

EU keeps pressure on Croatia over war crimes suspect

**Agence France-Presse
9 November 2005**

BRUSSELS, Nov 9 (AFP) -- The EU renewed pressure on Croatia today to help arrest a key war crimes suspect, demanding that the Balkan EU candidate state maintain full cooperation with UN prosecutors.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, also said that corruption remains a "serious problem" in the ex-Yugoslav republic.

Zagreb started EU entry talks last month, after a seven-month delay because it was not providing enough help to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in finding fugitive general Ante Gotovina.

The negotiations were launched after chief UN prosecutor Carla Del Ponte changed her assessment and said Croatia was providing "full cooperation."

"This full cooperation with the ICTY needs to be maintained and the last remaining indictee must be located, arrested and transferred to The Hague." said the EU commission in an annual report on EU candidate states' progress.

Gotovina, one of the UN war crimes tribunal's top three fugitives, is wanted for crimes committed against ethnic Serbs at the end of the 1991-1995 Serbo-Croatian war.

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