

PARLEMENT EUROPEEN



**FACT-FINDING MISSION BY THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AD HOC DELEGATION
TO VOÏVODINA AND BELGRADE
(28 - 31 JANUARY 2005)**

REPORT

Brussels, 2 March 2005

CONTENTS

	Page
I.INTRODUCTION	3
II.THE EVENTS.....	5
III.CONCLUSIONS	11
ANNEXES	13

I. INTRODUCTION

Voïvodina, a region in Northern Serbia, is the southern part of the Pannonian plane, bordering with Croatia on the west, Romania on the east and Hungary to the north. The surface area is 21,506 km², almost as large as Slovenia, with two million inhabitants of some twenty different nationalities.

At the end of the IXth century, the Hungarians colonised Voïvodina, which became part of the Kingdom of Hungary and stayed so until the Turkish occupation in 1529. When the latter ended at the turn of the XVII-XVIIIth centuries, Voïvodina was part of the Kingdom of Hungary until 1918.

The region's inter-ethnic complexity is rooted in the XVIIIth century Habsburg policy of repopulation, which brought in people from the various nationalities that made up their empire at the time: Serbians fleeing Ottoman rule, Croats, Hungarians, Germans, Slovaks, Ruthenes, etc.

The events of 1848-49 had repercussions in Voïvodina, which was transformed into a region enjoying a modicum of autonomy, with the Emperor François-Joseph bearing the title *Voïvode*. It was then joined to Hungary in 1860, and then the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1867. Within the Compromise of 1867, Austria and Hungary undertook to treat all the various nationalities on an equal basis, and recognised the equality of all the empire's languages in schools, the administration and public life.

These provisions were not always respected, and the inhabitants of Voïvodina learned that only a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect was conducive to economic, social and cultural development.

In 1918, Voïvodina was incorporated into the Kingdom of the Serbians, the Croat and the Slovenes (the Ist Yugoslavia). The area had at that point some twenty nationalities, the most important being: Serbs and Croats (503,000), Hungarians (380,000) and Germans (330,000). Unfortunately, only the Slav elements of the Federation (Serbs, Croats and Slovenes) were fully recognised. This situation was particularly unfavourable for the hitherto dominant nationalities, namely the Germans and the Hungarians.

After the end of the Second World War, the Germans were either executed or driven out of Voïvodina. If the schemes for mass expulsion of Hungarians came to nothing, 40,000 Hungarians were nevertheless massacred in Voïvodina between October 1944 and November 1945. Thereafter, peace returned to the region.

Under the regime of Marshal Tito, Voïvodina became an autonomous province. The 1974 constitution laid down that prerogatives of the provinces were analogous to those of the various republics of the Yugoslav Federation. The successive Constitutions of the IInd Yugoslavia guaranteed the cultural rights of the Federation's various nationalities. The province of Voïvodina adopted five official languages: Serbo-Croat, Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Romanian. The Voïvodina Constitution laid down that at kindergarten, primary and secondary school level, teaching would take place in these different languages. At university level, however, it proved extremely difficult to organise high-quality teaching in the minority

languages. In Voïvodina, the best-represented minority in higher education was Hungarian. Furthermore, all the minorities had their own newspapers, and the Novi Sad radio broadcast in the official minority languages of the region. Television offered the minorities a certain number of programmes in their respective languages.

The equilibrium established by Tito was destroyed in 1989, when Slobodan Milosevic abolished the autonomy of the provinces of Kosovo and Voïvodina. As a result, they became direct dependants of the highly centralising Republic of Serbia. Although the Voïvodina minorities were disappointed by the Milosevic policy, their demands fell far short of those heard in Kosovo. Voïvodina, as a mosaic of nationalities, cannot find salvation in a single people, a single language, a single culture, a single religion, but only in a common destiny characterised by harmonious cohabitation amongst the various elements that make up the region.

The change of regime on 5 October 2000 allowed the province to recover some sort of autonomy, (though much less than under the 1974 Constitution), when the Serbian Parliament adopted the so-called 'Omnibus' law. Furthermore, a 'law on the protection of minorities' was adopted on 26 February 2002, but it did not resolve all the problems, since, as the Minister of Human and Minority Rights, M.R. Ljajic stated '*... numerous opinion polls indicate that the distance separating ethnic groups, and existing ethnic antagonisms in Serbia are very considerable, and much time and carefully thought out political action will be required*'.

Mr Ljajic's words have already proved all too true, since despite the return to democracy, Voïvodina experienced a series of incidents in 2003 and 2004 which were ethnically motivated and mostly directed against the minorities. This situation led to the sending of a European Parliament ad hoc delegation on a fact-finding mission, which visited Voïvodina and Belgrade from 29 to 31 January 2005. The delegation, which comprised Mrs Doris PACK, chairman of the PPE Group) and Mr Zsolt László BECSEY (PPE), Mr Gyula HEGYI (PSE), Mr Jelko KACIN (ALDE) and Mr Johannes SWOBODA (PSE) would express its thanks to the federal, regional and local authorities, the representatives of civil society, and the Embassy of Serbia and Montenegro to the European Union and the European Commission delegation in Belgrade for the invaluable contribution all of them made to the success of the fact-finding mission called for by the European Parliament in its resolution of 16 September 2004 on the harassment of minorities in Voïvodina.

II. THE EVENTS

1. Ethnically motivated incidents

From the end of 2003 to October 2004, a wave of ethnic incidents targeting members of the minorities, above all, shook Voivodina, an autonomous province of Serbia and Montenegro traditionally known for its spirit of tolerance. Because of disagreements on how to define and classify ethnically motivated incidents, figures¹ for the number of incidents varies considerably according to the source (police, NGOs, etc.). Furthermore, victims, fearful of reprisals, often prefer to keep their mouths shut: from being victims, they can end up being regarded as suspects. However, nobody we spoke to denied that there had been a disturbing and unacceptable upsurge in racially-motivated incidents aimed at individuals belonging to the national minorities, particularly the Hungarians and Croats, and sometimes also at members of the Serbian majority.

The incidents take different forms :

- vandalising monuments;
- graffiti;
- verbal attacks;
- physical attacks;
- threats against minority leaders.

Vandalism, seeking to destroy the minorities' historical and cultural heritage, is perpetrated against churches, monuments² and cemeteries³. There has also been a lot of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic graffiti, and of verbal and/or physical abuse, frequently amongst young people in schools, discotheques and football stadiums. Private property has also been attacked.

Despite the seriousness of these incidents, it would appear to be an exaggeration to view them as the prelude to the kind of major crisis with which the Balkans are all too familiar.

Furthermore, the delegation found no evidence whatever that these incidents were part of a global plan of concerted action on the part of organised groups, possibly enjoying political and financial support. It would appear that they were frequently individually provoked by young people, whether individually or in groups, frustrated by their difficult living conditions.

2. The causes of the incidents

¹ Taking incidents of all kinds together, we are talking about several hundred incidents.

² The statue of Matija Gubec, the Medieval Croatian peasant leader, in Tavankut, was mutilated on several occasions. The monument to the Hungarian, Jewish and Swabian victims of the 1944 massacres was likewise vandalised several times.

³ The vandalising of graves has affected Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish and mixed cemeteries.

There appear to be three major causes underlying the ethnic incidents: the demographic changes which have taken place in Voïvodina over the last few decades (above all following the recent conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, which brought an influx of 300,000 mostly Serb refugees), the fall-out from the events in Kosovo in March 2004, and the climate of inter-ethnic tension which prevailed during the 2003 and 2004 election campaigns.

Currently, 12,8% of the province's population are refugees, only 1% of whom have registered jobs. Rising poverty has encouraged the emergence of hardline attitudes among the refugees and has heightened ethnic tensions, notably during the pre-election periods (November-December 2003 and September-October 2004), where an upsurge of ultranationalism attracted voters fed up with their difficult living conditions and angered by the March 2004 events in Kosovo.

At the same time, many non-Serbian young people have fled abroad, to avoid being conscripted into the army¹. The economic difficulties resulting from the sanctions imposed on the Milosevic only encouraged emigration. This is the background to the fact that Voïvodina's population now has a Serbian majority of nearly 67% as opposed to 53 % in 1991; the percentage of non-Serbian minorities is falling, while the numbers of those familiar with Voïvodinan history and traditions is rising sharply.

3. Response to the presentation of the incidents

3.1 National level

3.1.1 Police and forces of law and order

Those the Delegation spoke to view the action taken on the inter-ethnic incidents by the police and security forces as ineffective. However, it appears that in Voïvodina, the police and other forces were not used to clashes of this kind, and their ability to react was hampered by ponderous bureaucracy, since the police is directly organised, led and supervised by Belgrade.

The security forces are accused of:

- not arriving quickly at the scene of violent clashes;
- attributing incidents to the bad behaviour (alcohol and drug-induced) of the victims, and therefore failing to investigate the real nature of the incidents;
- preventing any legal follow-up being taken to the complaints lodged by members of the minorities.

3.1.2 The courts

Here, those we spoke to denounced:

- the slowness of court proceedings;
- the fact that no case involving exclusively inter-ethnic incidents had been tried in recent times;

¹ A young man living in Voïvodina at the beginning of the 1990s, was three or four times more likely to be conscripted than one living in Serbia proper.

- those responsible for the incidents had received only light sentences;
- even the lightest sentences had not been carried out;
- the police and the Public Prosecutor's Office do not always cooperate particularly well;
- the minorities are under-represented both within the court system and the police force.

3.1.3 Government

Some of those we spoke to said that, after a period of inertia, the Serbian Government has started to take steps to tackle inter-ethnic problems in Voïvodina¹.

3.1.4 Political parties

Some people referred to the way that certain political parties had exploited the incidents for election purposes.

3.1.5 Media

Some of those we spoke to regretted the over-emotive tone of certain newspapers, particularly in Belgrade, with regard to the ethnically-motivated incidents which had occurred in Voïvodina.

3.2 At international level

3.2.1 Hungarian Government

Concerned by the ethnic incidents in Voïvodina, given that the Hungarian minority numbers 290 000 people, the Budapest Government and Hungary's parliamentary parties denounced the 'atrocities' which had taken place in Voïvodina, and internationalised the problem via the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The Serbian spokesmen we met felt that 'atrocities' was an excessive term, which did not reflect the reality of the situation².

3.2.2 European Union

Following the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 30 September 2004, the EU representatives in Belgrade were instructed to investigate the events in Voïvodina. The European Parliament, moreover, voiced its concern in its resolution of 16 September 2004, which recommended that effective steps be taken.

¹ See point 4.

² The Hungarian authorities themselves have stopped using the term.

3.2.3 Council of Europe (CoE)

The CoE Parliamentary Assembly's resolution of 5 October 2004 also referred to the problem and called for dialogue and the punishment of those responsible, while denouncing the making of political capital out of the situation. Furthermore, a delegation from the Secretariat visited Novi Sad and Subotica on 13 November 2004, at the request of the Committee of Ministers, subsequently drawing up a report which confirmed that the incidents had occurred and examined the causes.

4. Measures to prevent ethnic incidents

The Yugoslavian experience has shown that resolving the problem of minorities is something neither the country nor the international community have taken an interest in until after hostilities have actually broken out. Such problems should be dealt with while dialogue is still possible, rather than by resorting to weapons or mass exodus.

The Delegation believes that it is up to the local, regional and above all the Belgrade authorities to take effective steps to prevent any repetition of the incidents in question.

4.1 Government

4.1.1 Decentralisation programme

The implementation of the decentralisation programme planned for Voivodina should, inter alia, increase the financial resources available to guarantee a multicultural framework for education, the media and the safeguarding of the region's various traditions.

4.1.2 Legal protection of minorities

Here, serious initiatives are already underway. Minority rights are governed by the federal law on the protection of the rights and freedoms of national minorities; it lays down a body of individual and collective rights. Furthermore, there is a Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. An efficient system of courts for the minority communities is apparently to be set up.

On 16 September 2004, the government set up the National Council of Serbia's Minorities, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr Kostunica. This Council is supposed to coordinate issues concerning Serbia's minorities. It could play a considerable role in preventing possible ethnic tensions. At present, its powers and resources are not yet exactly visible, and tangible results have yet to be forthcoming.

In certain cases, reality and the legally established rights are sometimes two different things. For that reason, following the wave of anti-minority ethnic incidents, the Serbian Government decided to set up two committees, one of which was to proceed to investigate the incidents, while the other was to put forward proposals intended to prevent them. Unfortunately, it would appear that neither of these committees has yet begun its work.

Furthermore, those we met frequently complained of discrimination against the minorities with regard to access to mother-tongue education and to jobs, particularly in the public administration, and above all in the police and the judiciary. In this connection, various people said they were in

favour of establishing equal opportunities, while others demanded the implementation of positive discrimination.

4.1.3 The Ombudsman

The Delegation welcomes the creation of an Ombudsman in Voivodina; this can only help to calm tensions, and it is to be hoped that the institution of the Ombudsman will be extended to the various territorial bodies which make up Serbia and Montenegro.

4.2 Forces of law and order

Following the criticisms made of the action of the police and the forces of order when ethnic incidents were taking place, the Delegation believes that provision should be made for:

- the promulgation of appropriate legislation to reform the police and the security forces in accordance with European standards;
- specialised training for the security forces, to teach them how to combine the performance of their duties with full respect for human and minority rights¹;
- recruiting members of ethnic minorities into the police, so as to restore a climate of confidence between the latter and the minorities. The selection of individuals should take account of the ethnic character of the specific locality.

4.3 The judiciary

Here, what is needed are:

- reforms to guarantee the impartiality of judges and prosecutors, in keeping with European standards;
- adequate legislation to protect witnesses²;
- easier access to the magistracy for members of ethnic minorities who should be proportionally represented within it.

4.4 Education

Education can play a decisive role in building a harmonious multicultural society. Furthermore, the government has recognised the fact in the aforementioned law on the protection of minorities, which lays down that members of national minorities have the right to be taught in their mother tongues in kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools. In primary schools, 15 is the minimum number of pupils required for a class to be started in a minority language.

¹ It is particularly important that the real nature of an incident be properly clarified, so that the Public Ministry can initiate proceedings commensurate with the crime.

² The Delegation was informed that a bill to this effect exists.

In higher education, the proportion of Hungarians, for example, doing courses in their mother tongue is only 6 %. The state is committed to creating language courses to train teachers for kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools in the minority languages. But for all its goodwill, the government does not always have the resources to apply these provisions. One of the causes of the emigration of ethnic minority young people is the fact that they can study in their mother tongue elsewhere, a situation which prevents the emergence of an intelligentsia amongst the Voivodina's ethnic minorities.

Those we spoke said that as far as education was concerned, there was a need to:

- encourage the learning of minority languages, so as to encourage multilingualism¹;
- take a reformed approach to teaching history, which would involve revising the contents of school history books and using so-called alternative textbooks, backed up by hard thinking and discussion of the past²;
- integrate the teaching of civic values into school programmes, with particular emphasis on tolerance and human rights³;
- develop sports and leisure aimed at young people;
- achieve recognition of diplomas and degrees obtained abroad⁴;
- recruit teachers from the ethnic minority groups;
- support the minority-language-taught courses at university⁵.

4.5 Media

Here, the importance of independent media as a sine qua non for creating an open, democratic civil society. Furthermore, there had to be a responsible attitude to publishing and broadcasting information, avoiding over-emotional language.

In the context of a multicultural society, the training of journalists is extremely important, particularly with regard to issues like the whole concept of ethnic and social relations.

¹ The number of students following minority-language-taught university courses is dropping.

² Facing up to the past is a fundamental stage on the road to achieving reconciliation and tolerance.

³ The Ministry of Education is highly aware of the need for this.

⁴ Young people whose higher education has taken place out with Serbia and Montenegro face insurmountable problems due to the lack of recognition of foreign degrees. This problem occasionally leads to their emigrating for good

⁵ The Hungarian minority representatives have criticised the Education Ministry's refusal to provide financial support for teaching in Hungarian at Subotica University.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The delegation concludes that:

1. Voïvodina should remain a model region, because its multiculturalism goes hand in hand with a fairly harmonious cohabitation between the different nationalities living there. In order to preserve this, it is vital to combat attacks of any kind on the roots of each and every one of the region's traditional cultures.
2. It is essential that the province's multi-ethnic character be preserved, particularly in view of any future EU accession of Serbia and Montenegro, since the place of Voïvodina would then be a very special one, both geostrategically and sociologically. For that reason, all existing forms of rapprochement need to be actively supported (Interreg III/a, cooperation with European border regions).
3. The inter-ethnic incidents which plagued Voïvodina over a period of thirteen months appear to be the result of a conjunction of unfavourable factors, which was itself the outcome both of older situations and of more recent, and even highly specific circumstances: changes to the province's demographic make-up, influx of refugees in very difficult economic circumstances, the March 2004 Kosovo crisis, and tense election campaigns.
4. The incidents are reprehensible and inexcusable, but they should not be called 'atrocities' since this is an inappropriate term to apply to what actually happened. Furthermore, the incidents should not be seen as the outcome of some plan deliberately organised by certain groups seeking to destabilise the province; they were frequently perpetrated by frustrated young people, exasperated by their difficult living conditions. It has to be acknowledged that negligence on the part of the police and the courts may be indirectly encouraging this behaviour.
5. This kind of situation was able to go on repeating itself for over a year, due to the authorities' initial inertia, the inefficiency of the security forces and of the courts, as a result of their probable lack of local rootedness in the region when faced with occurrences of this kind, and also the exploitation of the situation for election purposes by certain political groups and finally, the sometimes harmful role played by certain of the media.
6. Currently, the incidents have become more sporadic, thanks to the fact the election periods are past, to goodwill on the part of the authorities, and to pressure from the international community.
7. However, effective measures need to be taken so as to prevent a recurrence of inter-ethnic incidents, particularly:
 - a) Implementation of the planned decentralisation programme for Voïvodina;

- b) The visible and efficient application of the various instruments established to protect minorities (National Minorities Council, incident assessment committees, etc.);
 - c) Stepping up efforts seeking to prevent discrimination with regard to access to education and employment (in the police force and in the magistracy in particular);
 - d) Reform of the police, the security forces and the judiciary so as to allow them to deal more effectively with any fresh incidents of an inter-ethnic nature;
 - e) Preserving multilingualism at all levels of education, reforming the teaching of history, and introducing the teaching of civil values, with particular stress on tolerance;
 - f) Guaranteeing the independence of the media, and training for those working in the media, laying particular stress on the concept of inter-ethnic relations and living together.
8. It is now incumbent on the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South-east Europe, having had direct contact with representatives of all those involved, to monitor closely the way in which the situation in Voivodina develops in the future.

**AD HOC FACT-FINDING MISSION TO
VOJVODINA AND BELGRADE,
28-31 January 2005**

PROGRAMME

1. Friday, 28 January

14.35 Arrival in Belgrade Airport of the secretariat of the EP Delegation on flight OS773 from Vienna and transfer by minibus to Subotica

20.45 Arrival in Belgrade Airport of Mrs Pack and Mr Swoboda on flight OS7133 from Vienna and meeting with the Minister for Minorities, Mr Rasim Ljajic in the VIP lounge

transfer by protocol vehicle and police escort to Subotica

Arrival of Mr Kacin, Becsey and Hegyi by car to Subotica and check in at the

**Hotel Prezident
Lovranska bb
Palic
Tel: +381.24.622.662**

Programme coordinators

<p><u>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</u> <u>BRUSSELS</u> <i>(logistics)</i> MS. SARAH WHITTALL TEL. (+32.2) 284.2304 FAX (+32.2) 284.6830 E-MAIL: SWHITTALL@EUROPARL.EU.INT GSM: 0032.496.599.470</p>	<p><u>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</u> <u>BRUSSELS</u> <i>(General co-ordination)</i> MR PEDRO NEVES TEL: (+32.2.) 284.3752 FAX (+32.2) 284.6831 EMAIL: PNEVES@EUROPARL.EU.INT</p>	<p><u>EUROPEAN COMMISSION</u> <u>DELEGATION IN BELGRADE</u> MR DAVID HUDSON TEL: (+381.11) 3083.200 FAX: (+381.11) 3083.201 email: DAVID.HUDSON@cec.eu.int</p>
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27.01.2005

2. Saturday 29 January

- 08.00 Departure from the hotel for **SUBOTICA**
- 08.15-09.30 Meetings with religious authorities:
Dr János Péntzes, Bishop from Subotica
Dr Andrija Kopilovic, Parish priest
Miodrag iška, Representative of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Subotica
Mgr. Árpád Dolinszky, Evangelical superintendent
Feti Kurdali, Chair of the Muslim Community of Subotica
Dr Franjo Prcic, Chair of the Jewish Community of Subotica
Venue: Town Hall, Trg Slobode 1 (Blue Room), Subotica
- 09.30 -10.45 Meeting with NGO representatives and secondary school teachers
Participants:
Mr Gábor Kudlik, President, Open Perspectives
Dr Irén Gábrity Molnár, President, Hungarian Scientific Research Association
Mr Lajos Szabó, Chair of the Open Door
Ms Zsuzsanna Ronyec, the HHRF s 'representative from Subotica
Ms Erika Roncsák Petrovics, President, Zenith Workshop
Ms Lujza Fekete, Teacher in the Technical Secondary School
Mr Béla Majláth, Youth Council Vojvodina
Ms Maria Silak, Vox Humana
Venue: Blue Room, Town Hall
- 10.45-11.45 Meeting with victims of inter-ethnic violence:
MM. Toldi, Lavró, Ágoston, Nagy, Szucs, Miskeljin and people from Torda
Venue: Blue Room, Town Hall
- 11.45-13.15 Meeting and buffet lunch hosted by Mr Kucsera, Mayor, for the delegation with representatives of the local and regional political parties and the national minorities' councils
Venue: Blue Room, Town Hall
- Participants:**
Mr Geza Kucsera, Mayor of Subotica
Mr László Józsa, Chair of the Hungarian National Council
Mr Josip Ivanovic, Chair of the Croat National Council
Mr Nicolas Babic, Chair of the Bunjevac National Council
Ms Ana Tomanova Makanova, Chair of the Slovak National Council
Mr József Kasza, Chair of the Association of Hungarians in Vojvodina
Mr Petar Kuntic, Chair of the Democratic Community of Croats in Vojvodina
Ms Csabo Sepsey, Chair of the VDMP's District Office
Mr Oliver Dulic, chair of the Democratic Party s 'organisation in Vojvodina
Ms Stoja Ivo ešic, Director of the District Office of Refugees, Subotica
Mr Zvonimir Peru ič, Director of Hrvatska Rijec Publishing House

- 13.15-13.45 Meeting with Mr Borivoj Mucaj, Head of the local Police
- 13.45 - 14.00 Press point
Venue: outside the Blue Room, Town Hall
- 14.00-14.30 Meeting with Ms Edit Dér Seregély, a representative of the judiciary
Venue: the Building of the District Court
- 14.30 Departure for **TEMERIN** via a suburb where refugees and displaced persons live
(guide Mr Miodrag Okliesa from the Red Cross)
- 16.00-17.15 Meeting with Mr Stojan Tintor, Mayor of Temerin, Mr Ljajo Miko , Head of the local Police and representatives of the Judiciary and Sport and Culture
Venue: Town Hall, Temerin, Novosadska 326
- 17.30-18.00 Meeting with local representatives: Mr Milan Radovic, President of the Municipal Assembly, Mr Bela Csorba, Vice President , Mr Nenad Ducovic, Vice President
- 18.00-19.15 Meeting with NGO's: Mr. Andras Ago tőn, President of local NGO Minority Forum and of Democratic Party of Vojvodina Hungarians, Mr. Istvan Adam, manager of the humanitarian organisation VOX; Matuska Marton (VMPD), Mr Szanto Tibor, Mr Horvat Tibor and Mr Teleki Gyula, citizens from where incidents have taken place
Venue: City Hall of Temerin, Novosadska 326
- 19.30 Departure to **NOVI SAD**
- 20.00 Arrival in Novi Sad and check in at

Hotel Park
Novosadskog sajma 35
Tel: +381.21.611.711

- 20.30 Working dinner hosted by Mrs Pack, with Mr Josep Lloveras, Head of the EU Delegation Office in Belgrade

3. Sunday 30 January

- 08.30-09.00 Meeting with Ms Maja Gojkovic, Mayor of Novi Sad
Venue: City Hall, Trg Slobode 1
- 09.15-09.45 Meeting with the local police authorities
Mr Miladin Kostre ešić, Head of Novi Sad PD
Venue: Pap Pavla 46/I floor
- 10.00-10.30 Meeting with Mr Irenej Bulovic, Bishop of Backa,
Venue: Gimnazijska 2 (entrance from Street Pasiceva)

- 10.45 - 11.45 Tour of Novi Sad showing the "Little Belgrade" district with a high percentage of refugees, (*guide, Mr. Novakovic, Vice President of the Vojvodina Assembly*)
- 11.45-14.00 Meeting and buffet lunch hosted by the Chairman of the EP Delegation with the high representatives of the Vojvodina Assembly:
 Mr Bojan Kostres, President
 Mr Borislav Novakovic, Vice-President
 Mr Sándor Egeresi, Vice-President
 and the Government of Vojvodina:
 Mr Bojan Pajtic, President
 Mr Tamás Korhecz, Vice-President (minority issues)
 Mr Zoltán Bunyik, Vice-President (culture and education)
 Mr Petar Teofilovic, Vojvodina Ombudsman,
Venue: Vojvodina Assembly Building, Vladike Platona b.b.(main entrance),
- 14.00 - 14.30 Press Point
Venue: Vojvodina Assembly, Vladike Platona b.b. (I floor, Green Hall,)
- 14.45-16.15 Meeting with representatives of NGO's in Novi Sad
 Centre for Multiculturalism, Mr Alpar Losonc
 Centre for Regionalism, Mr Aleksandar Popov
 Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance, Mr Ratko Bubablo
 Vojvodina Centre for Human Rights, Ms Aleksandra Vujic
 Helsinki Committee for HR, Mr Pavel Domonji
 Panonija, Ms Danica Stefanovic
 Forum IURIS, Mr Slobodan Beljanski
 Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, Ms Ana Bu
 Argus, Mr Antal Bozoki
 Alma Mater, Mr Dulka Andor
 Association of Vojvodina Hungarian Pedagogists, Ms Nagy Margita
 Hungarian Scientific Society of Vojvodina, Mr Bela Ribar
 Association for Cultivation of Tradition and Preservation of Culutral Monuments,
 Mr Pap Ferenc
Venue: Novi Sad School for Journalism, Zmaj Jovana4, II floor
- 16.15-17.30 Panel discussion with representatives of the University and the Media.
 Chairperson, Ms. Doris Pack
 Panel:
 Ms Radmila Marinkovic-Neducin, Rector of the University of Novi Sad
 Mr Zolt Lazar, Faculty of Sociology
 Mr Slobodan Stojic-Director of the radio 021 and Editor-in-Chief and President of ANEM
- followed by a debate
 Other participants:
UNIVERSITY
 Ms Marija Kleut, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy
 Mr Miklos Biro, Faculty of Psychology

Ms Fuada Stankovic, Faculty of Law
Ms Marijana Pajvancic, Faculty of Law
Ms Svenka Savic, Faculty of Philosophy
Mr Stanko Pihler
Ms Slobodanka Markov, Faculty of Technical Sciences
Ms Agnes Kartagi-Odri, Faculty of Law
Ms Bernadet Bordas, Faculty of Law
Ms Helena Hirshenberger student-prorektor, member of Students Union

MEDIA:

Radio Novi Sad - Mr Dragutin Bunovic & Mr Velimir Pap-Lacko, Television
Novi Sad - Mr Petar Jovanovic & Mr Zdenko Pop
TV Apolo Šasa Adamovic
TV Panonija - Mr Boro Lazukic
URBANS, Ms Marina Fratucan
Dnevnik, Ms Branka Opranovic
Gradjanski List, Mr Dario Acimovic
Danas, Mr Radovan Balac
BETA, NDNV, Mr Dinko Gluhonjic, also president of Independent Journalist
Association of Vojvodina
Magyar Szó, Ms Marta Santo
Multi Radio, II channel of the Radio, Ms Enike Halas
Mr Niku Chobanu, Libertatea ”
Hrvatska rijec , Mr Toma Zigmanov, editor-in chief
Venue: Novi Sad School of Journalism, Zmaj Jovina 4, II floor,

17.30 Departure to **BELGRADE**

19.00 Arrival in Belgrade and check in at

**Hotel Intercontinental
Vladimira Popovica 10
Tel: +381.11.311.3333**

19.45 Departure from the hotel

20.00 Briefing and dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Netherlands, on behalf of the
EU Presidency with representatives of the EU Delegation Office
and Ambassadors

Participants:

Mr Hans Hageman, Charge d Affaires, Royal Netherlands Embassy
Ms Doris Pack, Chairperson, PPE-DE, EP
Mr Zsolt Becsey, PPE DE, EP
Mr Gyula Hegyi, PSE, EP
Mr Jelko Kacin, ALDE, EP
Mr Johannes Swoboda, PSE, EP
Mr Pedro Neves, Administrator, Secretariat of the Delegation
Ms Sarah Whittall, Assistant, Secretariat of the Delegation

Mr Armin Machmer, PSE, Political Advisor
Mr Rune Glasberg, ALDE, Political Advisor
H.E. Mr Josep Lloveras, Head of the Delegation, EC Delegation
Mrs Sanda Babic, Political officer, EC Delegation
H.E. Mr Andreas Zobel, Ambassador, German Embassy
H.E. Mr Jozef Pandur, Ambassador, Hungarian Embassy
H.E. Mr Hannes Porias, Ambassador, Austrian Embassy
Mr. Davorin Senicar, Chargé d Affaires, Slovenia Embassy
Mr Stefano Valenti, Special Envoy of the Secretary General, Council of Europe
Ms Alexandra Wagner, Deputy Head of Mission, EUMM
Mr Douglas Wake, Deputy, OSCE
Venue: Restaurant Langouste, Kosancicev venac 29

4. Monday 31 January

- 08:00-08:45 Meeting with Mr. Petar LAĐEVIC, Secretary of the Committee of National Minorities of Serbian Government and Special Adviser to the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia Mr Dabetic
Venue: 2, Carice Milice St.
- 08.55-09.25 Meeting with Mr. Slobodan VUKSANOVIC, Minister for Education of the Republic of Serbia
Venue: 11, Nemanjina St. (Seat of the Government of the Republic of Serbia)
- 09.30-10.20 Meeting with Mr. Dragan JOCIC, Minister for Interior and Mr. Zoran STOJKOVIC, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia,
Venue: 11, Nemanjina St. (Seat of the Government of the Republic of Serbia)
- 10:40-11:10 Meeting with President Boris TADIC
Venue: Andricev Venac 1
- 11.15-11.45 Meeting with representatives of the Council of National Minorities, Chairman: Mr. Vojislav KOŃUNICA, Prime Minister
11, Nemanjina St. (Building of the Government of the Republic of Serbia)
- 12:00-12:30 Meeting with Mr Vuk DRASKOVIC, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Venue: Kneza Milosa 24-26
- 12:30-12:50 Joint press statements by Ms. Doris Pack and Mr Vuk Draskovic
Venue: Kneza Milosa 24-26
- 13.00 Press Point in the EC Delegation
Krusnka 73, 11000 Belgrade
- 13.45 Departure for the airport
- 15.20 Departure of the EP Delegation flight to Vienna

ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF VOJVODINA, 2002
(2,013,889 total residents)

Serbian	1,321,807	67%
Hungarian	290,207	14,28%
Slovak	56,637	3%
Croat	56,546	3%
Yugoslavian	49,881	3%
Romanian	30,419	2%
Bunjevac	19,766	1%
Rusin	15,626	1%
No response	55,016	3%

