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I. News

1. Report 2006: World's Poor and Disadvantaged Pay Price of War on Terror

2005 was a year of contradictions in which signs of hope for human rights were undermined through the deception and failed promises of powerful governments, said Amnesty International today as it published its annual report. The brutality and intensity of attacks by armed groups in 2005 reached new levels, taking a heavy toll on human lives. Revelation after revelation exposed the extent to which European governments have been partners in crime with the United States, defying the absolute ban on torture and ill-treatment and by outsourcing torture through the transfer of prisoners to states such as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Syria, which are known to practise torture. Key demands of Amnesty International in 2006 are: to the United Nations and African Union to address the conflict and end human rights abuses in Darfur; to the United Nations to negotiate for an Arms Trade Treaty to govern the trade of small arms so that they cannot be used to commit human rights abuses; to the US Administration to close Guantánamo Bay detention camp, and disclose the names and locations of all 'war on terror' prisoners elsewhere; to the new UN Human Rights Council, to insist on equal standards of respect of human rights from all governments, whether in Darfur or Guantánamo, Chechnya or China. For more information look up [Report 2006 Launch Pack](#), or visit [OneWorld amnesty news](#).

[from OneWorld]

2. Council Conclusions on the Western Balkans

The EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council on May 15 "regretted that Serbia and Montenegro was still not fully cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and therefore supported the Commission's decision to call off the negotiating round on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement scheduled for 11 May". But the Council repeated its "firm commitment to the European perspective of Serbia and Montenegro", and indicated its support to resume negotiations as soon as full cooperation with the ICTY is achieved. Projects that support confidence-building and regional co-operation should be encouraged. EU support should continue to contribute to fighting organised crime in individual countries and in the region as a whole as well as encouraging cooperation between the countries of the region to fight cross-border crime more effectively. For more information, visit [Council Conclusions on the Western Balkans, EU newsletter \(DG Enlargement\)](#).

[from ECAS]

3. The Western Balkan Countries Strengthen their Efforts to Reach European Audiovisual Standards

Representatives of the audiovisual sector in the Western Balkans, attending a seminar in Brussels on 16 May, adopted a Declaration reaffirming their commitment to support media independence, the upholding of professional standards and the fight against incitement to hatred in audiovisual content. They also signed up two protocols of cooperation amongst the broadcasting authorities Balkans and public broadcasters of the Western Balkans. The development of independent and professional media is key for building stability and functioning democracies in the Western Balkans, and essential for their future integration in the EU. The seminar was the latest of four successive events organised by the EC and the Council of Europe involving authorities, regulatory bodies, audiovisual industry, NGOs and international organisations present in the Western Balkan Countries (Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo, BiH and Macedonia). A new package of financial aid intended to support the professional development of media in Serbia has been launched by the EU through the EAR. The EU has allocated 2.8 million Euro to a programme - entitled the Media Fund - to financially assist projects which will promote investigative journalism, help increase the quality of media content, and enhance media education. For more information, visit [UE Information society portal](#), or [EAR](#).

[from ECAS]

4. Strengthening the Western Balkans Civil Society Dialogue

In a hard-hitting opinion adopted on May 17, the European Economic and Social Committee issued a strong call for urgent development of civil society dialogue in the Western Balkans. The own-initiative opinion, "Situation of civil society in the Western Balkans", was drafted by Dimitrios Dimitriadis, a candidate for the Presidency of the EESC next October. The opinion suggests that civil society and its organisations are crucial to the development of an integrated European strategy, and that although this process has made a timid start, "There is a need for a many-voiced and many-sided social dialogue, and to establish a democratic legal operating framework for civil society." An immediate priority is stamping out corruption and making the judiciary a mainstay of society, and civil society organisations need to be financed. The EESC is urging that it should be authorised to establish joint consultative committees with all the countries of the Western Balkan when conditions are favourable. For more information, visit [EU newsletter \(DG Enlargement\)](#).

[from ECAS]

5. EU Support for Croatia's Bid for EU Membership

The European People's Party-European Democrat Group in the European Parliament demonstrated strong support for Croatia's bid for EU membership when it held its bureau meeting in Split on May 11-12. Hans-Gert Pöttering, EPP-ED Group Chairman said he was impressed by the commitment of Ivo Sanader, Croatia's Prime Minister, and of other government ministers who were present. On visits to Turkey and Croatia,

the upcoming Council President, Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, reassured the two countries that there will be no timeout for enlargement under the Finnish Presidency. The Croatian PM expressed fears that a possible slowing down of membership talks with Turkey would also move Croatia's membership perspective into a further-away future. Vanhanen contradicted this notion, insisting that Croatia's membership bid would be taken into consideration based merely on the country's own behaviour. "Finland will continue to support EU enlargement", Vanhanen said, adding: "The EU has to hold on to promises given, and Croatia will become a member as soon as it fulfils the criteria." The Finnish EU Presidency will start on 1 July 2006. For more information, visit [EU newsletter \(DG Enlargement\)](#), or [Euractiv](#).
[from ECAS]

6. Montenegro: Complete Vote Count Confirms its Independence from Serbia

Electoral officials in Montenegro today announced that a full count of votes confirms that Montenegrins have voted for independence from Serbia. Estimates of the victory for Montenegrin independence varied between 55,3 % to 56,3 %. While this result of the 21 May referendum looks like a comfortable majority, it is only slightly above the requirement of the EU-mandated referendum rules, which demands that at least 55% of the valid votes cast should be for independence. World attention now shifts to the future status of Kosovo, a breakaway province of Serbia administered by the UN since 1999. For more information, visit [Radio Free Europe/Radio liberty](#), or [Euroactiv](#).
[from ECAS]

7. EU Assistance to Macedonian Roma Community

The Roma community is exercising its rights and taking a more active role in political decision-making thanks to an EU-funded project in Macedonia. In the town of Bitola, the newly formed Roma Representative Body, created under the project, initiated a change in the urban plan of the Roma neighbourhood in order to address infrastructure problems. "This project is particularly important in this country, which has one of the largest Roma communities in the EU," said Erwan Fouéré, the EU's Special Representative and Head of the EC Delegation on Friday during a visit to EU-funded projects in Bitola. His visit also included a stop at the Internet & Multimedia Centre and a local branch of the Citizen Information Centre, both opened recently with the help of EU funding through another Roma project. The computer centre promotes education and IT use among local Roma residents, thus bridging the gap between the Roma and other citizens of Bitola. The new local office of the Citizen Information Centre is improving the quality of municipal public services for Roma residents. For more information, visit [EAR](#).
[from ECAS]

8. Link: European Youth Forum "GET VISABLE" Campaign for the Mobility of Young People in Europe

Abolishing the visa requirements for young people active in youth work is an important step in creating a barrier-free Europe. Unfortunately the aims are not expected to be achieved in the near future, and therefore, actions in reforming the current systems are urgently needed. The European Youth Forum and its member organisations consider the artificially created obstacles to mobility to contradict the aims of equal rights and freedom from discrimination. The European Youth Forum is committed to fight for equality, against discrimination and for the free movement of persons. In short - all different, all equal – is the principle the European Youth Forum follows and thereby urges the migration authorities (justice and home authorities, foreign affairs, aliens' offices, customs authorities, etc) to do the same. The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is undertaking a campaign this year for the mobility of young people in Europe. GET VISABLE is a campaign launched by the European Youth Forum which aims to raise awareness on the issue of mobility and the obstacles youth workers tackle in obtaining visas as well as the need for removal of these obstacles and once and for all establishing a Europe without barriers. One of the main campaign tools for the campaign is the mobility homepage www.getvisible.org. This homepage aims to transform in a major resource for information on mobility and the obstacles to mobility. Therefore all the possible data, experience and information we share and collect are valuable for us.
[from Balkans list]

II. Funding

9. CfP: EC Support to Anti-discrimination and Diversity Training (deadline: 26.06.2006)

The general objectives of this call for tenders are: to provide training on EU and national anti-discrimination law and policy to ensure that NGOs and trade unions in the EU Member States, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey have the capacity to fully play their role as provided by the anti-discrimination directives; to provide training on diversity management for employers' organisations and companies in the EU Member States, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. The programme is set to finance the following particular actions: the organisation of a series of two national training seminars in each EU Member State, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey for both NGOs and trade unions; the organisation of one training seminar for NGOs and trade unions coming from Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland; the production of 28 final national activity reports (one per country) in the relevant national languages and in English; and the production of an overall summary report in English. For more information, contact: Flaminia Bussacchini; COMMISSION EMPL DG 01; DG Employment, Rue de la Loi, 200, B-1049 Bruxelles, Belgique; Tel.: + 32 2 296 94 88; Fax: + 32 2 2966639; E-mail: flaminia.bussacchini@cec.eu.int; Bank ID Forms can be downloaded from [here](#), Legal Entities can be downloaded from [here](#), and other information, visit [Anti-discrimination and diversity training](#).
[from ECAS]

10. CfP: CARDS EC Labour Market Reform and Workforce Development – Location: Republic of Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro (deadline: 13.06.2008)

This assistance aims to improve legal framework and institutional arrangements for labour market and employment development in Montenegro, including data development and capacity-building measures (public authorities and social partners), with specific reference to the EU employment strategy. Required fields of expertise: design of a national action plan for employment and the framework for a national employment fund with due reference to European employment strategy in an EU Member State and/or PHARE, TACIS, CARDS country; developing capacity for labour market and employment policy making, policy management and monitoring including improvement of national labour market and employment statistics based on EU principles and systems in an EU Member State and/or PHARE, TACIS, CARDS country; assisting national authorities or national partnership arrangements in the elaboration of national, broad-based HRD policy, including all parts of the education system, work-based learning and R& D environment in an EU Member State and/or PHARE, TACIS, CARDS country. Max.

budget is 1 300 000 Euro. For more information contact: EAR; Atinska 5, Gorica C, 81000 Podgorica, Republic of Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro; Tel.:(381) 81 40 66 00; Fax: (381) 81 65 55 32, or visit [here](#) . Standard application form is available [here](#).
[from ECAS]

11. CfP: CARDS EC Assistance to Trade Unions – Location: Republic of Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro (deadline: 19.06.2008)

By this assistance the EC aims to strengthen trade unions, in particular trade unions for civil servants and judiciary in order to acquire knowledge and skills indispensable for the participation in social dialogue related to the ongoing reform processes. The project will at the same time address the capacity building of unions, of employers and other relevant social partners. Required fields of expertise: legal base, institutional development and capacity building relating to trade union activities in the EU and/or transition economies, ideally coupled with experience in advising and training civil servants' unions; broad experience in conferring skills on all partners to social dialogue, notably in negotiating skills, ideally with experience in advising and training employers' representations in social dialogue. Max. budget is 1 300 000 Euro. For more information contact: EAR; Atinska 5, Gorica C, 81000 Podgorica, Republic of Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro; Tel.:(381) 81 40 66 00; Fax: (381) 81 65 55 32, or visit [here](#). Standard application form is available [here](#).

[from ECAS]

12. CfP: EAR Assistance Programme for the Displaced in Montenegro through the Provision of Durable Solutions (deadline: 25.08.2006)

EAR is seeking proposals to support the National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and IDPs in the implementation of an assistance programme for the displaced in Montenegro, with financial assistance from the CARDS programme of the European Communities. The programme will be implemented in close co-operation with the Commissariat for Displaced Persons, UNHCR, municipal authorities and civil society in order to ensure a needs based intervention and a sustainable outcome. The support will include providing durable solutions for displaced persons in targeted municipalities through the provision of housing assistance schemes; with particular emphasis on full construction, partial self help and rehabilitation with a specific focus on vulnerable family groups. Linkages will also be established with return related programmes. International organisations/NGOs will be invited to submit proposals which will meet the above outline. The full guidelines for applicants will be available [here](#). For more information, visit [here](#).

[from ECAS]

13. CfP: EAR Community Stabilization Support Programme for Kosovo (deadline: 31.08.2006)

A key priority of the European Partnership is to 'improve protection of minorities: ensure the viability of minority communities and their non discriminatory participation in Kosovo society, notably by establishing the necessary framework to ensure equitable provision of public utilities and universal services. The overall objective of this intervention is to stabilise the situation of ethnic minority communities and to enable vulnerable communities to build up sustainable livelihoods through the provision of grant assistance. The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is approximately 3 million Euro. Any grant awarded must be equal to or fall between 1 million to 3 million Euro. Actions must take place in Kosovo, specifically in areas with high concentrations of minority communities. The planned duration of the action may not be lower than 15 months and may not exceed 20 months. The deadline for the receipt of applications is Thursday 31 August 2006 at 16:00 CET. Applications should be sent to: EAR; Procurement Unit; Rruga Kosova 1 (opposite Procredit Bank); P.O.Box 200, Pristina, Kosovo – UNMIK; or Address for hand delivery or by private courier service: EAR; Procurement Unit; Rruga Kosova 1 (opposite Procredit Bank); Pristina, Kosovo – UNMIK. Questions may be sent by e-mail or by fax no later than 21 days before the deadline for the receipt of proposals to the addresses listed below, indicating clearly the reference of the call for proposals: E-mail: to andrew.goodwin@ear.eu.int (Mr Andrew Goodwin), cc vedat.krasniqi@ear.eu.int (Mr Vedat Krasniqi), Fax: ++ 381 38 513 1 308, and [Practical Guide](#).

[from MCIC]

III. Training and education

14. CfA: After the Referendum in Montenegro, What Next ? 29 May 2006 from 16.00 - 17.15 in the Résidence Palace, Polak room, 155 Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels

The European Policy Centre, in collaboration with the King Baudouin Foundation organizes a joint Policy Briefing with Milo Djukanovic, Prime Minister of Montenegro. In the context of the debate on future enlargements of the EU, the Union may soon -depending on the outcome of the 21 May referendum - face an application from Montenegro. This would inevitably have consequences for the EU's relations with the whole region. Coming just one week after the referendum on independence, the briefing will be an opportunity to hear at first hand the Prime Minister's assessment of the implications of the result for Montenegro's future relations with the EU. For more information contact: European Policy Centre; Tel: 02 231 03 40; Fax: 02 231 07 04 - 02 230 74 72; Email: info@theepc.be; www.theepc.be; and for registration contact: Valérie Gilles E-mail: v.gilles@theepc.be.

[from ECAS]

15. CfA: The EU and the Balkans: Developing a Progressive Agenda for Accession 29-30 May, in Sofia, Bulgaria

The Prime Ministers of Bulgaria, Montenegro and Macedonia, as well as the socialist leaders of Romania, Croatia and Bosnia are among the top politicians taking part in the PES conference. For registration contact: PES Secretariat; rue du Trône, 98; 1050 Brussels, Belgium; Tel.: + 32 2 548 90 80; Fax: + 32 2 230 17 66; or E-mail: info@pes.org.

[from ECAS]

16. CfA: Balkan and EU Artists and Cultural Operators 9-14 July in Avignon, France

Meeting organised by Balkan Express, together with the partners Relais Culture Europe, le Festival d'Avignon and the European Cultural Foundation. For more information contact: Milica Ilic, IETM; 19 Square Saintelette, 1000 Brussels – Belgium; tel.: +32 2 201 09 15, fax: +32 2 203 02 26; E-mail: office@ietm.org; or visit <http://www.ietm.org/>.

[from ECAS]

17. CfA: Negotiating Training in Skopje, Macedonia 23-25 June 2006 (deadline: 12.06.2006)

Center for Development of Civil Society Milenijum has started the project "Start Negotiating!" The aim of the project is to introduce experiential learning techniques into Universities in the Serbia-Kosovo-Macedonia region, as a pedagogic tool usable in intercultural communication. The project focused primarily on students and faculties from the Universities in Nis, Pristina, Skopje and Tetovo. Through organizing a series of negotiation simulation events, and providing training, the project will develop sustainable capacity among students as peer-educators, and faculties as users of experiential learning approaches, as well as establishing or/& reinforcing linkages between institutions. The second from the series of simulation will take place in Skopje, Macedonia in the period 23-25 June 2006. The lectures and workshops will be held at the European University in Skopje. Anyone that is a student at a faculty in any of the Universities in Skopje regardless the year of studies can apply. The number of participants is limited. No participation fee is charged to the participants. The deadline for submitting the filled application form is 12 June 2006 until 12h. You can find the application form on www.milenijum.org/sn, application should be send to L.Sskopje@milenijum.org. No participation fee is charged to the participants. You can find all other relevant information on www.milenijum.org/sn
[from Balkans list]

IV. Publications

18. Report of the European Policy Centre on the Breakfast Policy Briefing on Challenges of EU enlargement

The EU's 2004 enlargement was a "success story" but action is needed to address public concerns about the process and ensure the Union has the institutional capacity to function effectively as it grows, Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn told a Breakfast Policy Briefing on Challenges of EU enlargement organised with the King Baudouin Foundation. And while the Union must honour existing commitments, "there is a need for informed, responsible debate on future enlargements and what they mean for the Union as a whole". For more information, see [Report of the European Policy](#).

[from ECAS]

19. Summary Paper & Monitoring Reports on the State of Preparedness for EU Membership of Bulgaria and Romania

On 16 May 2006 the Commission approved the 2006 Monitoring Reports on Bulgaria's and Romania's preparations for EU accession. For more information, see [Summary Paper & Monitoring Reports](#).

[from ECAS]

*Weekly e-mail alerts is a regular service of Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) with the aim to provide timely, effective and useful information on funding, training, education and other opportunities to its members and other interested CSOs in the region. Weekly e-mail alerts are managed by the **Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC)** and implemented in cooperation with **European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)**, Belgium and **Center for Information Service, Cooperation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS)**, Slovenia. They are distributed each Friday. Subscription is possible by contacting BCSDN Secretariat at secretariat@balkancsd.net or thf@mcms.org.mk. All weekly e-mail alerts are accessible [here](#).*