mountain equipment and provision of accommodation and food for tourists.

Along with training for members of the Mountain Rescue Service and the supply of hiking and other equipment,



Tourism, Adventure, Joy, Attractions and Nature

special attention will be devoted to promoting the project internationally. Participation in

tourism fairs abroad is planned, together with the organization of sports and other events, and the printing of multilingual promotional materials.



Improving the image of the tourist destination



Pleasant company at the promotion of the Project



Bicycle race in Mitrovići Nature Park, near Zavidovići

It is a great feeling when you have all the answers ready in negotiations with the EU

Before the meeting of the monitoring teams for the implementation of the Decision on visa regime abolition for BiH citizens, there was a certain amount of anxiety about the re-introduction of visas. But, after the meeting on 11 May in Brussels, the anxiety was removed and the European Commission officials even sent a message that they were more than satisfied with the level of compliance with the Decision and the way that BiH has fulfilled the conditions.

- I am truly satisfied with the meeting in Brussels. It's a great feeling when you are being asked questions for which you have all the answers and, even more, answers that are acceptable to the other side, i.e. the European Commission representatives. This was a rare case in the course of negotiations between BiH delegations and the EU so far, and maybe it's the only such case.

In the context of previous announcements by officials in Brussels that visas could be re-introduced in the case of some countries in the region, do you consider the statements by EC officials confirmation that the visa free regime for BiH citizens is not threatened?

- The number of BiH citizens who have applied for asylum – 180 – is not worrying. Therefore, the rumour

about re-introducing visas for BiH citizens is definitely not realistic. Unfortunately, our colleagues in Serbia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have had problems with false asylum seekers; we hope they will be able to solve those problems.

There are, however, more things that the BiH institutions have to do. Specifically, what has Brussels requested?

- The EC has made some recommendations, such as implementing the Anti-corruption Law. It has been pointed out that the Rulebook on Internal Control of the Agency for Corruption Prevention and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption must be adopted as soon as possible and that employing the necessary staff must start immediately so that the agency can function. There are also changes to the Rulebook on the BiH Border Police, which should incorporate new regulations related to the work of the Centre for Risk Analysis. In addition, we have to continue meeting obligations related to human rights, which primarily means accelerating the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman, implementing the Strategy for Roma, and implementing the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that this year the server for the exchange of police information should start functioning



Do you expect obstacles and do you believe that institutions are ready to meet these conditions, bearing in mind that a state-level government has not yet been formed?

- From our point of view, these are not major problems since the relevant decisions can be made by the BiH Council of Ministers and the CoM, fortunately, is meeting regularly. We should remember that the Council of Ministers and its Chair, Nikola Špirić, as well as his Deputy, Sadik Ahmetović, have always been dedicated to solving all the issues related to visa liberalisation. I believe this will continue.

A lot of European officials, as well as the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, Catherine Ashton, have stressed that fulfilling the requirements for visa liberalization could be

a model for resolving other obligations on the path to Europe. How do you see this?

- I can speak about the security sector. The security sector was commended at the recent meeting and it was also emphasized that only in this sector has progress been recorded. Brussels recognizes this and they do not hide the fact that we have done a good job.

Could the decision by EU ministers on changes to the Schengen regulations affect the mobility of BiH citizens when they travel abroad?

- It is now a big internal problem of the European Union and a rather unpleasant atmosphere has developed around it. It is also a confirmation of how important the issue of migration is for the European Union.

BiH has become a role model for countries in the region

BiH citizens are the most disciplined in respecting the obligations of the visa-free regime

The BiH authorities have demonstrated to Brussels, by meeting the requirements from the Roadmap for Liberalization of the Visa Regime, and through the consistent implementation of the Decision abolishing

visas for BiH citizens, that they can act unanimously, efficiently and promptly and serve as a role model for countries in the region.

This is what EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security

Catherine Ashton indicated during her recent visit to Sarajevo. She added that the approach to visa liberalisation should serve as a model for other BiH institutions in the European integration process.





Run to Europe

BiH in EU Colours

This year, celebrations of EU Day were designed to include a wide variety of sports and cultural activities all across Bosnia and Herzegovina. All the celebrations were organised by the Delegation of the European Union and the BiH Directorate for European Integration.

A volleyball tournament for the disabled, on 4 May, marked the beginning of an EU road

show, consisting of the EU Van and EU on Wheels. The road show included events such as the promotion of EU Palčić magazine, where more than 400 children gathered in front of the BiH Parliament building to take part in a broad range of creative workshops.

On 8 May around 400 amateur athletes from Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond

participated in a “Run to Europe”. Taking part in the 4- kilometre road race through the centre of Sarajevo were the Acting Head of the EU Delegation to BiH, Renzo Daviddi, and the Head of Operations in Delegation, Boris Iarochevitch.

More celebrations followed – in Banja Luka on 9 May, in Doboj on 10 May and in Gradiška on 12 May. Throughout, children

and young people participated in quizzes, games, creative workshops, folk dancing and exhibitions which offered an opportunity to learn more about the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina’s progress towards European integration. Young people were also given a platform to say what they themselves think of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s prospects for



Europe week lasted from 04 to 17 May



The EU Van and EU on Wheels visited 20 towns and cities over the course of two weeks



European integration.

At a roundtable in Doboj on 10 May representatives of the local authorities and the NGO sector discussed the role of local authorities in the EU integration process. Participants stressed the importance of improving access to information about the various different EU funds that are available to communities and projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and how these funds can be accessed. Participants also learned how to build capacity in project writing and project cycle management at the local level, especially in cooperation with NGOs.

A concert given by two well-known rock bands, "Letu štuke" and "Skroz", on 14 May at Dom Mladih in Sarajevo marked the grand finale of Europe Day celebrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The concert drew more than 3,000 young people.

Over the course of the two-week period the EU road show visited 20 towns and cities where participants joined local authorities and NGO partners to send a collective message of support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's European integration effort.

In addition to the cities mentioned above, the road show visited Konjic, Mrkonjić grad, Ključ, Kladanj, Rogatica, Istočno Sarajevo, Teslić, Brod, Prnjavor, Zvornik, Stolac, Travnik, Bugojno, Srebrenica and Višegrad.

During these visits children took part in EU-themed quizzes. Prizes included rucksacks filled with useful material and information about the EU, and gifts.

Overall, citizens taking part in the events organized to celebrate Europe Day said they were most interested in learning about opportunities for funding various initiatives; education in Europe and joining the EU labour market.



Renzo Daviddi and Boris Jarochevitch welcomed guests at the reception in the EU Delegation to BiH



Numerous guests in EU Delegation to BiH



Rock Concert at Dom Mladih in Sarajevo



Learning about European Union



Children participated in EU quizzes

Füle: Step by step

Europe Day message of Stefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. "The message of the Schuman Declaration, acknowledging

that Europe will not be made all at once 'but through gradual, concrete achievements', is particularly relevant to the process of enlarging this Union we have constructed over the past

60 years. It is step by step, through gradual, tangible co-operation, that we'll resolve conflicts, build lasting peace, protect people's rights and achieve prosperity for all. I am happy to see Bosnia and

Herzegovina being part of this process. I am committed to continuing to work determinedly together with Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the vision of Robert Schuman."



Metal Industry Offers Hope for

The EUMETAL Project, focuses on introducing new technologies and expertise, implementing EU standards and strengthening export capabilities

The Sarajevo Region Development Agency (SERDA) is offering concrete support to companies in the metal industry under an initiative launched with EU assistance at the end of last year. The EUMETAL project is helping SMEs to increase their competitiveness by acquiring modern technology, introducing EU standards and marketing their products for export more effectively. The project budget of 458,000 Euros is 85 percent financed by the EU, with the remainder coming from SERDA.

In January, SERDA officials visited more than 60 companies working in production and metalwork, machine and device manufacturing, and the auto industry in the Sarajevo Economic Region, which covers 32 municipalities in both Entities.

“The aim of the visit was to present the project and identify the needs and requests of companies and establish cooperation in implementing the project,” said Project Manager Aida Džamalija Duran of SERDA. “Enterprises

expressed particular interest in the introduction of EU standards and the CE logo and pointed to the need for additional training for workers, including welders, CNC operators, wood turners, sharpeners and locksmiths.”

There are plans to introduce EU standards in ten companies during the two-year project. These include quality management system - ISO 9001, environmental management system - ISO 14001, and safety at work - OHSAS 18001. Employees will be able to learn about the importance and use of the CE logo, as well as how to make effective presentations in international markets.

Participation at international fairs will be

BiH Economic Recovery



The EUMETAL Project focuses on introducing new technologies and expertise

co-financed for 20 companies. In addition, 200 unemployed people and 100 employees in the metal sector will be trained for occupations that are in short supply, and 50 unemployed people will have an opportunity to work as interns in metal industry companies.

EU helps to stop pollution in the Spreča River Basin

The Spreča river basin is one of the most polluted areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Citizens recently began to organise and speak out against a situation that is a health hazard, and which is damaging economic prospects and the quality of life throughout the region.

The initiative to launch a Spreča River protection project originated with the Centre for Development and Support

(CDS) in Tuzla, with financial assistance from the EC Delegation under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) programme, and has brought together as many as 30 NGOs and



Lake Modrac: How to solve a pollution problem

EU legislation

The project's strategy involves addressing the problem of the Spreča River within the Plan for Managing the Sava River Basin. Bosnia and Herzegovina has already undertaken to implement the Sava River project. The ultimate objective is to reduce pollution to levels that are consistent with EU standards and with norms envisaged under existing BiH legislation.

The CDS stresses that under the EU accession process Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to reducing water pollution and that it is a signatory to international conventions on reducing pollution and protecting waterways.

“It is especially important when we consider that the Spreča River Basin is part of the Bosna River Basin, which also belongs to the Sava River Basin,” said CDS Project Manager Darko Tišma. “The Sava Basin belongs to the Danube River Basin, which includes 19 European countries.”

associations, and representatives of all the municipalities in the Spreča Valley.

The present situation in the Spreča River Basin can accurately be described as critical. Tuzla Canton is predominantly industrial and even where major manufacturers installed water purifiers these were largely destroyed in the 1990s. Now all of the industrial complexes in the area take water from Lake Modrac and send it back polluted.

“The Lake Modrac situation is as bad as it could be,” said Drago Jakić, a representative of the lake's Sport-Fishing Community.



EU Supports BiH SMEs

Funding expected to be increased over the next two years to cover 200 companies

A Visoko furniture specialist and a boiler-maker in Jajce are just two of the 39 BiH companies that are currently benefiting from an EU-funded project to help SMEs acquire technology and certification that will increase their competitiveness and allow them to create more job opportunities.

Secom d.o.o. is a typical family business, established in Visoko in 1996 and now employing 56 people. The company has modern equipment and facilities, which are continuously being improved and expanded with new machinery for higher value added processes and production of glued panels and boards as well as furniture. Almost 99 percent of production is exported. The main markets are Germany, Poland, and Hungary.

The Business Advisory Services Programme, launched by the EBRD and since 2010 funded by the EU Delegation, helped Secom implement the Quality, Environmental and FSC Chain of Custody Management System (ISO 9001, ISO 14001, FSC CoC) project. The company secured FCS certification in September 2010, and certification audits for ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 were carried out in February



Factory Secom d.o.o. in Visoko:
Strengthening the quality of production with EU help

2011.

The BAS Programme supported identification of relevant European Directives and standards applied to boilers (four EU Directives and 10 standards were identified) so that Termo Flux could implement the Product Safety Project – CE Marking, which would allow it to satisfy EU norms and export to the EU market.

In 2010 BAS supported 39 enterprises, and new financing under IPA 2009 will enable BAS to support at least 100 more enterprises over the next two years.

“We assist small and medium sized BiH enterprises by financially supporting

business advice and consulting activities which are carried out by qualified local consultants. And we are trying to develop and strengthen the skills and quality of local consultants by organising training courses and capacity building seminars for consultancies and dissemination of market economy best practice,” Programme Director Zihinja Hasović explained.

He stressed that the BAS model is market oriented. A company receives flexible grants from 25 to 75 percent of the total cost of a project, up to a maximum of 10,000 Euros depending on the type of project, size of enterprise, location, and so on.

Western Balkans Investment Framework

The results of the first year of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) were presented at the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina on Thursday. Under the program 81 grants with a total value of 139 million Euros have been awarded to 73 infrastructure projects across the Western Balkans.

These grants have already encouraged international financial institutions to approve

investment worth more than 3 billion Euros, contributing to total inward investment of more than 6 billion Euros. Ten separate projects that have received grants totalling more than 34 million Euros are expected to leverage investment worth more than 580 million Euros for projects that will have a total investment of 775 million Euros.

„The WBIF is a coordination and cooperation project between



Yngve Engström, Head of the Brussels based Regional Programmes Unit at the Enlargement Directorate-General of the European Commission

the European Commission and the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the European Investment Bank,”

explained Yngve Engström, Head of the Brussels based Regional Programmes Unit at the Enlargement Directorate-General of the European Commission.

Fight against corruption



A two-day workshop on stepping up the fight against corruption, organised by the BiH Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs in cooperation with the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the EU (TAIEX) and the European Union Police Mission to BiH (EUPM), was held in Sarajevo.

EUPM Deputy Head of Mission Domenico Paterna pointed out that corruption is a complex issue with roots in the bureaucracy and in political institutions.

Reinforcement of Local Democracy

The European Union has provided 1.5 million Euros for implementation of the second stage of the Reinforcement of Local Democracy – LOD II project. A Memorandum of Understanding on the project was signed by 15 partner municipalities and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

“Municipalities play a key role in the EU integration process, because they are the level of government that is closest to citizens and the best level at which to explain the nature of integration and the conditions that go with it,” Boris Iarochevitch, Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to BiH, said.

The 11th Green Week

The European Commission has adopted a Roadmap to transform the EU into a competitive low-carbon economy by 2050

The 11th Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environmental policy, took place from 24 to 27 May 2011 in Brussels and around Europe. This year's theme was "Resource Efficiency - Using

Green Week showcases strategies for promoting a shift towards lower carbon use and more efficient use of resources.

Scientific evidence shows that global warming needs to be

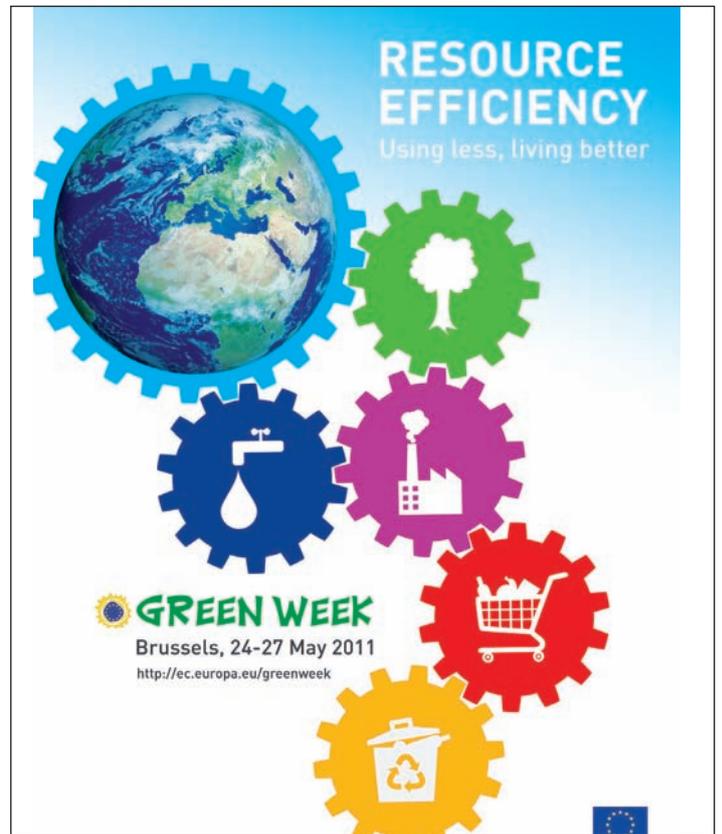


less, living better".

Green Week addresses the problem of resource depletion and scarcity, and offers a unique opportunity for debate and for the exchange of experience. Over the past decade, it has established itself as a key event for anyone involved in protecting Europe's environment.

limited to less than 2°C above the temperature in pre-industrial times (around 1.2°C above today's level) if the world is to have a fair chance of preventing severe climate change.

Without firm global action to limit climate change, temperatures could increase by 2°C or more by 2050. To stay below 2°C every country will



have to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), and developed countries will have to take the lead by targetting a cut of 80-95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The European Commission has adopted a Roadmap to transform the EU into a competitive low-carbon economy by 2050. The initiative was taken because leading the global transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy will have multiple benefits for the EU.

Maintaining its leading position in the development and implementation of innovative low-carbon technologies will allow Europe to tap new sources of growth and to preserve existing jobs and create new ones. Building a low-carbon economy will also reduce the EU's vulnerability to potential future oil shocks and other energy security concerns, substantially cut the cost of importing energy and reduce air pollution.

EU officials in visits to BiH

Štefan Füle

"This is not a time for political games in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a time for politicians to find a consensus based on the European perspective."



European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle

Catherine Ashton

"The European Union is reaffirming its clear commitment to the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We stand ready to help Bosnia and Herzegovina move forward."



EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton

Miroslav Lajčák

"It is not up to us to decide which parties will form the Government, but it is important that these parties have a strong support from electorate and from the BiH Parliament. We want the government to represent a driving force towards the reforms."



Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the European External Action Service Miroslav Lajčák

José Manuel Barroso

"BiH wants to become a member of the EU. BiH is a part of the European family and has a European future. The EU is ready to help you through its reinforced presence and policies, and substantial aid."



President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso

Quotes:

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European Union home page: www.europa.eu

The EU's actions in BiH web page: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/bosnia_herzegovina/index.htm

European Union Delegation to BiH: www.europa.ba

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