

NEWSLETTER

OF THE OFFICE FOR
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

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NEWSLETTER

OF THE OFFICE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

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Introductory speech

Dear readers,

The fourth issue of Newsletter of the European Integration Office will present the most important events and activities under the process of accession to the EU during the second quarter of 2018.

Good results in negotiations with the EU are reflected in 31 opened and three provisionally closed negotiating chapters, as well as reforms which already gave visible results in many areas.

The European Integration Office has been committed to intensification of activities with a view to achieving tangible results in all chapters, partnership and cooperation with other authorities, as well as strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and its members in order for Montenegro to take equal place among European partners.

The previous three months were characterised by continuation of dynamic activities in terms of coordination of the negotiating process, implementation of IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, and organisation of numerous conferences, regional and international meetings.

We are convinced that this newsletter is a contribution to improving the understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

European Integration Office

Department for informing on the EU and process of accession to the EU –
General secretariat of the government of Montenegro



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26. Obrazovanje i kultura	13. Ribarstvo	29. Carinska unija
30. Vanjski odnosi	14. Saobraćajna politika	31. Vanjska, bezbednosna i odbrambena politika
1. Sloboda kretanja robe	15. Energetika	32. Finansijski nadzor
2. Sloboda kretanja radnika	16. Porezi	33. Finansijske i budžetske odredbe
3. Pravo osnivanja preduzeća i sloboda pružanja usluga	17. Ekonomska i monetarna unija	27. Životna sredina
4. Sloboda kretanja kapitala	18. Statistika	8. Konkurencija
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6. Privredno pravo	20. Preduzetništvo i industrijska politika	
7. Pravo intelektualne svojine	21. Trans-evropske mreže	
9. Finansijske usluge	22. Regionalna politika i koordinacija strukturnih instrumenata	
10. Informatičko društvo i mediji	23. Pravosuđe i temeljna prava	
11. Poljoprivreda i ruralni razvoj	24. Pravda, sloboda i bezbednost	

-  Privremeno zatvoreno poglavlje
-  Otvoreno poglavlje
-  Predata Pregovaračka pozicija
-  Rad na Pregovaračkoj poziciji

EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD



25. VI 2018.

MONTENEGRO OPENS CHAPTER 17 – ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

At the Intergovernmental conference that took place in Luxembourg, Montenegro opened negotiating chapter 17 – Economic and Monetary Union. Opening of the mentioned chapter is of great importance for aligning with the principles of an open market economy based on free competition, single currency policy, and achievement and maintenance of price stability. European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said that the opening of negotiations in Chapter 17 represented another important step forward on the European path, and expressed his expectation that Montenegro would continue successful fulfilment of its commitments from the European agenda. He said that Montenegro had made the most progress in negotiations with the EU, and that the field of the rule of law should be the priority in the forthcoming period.

17. IV 2018.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S REPORT PRESENTED: POSITIVE ASSESSMENTS OBLIGE US TO CONTINUE WITH REFORMS

The European Commission's Report for countries of the Western Balkans was presented in Brussels. At the joint press conference with Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Aivo Orav, Deputy Prime Minister Zoran Pažin stated that the European Commission's report was an encouragement, not only for the Government, but for the entire society as well, because it gave clear indications regarding the results achieved, and it also represented a type of action plan of what should be done in the future in order to bring the Montenegrin society closer to the EU standards at an intensive pace. As regards the field of foreign policy, the European Commission noted the important contribution of Montenegro to development of good neighbourly relations in the region. The European Commission assessed that Montenegro had made

good progress in the field of public administration reform, as well as in agriculture and rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary development, which is the highest possible rating at the annual level. The European Commission's report also recognised Montenegro's accelerated economic growth in the previous year, given the fact that it had one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. Regarding the fight against corruption, it was noted that an initial track record has been established, and that is precisely the interim benchmark from chapters 23 and 24.



25. V 2018.

GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO APPOINTS ALEKSANDAR DRljević AS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

At today's session, the Government of Montenegro appointed Aleksandar Drljević as the Chief Negotiator. Miodrag Radović will be the Deputy Chief Negotiator for chapters of the acquis, while Ivana Glišević-Đurović will be the Deputy Chief Negotiator and IPA coordinator.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

28. III 2018.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND REGIONAL POLICY

Eleventh meeting of the Subcommittee on Transport, Energy, Environment and Regional Policy between Montenegro and the European Union was held in Brussels. Participants of the meeting discussed the progress made in the field of climate change, environment, energy, regional policy and transport. Director General for environment at the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism Ivana Vojinović stated that the progress made in these fields was extremely important not only for further integration path of Montenegro, but also for improvement of living standard of Montenegrin citizens. Representative of the Unit for Montenegro in Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Barbara Jesus Gimeno commended the progress that Montenegro made in the negotiating process, particularly in chapters related to transport and energy. She also expressed her expectations that Chapter 27, which is related to environment and climate change would be opened soon.



24. VI 2018.

STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL BETWEEN EU AND MONTENEGRO HOLDS ITS NINTH MEETING

The EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Council (SA Council) held its ninth meeting on 25 June 2018. The meeting was chaired by Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, on behalf of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. The SA Council welcomed the results already achieved and the continued implementation by Montenegro of the Action Plans for chapters 23 and 24, and the fact that the legal framework has improved and the institutional set up is largely in place. It recalled that it remained essential for the overall pace of the negotiating process that the entire rule

of law system deliver more concrete results, and encouraged Montenegro to pursue more proactive and vigorous progress in reform implementation and concrete results in the area of rule of law, in particular to strengthen the track record on fighting corruption and organised crime.



20. VI 2018.

MONTENEGRO CONTINUES ITS PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATING CHAPTERS

Montenegrin institutions continued making progress in seven negotiating chapters that were discussed at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Internal Market and Competition, which was held between Montenegro and the EC in Brussels. Meeting was opened by the Deputy Head of Unit in Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Barbara Jesus-Gimeno and Director General for internal market and competition in the Ministry of Economy Biljana Jakić. Montenegrin representatives informed the EC on the progress made in alignment of the national legislation with *acquis*, as well as strengthening of institutional and administrative capacities with a view to appropriate implementing of European standards. The EC representatives commended the progress that Montenegro made in the negotiating chapters that were discussed at the meeting.



CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

30. V 2018.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED INTEGRATION OF THE REGION INTO THE EU

Creation of an efficient and professional public administration in all countries in the region is one of the priorities of the European integration process and young professionals from the Western Balkan countries are those who will contribute to achievement of this goal through exchange of experiences and regional networking. This was concluded at the closing conference of the Programme for Mobility of Young Professionals in the Western Balkans, which is part of a two-year regional project “EU Scheme for Young Professionals”, funded by the European Union and implemented by the British Council. During this cycle, five persons participating in the aforementioned programme, supported by the highest-level European and regional institutions, stayed in Montenegro and underwent theoretical and practical training, with adequate mentoring provided. Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović recalled that public administration reform was one of the priorities of the European integration process, not only as regards Montenegro, but also when it comes to the entire Western Balkan region. She also added that it represented a significant precondition for creation of modern state administrations that will efficiently respond to challenges and requirements arising from the negotiating process.



26. IV 2018.

INTERACTION BETWEEN MINISTERS AND STUDENTS MARKS THE OPENING OF EUROPE MONTH

Ministers of economy, education and sports, Dragica Sekulić, Damir Šehović and Nikola Janović, met with around 40 students coming from all universities in Montenegro and held a discussion with them about issues of relevance for education and professional development of university students. The forum marked the beginning of the Europe month, during which, in accordance with the Strategy for Informing the Public about Accession of Montenegro to the European Union for the period 2014-2018, young people were brought into focus, because

young persons are particularly important target group in the European integration process. During an informal conversation with students, the ministers presented the work of their respective ministries and answered many questions put by students. The students wanted to know about the economic situation in Montenegro and wondered what kind of support could be provided to them in case they wanted to start their own business. When it comes to the field of education, the students wanted to know more about reform of the education system, as well as about opportunities that the exchange programmes could provide to them. The Minister of Sports responded to questions about scholarships for talented students, setting up of sports associations at faculties, but also to those regarding the manner in which the competent authorities will provide support to the players of the basketball club “Budućnost” and to other successful Montenegrin athletes.



IPA

21. VI 2018.

STRONGER COOPERATION FOR MORE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF IPA AND BETTER REFORM EFFECTS

All bodies involved in contracting and implementation of projects funded by the European Union should strengthen cooperation and their own capacities with a view to making the projects sustainable and successful. This was concluded at the meeting of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee that was co-chaired by Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović and Head of Cooperation Section in the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro Hermann Spitz. Furthermore, the participants jointly agreed that it was necessary to strengthen donor coordination within the sector and to pay more attention to the sustainability of projects. They also added that, as regards their activities, priority would be given to implementation of IPA projects in order to meet the deadlines set for contracting and thus contribute to successful implementation of the EU pre-accession assistance.



18. VI 2018.**ADDITIONAL EUR 1.5 MILLION GRANTED TO MONTENEGRO FOR PREPARATION OF PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BYPASS AROUND BUDVA**

As part of the 19th call for project proposals under the Western Balkans Investment Framework, the European Union allocated additional EUR 1.5 million to Montenegro for preparation of project documentation for the construction of the bypass around Budva, as a priority part of the coastal variant of the Adriatic-Ionian motorway. This was confirmed at the meeting of the Steering Committee of this instrument that was held in Paris. Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator Ivana Glišević Đurović was present at the meeting on behalf of Montenegro. The allocated funds will be used for preparation of a preliminary project and social and environmental impact assessment for 17 km of the priority bypass and two associated loops, relying on the EUR 2.5 million granted by the EU at the end of 2017 for preparation of same documentation with the main project for the first 13 km of the bypass with a total length of 30 km. The approved project is another project in the set of projects funded by the EU in Montenegro as part of the Berlin Process.

18. VI 2018.**WORKS ON REHABILITATION OF UNSANITARY DUMPSITE VRTIJELJKA COMPLETED**

Works on rehabilitation of the unsanitary dumpsite Vrtijeljka, under a project worth over EUR 1,800,000, have been successfully completed. The project was officially launched on 28 December 2016 and is a confirmation of good cooperation between the contractor (Drava from Slovenia), the

supervisory authority (consortium led by Garnets Consulting) and the Public Works Directorate, bearing in mind that many problems occurred at the very beginning due to the huge amount of tyres (estimated between 700 - 900 tonnes) and continuation of waste disposal despite the agreement reached on the suspension of disposal. Ivana Vujošević from the European Integration Office said that activities had been intensively carried out in recent years with a view to implementing reforms, which is part of preparations for integration into the EU, and added that the effects of this process could be best seen through such infrastructure projects.

18. V 2018.**MORE THAN EUR 2.7 MILLION FOR PROJECTS UNDER THE FIRST CALL OF IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO – ALBANIA 2014-2020**

The start of the implementation of eight projects selected under the First Call for IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme was marked in Shkodra. Ivana Glisević Djurović, on behalf of the Operating Structure of Montenegro, pointed out that eight projects worth over EUR 2.7 million would have concrete and visible results in both countries, establish a lasting and stable partnership, and improve the standard and quality of people's lives in the programme area. She emphasised that 30 partner institutions took part in the projects, such as municipalities, public institutions, NGOs, and that it would be implemented in 15 municipalities in Montenegro and Albania.

**13-18. IV 2018.****POSSIBILITIES OF THE 2ND CALL UNDER ADRIAN PROGRAMME PRESENTED**

Info days were held in Podgorica, Bar, and Berane on the occasion of the announcement of the Second Call for Priority Area 2 (Sustainable Region) of the Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Programme (ADRIAN). During the Info day, potential beneficiaries were presented the thematic objectives and rules for submitting project proposals within the Second Call for Proposals ADRIAN, one of the nine programmes of European territorial cooperation in which Montenegro takes part in the financial perspective 2014-2020. Of 35 projects approved for

funding under the First Call, Montenegro takes part in 18, and, of EUR 6 million available for four beneficiary countries of the IPA, Montenegrin institutions and organisations managed to withdraw almost a third, i.e., EUR 1.8 million.



COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

12. VI 2018.

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR AT THE FIRST MEETING WITH NGOS: I WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION EACH PROPOSAL OF THE CIVIL SECTOR IN THE PROCESS OF EU INTEGRATION

With its knowledge and experience, the civil society has made a strong contribution to the process of European integration of Montenegro and we expect their active participation in the following period, said Aleksandar Drljevic, the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union, at the first meeting with representatives of NGOs. The aim of the first meeting of the Chief Negotiator with NGO representatives was to discuss the current track record in the negotiation process, the role and involvement of NGOs, and the need to intensify and enhance cooperation in the future. The Chief Negotiator emphasised that he recognised the role and capacity of NGOs in the negotiation process. Representatives of non-governmental organisations expressed their readiness to continue contributing to the accession process, but also pointed to the need for greater transparency in the work of the negotiating structure, particularly with regard to the publication of documents deriving from the negotiation process. They proposed the introduction of the observer status in working groups for representatives of non-governmental organisations, as an additional mechanism for their involvement and contribution to the process. They also pointed to the need to review the action plans for Chapters 23 and 24.



OTHERS

22. VI 2018.

PRIZES FOR AUTHORS OF BEST WORKS AT THE COMPETITION „EUROPE AND ME“

Prizes for the best works were presented to the winners of the Primary and Secondary School Competition “Europe and Me”, through which they expressed their views of the European Union and its values. The authors of the best works are Ena Šajkić, a student of “Druga osnovna škola” from Budva, Evgenija Popović, a student of the Secondary Art School of Petar Lubarda from Cetinje and Vasilis Minić, a student of the Primary School “Risto Manojlović” from Kolašin. The competition “Europe and Me”, which was announced in accordance with the Strategy for informing the public on the accession of Montenegro to the EU 2014-2018, and within the project “EU4ME” funded by the European Union, and implemented by UNDP, received almost 200 works. Through pictures, literary and musical works, photographs and videos, students of Montenegrin primary and secondary schools showed how they perceive Europe and their place in it. The winners were awarded three city bicycles.



11. VI 2018.

SUPPORT OF THE EU TO THE CONTINUATION OF REFORMS AND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP



In the coming period, Montenegro will focus on completing reforms in all chapters, with the focus on the rule of law, with full EU support, the meeting of Montenegro’s Chief

Negotiator with the European Union, Aleksandar Drljevic, and the Head of the EU Delegation in Podgorica, Aivo Orav. Chief Negotiator Drljević and Ambassador Orav, together with their associates, held today the first meeting after the establishment of the Office for European Integration. They discussed the upcoming activities regarding the fulfilment of obligations from the negotiation process, as well as the financing of projects under IPA funds, whose implementation is of great importance in achieving the European standards. An even more intensive and regular communication between the EU Delegation and the Office for European Integration was agreed upon, and the Chief Negotiator pointed out that he would work to improve cooperation with all other stakeholders, particularly representatives of the NGO sector and the media, so that everyone, from their position, can give the greatest contribution to the integration of Montenegro into the EU.

1. VI 2018.

PRIME MINISTER DUŠKO MARKOVIĆ VISITED THE OFFICE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Prime Minister Duško Marković visited the Office for European Integration and in conversation with the Chief Negotiator of Montenegro with the European Union, Aleksandar Drljević and his deputies, Ivan Glišević-Đurović and Miodrag Radović, said that he expected a regular and efficient monitoring of the fulfilment of our obligations in order to further improve the process of European integration, primarily through more responsible relations between different segments of the government. “Our key policy is to raise the quality of the EU integration process. Reforms should be completed. A serious job is ahead of you.” Prime Minister said. Pointing out the need for efficient coordination of the Office of the Chief Negotiator and all segments of the public administration, the Prime Minister said that the fulfilment of our commitments from the European agenda must be an undisputable priority of all segments of the government in order to successfully implement the process of Montenegro’s integration into the European Union within the foreseen deadline. It was concluded that Montenegro successfully responded to the challenges, but it is estimated that it was necessary to make strong steps both in terms of the timeframe and the quality of the process itself, for which the new negotiating structure represented a good basis.



27. IV 2018. – 9. V 2018.

ME4EU CAMPAIGN MARKS EUROPE DAY

As part of the celebration of the Europe Day and month, the ME4EU project team carried out an intensive campaign. Within the campaign, employees of the Office for European Integration talked with citizens about the advantages of Montenegro’s membership in the EU over several days and at several locations, and interested persons were also given the opportunity to take photos next to the model of “ME4EU” logo and win prizes if their photo has the most “likes”. The campaign was supported by numerous public figures, including prominent media representatives, athletes, artists and others..

