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## Introductory speech

Dear readers,

The eleventh 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 first quarter of 2020.

Good results in negotiations with the EU are reflected in 32 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 coordination of work of the negotiating structure and 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 so that Montenegro could take equal place among European partners.

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

We are convinced that this newsletter is also 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

SECTOR FOR INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE EU AND THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS  
– GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

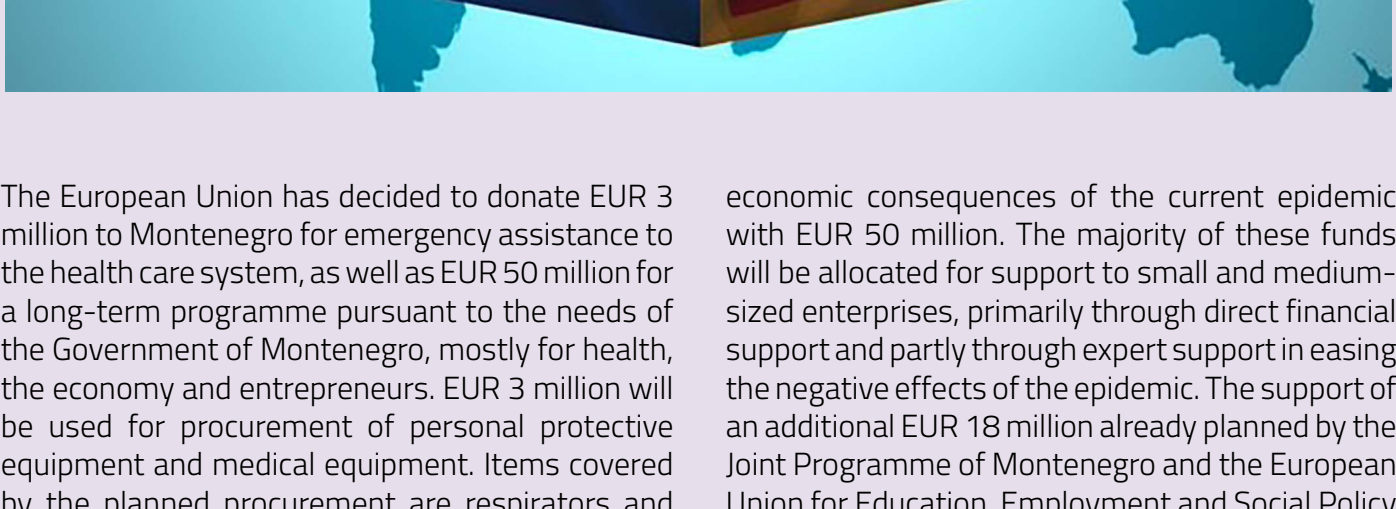
SCORE BOARD		
25. Science and research	12. Food safety, veterinary and phyto-sanitary policy	27. Environment and climate change
26. Education and culture	13. Fisheries	28. Consumer and health protection
30. External relations	14. Transport policy	29. Customs unions
1. Free movement of goods	15. Energy	31. Foreign, security and defence policy
2. Free movement of workers	16. Taxation	32. Financial control
3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services	17. Economic and monetary policy	33. Financial and budgetary provisions
4. Free movement of capital	18. Statistics	8. Competition policy
5. Public procurement	19. Social policy and employment	
6. Company law	20. Enterprise and industrial policy	
7. Intellectual property law	21. Trans-European network	
9. Financial services	22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments	
10. Information society and media	23. Judiciary and fundamental rights	
11. Agriculture and rural development	24. Justice, freedom and security	

Legend:  
● Provisionally closed chapter  
● Opened chapter  
● Drafting of the Negotiating Position

## EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD

### 25. III 2020.

## EU DONATES EUR 3 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO MONTENEGRO'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

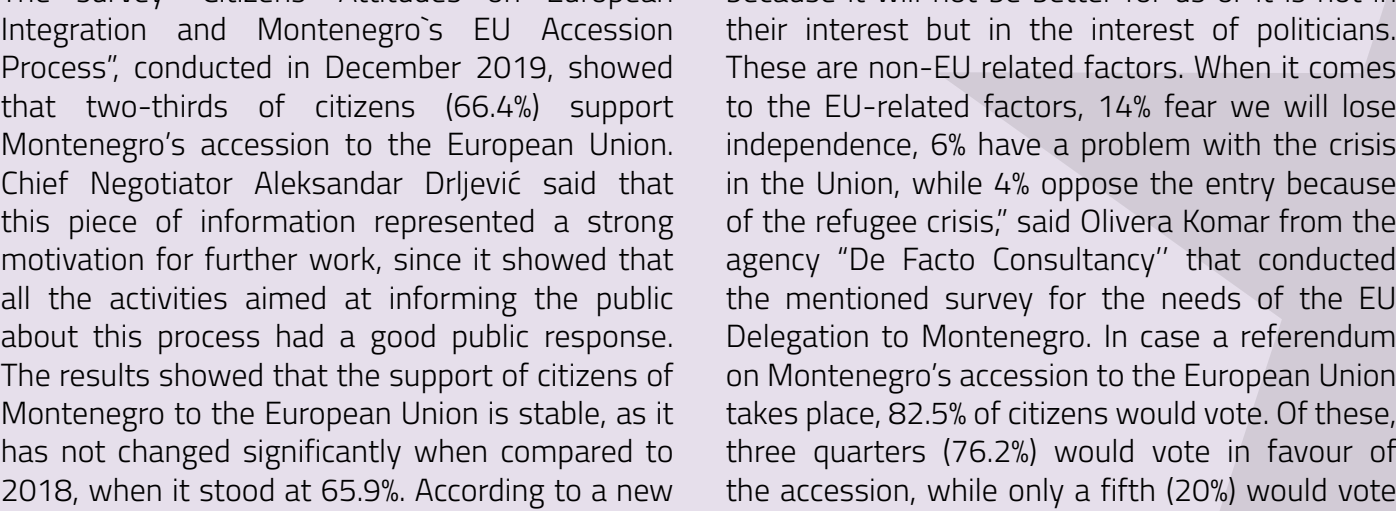


The European Union has decided to donate EUR 3 million to Montenegro for emergency assistance to the health care system, as well as EUR 50 million for a long-term programme pursuant to the needs of the Government of Montenegro, mostly for health, the economy and entrepreneurs. EUR 3 million will be used for procurement of personal protective equipment and medical equipment. Items covered by the planned procurement are respirators and larger quantities of protective masks, gloves, protective suits and other equipment in accordance with assessment prepared by the Ministry of Health in partnership with representatives of the World Health Organization. In addition to this short-term support for the procurement of medical equipment, the European Union will support the Montenegrin economy in remedying quite certain

economic consequences of the current epidemic with EUR 50 million. The majority of these funds will be allocated for support to small and medium-sized enterprises, primarily through direct financial support and partly through expert support in easing the negative effects of the epidemic. The support of an additional EUR 18 million already planned by the Joint Programme of Montenegro and the European Union for Education, Employment and Social Policy will be accelerated. "In this situation, it is clear that social cohesion, as one of the fundamental values of the European Union, is necessary, in order to normalize the lives of citizens as soon as possible after the epidemic, and this acceleration of support has just been designed in that direction", Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said and thanked the European Union for helping our country.

### 5. II 2020.

## TWO-THIRDS OF CITIZENS SUPPORT MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION



The survey "Citizens' Attitudes on European Integration and Montenegro's EU Accession Process", conducted in December 2019, showed that two-thirds of citizens (66.4%) support Montenegro's accession to the European Union. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said that this piece of information represented a strong motivation for further work, since it showed that all the activities aimed at informing the public about this process had a good public response. The results showed that the support of citizens of Montenegro to the European Union is stable, as it has not changed significantly when compared to 2018, when it stood at 65.9%. According to a new survey, 26.7% of respondents do not support the accession, while 7% do not have an opinion. "The reasons why people support joining the EU are better quality of life, stability, a better future and employment. Those who oppose it mainly see these reasons in terms of some internal factors:

because it will not be better for us or it is not in their interest but in the interest of politicians. These are non-EU related factors. When it comes to the EU-related factors, 14% fear we will lose independence, 6% have a problem with the crisis in the Union, while 4% oppose the entry because of the refugee crisis," said Olivera Komar from the agency "De Facto Consultancy" that conducted the mentioned survey for the needs of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. In case a referendum on Montenegro's accession to the European Union takes place, 82.5% of citizens would vote. Of these, three quarters (76.2%) would vote in favour of the accession, while only a fifth (20%) would vote against it. The EU Ambassador to Montenegro, Aivo Orav, said that those numbers were big and that they indicated that citizens continuously believed that the EU membership would improve living conditions and provide stability.

## EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

### 6. III 2020.

## MRDAK AT THE SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: MONTENEGRO'S PROGRAMME OF ACCESSION TO THE EU ENVISAGES ALMOST 50 LAW ADOPTIONS

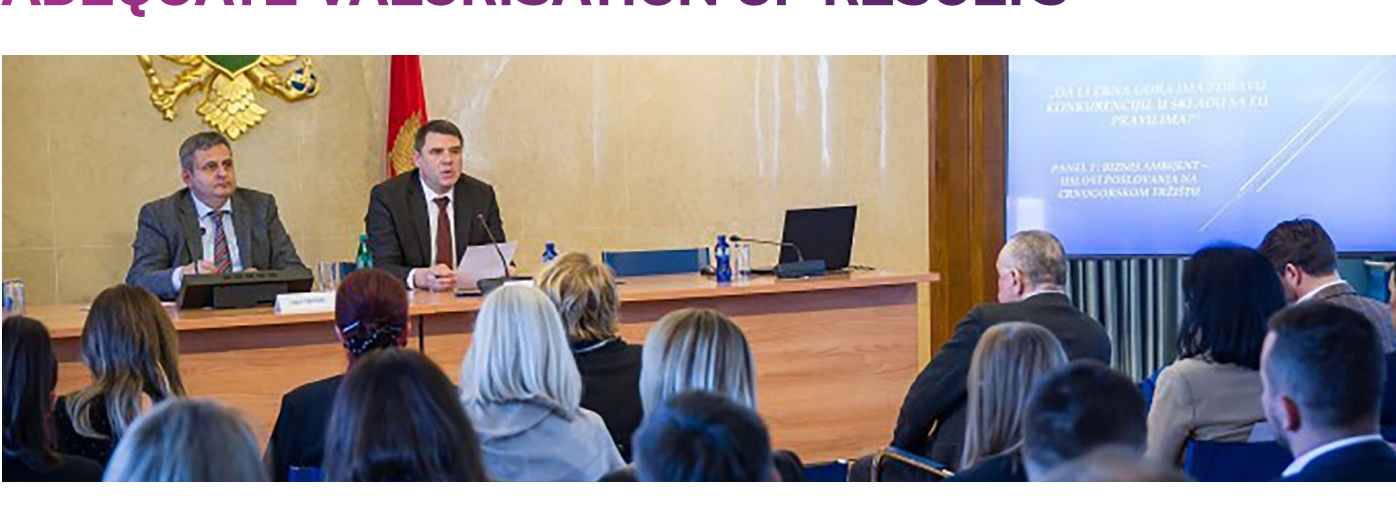


Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the EU for the period 2020-2022 envisages adoption of 491 regulations, of which 97 are laws, in order to keep up with the EU acquis, which is constantly changing and evolving. Deputy Chief Negotiator Marko Mrdak said. During the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, he presented Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the EU for the period 2020-2022, which was adopted by the Government of Montenegro in February, recalling that this strategic document included 33 negotiating chapters in tabular form, and that its innovation was needed annually. He explained that the document included national regulations

that needed to be harmonized with EU legislation and regulations that are directly related to the accession negotiations, i.e. benchmarks set out in chapters. "Montenegro's Programme of Accession for the period 2020-2022 foresees adoption of 491 regulations, 97 of which are laws, 278 by-laws and 116 strategic documents. It is planned to draft 48 laws and adopt 178 by-laws and 56 strategic documents in 2020. The administrative capacity building plan includes aggregating data on job reassignment, mobility within public administration bodies, as well as new employees. On this basis, a total of 442 employees are planned to be hired, 267 of whom in 2020", Mrdak said.

### 2. III 2020.

## A THIRD OF THE ACQUIS PLANNED FOR 2020 HAS ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED



During the meeting of the Commission for the Preparation of the Montenegrin Version of the Acquis, representatives of the European Integration Office stated that, out of 10,050 pages of the acquis planned for 2020, more than third were translated. During the mentioned meeting, which was chaired by Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević, representatives of the European Integration Office presented the plan for translation of the EU acquis

for 2020, as well as the activities carried out so far when it comes to translation and expert revision. The European Integration Office, in cooperation with expert revision coordinators from the ministries, prepared the first acquis translation plan for 2020, which nominated 237 European acts from the competence of 15 ministries, or a total of 10,050 pages of the acquis.

## CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

### 13. III 2020.

## DRLJEVIĆ AT THE ROUNDTABLE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: OPENING OF CHAPTER 8 IS AN ADEQUATE VALORISATION OF RESULTS



"Opening of negotiations in Chapter 8 – Competition will represent an adequate valorisation of the achieved results, bearing in mind that Montenegro has improved the legislative and institutional framework in the field of competition and state aid and received official confirmation of the fulfilment of opening benchmarks in that chapter", Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said. Speaking at the roundtable "Chapter 8: Does Montenegro have healthy competition, in line with EU rules?", organized by the Parliamentary Committee on European

Integration, he noted that Montenegro was aware of the upcoming obligations after opening of negotiations in this chapter. "We are determined to implement all the planned reforms in this area, and in particular to strengthen the capacity of the Agency for Protection of Competition. Therefore, in the forthcoming period, special attention will be paid to the implementation of new legal solutions aimed at maintaining equal conditions for all market participants, followed by principles of fair competition", Drljević noted.

### 28. II 2020.

## NEW ENLARGEMENT METHODOLOGY AS MOTIVATION FOR INTENSIFYING REFORMS



The new enlargement methodology is based on lessons learned from previous enlargements and it may provide an additional motivation for countries aspiring to EU membership to intensify reforms in key areas for progress, it was said at a panel discussion "New methodology in the EU accession process: advantages and disadvantages", which was organized by the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro, within EU4ME project that is funded by the EU. Chief negotiator Aleksandar Drljević said that the Government was still considering the proposed methodology, stating that it would decide on it following consultations with the negotiating structure and partners from the European Commission. "This document encourages all of us in this process that enlargement policy, as one of the most successful EU policies, is back on the list of priorities of the European Commission and the European Parliament. That is why I think

it can be an additional motivation for all of us, but also a warning to intensify activities in certain areas", he said. Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, Slaven Radunović, indicated that Montenegro would reach the goal faster if everyone were involved in the process. President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union Gordana Đurović pointed out that the new methodology was based on lessons learned from previous enlargements, including the experiences of Montenegro and Serbia so far, and that it should be seen as a way to improve the negotiations. According to Director of the Centre for Civic Education, Daliborka Ulijević, it is Montenegro's interest to be the first to say that it wants to apply the new methodology, but in the necessary modified form, appreciating the integration phase it is in, especially in relation to other countries in the region

## COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

### 19. II 2020.

## PRIME MINISTER MARKOVIĆ BEGINS TALKS WITHIN THE "ALLIANCE FOR EUROPE" INITIATIVE

Prime Minister of Montenegro Duško Marković begun with talks to relevant state and political actors within the "Alliance for Europe" Initiative. He had separate meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, the media and academic community, and also began discussions with representatives of political parties. Marković called for a dialogue on all issues that would help overcoming disputes and finding a common view in the interests of citizens and our European perspective. "Montenegro's EU membership and its importance for the future of our country and future generations goes beyond all daily political interests. It is up to us to make an extra effort to raise and reach political consensus on this essential issue", Prime Minister Marković stated in his letter.

## FIRST SIX PROJECTS WITHIN THE SECOND CALL OF THE INTERREG IPA PROGRAMME CROATIA-BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA-MONTENEGRO CONTRACTED

Within the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020, the first six, out of a total of 30 projects approved for funding through the Second Call for Proposals, were contracted. The contracting process for the remaining projects is on schedule and will be completed by October 2020. The agreed projects will contribute to strengthening of competitiveness and business environment development, promotion of tourism, cultural and natural heritage preservation, promotion of renewable energy sources, as well as improvement of services in the field of public health.



### 21. II 2020.

## MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK IN BRUSSELS, 18-21 FEBRUARY 2020

Participating countries of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) will work in future to define the macro-regional priorities of relevance for that region, so that they can be found in the most important programming documents for project financing by EU funds for the period 2021-2027, participants of the meeting in Brussels stated. The regular meeting of the EUSAIR Steering Board marked the beginning of the macro-regional strategy week in Brussels. The first meeting of the three chairing of all EU macro-regional strategies was held as a part of the Croatian Presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), as well as a meeting of senior officials

for EU macro-regional strategies. Montenegro participates regularly in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region and has successfully chaired EUSAIR from June 2018 to June 2019. Participation in the implementation of macro-regional strategies is of great importance, given that the implementation of macro-regional strategies further fosters the process of European integration, contributes to the harmonization of national policies with EU policies in the areas of blue growth, connectivity, environment and sustainable tourism, enhances regional cooperation and promotes socio-economic growth in the region.