

### **EC mission on white Schengen list progress**

European Commission is arriving to Serbia to consider its progress in fulfilling conditions for canceling visas and entering the Schengen white list.

Until the February 5, EC mission is going to Serbia to examine its improvement in fighting organized crime, corruption and establishing the cooperation between the criminal justice system and the police. The European Commission experts will have meetings with the Ministry of Justice and the Police in Serbia to check how police control borders and documents in the field.

Interior Minister Ivica Dačić said that the European experts will visit a police department for the issuance of new identity cards. They will also visit one border crossing and the Belgrade airport to find out how the state border control and protection functions. They will also check Serbian new system for reading biometric information from personal documents. Dačić hopes that Commission's experts will positively evaluate Serbian preparations.

Bogoljub Milosavljević who is a police expert and professor at the Belgrade Union University thinks that there has been an observable advance in the fight against organized crime, whereas the border control and document checks show the biggest problem. He says that the border security issue is an important case and there are still some problems including borders with Kosovo.

The European Commission experts will setup a report about Serbia for May and Serbia's entrance on the white Schengen list will pass on to the EU on a political level.

*Source: B92*

### **Macedonia Will Not Open Talks with the EU before July**

Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Tomas Pojar said to local media that Macedonia will not start European Union accession talks during the Czech presidency.

According to him Macedonia should first focus on conducting fair presidential and local elections which will take place on March 22. It will be a testing process for the country's democratic credibility.

The European Commission did not recommend the start of accession talks for Skopje in last report published in fall 2008. There were two main reasons for that: last June general elections which were marked by violence and ballot stuffing in ethnic Albanian areas and delays in key reforms.

*Source: balkaninsight.com*

### **Former Serbian General tried over Kosovo conflict**

A former Serbian general, Vlastimir Djordjevic, has gone on trial at the International Crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague. He is accused of being involved in the killings of hundreds of ethnic Albanians and the deportation of 800,000 others from Kosovo in 1998-99 during the Kosovo conflict.

Vlastimir Djordjevic was a close aide to the late Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who died in tribunal custody in 2006.

His trial is the last one concerning war crimes in Kosovo to be held at the tribunal, which is due to finish its work by 2012.

*Source: BBC News*