

BH TV, 7 o'clock news, 16th June 2003

BHTV at 19:00 hrs by Angela Cvitanovic - in accordance with the new EU Constitution, the High Representative will have to report on its work not only to heads of states, but also to the European Parliament. Dieter Koch, a delegate in the European Parliament, announced the news during his visit to the Western-Herzegovina Canton (WHC) on Tuesday. "Information on the situation in BiH mainly come from the High Representative, and they look rosy. I don't believe that conditions here are as good as he presents them," said Koch. The new EU Constitution extends the authority of its Parliament, and it also envisages the establishment of a group for relations with BiH. Along the lines, all measures taken by the High Representative, who is tasked to prepare BiH to join the EU, will be examined through 'the lens'. During his five-day visit to BiH, Dieter Koch met with WHC officials, who presented him with tourist capacities in the region. Koch also stated that he wanted to become familiar with the BiH situation, learn more on how BiH spent its financial assets and how did it prepare to join the EU. Vecernji List pg. 4 'Ashdown sends rosy reports to Europe' - "We have already had good experience with the countries similar to BiH and this experience should be applied in BiH. However, these countries did not have the HR or the IC ruling the country almost as absolutists. At first the idea was that the HR has a role of an advisor and that he withdraws as the time goes by," said Koch. Asked to comment on his statement that the European Parliament was being informed one-sidedly, that the HR was submitting rather 'rosy' reports to the European Parliament and as to how the European Parliament would get a better insight in the real situation, Koch said: "I said that I will be a sort of your spokesperson, who would be posing your questions directly to the Parliament and the HR himself would get much more serious questions about the complete situation in the country."