

### CROATIA IS FIGHTING CORUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME

- ☒ In the largest operation so far, known as "Maestro", the Croatian police and anticorruption institutions arrested 7 officials of the Croatian Privatization Fund (HFP) including three of its vice-presidents -- Ivan Gotovac, Josip Matanovic and Robert Pesa. They are charged with accepting bribes and selling state owned companies without legal bids. There is an ongoing investigation and there are approximately 40 witnesses expected to testify. It is now a matter of time where it will be revealed how many state – owned firms were sold under suspicious circumstances over the years and whether the Government will provide compensation for damaged firms. The reaction of EU were positive and EU encouraged Croatian officials to continue with fight against crime and corruption since that is the Government's greatest challenge on the road towards EU. [SETimes 06/08/07]

### TURKEY ELECTING A NEW PRESIDENT

- ☒ According to local and international media, the Turkish Parliament will start the process of electing a new president of the country on August 20.

The Parliament's advisory board announced that if needed, a second round would be organized on August 24 and two more rounds could follow, It is still unspecified whether the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) which has the majority in the Parliament will nominate Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul again after his bid in May was opposed by the secular opposition and the military. Also, on August 10 the Parliament elected its general administrative board consisted of 17 people. [SeTimes.net, AFP, Zaman12/08/07]

### SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF OHRID FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

- ☒ Six years ago, on August 13, 2001 the Macedonian 'National Unity' government coalition consisted of the leaders of the four biggest political parties in Macedonia, endorsed the Ohrid Framework Agreement. It is the key document that terminated the armed conflict in 2001 and its implementation has become important condition for Euro-Atlantic integration of the country. Ohrid Framework Agreement instituted amendments to the Constitution with prime focus on increased rights and representation of the Albanian community in the state institutions. US and EU representatives co-signed the Agreement as guarantors of its implementation. [Makfax 13/08/07]

### TROIKA WITH NO SOLUTION FOR KOSOVO

- ☒ The meeting between contact group officials and the TROIKA , group of mediators – representatives from EU, USA and Russia, took place last week in London where the diplomats discussed the upcoming talks between Belgrade and Pristina. The Contact group which is comprised of officials from the U.S, Russia, France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy met US Kosovo envoy Frank Wisner, the German diplomat representing the EU, Wolfgang Ischinger and Russian envoy Alexander Botsan-Harchenko. EU envoy Wolfgang Ischinger said that the principles of the Troika in the Kosovo status talks are based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and principles of the Contact Group. He also added that the troika will not propose solutions for Kosovo, but it is their principle to convince the two sides to reach a compromise. Kosovo Albanian leaders told the troika on Saturday they expected independence by the end of the year. Later Contact Group – Troika met the leaders of Serb community in Kosovo. Serb List for Kosovo leader, Oliver Ivanović, told reporters in Priština that it is more than obvious that the negotiation process will take time and they hope the gap between the current positions will narrow, because otherwise there will be no compromise. [Beta, 09/08/07; B92 13/08.07]