

Fair of Agriculture, Food and Beverages in Sarajevo

Within the 33th international fair of agriculture, food, beverages and consumers goods, which was held in the Skenderija Center in Sarajevo from November 16 to 20, the organoleptical (sensory) judgment of products was conducted in groups "Meat and meat products and ready-cooked meals," "Bakery and confectionery goods",



"Alcohol drinks and vinegar" and "Milks and milk products" and medals, awards and plaques were assigned.

In the category "Meat and meat products and ready-cooked meals", bronze medals and plaques were assigned to Montenegrin companies Meso-promet d.o.o. Bijelo Polje, Meat Industry "Goranovic" d.o.o. Niksic, Marteks d.o.o. Cetinje and Gradina company d.o.o. Rozaj, the fair reported.

"Meso-promet d.o.o. Bijelo Polje" Montenegro, Meat Industry Goranovic d.o.o., Niksic, Martkes doo Cetinje and Gradina company Rozaje and Factory of guts and clotting-agents Fabrics d.o.o. Podgorica received silver medals and plaques in the same category.

Companies Meat-promet d.o.o. Bijelo Polje, Meat Industry Goranovic d.o.o. Niksic, Marteks d.o.o. Cetinje, Baltic SZMR Sarajevo, Gradina Company d.o.o. Rozaj and Ribarstvo d.o.o. Rijeka Crnojevica received gold medals in this category.

In the category "Bakery and confectionery goods", MPI Mlin (MILL) Ustikolina got a silver medal and Crnagoracoop Danilovgrad a gold medal.

The Factory of guts and clotting-agents Fabrics d.o.o. Podgorica received a silver and gold medal in the category "Alcohol drinks and vinegar", while the company MB Impex doo Banja Luka received a gold medal.

In the category "Milk and milk products", companies Ital Product doo Podgorica, and the Factory of guts and clotting-agents Fabrics d.o.o. Podgorica received gold medals.

This year's medal "Golden Skenderija" and gold plaques went to the firm MPI from Ustikolina.

Winners of special fair awards are the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Montenegro competitiveness project MCP for assistance in promotion and organization of the Montenegrin busi-

Tourist Workers from Catalonia Visit Sarajevo and Mostar

Over the past four days, the Tourist Community of Canton Sarajevo, USAID and Canton Sarajevo hosted a group of tour-operators from Catalonia, which have the toured the most significant tourist destinations in Sarajevo and Mostar.

Representatives of the Catalonian Association of Travel Agencies Jordi Marti Utset and Antonio Wanguemert told a press conference on Monday that BiH possesses significant tourist potentials that need to be developed and exploited. The Association gathers 300 travel agencies and has 900 points of sale.

President of the Canton Sarajevo Tourist Community Midhat Kule said that the visit was organized for the purpose of providing for a more serious approach on the Spanish tourist market and establishing cooperation among the tourist workers.

Representatives of the Catalonian touroperators observed that the lack of roadway infrastructure is the biggest problem for development of tourism in BiH. **A. G.**



ness men performance. Also the association "Organic BiH", Traditional handicrafts of Sarajevo Canton and High tourist-catering school Sarajevo are the winners of these awards.

R. K.

Old Foreign Currency Saving Depositors Call to Boycott

The Chapter of the Association of Citizens for the Return of Old Foreign Currency Saving Deposits in the Brčko District issued a public statement yesterday calling all holders of old, frozen foreign currency saving deposits to boycott the verification of those same deposits. The statement notes that the verification started in spite of the fact that the Constitutional Court had decided in favor of the Association (i.e. it had affirmed that the verification was an unconstitutional category).

This Association had motioned a law that was passed by the BiH Parliament, which demands for the old saving deposits to be returned within five years, and for such deposits to be transferred to the banks where they had once been deposited. Now one is waiting for the House of Peoples to uphold this Law whereby it would come into force.

J. S.

Real Unemployment at Least 30 Percent Less than on Records

Federal Minister of labor and social policy Radovan Vignjevic, with assistants, visited yesterday the Cantonal employment service Sarajevo where he was introduced, among other things, with implementation of the second employment support project (SESP) and application of a new rulebook on records in domain of employment.

Director of the service Vahid Muharemovic stressed that the domain of labor and employment is very important as for KS, as to the entire state, and certain changes are to come in this domain, restructuring etc. He stressed that planned activities for this year have been mainly completed, apart from several measures of active politics, which are almost at the end.

Muharemovic estimated as good launching of a process of introducing the ISO standards, implemented by the Unit for implementation of the project of socio-economic support, training and re-employment (PIU SESER), and he said that a company which will conduct these activities has already been selected both in the Service and in the KS. "Realization of the project referring employment of 87 youth with university and associate education is in progress, and it is the second program from this domain this year," he said. He added that several other programs have been conducted, among which is also employment of persons older than 45, and he added that employers have the interest for such employment, and about 2,250 persons from this category have got a job so far.

Minister Vignjevic estimated the project of employment of persons older than 45 as necessary, because this category of citizens find a job with difficulties. Considering that currently 356,000 unemployed are registered in FBiH, it is necessary to investigate is this data really reliable or not.

"There is a need of making teams of 'managers' for job-finding, i.e. the bureau sets up priorities when the employment is in question," minister explained. He added that persons from the records should fill the statements, where they will confirm that they have no incomes higher than foreseen, i.e. 25% of the average wage, and others will be categorized in a job-searching group.

The director of the Cantonal Employment Service Sarajevo said that the Service had distributed over 37.000 such statements, and they have been already filled, but according to them the persons questioned do not have any incomes.

"We cannot check that data, because there is a law on tax secret in the Tax administration," Muharemovic explained and stressed that real unemployed are about 30% less than the records show. He indicated to problems during development of as qualitative financial plan for the next year, and due to the law on discharged veterans and their families, which enforcement starts from January 1, 2007, because it is foreseen that their financing will be through the Employment Service in cooperation with the Federal Employment Bureau.

J. S.

Project "Support to Management of Neretva River Basin"

Agreement on financing of project "Support to integral management of Neretva River basin" was signed Monday in Sarajevo.

Agreement was signed by federal minister of agriculture, water industry and forestry Marinko Nozic before the BiH Federation Government and by Spanish Ambassador to BiH Jose Castroviejo y Bolibar and general coordinators of Spanish cooperation with the Balkans Cristina Hernandez Gutierres.

This project is worth 359,795 euros with implementation period of two years, from 2006 - 2008.

End user of the project is the Public company "Water area of Adriatic Sea basins" Mostar and the project is to be implemented by the Technical office for Cooperation with the Balkans - OTC stationed in Sarajevo and by the International Management Group - IMG, OTC partner. Agreement is an extension of Spanish Government's support to BiH in its road to European integrations, more specifically to the protection of living environment by improving the quality and quantity control of BiH main rivers.

Minister Bozic pointed out the significance of the agreement signed Monday, which, among the rest, enables monitoring of water quality and in case of its pollution a quick location of the problem.

Ambassador Jose Castroviejo y Bolibar stressed that the project "Support to integral management of Neretva River basin" is an important project, considering the fact that it attempts to control and preserve one of the basic goods - water.

"BiH is rich in water, so much so that it could export it. Still, that doesn't mean that BiH can not run out of water if it is not managed properly," the Spanish Ambassador stated. He

Semberija: 430 Tons of Tobacco Purchased

Bijeljina's company AD "Duvan" has purchased 430 tons of "Virginia" sort of tobacco from Semberija's tobacco producers, the firm reports.

Additional fifteen tons of "Barley" sort is to be purchased to realize this industrial plant purchase plan for this year.

The whole quantity of tobacco will be deliv-

ered to cigarette producers in BiH and Serbia. The purchase price of first rate tobacco makes 3.46 KM per kilogram; the second class makes 2.94 KM a kilogram, for the third, 2.41 KM.

The RS Government pays tobacco producers one KM premium per kilo, Bijeljina municipality pays 10 fennings. **S. B.** stressed the importance of controlling the BiH rivers' basins to avoid any type of pollution.

Through OTC and IMG, the Spanish Government has so far financed support projects in renewal of ecosystem of the Neretva River delta, Bosna River and its tributaries in the amount of 1.2 million euros.



Editor - in - Chief AMRA ZIMIC Publisher POENTA d.o.o. Sarajevo, 4 Zmaja od Bosne Street Senior Editor SEAD BULJINA Editors **RASID KRUPALIJA** JASMINA SEHIC Journalist **ARNISA GAGULA Office Assistant** MUSTAFA BAHTANOVIC DTP SAMIRA SALIHBEGOVIC Marketing manager JASNA TAFRO GSM: 061 133 499 Phone/Fax: 033 288 035, 033 288 034 E-mail: bhbusinessdaily@megatel.ba

Seminar on BiH and Austrian Cities Partnerships Concluded

Two-day seminar dubbed "Seminar on Cities and Municipalities Partnerships" was closed on Thursday in Graz.

At the initiative by the BiH Honorary Consul in Graz, Mr Joerg Hofreiter seminar was organized by the Association of Austrian Cities and State of Styria. FBiH and RS Associations of Cities and Municipalities have suggested five cities each and helped want to comment failure of the RS municipality mayors to send their representatives to the seminar in Graz although they had confirmed their participation. In any case, seminar took place with BiH mayors and directors of the FBiH and RS Associations of Cities and Municipalities, Vesna Travljanin and Radomir Kezunovic and BiH Honorary Consul in Graz, Joerg Hofreiter



the seminar organization. Two Associations suggested the following towns for partnerships project: Banja Luka, Bihac, Buzim, East Sarajevo, Fojnica, Bosanska Krupa, Kupres, Laktasi, Prijedor and Sanski Most. The idea of the seminar was to discuss the possibilities of partnership relationships and specific projects among Austrian and Bosnian cities and municipalities. All municipality mayors from FBiH showed up at Graz. However, from the RS only East Sarajevo mayor who is also director of the RS Association took part at the seminar. Other mayors cancelled their already confirmed participation at the last moment citing their previous commitments. Mr. Josef Bauer from the side of the organizer did not taking part at the seminar. Ms. Maxie Uray-Frick opened the seminar with a City of Graz presentation. Mr. Georg Mullner held a presentation "Criteria for successful partnerships on the level of cities". Mr. Mullner and BiH municipality mayors conducted a workshop on specific project ideas for partnerships and presented those ideas in Graz City Hall.

The second day of the seminar participants went to the Styrian Parliament. They were officially welcomed by Mr. Werner Breithuber, a member of the Parliament and mayor of the municipality of Seiersberg. Guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina had an opportunity to learn more about Austrian constitution through a short tour around the Styrian Parliament led by Mr. Maximilian Weiss, an expert for constitutional questions and expert in the field of history of the Parliament in Austria. Following the official welcome address and a tour through the Styrian Parliament seminar activities continued by a lecture of Mr. Stefan Hoflehner from the Association of Cities and Towns of Austria. Guests and hosts exchanged their experiences and had an interesting discussion regarding differences between systems in two countries. Mr. Walter Schrittwieser and Miriana Dominovic gave presentation on the "Funding Possibilities from European Union for Bosnia and Herzegovina".

In the afternoon, a round table (Europe - discussion" was held with statements of Mr. Breithuber, Mr. Karl Georg Doutlik - the Head of the European Commission in Vienna, Mr. Hofrat Mag, Mr. Ludwig Rader -Head of the Department of European and External Affairs for Steiermark and Mr. Stefan Boerger, an expert for EU questions. Guests actively took part in the round table especially discussing European Union interest for Bosnia and Herzegovina and funding possibilities for BiH that would help Bosnian economy.

Head of Department for community affairs. Heinz Schille gave a lecture on advantages of regionalization - Styria's Best Practices. One of those practices is a cross-border Economy park Eibiswald with Slovenia. Another example of best practices was regional cooperation in the field of tourism. The seminar concluded Mr. Klaus Zausinger with a presentation "Community tasks in the context of the European Union -Management by Grazer Stadtwerke AG". Following seminar, all participants thanked their hosts emphasizing that the seminar was very useful in many ways. Preliminary contacts regarding combined business and other projects with Austrian cities have been established. Some municipalities have already agreed visits by their Styrian counterparts in a short period of time. It is expected that Bosnian and Austrian cities and municipalities will achieve cooperation in various fields, not only economy.

It should be mentioned that the organization of the seminar was at the highest possible level. Organizers, especially BiH Honorary Consul in Graz Mr. Joerg Hofreiter, Chair Deputy of Dept. for European and External Affairs for Steiermark, Mr. Josef Bauer and Mr. Stefan Hoflehner from the Association of Austrian Cities and Towns" deserve all credits for successful organization of such an event as this seminar was.

SASE - Yesterday's Turnover 12.6 Million KM

The Sarajevo Stock Exchange said yesterday's turnover was 12.6 million KM, with some 594,000 shares traded through around 700 transactions.

A block transaction was reported with the shares of Kakanj Cement Plant, totaling 6.7 million KM, with 347,000 shares traded for 19.50 KM per share. At the official quotation, the biggest daily turnover was registered with the shares of Bosnalijek dd Sarajevo, totaling 205,000 KM, traded for 37.95 KM per share.

At the PIFs quotation, the biggest daily turnover was registered with the shares of Big dd Sarajevo, totaling 187,000 shares, traded for 13.20 KM per share.

At the free market, the biggest daily turnover, except the block transaction, was registered with the shares of BH Telecom dd, totaling 1.5 million KM, traded for 35.33 KM per share.

The winner of the day were the shares of Svjetlost-Sars dd Sarajevo, surging 25% to 50 KM per share.

BIFX index fell 18.89 to 4,674.05 points, down 0.40% from the latest session.

SASX-10 grew a record 122.59 to 2,800.78 points, up 4.58 from the latest trading and a record value since the index was introduced.

SASX-10 is in constant growth since October 18 this year.

A. G.

BLSE - Yesterday's Turnover 1.7 Million KM

The Banja Luka Stock Exchange said yesterday's turnover was 1.7 million KM, with all three indexes marking growth. BIRS went up 1.285 to 2,761.05 points, while FIRS jumped 0.82% to 5,811.30 points.

ERS10 surged 0.19% to 4,214.90 points.

The biggest turnover at yesterday's regular trading was registered with the shares of Telekom Srpske, totaling 337,000 KM, traded for 2.77 KM per share.

Of the PIFs shares, the biggest turnover was registered with the shares of Zepter Fond ad Banja Luka, totaling 275,000 KM, traded for 16.49 KM per share.

The winner of the day among PIFs were the shares of Invest Nova ad Bijeljina, surging 2.37% to 0.22 KM per share.

The biggest turnover at the free bourse market was registered with the shares of Hidroelektrane na Trebisnjici ad Trebinje, totaling 140,595 KM, traded for 2.40 KM per share.

The winner of the day were the shares of Boksit ad Milici, surging 19.33% to 1.83 KM per share.

A. G.

Union of 'Kreka' Mine Tuzla Supports Company's Management

The Union organization of the mine Kreka d.o.o. Tuzla reported that it supports the management of this firm referring to reports of certain media pertaining to the lawsuit charged by the Cantonal Prosecution Tuzla against the mine, and general director Resad Husagic and head of the book-keeping sector and independent accountant Muhibija Mehmedovic.

President of the Union Memis Music and 4,270 employees consider that it is about a fake process against the management of the company.

"The lawsuit is irrelevant. The entire concept

Currency exchange - Central Bank of BiH The International Banking Code (ISO CODE) for the Convertible Marka is BAM. Currency exchange - November 21, 2006

			-				
Country	Num code	Alpha code	Units	Buy	Middle	Sell	
EMU	978	EUR	1	1.955830	1.955830	1.955830	
Australa	036	AUD	1	1,169138	1,172068	1,174998	
Czech	203	CZK	1	0,069664	0,069839	0,070014	
Canada	124	CAD	1	1,329340	1,332672	1,336004	
Danmark	208	DKK	1	0,261597	0,262253	0,262909	
Croatia	191	HRK	100	26,478203	26,544564	26,610925	
Japan	392	JPY	100	1,287155	1,290381	1,293607	
Hungary	348	HUF	100	0,753900	0,755789	0,757678	
Lithuania	440	LTL	1	0,565032	0,566448	0,567864	
Norway	578	NOK	1	0,236134	0,236726	0,237318	
Slovakia	703	SKK	1	0,054682	0,054819	0,054956	
Slovenia	705	SIT	100	0,814045	0,816085	0,818125	
Sweden	752	SEK	1	0,214807	0,215345	0,215883	
Switzerland	756	CHF	1	1,224849	1,227919	1,230989	
Turkey	949	TRY	1	1,041001	1,043610	1,046219	
UK	826	GBP	1	2,882595	2,889820	2,897045	
USA	840	USD	1	1,519305	1,523113	1,526921	
Serbia	941	RSD	100	2,469545	2,475734	2,481923	
SDR (Special Drawin	ig Rights) Nov	vember 17, 2006	6		= BAM	2,268020	

of our message to public is that we used to pay a part of wages in legally foreseen frameworks, and we haven't overdrawn a limit of two percent in the BiH Federation. We have found a legal foundation in the law, and it will be proved at the court," Music said at today's press conference.

He stressed that the Union will demand exception of the public prosecutor who conducts the court process on financial irregularities in the mine.

By the lawsuit of the cantonal prosecution, the Tuzla mines Kreka, as a legal entity, are charged that they had committed a crime of abusing the power in economy business, while the general director, Husagic for abuse of power.

Head of the book-keeping sector and independent accountant Mehmedovic is charged for falsifying an official license.

The Kreka Mines and Husagic provided profit to the Mines in amount of about two million KM in that way in a period from 2003 to 2005, while Husagic alone provided the profit to the Mines of a million KM from 2001 to 2002.

Mehmedovic and Husagic are charged that they entered irregular book-keeping data regarding the calculation of paid wages in the period from 2002 to 2004, as well as calculation of taxes and contributions to wages, by which they had committed a crime.

J. S.

Symbol	lssuer	Official	%	Open	Close	Cross	Volume	Value	No. of		
	F	rice (BAM)	Change	Price	Price	Price		(BAM)	Transaction		
		OFFIC	IAL QUO	TATION							
BSNLR	BOSNALIJEK D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	37,95	0,21	37,00	38,50	5.422	205.712,44	18		
KLASR	KLAS D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	10,00	0,00	10,00	10,00	240	2.400,00	2		
	T+		AL QUOT	ATION -	PIF'S						
BIGFRK1	PIF BIG D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	13,20	-0,15	13,00	13,11	14.192	187.431,42	59		
BNSFRK2	IF BONUS D.D. SARAJERO (K2)	MFTS	9,56	-3,77	9,00	9,50	281	2.623,42	5		
BSNFRK1 CRBFR	PIF BOSFIN D.D. SARAJEVO PIF CROBIH FOND D.D. MOSTAR	MFTS MFTS	8,89 14,00	-0,97 0,05	9,00 13,99	8,70 13,80	3.107 2.670	27.630,90 37.376,65	13 17		
EFNFRK1	IF EUROFOND-1 DD TUZLA	MFTS	6,45	-0,10	6,39	6,40	4.069	26.324,75	70		
FRTFRK1	IF FORTUNA FOND DD BIHAĆ	MFTS	11,28	-0,48	11,00	11,30	1.168	13.176,44	26		
HRBFRK1	IF HERBOS FOND D.D. MOSTAR	MFTS	14,11	0,82	14,00	14,04	1.388	19.571,88	7		
MIGFRK2	IF MI GROUP DD SARAJEVO	MFTS	9,89	0,75	9,50	9,50	10.499	103.827,57	29		
NPRFRK2	IF NAPRIJED DD SARAJEVO	MFTS	10,06	-0,35	9,60	10,20	1.527	15.343,86	27		
PRPFRK1	PIF PROF PLUS D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	9,65	-1,90	9,50	9,70	1.568	15.107,50	13		
PVNFRK2	IF PREVENT INVEST DD SARAJEVO	MFTS	21,39	0,53	20,91	21,51	554	11.937,85	8		
	THE	FREE MA	RKET - S	тоск м	ARKET						
ABSBRK2	ABS BANKA D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	319,90	0,93	310,00	320,00	165	52.776,82	14		
BHTSR	BH TELECOM D.D.	MFTS	35,33	7,62	34,50	38,50	44.340	1.566.225,41	71		
BRGVRK1	BREGAVA D.D. CAPLJINA (K1)	Auction	1,50	0,00	1,50	1,50	554	831,00	1		
DBJPR	DOBOJPUTEVI D.D. DOBOJ JUG	Auction	8,00	0,00	8,00	8,00	1.712	13.696,00	3		
ENISR	ENERGOINVEST D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	12,73	2,09	12,78	12,69	650	8.274,60	3		
ENKTRK2	ENKER D.D. TESANJ (K2)	Auction	16,00	0,00	16,00	16,00	436	6.976,00	1		
ENPSR	ENERGOPETROL DD SARAJEVO	MFTS	20,19	0,21	20,00	20,15	1.927	38.912,05	12		
FDSSR	FABRIKA DUHANA SARAJEVO DD SARAJEV	O MFTS	289,37	-2,77	297,00	290,00	655	188.206,80	19		
FRESR	FEROELEKTRO D.D. SARAJEVO	Auction	6,00	-11,76	6,00	6,00	750	4.500,00	3		
HDGSR	HIDROGRADNJA D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	10,11	-8,14	11,00	10,00	27.591	278.744,00	30		
HETMR	HETMOS MOSTAR-HOTELI DD MOSTAR	Auction	2,00	-97,14	2,00	2,00	585	1.170,00	1		
IKBZRK2	IK BANKA D.D. ZENICA (REDOVNE)	MFTS	269,21	-0,31	270,00	260,00	216	58.149,50	5		
INGMRK2	INGRAM D.D. SREBRENIK (K2)	MFTS	12,60	5,00	12,60	12,60	1.400	17.640,00	1		
ITRTRK1	INTERSPED D.D. TUZLA (K1)	Auction	20,00	-42,86	20,00	20,00	155	3.100,00	2		
JPEMR	JP ELEKTROPRIVREDA HZHB MOSTAR	MFTS	159,06	0,50	158,27	150,00	957	152.180,31	24		
JPESR	JP ELEKTROPRIVREDA BIH DD SARAJEVO	MFTS	113,48	13,54	99,90	115,00	1.814	205.401,16	24		
KHKLR	KHK DD LUKAVAC	Auction	4,70	17,79	4,70	4,70	1.477	6.941,90	3		
KTKVR	KTK VISOKO DD VISOKO	Auction	1,35	-10,00	1,35	1,35	5.474	7.389,90	4		
LTGBRK1	LT GOSPODARSKA BANKA D.D. SARAJEVO		182,55	-8,72	182,55		67	12.230,85	1		
RMUBR	RMU BANOVIĆI DD BANOVICI	MFTS	103,29	8,02	95,60	109,99	3.449	355.919,15	42		
RMUKR	RMU KAMENGRAD DD SANSKI MOST	Auction	32,50	8,33	32,50	32,50	300	9.750,00	3		
RSTTR	RUDNIK SOLI TUSANJ DD TUZLA	MFTS	45,50	3,74	43,87	49,00	16.214	737.592,13	41		
RZRVR	RUDNIK ZELJEZNE RUDE D.D. VARES	MFTS	2,90	1,28	2,90	2,90	2.090	6.054,00	3		
SARSR	SVJETLOST-SARS D.D. SARAJEVO	Auction	50,00	25,00	50,00	50,00	383	19.150,00	3		
SIPBRK1	SIP BORAC DD TRAVNIK	Auction	0,34	0,00	0,34	0,34	1.500	510,00	2		
SOLTRK2	SOLANA DD TUZLA	MFTS	46,93	4,45	45,50	46,11	8.970	423.492,52	43		
SOSOR	SARAJEVO-OSIGURANJE D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	27,14	1,41	26,76	28,00	1.685	45.959,12	8		
SPKMR	SIPAD KOMERC D.D. SARAJEVO	Auction	5,00	0,20	5,00	5,00	2.495	12.475,00	3		
SPUSR	SARAJEVOPUTEVI DD SARAJEVO	Auction	10,00	1,01 3,09	10,00	10,00	247	2.470,00	3		
STKSRK1 STNSRK2	SARAJEVOTEKSTIL DD SARAJEVO STANDARD DD SARAJEVO	Auction MFTS	10,00	-19,38	10,00	10,00	599 50.500	5.990,00 810.391,47	1		
TCMKR	TVORNICA CEMENTA KAKANJ DD KAKANJ	Auction	19,50	0,00	19,00	19,50	0.500	0,00	12		
TRZCRK1	TVORNICA CEMENTA KAKANJ DD KAKANJ TRZNI CENTAR D.D. SARAJEVO	Auction	19,50	-5,26	18,00	19,50	81	1.458,00	1		
FARR	VELEFARMACIJA DD SARAJEVO	Auction	0,77	-5,26	0,77	0,77	9.000	6.930,00	3		
VFARR VNCARK1	VELEFARMACIJA DD SARAJEVO VRANICA D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	34,96	16,55	33,00	35,00	1.500	52.447,72	5		
	GP ZGP D.D. SARAJEVO	MFTS	34,96 10,50	-0,01	10,50	35,00 10,50	9.436	99.071,48	8		
ZGPSR ZVLCR	ZVECEVO - LASTA D.D. CAPLJINA	Auction	4,23	-0,01	4,23	4,23	9.436 553	2.339,19	2		
	LULULUU - LASTA D.D. CAFLJINA			,	4,23	7,20	555	2.559,19	2		
		BLOC	K TRANS					-			
ymbol	Issuer Cross Price Volume							Turnover (BAM)			
CMKR	TVORNICA CEMENTA KAKANJ DD KAKANJ		19,5	0	34	17.145		6.769.327,50			

			E LIST -									
Symbol	lssuer	Avg. Course	% Change	Best Ask	Best Bid	Opening Price	Max	Min	Closing Price	No. of Trans.	Volume	Value (BAM)
		т	HE OFF	ICIAL I	MARK	ET						
RFUM-R-A	RAFINERIJA ULJA AD MODRIČA	0,7600	0,00%	0,7300	0,7600	0,7600	0,7600	0,7600	0,7600	7	22880	17388,8000
TLKM-R-A BVRU-R-A	TELEKOM SRPSKE AD BANJA LUKA ZTC BANJA VRUĆICA AD TESLIĆ	2,7700	0,11%	2,7400	2,7700	2,7800	2,7800	2,7500	2,7700	52 1	121727 1529	337553,7700 1529,0000
Binonn							-	1,0000	1,0000		1020	1020,0000
BLKP-R-A	BALKAN INVESTMENT FOND AD BANJA LUKA	9,8100	-1,89%	9,5100	10,3000	9.4400	10,0000	9.4400	10,0000	14	513	5010,2200
EINP-R-A	EUROINVESTMENT FOND AD BANJA LUKA	54,4100	1,38%	54,0000	54,8500	54,5000	54,9200	53,5000		30	1234	67159,8800
KRIP-R-A	KRISTAL INVEST FOND AD BANJA LUKA	16,5000	1,92%	16,2200	16,6000	16,5000	16,5100	16,5000	16,5000	77	5987	98788,5000
EKVP-R-A BLBP-R-A	PIF AKTIVA INVEST FOND AD GRADIŠKA PIF BLB-PROFIT AD BANJA LUKA	12,0600 15,5500	0,52%	12,0800 15,5000	12,1000 15,6200	12,0600 15,5100	12,0900 15,6200	12,0600 15,5000	12,0900 15,5000	9 39	1259 958	15213,9400
BRSP-R-A	PIF BCB-PROFILAD BANJA LUKA	13,7400	-2,44%	13,6100	13,9000	13,8000	13,8500	13,6100		9	283	14895,1600 3889,6100
INVP-R-A	PIF INVEST NOVA FOND AD BIJELJINA	0,2200	2,37%	0,2250	0,2290	0,2150	0,2250	0,2150	0,2250	86	255703	56241,9100
JHKP-R-A	PIF JAHORINA KOIN AD PALE	6,6400	0,94%	6,6700	7,0000	6,6000	6,7500	6,6000	6,6700	86	2991	19873,8800
PRVP-R-A	PIF PRIVREDNIK AD BANJA LUKA	6,5600	-0,61%	6,5600	7,0000	6,5600	6,5600	6,5600	6,5600	13	544	3568,6400
VBIP-R-A VIBP-R-A	PIF VB FOND AD BANJA LUKA PIF VIB FOND AD BANJA LUKA	7,1200	2,15% 0,68%	7,0200	7,3600	6,8500 8,7400	7,3000 9,0000	6,8500 8,7400	7,3000	26 38	1138 750	8097,9600 6599,8000
ZPTP-R-A	PIF ZEPTER FOND AD BANJA LUKA	16,4900	1,00%	16,4500	16,6100	16,4900	16,6000	16,2100	16,4500	111	16728	275877,1200
PLRP-R-A	POLARA INVEST FOND AD BANJA LUKA	13,5500	0,02%	13,6000	13,8000	13,5500	13,6000	13,5500	13,6000	19	480	6505,4000
			THE FF	REE MA	ARKET							
AERD-R-A	AERODROMI REPUBLIKE SRPSKE AD BL	3,2100	0,00%	3,2100	4,0000	3,2100	3,2100	3,2100	3,2100	1	40	128,4000
ALUM-R-A	ALUMINA AD, KNEZEVO	0,0029	11,54%		0,0030	0,0029	0,0029	0,0029	0,0029	5 2	1288551	61736,7900
APBL-R-A	AUTOPREVOZ AD BANJA LUKA		-18,42%	0,0031	0,0039	0,0031	0,0031	0,0031	0,0031	1	178383	552,9900
BLPV-R-A BIRA-R-A	BANJALUCKA PIVARA AD BANJA LUKA BIRAC AD ZVORNIK	1,1000 0,1920	0,15%	1,1000	1,1500 0,1950	1,1000 0,1950	1,1200	1,1000	1,1000	4	1544 83469	1701,0200 16139,1100
BOKS-R-A	BOKSIT AD MILICI	1,8300	19,33%	1,8100	2,0000	1,8100	2,0000	1,8100	2,0000	11	4374	8011,9400
CIST-R-A	CISTOCA AD BANJA LUKA	1,2000	0,00%	1,2000	1,2500	1,2000	1,2000	1,2000	1,2000	6	15075	18090,0000
DUVN-R-A	DUVAN AD BIJELJINA	0,4990	-0,20%		0,5500	0,4990	0,4990	0,4990	0,4990	1	3000	1497,0000
ELDO-R-A		2,9700	0,34%	2,8200	3,0000	2,9600	3,0000	2,8700	3,0000	22	22644	67247,0800
ELBJ-R-A EDPL-R-A	ELEKTRO-BIJELJINA AD BIJELJINA ELEKTRODISTRIBUCIJA AD PALE	2,8100 3,2000	-0,01% -8,31%	2,8100 3,4600	2,8300 3,4800	2,7700 3,2000	2,8300 3,2000	2,7700 3,2000	2,8300	9	16516 1048	46406,0600 3353,6000
EKHC-R-A	ELEKTROHERCEGOVINA AD TREBINJE	2,2000	-4,35%	2,2000	2,3000	2,2000	2,2000	2,2000	2,2000	2	1000	2200,0000
EKBL-R-A	ELEKTROKRAJINA AD BANJA LUKA	2,8400	0,24%	2,7500	2,8500	2,8300	2,8500	2,8300	2,8500	17	32195	91312,7000
FRUK-R-A	FRUKTONA AD BANJA LUKA	0,3500	-5,41%	0,3500	0,3700	0,3500	0,3500	0,3500	0,3500	6	25884	9059,4000
GLST-R-A GRDP-R-A	GLAS SRPSKI - TRGOVINA AD BANJA LUKA GRADIP AD PRNJAVOR	0,2400	-20,00%	0,2400	1,2500	0,2400	0,2400	0,2400	0,2400	1	118 1693	28,3200 2031,6000
DEST-R-A	HEMIJSKA INDUSTR. DESTILACIJE AD TESLIC	0,6490	1,41%	0,6000	0,6490	0,6490	0,6490	0,6490	0,6490	11	49048	31832,1400
HGPT-R-A	HERCEGOVINAPUTEVI AD TREBINJE	3,1700	-0,31%		3,1700	3,1700	3,1700	3,1700	3,1700	2	2000	6340,0000
HETR-R-A	HIDROELEK. NA TREBISNJICI AD TREBINJE	2,4000	0,72%	2,3600	2,4000	2,3500	2,5000	2,3500	2,4000	24	58650	140595,2400
HEDR-R-A HELV-R-A	HIDROELEKTRANE NA DRINI AD VISEGRAD HIDROELEKTRANE NA VRBASU AD M.GRAD	1,8400 2,4000	0,07% 3,45%	1,8200 2,3500	1,8400 2,4800	1,8500 2,4000	1,8500 2,4000	1,8400 2,4000	1,8400 2,4000	5 2	11316 1102	20836,6400 2644,8000
INCH-R-A	INCEL-HOLDING AD BANJA LUKA	0,1500	0,00%	2,3300	0,1500	0,1500	0,1500	0,1500	0,1500	1	65000	9750,0000
INTL-R-A	INTAL AD MILICI	2,0600	3,00%	2,0600	2,3000	2,0600	2,0600	2,0600	2,0600	2	440	906,4000
SODJ-PKA		141,0000				141,0000				1	10	1410,0000
JDNS-R-A		0,6560		0,6560	0,8000	0,6560	0,6560	0,6560	0,6560	3	5738	3764,1200
JFAM-R-A MTLB-R-A	JELŚINGRAD FAM AD BANJA LUKA METAL AD BANJA LUKA	0,1690	0,00%	0,4500	0,1690	0,1090	0,1690	0,1090	0,1090	5	5500 4265	929,5000 1919,2500
METL-R-A	METAL AD GRADISKA	0,7560	0,00%	0,7560	0,7700	0,7560	0,7560	0,7560	0,7560	3	5137	3883,5700
MTLK-R-A	METALKA AD PRNJAVOR	0,3600	0,00%	0,3600	0,4000	0,3600	0,3600	0,3600	0,3600	6	4025	1449,0000
HPAL-R-A PTRL-R-A	PALAS AD BANJA LUKA PETROL AD BANJA LUKA	0,7500	-1,32% 0,00%	0,7500	0,7600	0,7500	0,7500	0,7500	0,7500	3	14263 155	10697,2500
PTRL-R-A PTSA-R-A	PUT GP AD ISTOCNO SARAJEVO	1,1300	2,73%	1,1300	1,2000	1,0500	1,0500	1,0500	1,0500	3	4325	162,7500 4887,2500
RITE-R-A	R I TE GACKO AD GACKO	1,3500	-0,60%	1,2700	1,3400	1,3500	1,3600	1,3400	1,3400	15	46605	62882,7000
RTEU-R-A	R I TE UGLJEVIK AD UGLJEVIK	1,6500	0,00%	1,6500	1,6800	1,6500	1,6500	1,6500	1,6500	7	22137	36526,0500
RNAF-R-A	RAFINERIJA NAFTE AD BOSANSKI BROD	0,5490	0,33%	0,5510	0,5640	0,5400	0,5630	0,5400	0,5510	24	113936	62593,7300
RATA-R-A RUDK-R-A	RATARSTVO AD NOVA TOPOLA RUDNIK KRECNJAKA I TV. KRECA AD DOBOJ	0,1300	8,33% -18.52%	0,1200	0,1400	0,1300	0,1300	0,1300	0,1300	7	14337 1122	1863,8100 493,6800
SRPU-R-A	SRBINJEPUTEVI AD FOCA	1,1000	10,00%	1,1000	1,5000	1,1000	1,1000	1,1000	1,1000	2	254	279,4000
POST-R-A	SRPSKE POSTE AD BANJA LUKA	0,5900	7,08%	0,5500	0,5900	0,5900	0,5900	0,5900	0,5900	1	2000	1180,0000
TGDO-R-A	TEHNOGAS-DOBOJ AD BUKOVICA VELIKA	0,7110	0,00%	0,7110	0,8000	0,7110	0,7110	0,7110	0,7110	1	2608	1854,2900
TRZN-R-A UNCM-R-A	TRZNICA AD BANJA LUKA UNICEP COMPANY AD BANJA LUKA	2,0400 0,2000	0,04%	2,0500	2,1900 0,2300	2,0100	2,1000 0,2000	2,0000	2,1000	9	5000 3794	10204,3300 758,8000
UTSC-R-A	UNIS TSC AD PRNJAVOR	0,2000	0,00%	0,2000	0,2300	0,2000	0,2000	0,2000	0,2000	5	2000	1000,0000
UNFC-R-A	UNIS-FABRIKA CIJEVI AD DERVENTA	0,7500	0,00%	0,7500	0,8000	0,7500	0,7500	0,7500	0,7500	3	1814	1360,5000
VLPH-R-A	VELEPREHRANA AD BANJA LUKA	0,3500	0,00%		0,3500	0,3500	0,3500	0,3500	0,3500	1	1000	350,0000
VLTG-R-A		0,1000	-9,09%	0,1000	0,2000	0,1000	0,1000	0,1000	0,1000	2	884	88,4000
VITA-R-A VDBL-R-A	VITAMINKA AD BANJA LUKA VODOVOD AD BANJA LUKA	1,2500	13,64% -9,09%	1,2500	1,3000	1,2500	1,2500	1,2500	1,2500	17	26465 1661	33081,2500 1661,0000
ZERS-R-A	ZELJEZNICE RS AD, DOBOJ	0,2520	0,80%	0,2520	0,2700	0,2600	0,2600	0,2510	0,2520	7	136418	34383,2200
ZTPR-R-A	□ITOPROMET AD BIJELJINA	0,7000	0,00%	0,6500	0,7000	0,7000	0,7000	0,7000	0,7000	4	3000	2100,0000

World Bank's Loan of 58.8 Euro for Ploce Port

The Ploce port administration signed yesterday a contract on a loan with the World Bank (WB) in amount of 58.8 million euros for the project of trade integration and transport in the port, and at the same time the Croatian Finance Ministry signed a contract on a loan with the World Bank. The project is worth 91 million euros.

Besides the WB loan, the project will be financed also by 11.2 million euros of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) credits, while share of the Croatian Government is 21 million euros. Construction of a terminal for bulk cargo with a capacity of a million tones a year is foreseen by the project, and commencement of works is foreseen for spring 2008, and completion for the end of 2010.

Construction of a container terminal for several purposes is also foreseen with the beginning of works in spring 2007, and completion by mid-2009.

It is expected that these investments will increase capacities of the port Ploce from present 4. 8 million to about 10 million tones a year.

The project's objective is development of the trade along the trade Corridor 5C, which starts in Budapest and ends in Ploce, one of three biggest pan-European transport corridors which connect Croatia with markets of the European Union (EU), by strengthening of capacities, efficiency of services qualities at the south end of the corridor, with a special emphasize at the port Ploce and coordination of all users of the corridor in Croatia and BiH.

The project has been prepared by the Ministry of sea, tourism, traffic and development and the port administration Ploce with an aid of WB and EBRD.

It is expected that the Project of trade integration and transport, developed at partnership among Croatian Government, port



administration Ploce, WB, EBRD will be a main motive in achieving increase of economy growth for south regions of Croatia, as well as for neighboring countries.

It is extremely important to improve the infrastructure, and other large Croatian ports, and the construction of the container and terminal for bulk cargo at the Corridor 5C will enable increase of competitiveness of port services, and further development of that part of Croatia as well, Croatian minister of sea, tourism, traffic and development Bozidar Kalmeta stressed.

J. S.

Czech Factory Wants Serbia's Zastava Welders

The CKD factory in Prague is interested in hiring formers workers of the Zastava metal-work sector.

The CKD factory produces steel components for railways and employs 2,300 workers. It is primarily interested in Zastava's welders, but may also hire other workers who specialize in metal because there are currently 200 open spots for qualified employees.



Factory officials met with 45 former workers of the Zastava factory in Kragujevac regarding the possibility of working in the Czech Republic.

The factory is offering the workers wages of in between 650 and 950 euros per month, depending on their qualifications, with the possibility of overtime and additional bonuses.

The factory will also provide the workers with housing, one hot meal a day, traveling expenses and return expenses for vacations. The agreement between the CKD and Zastava factories calls was Zastava to prepare the needed documentation and for CKD to organize a month-long training for receiving certificates that will allow the employees to work in European Union countries.

The first group of Zastava welders is expected to begin working in Prague in early 2007.

Nokia and Mobitel Slovenia Sign Contract

Nokia and Mobitel Slovenia have signed a contract for Nokia's hosted Push to talk over Cellular and Presence services.

Nokia will integrate and host commercial, OMA (Open Mobile Alliance) compliant services for Mobitel Slovenia, thus enabling the operator to roll out the solution more quickly and with a reduced investment.

Mobitel Slovenia will launch the services commercially on November 15th, 2006. Push to talk service will enable Mobitel Slovenia's customers to communicate with groups or individuals at a simple push of a button, with no need to dial numbers.

Nokia Presence solution adds a whole new dimension to push to talk by letting users check before making a Cellular (PoC) call whether the person they are calling is available and willing to communicate. Services' compliance with the OMA standard enables full interoperability with OMA-compliant terminals and networks from other vendors as well.

"Nokia's cost-efficient and high-quality hosted solution enables us to extend our portfolio of advanced business and consumer services in the Slovenian market," says Mitja Stular, PhD, Director of Technology Department, Mobitel Slovenia.

"Nokia is our vendor of choice for hosting, because not only do they have a strong track record in providing end-to-end solutions and OMA-compliant push to talk solutions, but the quality of the service during our trial proved Nokia's capability to deliver and run a technically sound solution."

"Nokia Mobility Hosting allows operators to bring the new services to market faster and with lower risk as hosting requires lower investment than a conventional service launch," says Patrik Sallner, Head of Hosting Service Line, Networks, Nokia. "We are delighted to support Mobitel Slovenia in expanding their market opportunities with these new services."

The hosted PoC and Presence service trial with Mobitel Slovenia and the following deal mark Nokia's Networks business group an entry to the Slovenian market. The hosting and integration services will be provided from Nokia's recently launched hosting center in Austria.

S. B.

IMF Concerned Regarding Serbian NB Governor Situation

The IMF is concerned about the recently adopted Constitutional Law for the selection of a new governor of the Serbian National Bank.

"We are very concerned about the solution called for by the Constitutional Law, which goes against the procedures regulated by the Central Bank Law from 2003, and are related to the election of a governor." Deputy General Director of the International Monetary Fund John Lipsky said.

Lipsky wrote a letter addressed to Serbian President Boris Tadic, Parliamentary Speaker Predrag Markovic, Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, Finance Ministry Coordinator Milan Parivodic and the National Bank of Serbia's governor Radovana Jelasic.

Mercator to Consolidate Leading Retailer Position in SE Europe

After a tie-up with Serbian holding Rodic M&B that created the largest retailer in Southeast Europe, Slovenian retailer Mercator has said it would be looking into other options in the region to consolidate its market position.

"As far as increasing market share in Serbia is concerned, we are done with the tie-up with Rodic. Now we are actively looking into possibilities in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina but there are no concrete agreements yet," Mercator chairman Ziga Debeljak told the press on Wednesday, 15 November.

According to him, the retail sector in the countries of the former Yugoslavia is relatively unconsolidated, so partnerships are expected. Mercator will take part in the action, but it is not yet clear what the form or the time frame of the tie-ups will be.

Especially in Croatia Mercator will try to forge a strategic partnership as soon as possible in order to "increase its market share and secure volumes that will allow long-term, competitive and profitable business in Croatia," Debeljak said. With the creation M-Rodic, which was wrapped up in mid-October, Mercator raised its market share in Serbia to 10%. It is projected that M-Rodic will post revenues of EUR 300m next year, which would raise Mercator group's combined sales to EUR 2.4bn, Debeljak explained.

Asked about the announced strategic partnership between the market leaders in Croatia and Serbia, Agrokor and Delta, Debeljak said that this cooperation had existed in a less formal form before, so the tie-up would "not alter the competition make-up of both markets".

The Mercator Group announced net sales of SIT 351.3bn (EUR 1.465bn) for the first three quarters of the year, up 18%, with a net profit of SIT 5.1bn (EUR 21.28m). Debeljak would not talk about detailed projections for 2007. He only said that the market share would be 45% in Slovenia, 8% in Serbia, between 5% and 6% in Croatia and about 2% in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

S. B.

Easier Visas for Western Balkans Good for Economy

Facilitating entry and movement of businessmen from the Western Balkans through the EU will be very beneficial to the economies of both regions. Therefore EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the Council's decision this week to give mandate to the Commission to negotiate visa facilitation with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: "The current visa procedures are a considerable hurdle in EU-Western Balkan relations, as we experienced in the PARTNERS* project while organizing trainings and matchmaking events for Western Balkan Chambers in the EU. Hence, we strongly support the concession of visa facilitation procedures for Western Balkan businessmen as a way to further promote the rapprochement of EU and Western Balkan economies."

Fostering people-to-people contacts will also boost the process of alignment of these countries with the EU standards and rules highlighted in the recent Progress Reports by the European Commission.

A. G.

"In 2003, Serbia adopted a very good law regarding the central bank. The law is based on principles of an independent central bank and includes regulations tied to the stabilization procedure for the election and replacement of the governor," Lipsky said.

"We in the IMF completely supported these principles. We believe that they are the foundation of strong and credible monetary politics," he said.

"I am calling on you to make sure that one of the topics which we will be discussing in the coming months will be the way in which credibility can be implemented into the procedure for electing and replacing a governor, regardless of who the candidate will be and who will be nominated at the parliamentary meeting after the elections," Lipsky wrote.

The law for the implementation of the Constitution was adopted after the passing of the Constitution, and sets the guidelines for electing a new NBS governor after the parliamentary elections.

Governor Radovan Jelašić has stated on a number of occasions that the NBS is an institution that works independent from the government, and said that the decision for electing a new governor was the result of a political decision and division.

J. S.

World Bank's Serbia Program

The World Bank is starting consultations on its four-year program in Serbia.

The international financial institution has communicated that Orsalia Kalanzopulous, its regional director, has arrived in Serbia for a two day visit.

The program in question is known as the Support Strategy, and the World Bank prepares it every four years in the countries where it is actively engaged in development projects.

Current Support Strategy for Serbia will be active through June 2007.

Orsalia Kalanzopulous will meet Serbian PM Vojislav Kostunica and the representatives of various parties, in order to learn about their position regarding the World Bank's engagement in Serbia. She will visit Djurić family, World Bank grantees who received 35,000 euros to build a micro cheese-processing plant in Belanovci, the statement reads.

R. K.

Central Europe's Bourses Seek to Cooperate

While often resisting mergers, exchanges from Vienna to Bratislava see growth - and key capital for local companies - in pooling efforts

As Western European stock markets struggle to form alliances, another bourse consolidation story has quietly been unfolding further to the East. The Wiener Borse, the Vienna Stock Exchange, is leading an effort to create some coherence in Central European and Balkan share trading. If the drive succeeds, investors will get better access to some of the best-performing stock markets in the world. And companies in countries such as Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Romania will get better access to the capital they need to expand outside national borders.

Nο auestion the reaion's exchanges have delivered tantalizing returns. The New Europe Blue Chip Index, which contains the region's biggest listed companies, is up more than 40% from a year ago even after the worldwide stock market declines of late May. But, except for the Warsaw Stock Exchange -- up an impressive 70% from a year ago -- light trading and insufficient liquidity make Central and East European stocks unattractive for many foreign investors. "There are no capital markets" in Central Europe, says one senior

banker in Vienna, with a touch of overstatement. "That is a huge disadvantage." The macroeconomic benefits of a smoothly functioning equity market are well-established. The stock market is the cheapest way for companies to raise capital and studies have shown that vibrant share trading contributes to economic growth.

It's no accident that some of the region's most powerful new companies are coming from Poland, where the growth of domestic pension funds has boosted market capitalization on the Warsaw exchange to about \$120 billion. That pool of equity capital is by far the biggest in the region, and it has allowed companies such as Warsaw-based Prokom Software, which provides specialized software and services for industry, to make acquisitions and expand outside Poland.

It's harder to find similarly expansionist companies in Hungary or the Czech Republic, in part because of their smaller equity markets. That's what the Vienna Stock Exchange is trying to change. Under co-Chief Executive Officers Michael Buhl and Stefan Zapotocky, the Vienna Stock Exchange is trying to create tighter links between stock markets in places ranging from Bucharest, Romania, to Bratislava, Slovakia. While the process will probably take years, economic pressures to do so are strong.

"I think it's inevitable," says David Keresztes, a principal at Budapest-based private equity firm Euroventures. "If you look at the dance among all the exchanges in Europe, it simply must happen. It's a question of when and how."

The simplest way to force consolidation, of course, would be to buy up the regional bourses. Since 2004, the Vienna Stock Exchange and a consortium of Austrian



The banks use the indexes to create derivatives or other investment vehicles based on index performance. In addition, Vienna is in talks with other exchanges about setting up a common derivatives platform. Because derivatives trading is more complicated and

> expensive than trading in company shares, it makes sense for the exchanges to pool their efforts. Buhl says the goal is not to absorb all the regional exchanges. On the contrary, he argues that developing countries need local share trading because many of their companies simply aren't big enough yet to attract international interest. "If you are a South Romanian enterprise, no one wants to know about you in Vienna. But you will get a Romanian broker who will trade you," he says.

banks has held a majority in the Budapest Stock Exchange. But a new Polish government has iced plans to sell a stake in the Warsaw Exchange, which would have been a juicy target for Vienna. In other countries there is also political resistance to foreign ownership of the local stock market. "In all [the region's] countries, the exchanges are symbols of overcoming communism," says Buhl. "It's not something they're going to give up easily."

So for now, the Vienna Stock Exchange is looking for other ways the exchanges can cooperate. The exchange is in talks with other bourses about ways to harmonize operations, for example by setting the same trading hours or offering common listings. Already, the Vienna Exchange is serving as a central source for prices and other data from exchanges in countries including Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia, providing realtime trading information to customers such as Reuters and Bloomberg.

Indexes are another lucrative area of cooperation. The Vienna Exchange has worked with the other stock markets to create indexes such as the New Europe Blue Chip, which Vienna is aiming to be the dominant stock exchange for Central Europe. Already, it is attracting some Central European companies that might not be big enough for Frankfurt or London. Bratislava-based budget airline SkyEurope, for example, chose to list on both the Vienna and Warsaw exchanges when it went public last year.

So far, at least, Vienna has had Central Europe pretty much to itself. Sweden's OMX Group, which owns the Stockholm Stock Exchange, is working to knit together the Nordic and Baltic stock exchanges. But the Western European bourses have focused on trying to make deals with each other.

That is the same pattern that has helped Vienna become the de facto capital of Central Europe. While big European corporations spent the last decade focusing on Western Europe, the U.S., or Asia, Austrian companies lacked the resources to be so ambitious. Instead, companies such as Erste Bank, Telekom Austria, or energy provider OMV looked east - which is where the big growth turned out to be. The Vienna Stock Exchange seems well-positioned to take the same route.

Jack Ewing Business Week

Survey Finds Opportunities in Developing Financial Markets

A survey has found that the fast growing financial sectors in the developing economies of Southeast Europe and the former Soviet Union offer ample opportunities for companies from Slovenia and the EU. If the countries in the region follow the social and economic path that the new EU members have taken, they will offer similar growth opportunities.

The survey, carried out by a group of MA students at the Ljubljana Faculty of Economics under the guidance of professor Dusan Mramor, was presented on Thursday, 16 November at a conference on the development of the financial and real sectors in developing economies.

Mramor, a former finance minister, said the results suggest that there are opportunities in these markets which Slovenian companies have so far failed to seize.

While they have been trying in the capital

markets and with mutual funds, they have been having serious problems in breaking through to the banking and insurance markets.

According to Mramor, this is largely due to a lack of adequate capital, so it would make sense for the companies to pool their resources.

The survey projects that loans to companies and households as well as investment banking would grow faster than in the EU, provided that the developing economies follow the path of the EU newcomers.

Russia is highlighted as the most attractive economy: it has the biggest banking market and there are plenty of opportunities despite the dominance of domestic banks.

Serbia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan top the list alongside Russia, while Croatia, where the market is saturated, and Moldova, which lags behind in economic reforms are seen

In a Mature Market, Petrol Seeking to Expand Southwards

Energy company Petrol posted bumper profits for the first three quarters of the year: sales expanded by 12% to SIT 342bn (EUR 1.43bn), with profit soaring by 30% to SIT 9.5bn (EUR 39.6m). However, the Slovenian market is mature and volume sales of oil derivatives edged up only 1%, so the company is looking for growth opportunities on other markets.

This year about half of all investment was funneled to foreign markets and acquisitions in the region will intensify in the future, Petrol chief executive Marko Kryzanovski told STA.

"Some 32% of the funds for investment was earmarked for Slovenia, 36% for markets in Southeastern Europe and the rest for the electrical energy sector. This is a clear indicator of where Petrol wants to go."

According to Kryzanovski, Petrol is interested in taking part in the construction of the Buk-Bijela hydro power plant in Montenegro, a joint project by Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that Montenegro wanted to pursue a very ecological policy towards such projects, but it also had a big gap in power generation.

"A compromise will have to be found, but this is a matter for politicians and the state. We are interested in taking part, but not at any cost," Kryzanovski explained. Petrol is also keen on Montenegrin petrol retailer Jugopetrol Kotor even though it had lost out to Helenik Petroleum in a bid for a controlling stake. Subsequent steps depend on how Helenik will be selling the company, Kryzanovski said.

Kryzanovski is also pleased with the gas business, which the company is focusing on Southeastern Europe. He said Petrol was the first foreign company to get the chance to distribute natural gas in Serbia, while it also signed a memorandum of understanding with Montenegro Bonus on the storage, distribution and sale of oil derivatives and gas.

Petrol has recently forged a joint venture with Russian oil company Lukoil, Ptreol Lukoil, which will focus on the retail of oil derivatives in Southeastern Europe. The company has not started operating yet.

"We wish to carry out all procedures transparently, without rushed decisions. All the necessary procedures take a lot of time," he said.

Kryzanovski accompanied Prime Minister Janez Jansa on a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait this week. He said Saudi Arabia was interesting in the fields of ecology and successful use of resources. "We also discussed potential for cooperation in the transfer of petrol's technology and highlighted cooperation with certain oil companies, especially in supply," Kryzanovski said.

S. B.

as the least attractive destinations.

The survey projects above-average returns from mutual funds in all countries in the two regions bar Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Moldova. Serbia, Romania and Ukraine are underlined as the main potential goldmines.

Solid growth rates are also expected in insurance, where Romania, Russia and Kazakhstan are seen as the most prospective markets.

According to the authors of the survey, international conglomerates are already present here so the Slovenian financial sector would have to consolidate if it was to play a significant role there.

The Portoroz Business Conference, organized by the business daily Finance, featured over 100 politicians and businessmen from the EU and developing economies. In its eighth running this year, it was focusing on Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kosovo.

R. K.

Slovenia: Retail Trade Up by 30,8% in 2005

In 2005, the number of retail stores increased by 5.9% and the total sales area increased by 30.8% as compared to 2001.

The total number of stores in Slovenia increased by 5,9% when compared to 2001. The number of stores increased in retail sale of non-food (by 16.9%) and of automotive fuel and motor vehicles (by 6.5%), while in retail sale of food it decreased by 14.6%.

In the total number of stores retail sale of non-food represents 65.4%, retail sale of food 25.7% and retail sale of automotive fuel and motor vehicles 8.9%.

Compared to the previous period in 2001 sales area increased by 14.4% and in 2005 by 30.8%.

The sales area increased mostly in retail sale of non-food (by 40.2%) and of automotive fuel and motor vehicles (by 35.4%).

In spite of the reduction in the number of retail stores selling food, we observed increase in sales area by 12.7%.

A. G.