

On 18 December 2013, 18 months after the official launch of accession negotiations with the EU at the inter-governmental conference in Brussels, Montenegro opened five negotiation chapters:



Diplomarius



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration
of Montenegro

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INTERVIEW

Rastislav Vrbensky, UN
Resident Coordinator in
Montenegro

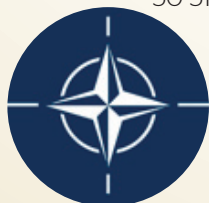
**Montenegro visible
in the UN Human
Rights Council and
active in many
global processes**

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Media and NATO

It's time
to talk

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Dr Igor Lukšić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

A LOOK AHEAD



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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić

“ Last year was more than successful for Montenegro as regards foreign policy. This success bears importance for all our citizens, but also has positive repercussions for the countries of the region. To some, we are a good example, a companion, and a brace on their integration paths; to others – those who already joined the EU – a good neighbour and constructive partner.

”

A LOOK AHEAD

Dear readers,

In this magazine, which offers a review of the Government of Montenegro and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration most important foreign policy activities, and, at times, a personal view of our foreign policy developments, I will not look back at our achievements much, but will rather leave that to our veteran and young diplomats, whose voice, due to the nature of our profession, is not too often heard in public.

Last year was more than successful for Montenegro as regards foreign policy. This success bears importance for all our citizens, but also has positive repercussions for the countries of the region. To some, we are a good example, a companion, and a brace on their integration paths; to others – those who already joined the EU – a good neighbour and constructive partner. In the year behind and these last couple of months we witnessed a number of important events.

Croatia has become an EU member, Montenegro is making success in accession negotiations, Belgrade and Pristina are progressing in the process of normalising relations, Albania has been recommended for candidate status,

which I believe will soon receive a confirmation.

All these important events, it seems to me, have reinvigorated the region's enthusiasm, and I think our societies are now truly ready, not just due to Brussels' demands or our own aims to make reforms and bridge differences, to take a step forward in bringing us closer to the values and standards of the XXI century.

This is often not easy, as the challenges are many, our policies are too focused on restoring growth, and from time to time the atavisms of the past are awoken. Nonetheless, it seems to me that by dealing with crucial issues of identity, such as restoring independence, and by creating preconditions for further growth, an opportunity has been given to a new generation of politicians and diplomats to step up from the level of traditional diplomacy and dialogue to the level of cooperation, whose ultimate aim should be to offer practical solutions to the issues of importance for our citizens and our economy.

However, the gloomy images from the region at the beginning of this year remind us of the developments of the previous decades. They remind us that we live in a turbulent area, that nothing is set in stone,

and that efforts to preserve the achievements are just as important as the achievements. These images also warn us that we should never again stand alone, but should look towards the institutions that cherish the same fundamental values and principles – development of a democratic society, functional market economy, and respect and promotion of human rights. This, on the other hand, means that we must raise the level of our own awareness and accountability for the challenges that lay ahead.

Most certainly a decade will go by before the next round of enlargement, and in this time we should do everything we can to contribute to true democratisation, economic development, and improved rule of law in our countries. Diplomacy, alongside domestic reforms, will play an important role in these core changes to our societies.

Montenegro, a country recognised as the leader in European integration, as worn out as that sometimes may sound, has in the previous period been, albeit not always properly understood by others, truly committed to the project-oriented regional cooperation, necessary to support our economic growth after the financial crisis. Even though with a sometimes

clouded view, concerned solely with our individual national policies, I believe we are beginning to realise our shared interest, reflected primarily in the need to intensify communication in the areas of infrastructure, removing business barriers, and fighting organised crime.

This clearly expressed foreign policy priority of ours was and will be directed towards regional cooperation, which is, among other things, a precondition for the successful realisation of integration ambitions.

In that regard, an important role regionally and beyond will be played by the Directorate General for Economic Diplomacy. By adopting the economic diplomacy development plan we have created the necessary framework for using our profession to improve economic cooperation and for utilising it to achieve the Government's priorities of boosting economic growth and employment. At the same time, we are intensely working at enhancing cooperation with our diaspora and are making preconditions for strengthening the ties with our emigrants world-wide, which we will also use to improve future business cooperation.

I strongly believe that this region, in spite of the many challenges, is going forward, and Montenegro is the leader of progres-

sive strategic policies. This road for Montenegro is firmly set. We have clearly defined our strategic goals – EU and NATO membership – and have aligned them with the policies which will ensure our further economic growth.

I am certain that during the next half year, in the wake of the forthcoming summit, whether it be enlargement summit or not, we will be able to show concrete results in meeting our commitments. Montenegro will be ready to accept the invitation, in case of an enlargement summit, and our citizens will recognise, through the intensive public dialogue we launched, the importance and privilege of being part of the system that will ensure a safe future.

The opening of seven EU accession negotiations (of which two have been provisionally closed), and especially Chapters 23 and 24 which are the foundation of the new negotiation process starting with Montenegro, will surely also have implications for other countries in the region, and is giving wind to our sails. Montenegro is, regardless of criticism for certain delays, navigating deep waters of the accession process and we are very committed to this task.

Looking ahead, we are floating steadily towards the EU and NATO.

Review of foreign policy activities of the Government of Montenegro



Unit for PR and Communication Assistance in Integration Processes

Significant cooperation projects with UAE to be implemented

Podgorica, 11 December - Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosted Wednesday afternoon Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Prince Mohammed noted the UAE perceives Montenegro as a friendly country with good prospects for the future, which can count on the United Arab Emirates' full support. Prime Minister Đukanović said that "Prince Muhammad's visit honours Montenegro and testifies attention the United Arab Emirates and the royal family Al Nahyan pays to Montenegro."

There are several projects being implemented in Montenegro in cooperation with the Investment and Development Fund of Abu Dhabi, Prime Minister Đukanović pointed out, announcing the signing of an agreement on developing a tourist resort on the Montenegrin coast. It is only the beginning of the cooperation between the two countries, he stressed.

"There are significant cooperation projects in the fields of tourism, transport and food production we are planning to implement," he concluded.

The two officials also exchanged views on regional and global developments, and Montenegro's progress in integration processes.

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović in official visit to Serbia: Both sides pledge responsibility to keep the relations historically founded, friendly, and full of understanding and recognising shared interest

Belgrade, 10 December - During his official visit to Serbia, Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović met with Serbian Prime Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister, Ivica Dačić and Aleksandar Vučić, as well as with Speaker of the National Assembly Nebojsa Stefanović.

Prime Minister Đukanović thanked his hosts for the invitation to visit Serbia, describing it as a confirmation that relations between the two states are on the right track.

"We are highly committed to reaffirming traditionally close relations based on friendship, understanding and common interests," PM Đukanović underlined at a meeting with Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić. He added that Montenegro and Serbia, as two friendly countries, "are now connected by common interests and goals such as the EU membership."

The two prime ministers signed the Agreement

between Montenegro and Serbia on cooperation in the field of European integration. Montenegro's Prime Minister reiterated that "there is almost no area in which cooperation has not been already established." In future, special emphasis will be given to cooperation in the fields of economy, energy and infrastructure, particularly referring to the highway construction and reconstruction of the Bar-Belgrade and the Belgrade-Budapest railways, he stressed.

The most important topics of the meeting between Prime Minister Đukanović and First Deputy Minister Aleksandar Vučić were the cooperation in the rule of law, police, and judiciary cooperation. The officials voiced their full readiness to cooperate towards meeting all shared goals.

Prime Minister Đukanović later laid a wreath at the memorial of the murdered Prime Minister of Serbia Zoran Đinđić.



Romania fully supports Montenegro's EU and NATO bids

Bucharest, 27 November - During his official visit to Romania, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović talked with Prime Minister Victor Ponta.

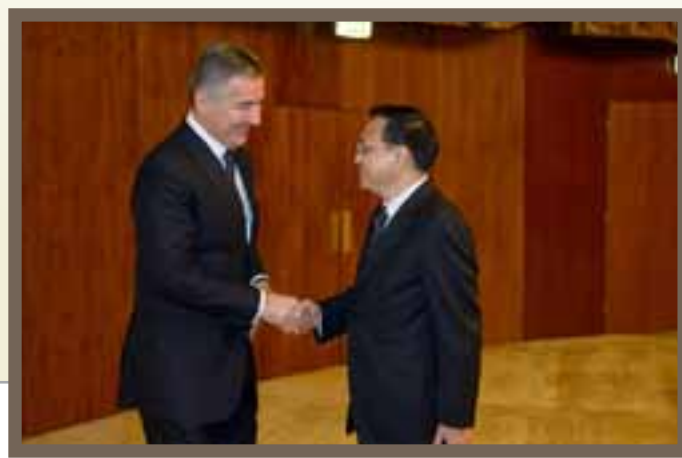
The two Prime Ministers welcomed the friendly relations between Montenegro and Romania, which are further reinforced by today's signing of the agreement on economic cooperation.

They noted that the China-Central and Eastern Europe government leaders meeting in Bucharest will greatly contribute to investment and economic cooperation in this part of Europe. Romania and Montenegro will continue building friendly relations and Romania will continue strongly supporting Montenegro's accession into the EU and NATO, Mr Ponta noted. During Prime Minister Đukanović's official visit, Prime Minister Ponta and the citizens of Romania thanked Montenegro's citizens and public institutions once again for their timely engagement and human concern shown to victims and families of those who died in the tragic bus accident which took place in Montenegro on 23 June in the Morača Canyon. On this occasion, Mr Đukanović received a note of appreciation, and a similar one was given him for the Clinical Centre of Montenegro for their efforts.



Đukanović-Li: Infrastructure projects will focus of cooperation

Bucharest, 27 November- On the sidelines of the Summit of Heads of Government of China and Central and Eastern Europe in Bucharest, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović met yesterday with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang. The Bucharest Summit is an opportunity to boost bilateral economic cooperation between China and European countries, but also to upgrade traditionally good economic ties between Montenegro and China. Chinese Prime Minister Keqiang noted, emphasising Prime Minister Đukanović's contribution in that regard. China pays great attention to infrastructure projects and better transport and trade connections in the region. In this context, Prime Minister Li reiterated his country's willingness to support implementation of infrastructure projects, which would enable better connectivity of the region and enhance trade cooperation. Prime Minister Milo Đukanović welcomed the intensification of economic cooperation between the two traditionally friendly countries, pointing out that Montenegro, although the smallest in the region, is to become the most dynamic investment destination. Both sides agreed on the need for better road and rail connections between Montenegro and Central and Eastern Europe, with a view to making better use of Montenegro's potentials. The meeting paid special attention to Montenegro's port of Bar's as a potential future strategic hub for Chinese products in Europe. The two heads of government agreed on continuing their intensive dialogue in order to ensure effective implementation of ongoing and future projects, including cooperation in the areas such as culture, education and science.



Austria: Prime Minister Đukanović receives Vienna Economic Forum award for contribution to national and regional economic development

Vienna, 24 November - At 10th session of the Vienna Economic Forum, whose objective is promoting investment opportunities in South East Europe and whose motto is "Visions and Visionaries: The Economy is the Motor," Prime Minister Milo Đukanović, as a guest of honour, received an award for his contribution to national and regional economic development. Erhard Bussek, President of Vienna Economic Forum, said when announcing Prime Minister Đukanović that "hope is what we all need and I believe this is a good way to announce the Prime Minister of Montenegro - the country which is the biggest hope of a united Europe." In his address to the forum, Prime Minister Đukanović underlined the importance of Austria for the region, as well as the Forum's significance and contributi-



on to regional partnership, European integration, and promotion of shared values and shared responsibility of the globalised world, and sensitivity to present at the right time the specific aspects necessary for the implementation of this objective. In discussing the European future of the Western



Balkans, the Prime Minister recalled the global economic crisis consequences and the eurozone troubles and emphasised that the "anaemic economic growth in the eurozone has a very negative impact on the Western Balkan economies, which are closely intertwined with it through trade and investment."

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosts Albanian counterpart Edi Rama



Podgorica, 14 November - Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosted Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama.

"We are pleased to be able to say that in both our countries we now have many serious investors in tourism, energy, and infrastructure. In that regard, we plan to act jointly in making business offers to as many investors as possible. And it is very good that prior to that we joined forces in an important task of improving the transport and energy infrastructure connecting our two countries," Prime Minister Đukanović said, underlining at the same time "the great importance of realising more demanding and costly projects in the two countries." In that regard, the obligatory project is the construction of the Adriatic-Ionian high-way, Mr Đukanović has noted. "This is an extremely important project for the entire region and we are certain this project's importance will be recognised by everyone, as it will offer the alignment of all standards of the Adriatic-Ionian corridor with the EU standards. The Adriatic-Ionian high-way will be indispensable for the development of tourism and tourist infrastructure in our two countries and it will also enable other countries to connect and participate in our tourist development," Mr Rama has said.



The meeting was an opportunity for the two Prime Ministers to exchange opinions in the areas of infrastructure, tourism, trade, joint pursuit of investors, joint efforts as regards the Adriatic-Ionian high-way project, mutual help in European integration, etc.



Đukanović-Jagland: Montenegro is Council of Europe's reliable partner

Podgorica, 8 November – Prime Minister Milo Đukanović spoke to Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE) Thorbjørn Jagland.

The two officials noted that Montenegro has made a positive impact in many areas related to the improvement of democracy and respect for human rights.

The Prime Minister noted that, since restoring independence, Montenegro has reaffirmed its stability and made serious progress in the integration processes and the overall reforms in society. He informed the Secretary General of the Montenegrin Government's priority objectives, which are aimed at improving the living standard, boosting the rule of law and development of democracy, and providing best services to citizens in education, health, and culture.

Secretary General Jagland commended the cooperation between CoE and Montenegro as very good. He thanked the Prime Minister for Montenegro's support to Council of Europe reform efforts, and noted that further monitoring of the countries in the accession process should be devoid of politics and should be framed uniformly for each of the countries.

Secretary General Jagland especially commended Montenegro's achievements in the area of minority rights, noting at the same time that Montenegro and CoE should transfer that experience to other countries.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe also met with Deputy Prime Ministers Igor Lukšić and Duško Marković

Premier Milo Đukanović hosts DAS Hoyt Brian Yi: Very good Montenegro-USA relations

Podgorica, 28 October – Prime Minister Milo Đukanović and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić spoke to US Deputy Assistant State Secretary for Europe and Eurasia Hoyt Brian Yi.

Montenegro is glad that bilateral relations between the two countries are very good and we are very grateful for the US continued support to reform processes and our country's Euro-Atlantic ambitions, Prime Minister Đukanović underscored.

In discussing the political developments in Montenegro and the future development plans, the Prime Minister said that our country has, since the restoration of independence, continued to work very diligently on implementing economic and political reforms, which enabled it to be in the mainstream of European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes and to become the most dynamic investment destination in the Western Balkans.

He informed his guest of the activities the Government is implementing in the process of joining NATO, noting in particular the four key areas.

DAS Hoyt Yi said he was pleased to be back in Montenegro and he congratulated the Prime Minister and his team for their achievements in the integration process, as well as on the overall progress Montenegro has made since restoring independence. He agreed with the Prime Minister's assessment regarding the high level of the two countries' relationship, underlined the US full support to Montenegro's NATO ambitions, and noted that most efforts should be made in the areas recognised as crucial for preparing our country for future membership.



New York: Prime Minister Milo Đukanović at the 68th UN General Assembly

New York, 22-27 September – Prime Minister Milo Đukanović spent several days in New York, where he participated at the 68th United Nations General Assembly.

On day one, the Prime Minister met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The meeting gave incentive to further development of multilateralism and UN cooperation programmes in which Montenegro participates. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon underlined Montenegro's role in the region and wanted to hear more about Montenegro's perspective on regional developments. The meeting concluded that, since restoring independence, Montenegro has played a positive role in promoting fundamental values of the United Nations and European and Euro-Atlantic community and in setting a good example in establishing good-neighbourly relations and advancing quality of regional cooperation.

Prime Minister Đukanović also met with UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. The meeting concluded that Government of Montenegro and the UNDP have developed a strong partnership which has been continually upgraded by the implementation of a significant number of projects aimed at further development of the Montenegrin society. UNDP Administrator Helen Clark expressed belief that Montenegro will become the next member of the European Union, pledging the UNDP and the United Nations' strong support in that regard.

In addition to Secretary General and UNDP Ad-

ministrator, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović also met with newly appointed President of the General Assembly John W. Ashe.

The UN General Assembly's President emphasised Montenegro's positive role in the international arena and its continuous contribution to the UN peacekeeping missions, but also in the field of sustainable development. He also said he is impressed with the results Montenegro's Government has achieved.

The two sides exchanged opinions on the promotion of human rights in Montenegro, where notable progress was recognised. Both sides reiterated their readiness to continue their intensive cooperation in contributing to the realisation of UN goals.

Prime Minister Đukanović also met with UNICEF executive director and held a number of bilateral meetings in which he exchanged opinions on current global economic and political developments, integration processes, and regional affairs.

His meeting with Kosovo's Hashim Thaci emphasised the importance of a more intensive regional cooperation towards further economic development and European and Euro-Atlantic ambitions.

Mr Đukanović and his Albanian counterpart Edi Rama welcomed the excellent cooperation between the two countries and noted cooperation should be expanded in a great number of areas of shared interest.

Prime Minister Đukanović also met with Prime

Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat. Their meeting underlined that the two small Mediterranean countries share an interest in improving cooperation in economic diplomacy, as well as financial and cooperation in other areas.

Prime Minister Đukanović talked to Czech Prime Minister Jiri Rusnok, and they concluded that economic bilateral cooperation is very good, noting in particular the involvement of a Czech company in the project of modernising the Montenegrin railway, as well as the growing interest of Czech investors for energy projects in Montenegro, to which a special attention will be devoted in the future.

Prime Minister Đukanović also took part at the General Assembly high level meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development goals for persons with disabilities. He spoke at the round table on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the inclusive development for persons with disabilities. He also spoke at a UNDP event aimed at promoting global reporting on national consultations related to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr Đukanović also attended the 24 September Treaty Event and he was invited to the official lunch hosted by the Secretary General, as well as to the receptions hosted by the President of Japan and the US President.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić visited New York together with Prime Minister Đukanović.



Đukanović - Shinavatra:
Montenegro is the best business start-up destination

Podgorica, 14 September - Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosted the Prime Minister and Defence Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Jingluk Shinavatra. Prime Minister Đukanović noted that Montenegro and Thailand, who share an excellent political relationship, should improve their economic cooperation in agriculture, tourism, energy, and transport. Prime Minister Shinavatra agreed that cooperation should be expanded and noted that Thai entrepreneurs will be happy to hear of all the cooperation opportunities. She noted that Thailand considers Montenegro a trust-worthy economy and politically stable country serving as a nexus, or a gateway, to the rest of the Balkans. Representatives of the two governments signed in Villa Gorica an agreement on visa exemption for carriers of diplomatic passports.



Đukanović - Efendiyev:
Friendly political relations and excellent economic cooperation

Podgorica, 11 September - Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosted Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Elchin Efendiyev. This visit by Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister is a confirmation of the two countries' excellent relations, marked lately by a fruitful economic cooperation, Prime Milo Đukanović said. Welcoming the development of economic relations and good implementation of planned activities, he noted Kumbor, Azerbaijan's largest investment endeavour in Montenegro, as a good example of excellent bilateral support which gives an important boost to further economic development. Deputy Prime Minister Efendiyev extended the best wishes of Azerbaijan's President and Prime Minister for the activities the Government of Montenegro is undertaking with the view to improving the overall business environment and creating preconditions for future growth. This experience, he noted, is a good foundation for the continuation of the two countries investment cooperation. The two officials agreed that their countries share an interest in expanding cooperation to many other areas, noting in that regard the Azeri donations for projects in Podgorica and Bijelo Polje.



President Josipović:
Croatia strongly supports Montenegro's EU and NATO bids

Podgorica, 3 September - Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosted Croatian President Ivo Josipović in Podgorica. He emphasised that the Croatian President's visit to Montenegro confirms excellent bilateral relations between the two neighbouring and friendly countries, which is significant for the overall progress of the region, and a stimulus for further stabilisation and further European course of the Western Balkan countries. He stressed the importance of Croatia's membership in the European Union and NATO, and the experience the country has been providing to Montenegro in achieving its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. "Montenegro is on the right track to become the next member of the European Union, and I am confident that your Government will continue to work hard to achieve the set target," Croatian President Ivo Josipović underlined. Both sides agreed that, in the context of maintaining very good political and overall relations, it is necessary, among other things, to resolve certain issues, including the border issue, and expressed their willingness to strengthen and intensify economic cooperation, especially in the area of infrastructure and investment.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić spoke to Minister for European Affairs at the French foreign ministry Thierry Repentin

Podgorica, 3 September - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić hosted the Minister for European Affairs at the French foreign ministry, Thierry Repentin. Mr Repentin said that France finds it natural and normal that the Western Balkan states wish to join the EU. "Montenegro has, after Slovenia and Croatia, made the best progress, and our doors are open to you," he underlined.

In Mr Repentin's words, France supports Montenegro's European integration. "For this reason, France intends to appoint an expert that would monitor the region's countries in this endeavour, and I wish to underline that the activities Montenegro is pursuing are more important than any dates," Repentin noted, adding that it is important to ensure Montenegro is ready, by the time of accession, to enter the common market and assume legal commitments like other member-states. He also underlined that economic cooperation should be improved.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić and Minister Repentin discussed, in addition to European integration, the bilateral relations and regional cooperation in the Balkans.

Mr Lukšić informed his French counterpart of the constitutional amendments and other parliamentary activities, as well as the Government endeavours in preparing the draft laws for the parliamentary procedure with the view to speeding up the implementation of reform measures.

He said that the countries of the region should cooperate more closely, adding that it is first necessary to remove all business barriers and improve cooperation in the fight against corruption and organised crime.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić meets with Foreign Minister of Finland Tuomioja

Podgorica, 16 September - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić meets with Foreign Minister of Finland Tuomioja.

On that occasion, Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić said that the visit of Minister Tuomioja, which came after their meeting in Helsinki, confirms Finland's commitment to this region and its support to Montenegro on its road to European integration.

"This was an opportunity for the two of us to exchange information, i.e. for me to communicate to my counterpart our view of the current state of affairs of our Euro-

pean integration. I believe we are able to note relevant progress, but also serious work awaiting us in the coming period, for which I am sure we will have Finland's help in a specific way through experts, twinning projects, and similar knowledge-transfer channels important for our current needs," said Mr Lukšić.

The two ministers also took this opportunity to exchange opinions on other topics of interest, such as education, economic cooperation, energy, wood processing, and other green areas.

The two officials also discussed bilateral and multilateral relations.



New York: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić at 68th UN General Assembly

New York, 22-27 September - During his stay in New York, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić held bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of Turkey, Spain, and Albania.

Minister Davutoglu underlined the importance Turkey assigns to its cooperation with Montenegro in the projects of importance for regional security and stability.

The two sides agreed that overall cooperation can further be strengthened, especially in the areas of economy and culture.

At their meeting, Minister Lukšić and his Spanish counterpart Mr García-Margallo noted numerous opportunities for deepening the two countries' partnership, especially in the area of economy, adding that a further boost will be given by the renewal of the agreement on avoiding double taxation and protecting investment.

Minister García-Margallo voiced Spain's full support to Montenegro's activities aimed at meeting EU and NATO requirements and accepted Mr Lukšić's invitation to visit Montenegro.

During their talk, Minister Lukšić and Minister Bushati of Albania discussed ways to improve Montenegro and Albania's excellent relations even further. Montenegro's head diplomat also met with his counterpart from Lesotho, Mhlabi Kenneth Tsekoea, when the two officials signed a protocol on the

establishment of diplomatic relations, thus creating a basis for diplomatic contact and strengthening cooperation.

DPM Lukšić also took part at the High-level Meeting on the Realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities.

On day two of his stay in New York, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić met with foreign ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zlatko Lagumdžija, and Georgia, Maia Panjikidze.

The talks focused on bilateral matters, key foreign-policy priorities, and multilateral cooperation.





New York: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić co-chairs round table at the special high-level meeting on Millennium Development Goals

At the 68th UN General Assembly, DPM Lukšić co-chaired the High-level Meeting on the Realisation of the Millennium Development Goals together with the UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Lubna Al Qasimi.

In his address, DPM Lukšić stressed that in the past decade the Millennium Development Goals have generated global efforts aimed at accelerating progress, especially in the areas of combating poverty, reducing child mortality, and fight against malaria and tuberculosis.

In explaining Montenegro's activities in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, Mr Lukšić emphasised the national consultations which concluded that until 2015 most efforts should be invested in meeting the goals of reducing poverty, ensuring gender equality, and environment sustainability.

At the meeting margins, Deputy Prime Minister met with Cypriot foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu Edward Nipake Fanua'araki, with whom he signed the protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

New York: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić attended several multilateral events, held a number of bilateral meetings

Among other multilateral events taking place at the fringes of the General Debate, Mr Lukšić talked at the High-level meeting on nuclear disarmament.

This meeting was held at the Secretary General's initiative with a view to putting this topic into the focus of the General Debate after the 2013 Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear weapons and the establishment of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament (OEWG).

In his address, Mr Lukšić underlined the devastating consequences of using nuclear weapons, and pointed to the need to take concrete steps towards putting into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and starting negotiations on a solution acceptable to all.

Within Montenegro's chairmanship of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5), a ministerial meeting was held between representatives of the US-Adriatic and the Baltic Charter (B3), together with partnering countries.

The objective of this year's meeting, following the previous one that took place four years ago, was to revitalise the co-operation between the two Charters, bearing particularly in mind the 10th A5's and 15th B3's anniversary.

At the Western Balkans' foreign ministers meeting, which was attended by EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle and Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) Secretary General Goran Svilanović, the participants noted a need to enhance programme-oriented cooperation within the SEECP framework with a view to accelerating EU integration efforts and economic growth.

Minister Lukšić held separate bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of Romania, Titus Corlăteanu, and Estonia Urmas Paet. They discussed the potential for enhancing bilateral co-operation. In the context of integration, Romanian minister expressed his country's full support to Montenegro's European and Euro-Atlantic integration ambitions and voiced readiness to provide expert assistance.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić also took part at the Ministerial Meeting of the member-countries of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP).

The participants exchanged opinions on the regional dimension in the context of EU Enlargement. All sides agreed that cooperation within regional forums such as the SEECP helps the countries tackle in the best manner all the tasks and challenges facing them on their European paths.

Minister Lukšić had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Yemen and Salvador, with whom he signed protocols on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at Croatia Forum 2013

Dubrovnik, 3-4 October - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at Croatia Forum 2013 with a presentation on "The Role of Energy in International Relations."

In his presentation, DPM Lukšić underlined that the issue of energy transcends national borders and that 'energy diplomacy' is becoming increasingly important for ensuring energy security, economic security, and state security.

DPM Lukšić noted "joint initiative and effort as far as IAP and TAP are concerned are the best examples of a success of energy diplomacy, and meeting the goals of EU Energy 2020 Strategy." He added that joint diplomatic activity has brought about, among other things, the selection of the gas pipeline corridor, and stressed that TAP and IAP are strategic projects of great importance for regional economies.

Ljubljana: Slovenia strongly supports Montenegro's European and Euro-Atlantic ambitions

Ljubljana, 9 October - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić met today in Ljubljana with Deputy Prime Minister of Slovenia Alenka Bratušek.

Deputy Prime Minister Bratušek noted that the two countries' relations are very good and that there is potential to improve them even further in all areas. She reiterated Slovenia's readiness to remain Montenegro's and region's partner in their integration efforts, stressing that the EU is the best framework for ensuring stability and further progress without real alternative.

DPM Lukšić thanked PM Bratušek for Slovenia's fervent support to the Western Balkan states' EU membership ambitions. He emphasised that Montenegro values Slovenia's expertise and experience as an important incentive for meeting the EU agenda priorities, and underlined the important role Slovenia plays as a NATO contact-state for Montenegro.

Mr Lukšić highlighted the importance of the International Development Cooperation Programme 2013-2015 signed by representatives of Slovenia and Montenegro, and noted in particular that the Programme largely focuses on development projects in less developed northern areas of Montenegro. The Minister thanked Slovenia for its readiness to continue providing development assistance to Montenegro. The two officials also discussed economic cooperation, noting that Slovenian companies are among the largest ones in Montenegro. The two officials agreed that more economic contacts need to be established in the areas of energy and tourism.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić also met with Janko Veber, Speaker of the Parliament. The two officials agreed that parliamentary cooperation is an important channel for the communication between the two states and added that parliaments have an important role in boosting the integration-related



ssed that TAP and IAP are strategic projects of great importance for regional economies.

Croatia Forum 2013, entitled "European Economic Security," gathered region's foreign ministers and international guests. Panelists were MFAs of Turkey, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and representatives of other European countries, the US, Russia, European Commission, and NATO.

At the Forum sidelines, Minister Lukšić will sign with his Croatian counterpart Vesna Pusić a draft joint statement on the fight against homophobia and transphobia.



activities. They concurred that there is a great interest in fostering parliamentary cooperation for both Slovenia and Montenegro.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić met earlier today in Ljubljana with Slovenia's Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec.

The meeting between the two officials concluded that Montenegro and Slovenia cherish traditionally good and dynamic relations confirmed through various ways of cooperation.

Mr Erjavec underlined that Montenegro may count on Slovenia's support on its European and Euro-Atlantic paths, and that it will remain a priority when it comes to Slovenia's development assistance.

DPM Lukšić underlined that fruitful cooperation in all areas and a continued political dialogue are indicators of Montenegro's and Slovenia's excellent relations and he thanked Slovenia for its constructive approach as the NATO contact-state.

The two head diplomats signed the Slovenia-Montenegro International Development Cooperation Programme 2013-2015.



United Kingdom strongly supports Montenegro's EU and NATO bids

London, 28-30 October - During his visit to London, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić met with William Hague, the UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Lord Timothy Boswell, Chairman of the European Union Committee of the House of Lords.

Montenegro enjoys strong support from the UK government for its European and Euro-Atlantic bid, UK Secretary of State emphasised at the meeting with Minister Lukšić.

He said that the UK government has shown great commitment and enthusiasm for the EU enlargement policy concerning the Western Balkans, as it is vital for the countries of the region. He also voiced his country's willingness to help further Montenegro's journey towards EU and NATO membership.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić thanked the United Kingdom for the valuable projects aimed at supporting Montenegro's integration process. He acquainted Mr Hague with Montenegro efforts in key accession areas, pointing out that Montenegro is aware of the responsibility when it comes to the new approach, having in mind that its experience in the negotiating chapters 23 and 24 serves as a good example to other countries in the region on their path towards the EU. Lord Boswell praised the impressive progress Montenegro has made to date, noting that the country is on the right track when it comes to EU integration. He added that the UK will continue to support Montenegro's accession process, noting that regional cooperation is an important aspect of the Western Balkans' countries integration into the EU. Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić also gave a lecture at the LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) entitled "Montenegro's Foreign Policy Priorities."

Budapest: Montenegro's notable progress in the negotiation process commended

Budapest, 31 October - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at the ministerial meeting of the Visegrad Group (V4) and the Western Balkans, with guest participation of the representatives of Austria and Turkey.

The topic of this year's meeting, which invited head diplomats from the Western Balkans and the EU enlargement commissioner Štefan Füle, was EU enlargement. The meeting discussed V4 experience in integration and the political, economic, and institutional reforms in the Western Balkans as regards EU integration.

The Visegrad Group countries commended Montenegro's

notable progress in the negotiation process, reiterated their strong support to the enlargement process, and underlined their readiness to help EU hopefuls' further efforts. In that regard, they voiced their readiness to help these activities through concrete activities.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić also participated at the foreign ministers' meeting of the Central European Initiative (CEI) countries, which was entitled "CEI mission in the wake of the 25th anniversary."

The ministers commended CEI's role as an important political forum for regional cooperation and welcomed the progress of individual states in their European endeavours.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić hosts Charles Tannock, MEP and European Parliament's Permanent Rapporteur on Montenegro

Podgorica, 13 November - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić hosted Charles Tannock, MEP and European Parliament's Permanent Rapporteur on Montenegro.

Mr Tannock underlined that in the previous reporting period Montenegro has made notable progress in meeting the commitments on its European and Euro-Atlantic agenda, as well as in the area of economic recovery.

He commended Montenegro's important role in regional cooperation, which is recognised as a good example of good neighbourly cooperation. At the same time, he noted that the concept of joint regional action could prove a good mechanism in the context of EU integration, as well as a catalyst of economic growth.

DPM Lukšić informed his guest of the current developments regarding accession negotiations and commended the fact the European Commission has recognised Montenegro's progress in its latest progress report. He was hopeful that the negotiation chapters will be opened according to plan, and added that Chapters 23 and 24 will be of great importance also for Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic future.



Berlin: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić in a two-day working visit to Berlin

Berlin, 17-18 November - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić made a two-day working visit to Berlin, where he attended at the Bundestag the ceremony of the traditional National Day of Mourning commemorating war victims. Prior to the ceremony, Minister Lukšić held a brief meeting with Germany's President Joachim Gauk.

On the second day of his visit, Mr Lukšić had separate meetings with Chancellor Merkel's advisers on foreign and security policy Christoph Heusgen and European affairs Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, state secretary Emily Haber, Minister in North Rhine-Westphalia Angelica Schwall-Düren, and President of the German War Graves Commission Markus Meckel.

Special attention was put on the implementation of legislation and action plans in the run up to the opening of accession negotiation Chapters 23 and 24.

The officials exchanged opinions on the political and economic situation in Montenegro and the ways to improve regional cooperation. In that context, Western Balkans Six initiative was discussed.



Brussels: Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić participates at European policy Summit "Western Balkans: Fast Lane, Slow Lane"

Brussels, 3 December - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated today at the European policy Summit "Western Balkans: Fast Lane, Slow Lane," organised by the Friends of Europe. The Summit was launched by Štefan Füle, EU Enlargement Commissioner, and participants were head diplomats of Macedonia and Albania, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, and MEPs.

The focus of Mr Lukšić's panel was on the activities of Western Balkan states in the context of overcoming the negative effects of the economic crisis and in ensuring growth.

Noting that the growth achieved prior to the crisis was not sustainable, the Deputy Prime Minister noted that in order to find appropriate solutions for the consequences of the crisis, it is necessary to assess the national and the regional agenda. He noted that the key lies in integration efforts aimed at ensuring long-term preconditions for progress through development of institutions, improving the rule of law, and the measures in the area of structural reform, improving the business environment, and economic governance.



Brussels:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participates at NATO's North Atlantic Council (NAC)



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated today in Brussels at the ministerial meeting of NATO member-states and partners contributing to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The meeting was chaired by NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

In his statement, DPM Lukšić underlined Montenegro's commitment to strengthening safety and stability in Afghanistan. In that regard, he reiterated Montenegro's commitment to contributing to the NATO-led post 2014 Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. He stressed Montenegro's readiness to discuss, as the chair-country of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5), the possibilities of joint regional contribution to peace-building in Afghanistan after the completion of the ISAF mission.

At the meeting sidelines, Mr Lukšić held short meetings with head diplomats of the Netherlands and Romania, and the NATO Deputy Secretary-General Alexander Vershbow, where he exchanged opinions on bilateral relations and continued cooperation in integration processes.



Ukraine: Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić opens Honorary Consulate in Kyiv

Kyiv, 5-6 December - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić opened an Honorary Consulate of Montenegro in Kyiv. Montenegro's first Honorary Consul in Ukraine is Mr Stanyslav O. Dovgyi. Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić said at the opening ceremony that Mr Dovgyi stands out with his rich experience and results in the areas of politics, science, and academia, and that he is happy that such a renowned and highly esteemed person with great affection for Montenegro will now be its honorary consul.

Minister Lukšić said on this occasion that he is very satisfied with the relationship between Montenegro and Ukraine, which is growing ever stronger and fruitful since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2006.

"Since then, Ukraine has opened an Embassy in Montenegro in late 2008, appointing Oksana Slusarenko, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Montenegro, and in March this year their first Honorary Consulate in Montenegro," Mr Lukšić reiterated.

He added that on 5 July Montenegro appointed Ljubomir Mišurović as the non-resident ambassador of Montenegro to Ukraine, with a seat in Podgorica.

"Over the past few years, the governments of Montenegro and Ukraine were committed to the practical aspects of their bilateral relations, signing a great deal of instruments aimed at boosting cooperation in various areas," Mr Lukšić said.

Kyiv: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participates at OSCE Ministerial Council

Kyiv, 5-6 December - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at OSCE Ministerial Council in Kyiv on 5-6 December.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić underlined Montenegro's commitment to the overall security concept, which is the organisation's cornerstone, as well as the readiness to continue supporting OSCE's current efforts at being more efficient and ready to face new challenges and threats.

At the meeting sidelines, Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić met with Victoria Jane Nuland, the US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and the newly elect President of the Swiss Confederation and Switzerland's head diplomat Didier Burkhalter. The Deputy PM also met with OSCE freedom of the media representative Dunja Mijatović.



Bratislava: Slovakia will continue providing support to Montenegro's EU and NATO integration

Bratislava, 9 December - During his official visit to Slovakia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić spoke with President Ivan Gašparovič.

President Gašparovič welcomed the overall development of relations between the two countries, noting they are constantly improving in all areas and at all levels.

Mr Gašparovič underlined that Montenegro is recognised as a factor of stability in the region and that it fully deserved the progress achieved in European and Euro-Atlantic integration. He voiced Slovakia's intention to continue supporting Montenegro towards its foreign policy priorities. He noted in particular the expectation that reforms processes Montenegro has undertaken in both integration processes will be valued adequately.

Relations with Slovakia are placed high on Montenegro's foreign policy agenda, especially having in mind our traditionally friendly relationship, fruitful cooperation, and great potential for improving it further in all areas, Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić has said. Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić thanked his host Slovakia's support in various projects related to improving the capacities of Montenegro's administration and the overall preparations of state institutions for EU membership. He noted in particular the importance of assistance in communicating NATO integration to the public, and their readiness to continue this cooperation in the future. During his official visit to Slovakia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić spoke with Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák.

Slovakia will continue providing support to Montenegro's EU and NATO integration, Slovakia's head diplomat said at the meeting. He noted his country is among those that understand all too well the need of further NATO enlargement towards the Western Balkans and noted Montenegro is recognised as a leader in the region.

Mr Lukšić commended the political relations with Slovakia and underlined Montenegro is proud to be friends with a state which is a member of such organisations as the EU and NATO and is a strong advocate of further enlargement who invests great efforts into keeping the enlargement policy high on the agenda of these associations.





Brussels: Third Ministerial Level Conference on Montenegro's EU Accession - key rule of law chapters opened

Brussels, 18 December - The third meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro at the Ministerial Level was held today in Brussels to open negotiations on Chapters 5 - Public Procurement; 6 - Company Law; 20 - Enterprise and Industrial Policy; 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and 24 - Justice, Freedom, and Security.

In addition, the Conference confirmed at the Ministerial Level the opening and provisional closure of Chapter 26 - Education and Culture, which was considered at the Accession Conference with Montenegro at Deputy Level, held in Brussels on 15 April 2013.

At the Conference, the European Union delegation was led by Linas Linkevičius, Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Montenegrin delegation was led by Igor Lukšić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Duško Marković, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, and Raško Konjević, Minister of Interior. The European Commission was represented by Stefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy.

Mr Füle said he is very happy that these two important chapters, placing the rule of law at the heart of the enlargement process, have been open on this day.

He underlined that the opening of the chapters is a turning point in accession negotiations with Montenegro

and is a result of Montenegro's intensive efforts in Chapters 23 and 24.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić said that the opening of chapters shows how much we have progressed.

"It is not easy to establish rule of law overnight. It is an ongoing process. We have done plenty and precisely because of that we are now opening these chapters. We were not sitting at home waiting for the commissioner to call and say 'come on, we are now ready to talk corruption and criminal,' but have done plenty to reach that point," said Mr Lukšić.

Justice Minister Duško Marković said after the opening of five chapters that we now have a lot of work to do. He mentioned just a few steps the Government intends to make in order to prevail in the fight against corruption and organised crime.

"By year's end, we will have the first draft law on the anti-corruption agency ready, with the view to establishing an independent anti-corruption authority. We are already working on the establishment of special prosecutor's office that would be able to tackle high-level corruption. We also aim to establish a specialised tribunal for organised crime and corruption which would be able to deal with the issues of organised crime and corruption," said Mr Marković.

Paris: Ministers of Justice of Montenegro and France Duško Marković and Christiane Taubira sign joint statement on cooperation between the two ministries

Paris, 9-10 October - Montenegro's Justice Minister Duško Marković and his French counterpart Christiane Taubira signed the joint statement on cooperation between the two justice ministries, which among other things, provides for the exchange of information on legislation in force, training of judges and prosecutors and other officials in the justice system, and the exchange of experiences in terms of the solutions adopted in the field of justice administration, in particular experience related to the use of various forms of information systems in the judicial process, as well as a framework for joint projects in judiciary. While in Paris, Deputy Prime Minister Marković also met with Philippe Leglise-Costa, the European Affairs Advisor to the French President, who said that France welcomes Montenegro's reforms in the field of strengthening the rule of law and supports the country's progress towards the EU, which is primarily a community of values.

He stated that France, in the context of its foreign policy, is increasingly turning to the Western Balkans and strongly supports its integration into the EU. Montenegro has, according



to Mr Leglise-Costa, been recognised as a proactive factor in regional initiatives, which contributes to the stability and prosperity of the region. He also underlined that France appreciates Montenegro's support for French efforts in addressing issues concerning global stability and security.

He stressed the importance of more intensive bilateral relations between Montenegro and France, both in political and economic spheres.

Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister Duško Marković, in explaining key activities in the integration process, stressed that France is a strategic partner of Montenegro in achieving its national interests and foreign policy goals - EU and NATO membership.

Deputy Prime Minister Marković also spoke to the chairman of the committee for European affairs at the French Senate.

Joint statement on cooperation between Ministry of Justice of Montenegro and Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary signed

Veszprem, 12-13 September - Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Duško Marković and his Hungarian counterpart Tibor Navracsics signed the joint statement on two ministries' cooperation in the Hungarian town of Veszprem.

joint statement envisages close cooperation in the area of justice and capacity building for the fight against organised crime and corruption, support to Montenegro's accession process and preparations for EU membership, exchange of information on national legislation and judicial practice, training, and professional development of judges and other members of the judiciary, exchange of good practices in judicial procedures, in using IT systems in court proceedings and in the transposition of European legal standards into national legislation, mutual support



and exchange of information in the fight against corruption, and exchange of participation in seminars, conferences, and trainings.

On this occasion, Mr Marković underlined that this document helps develop in more detail the good cooperation established between the two ministries and upgrades the overall friendship and partnership between the two states.



Deputy Prime Minister Lazović announces the signing of an ICT cooperation agreement with Thailand

Bangkok, 19-22 November - On the sidelines of the ITU Telecom World 2013 in Bangkok, Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications Vujica Lazović met with Singapore's Information and Communication Minister Yaacob Ibrahim and Thailand's Minister of Information and Communication Technology Anudith Nakornthap.

The meetings addressed experiences in the field of information and communication technologies, as well as challenges of their rapid development, which is a prerequisite for further economic progress. Future forms of cooperation in eGovernment, eHealth, eLearning, cyber security and infrastructure were also arranged.

DPM Lazović and Thailand's Minister Nakornthap announced the signing of an ICT cooperation agreement, having in mind that both countries as tourist destinations are committed to developing technologies aimed at achieving overall economic prosperity.

Slovakian investors interested in energy and tourism in Montenegro

Bratislava, 15 October - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunication Vujica Lazović was in an official visit to Bratislava, at the invitation of Prime Minister Miroslav Lajcak, where he met with Slovak economy minister Tomas Malatinsky.

Deputy Prime Minister Lazović presented to Minister Malatinsky the investment potentials in Montenegro, with a special emphasis on development projects to be implemented in the near future. He also underlined the country's reforms aimed at upgrading the business environment.

Ministar Malatinsky informed Minister Lazović that Slovak investors have expressed great interest in investment opportunities in Montenegro, especially in the areas of energy, tourism, environmental protection, agriculture, and transport infrastructure.

The two officials noted the opportunities for improving the two countries' economic cooperation. In that respect, they underlined the importance of the forthcoming visit by the Slovak minister to Montenegro, establishment of the Montenegro-Slovakia joint commission for economic cooperation, and the Memorandum on Cooperation in the



area of energy.

Deputy Prime Minister Lazović also met with Stefan Chudoba, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research, and Sport.

The two officials commended the cooperation in higher education projects, and Mr Lazović thanked for Slovakia's support to Montenegrin students, researchers, and teachers. The meeting also discussed ICT solutions for elementary and secondary education and the experiences in this area.

The two sides agreed that the alignment of education systems to the needs of the market is an important precondition for a country's dynamic development, and they noted their interest to sign in the nearest future an agreement on cooperation in education.

NATO and other things



Vladimir Radulović
State Secretary for Political Matters

For a long time now, in our small stately courtyard we have been talking, and will talk even more and even louder (and hopefully more wisely, openly, and more subtle) about the issue of NATO. And about other things. About us. Each story carries the stamp of its story-tellers and bears a resemblance to them. And it paints on them, with filigree precision, all the layers of their, i.e. ours, virtues and flaws, our strengths, and our delicateness. It uncovers our perception of the world and the time in which we live, and also our subconscious thought. And, quite often, the lack of both! Sometimes it uncovers our fortuitous superiority and more often our fortuitous inferiority. It uncovers our history that was marked, contrary to mythic interpretations, by the interchange of periods of the megalomaniac arrogance of the small and the unbearable lack of self-respect of the small. It also uncovers our present, which confirms that we still haven't fully and firmly stepped out of the dark and the labyrinths leading us astray.

It is a good thing, however, that the disputes about memberships, about NATO, about history, about future, about ideologies past and future, about the victors and the defeated, about political, security, economic, and moral, even if simplified, declensions and variables of this or that solution, about many other things, even about the ephemeral and particularistic political, i.e. party interests, are taking place more and more, and more intensely than before, in the public arena, right in front of us, and not behind the scenes and locked doors of high politics. We, and here I also have in mind the top officials, the Government, the Parliament, the civil society, the media, the professional associations,

the universities, both academies, both churches, and all citizens, have to take responsibility, we have to think and talk more, and only then make the decision. Our decision. Make our choice. The choice is not easy, nor painless. Nor without risk. And neither is life, whether of a person or a state. In spite all, and quite often in spite itself, Montenegro has proved and confirmed several times in the past decade or two that the toughest decisions to make are oftentimes the best ones. When the dilemmas are colossal, and the historic stakes the highest. That is how Montenegro rediscovered itself. This is how it will have to be this time around as well, regardless of whether the previous communication strategies (the mere complexity and insusceptibility of the phrase discourages at the outset any dialogue and exchange of opinions!) served their purpose - and they did not. Or whether the new concept of "social dialogue" will dispel the quandaries - for it will not. At the core, the matter is simple - before and after one talks to others one should talk to oneself and respond to own questions. Just as in May 2006, it is more about the "social monologue" in which all should take part. If that happens, the response will be similar. In the Parliament or in a referendum, it doesn't really matter.

It seems to me at times that all the questions have been asked. And all have been answered. But has it been said enough times, and in the right way, that modern political history does not recall a war between two states that live and function as parliamentary democracies, and that all NATO states are organised in such a way? That our region of the Balkans has suffered wars every few decades, and that just in the last century at least five wars, big or small, although no war is ever small, befell

our fathers and grand-fathers? Are we really willing to put such burden of our history upon the shoulders of our sons and daughters and our grand-children without so much as at least attempting to protect them? First from ourselves and then from others. In the world of today, where security is indivisible and where the traditional threats, but even more so the non-conventional, cyber, and terrorist ones are multiplying; does the concept of European and Euro-Atlantic collective security really have a (better) alternative? And can the smallest states with the slightest defence capacity (and Montenegro objectively is one of them) make a more rational and economically sound choice? Is the context of neutrality, chosen by Austria and Switzerland due to their specific and sui generis historic experience, really an option applicable to Montenegro and the Western Balkans? And can anyone who has given serious thought to modern European political history truly believe that? Finally, when decisions are made, is it better for Montenegro to be at the table or on the table? We experienced how it feels to be on the table back in 1918 and during the 1990s. Had we been at the (NATO) table, we wouldn't be mourning today over the tragic destinies of the little ones on the Murino Bridge. Nor over the hundreds of lives lost on the battlefields of Dubrovnik, where together with their lives vanished also our illusions of who we are or who we thought we were. And whether that one voice, our voice, the 29th voice at the NATO table will have the relevance and perhaps might of the strongest ones will again be only up to us.

And now something about other things... or, perhaps, the same ones! I never could really understand why we speak only very rarely and timidly about NATO as the alliance of values, given that this is at the core of both its political and security dimensions, and of its strength. Call it utopia or naïveté, but I believe that deep at its core the source of NATO's "hard power" is precisely its "soft power," the fact that NATO is not just a defence and military alliance, but primarily a political alliance which establishes, protects, and promotes the fundamental values of democratic and open societies.

And, again, a look into the past... or the future. Are we at all able to exhaust the inventory list of all the great civilisation, political, emancipation, development, modernisation, philosophic, scientific, cultural, enlightenment, and artistic ideas, achievements, works, inventions, and accomplishments spawned by the societies and great persons from the states that today make up the EU and NATO? This quest can begin anywhere... why not in France? The ideas of liberté, fraternité, égalité, the fall of the Bastille, are even today, two and a half centuries later, part of the political jargon wherever people yearn for freedom, personal, political, of speech, where the church and the state know which domain is whose... De Gaulle, Hugo, Proust, Baudelaire, Sartre... chansonniers, colossal painters and bohemians of the Montmartre... Let's go across the Channel... Magna Charta, unattainable ideals of parliamentarism and gentlemanliness, a few thoughts on the blood, sweat, and tears... Shakespeare and his characters whose dilemmas, questions, and answers reverberate even in the cyber-era... Or across the Atlantic... fanatical fight for independence, civil liberties, bloody civil wars, from whose ashes a mythical ideal of the government of the people, for the people, by the people is born... I have a dream, and

the ever-going struggle for ending slavery... Salinger, Carver, Hemingway, Broadway and Hollywood, NBA, Warhol and the consumer society, fall from opulence to financial scarcity, the country where both Brzezinski and Chomsky are part of the society's legacy... Or going back to our continent, to the Mediterranean... Mare Nostrum as the source and origin of democracy, freedom of speech, art, the cradle of paganism and monotheism, faith and secularity; the world of Dante, Boccaccio, Miche-

langelo, Rafael, Fellini, Regina Elena, Savičević in Milan; the world of Plato's speeches and the defence of Socrates, of Theodorakis and Zorba the Greek, of putsches and revolutions... A bit further, in Portugal and Spain, the lands of Salazar and Franco, but also of Juan Carlos, of dictatorships and democratic triumphs, of Cervantes, Bunuel, and Almodovar... Real or Barcelona, that is what football fans in Podgorica argue over, not Budućnost or Sutjeska... football in general as a globalisation phenomenon. Up north... the Scandinavian circle of reformation and Protestantism, social justice and welfare systems, human rights... From Ibsen to Bergman to Nobel (and how many great minds from all these countries won that prize!). Rembrandt and Bosch, the famous Ajax line-up... Germany, its grandiose history, Goethe, Heine, Beethoven, Wagner, Mann, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, and, for those who are left-leaning, surely Marx... the power to face, like no other in the history of mankind, and fight the demons of its own past and become once again a role-model for others... The Polish Slavic circle from Mickiewicz, Sienkiewicz, or Chopin, to Pilsudski, Walesa, Solidarity, Singer, Milosz, Wajda... Three Colours: Blue... and, finally, our neighbours with whom we shared a long and hard journey through history, language, seas, culture, the noble South-Slavic ambitions and fight for national emancipation and statehood, resistance to dogmatism and care for dissidents. At the end we even managed, sadly enough, to hate each other in the same language and to fight each other in wars - because we were not in NATO! I almost forgot to mention the non-Slavic neighbours, closer or further ones, with borders locked for decades, Skanderbeg and Kadare, suddenly awaken and rediscovered soul of Montenegro in whirlwinds of wars and the epic episode of the salvation

of the weak, the refugees, and the outcast... the great historic tale by Orhan Pamuk about the empire and the city on the Bosphorus, whose beauty adorned even Njegoš's verses... conquerors, war enemies, defeats and victories, and above them the spirit of chivalry and respect, the builders of the Visegrad bridges that bound us together forever... now partners, friends, investors... The list is surely endless, timeless, and perpetual.

Finally, whatever our decision, I would like for us to ask ourselves, for just a second and with open minds, the following questions: Does this short and inevitably simplified journey into the essence of these societies and all that we discovered there have anything at all to do with NATO? And is it possible to share in the freedom, richness, ideas, and creativity of our friends and partners, and at the same time not be willing, in the name of those values, to share the burden of responsibility with them?

It is the moment of truth. During our long journey through the wasteland of history, have we matured and developed, or will our unconscious prevail once more, our provincial megalomania and the arrogance I mentioned at the beginning? It was Montenegro's historic fate, and its curse, to be on the cross-roads of large empires and at the epicentre of historic disruptions. But, to make history's cynicism worse, it was also at the edge, at the periphery, of big ideas, big creativity, and colossal civilisation's progress. Today, again due to historic fate, we have the opportunity to become, perhaps for the first time, a small but integral part of such a mainstream. Its main water-course and meanders. Or to reject it again. By deciding to join NATO, Montenegro will complete its long historic journey west. And it will become the West. Not geographically, but in terms of values, history, and culture. Security will just be an added value. An alternative, naturally, always exist. But what is it?

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Montenegro starts accession negotiations

On 18 December 2013, 18 months after the official launch of accession negotiations with the EU at the inter-governmental conference in Brussels, Montenegro opened five negotiation chapters:

5
Public
Procurement

6
Company Law

20
Enterprise and
Industrial Policy

23
Judiciary and
Fundamental
Rights

24
Justice, Freedom,
and Security

The opening of these chapters is another confirmation of the fact that Montenegro's negotiation process is on the right track, having in mind the opening and temporary closing of the chapters

25
Science and Research

26
Education
and Culture

Further challenges await, but we have the will and the capacity to respond to them in a way that would protect and ensure Montenegro's principal interest - membership of the European Union.

23

Judiciary and
Fundamental
Rights

24

Justice, Freedom,
and Security

Miodrag Radović
Directorate General for European Affairs

CHAPTERS 23 – JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND CHAPTERS 24 – JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND SECURITY

New approach in practice

Montenegro is the first country negotiating its EU accession under the "new approach," meaning that the Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, and 24 – Justice, Freedom, and Security are among the first ones to be opened and among the last ones to be closed. Consequently, Montenegro has had some very demanding tasks, but also the privilege to show just how able and efficient a small administration can be under a tight timeframe. The first major challenge came in the form of the process of drafting the action plans for Chapters 23 and 24, which were seen by the European Commission and the member-states as benchmarks for opening the negotiations in these Chapters. These documents' point of departure were the reports from the analytical overview meetings, which assessed the alignment of legislation, and where Montenegro and the European Commission had the opportunity to discuss in detail the rule of law in Montenegro.

Montenegro sent the draft action plans to the Commission on 27 June 2013, and the Commission drafted a report on the fulfilment of the preliminary benchmarks, which was adopted by the Council.

The Commission, Council, and member-states reached consensus on the action plans for 23 and 24 fairly quick-

ly, which has rarely been the case for similar negotiation documents, and they adopted them with minor changes on 10 October 2013.

Following the Lithuanian presidency invitation, Montenegro was quick to draft the negotiation positions for the Chapters 23 and 24, which were adopted on 8 October 2013. This was the final step Montenegro was required to make in order for the negotiations to start.

At the Inter-Governmental Conference, held in Brussels on 18 December 2013, Montenegro made a giant leap by opening the accession negotiations in Chapters 23 and 24, and also in equally important Chapters 5, 6, and 20.

Montenegro went on to establish an oversight system for the implementation of the action plans. For each of the sub-areas of the Chapters, a coordinator has been appointed (20 for the two Chapters), as well as an accountable officer for each of the measures (around 300). This was done to ensure adequate monitoring of the implementation of each and every activity, and to help identify possible challenges more easily and overcome them in a timely manner.

Quarterly reports on the implementation of measures are submitted to the Government and biannual

reports are submitted to the European Commission. The first report on the implementation of measures from the action plan was adopted on 26 December 2013, and it will be used by the sub-committee on justice, freedom, and security, whose meeting is scheduled for 4-5 February 2014. The second report, for the European Commission, will be adopted in July and will be used as an annex to the progress report. Quarterly reports for the Government will be adopted in April and October.

This speaks volumes about Montenegro's readiness

to meet, as a country, all its European integration commitments in a timely manner, as EU integration is its key foreign policy objective.

Even though plenty has been done, we are aware that we have a great deal of activities yet to undertake in order to meet the necessary EU standards. EU's common positions on these two Chapters contain 81 interim benchmarks, 43 of which are for Chapter 23 and 38 for Chapter 24. All the benchmarks are directly linked to the measures and objectives outlined in the action plans, and the speed of our EU integration progress in the rule of law area will depend upon their implementation.

Montenegro may proudly say that it has started implementing the planned measures very seriously, which was recognised in the report on the implementation of the action plans for Chapters 23 and 24. It is important to recall here some of those measures: amendments to the Constitution and the sub-Constitutional legislation, amendments to the Criminal Code and the Law on the Prevention of Drug

Abuse, the new Law on Social and Child Care, the new Plan for Rationalisation of the Judicial Network, the opening of the Reception Centre for Foreigners, and the adoption of the Analysis of the organisational structure, capacities and competences of state authorities and public administration bodies in the fight against organised crime and corruption.

Apart from amended legislation and strategic planning, the first report also showcases their efficient implementation. During the reporting period, most measures were related to legislative activity and the adoption of strategies and action plans, which is understandable bearing in mind we are just beginning the implementation of the APs 23 and 24. The second most recurrent measures are trainings for efficient implementation of the *acquis communautaire*, followed by awareness-raising campaigns, and the development of administrative capacity and technical equipment. By looking the result and impact indicators, it is safe to conclude that already in this early phase we have tangible results, which means that we have done some good planning while drafting the APs 23 and 24. We are expecting to see even more results in future reports.

As we are aware of our future obligations, and of the responsibility the working groups for Chapters 23 and 24 have, we are able to say that we are ready to run the process of European integration in these chapters without difficulty.



20

Enterprise and
Industrial Policy

Vladana Mitrović
Directorate General
for European Integration

CHAPTER 20 - ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Enterprise and Industrial Policy the Future of a Stable Economy

Montenegro opened the negotiation Chapter 20 - Enterprise and Industrial Policy at the inter-governmental conference held in Brussels on 18 December 2013. On that occasion, the European Commission noted that Montenegrin legislation is to a large extent aligned with the European Union's *acquis communautaire* and that Montenegro has sufficient administrative capacity to support companies and improve the business environment, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Enterprise and industrial policy are important areas for economic development, not just due to the industry's share in the GDP, but also because of the importance in the area of employment and in creating preconditions for equal regional development in Montenegro.

According to Europe 2020 guidelines for growth and employment, the European Union aims at promoting competitiveness, encouraging favourable environment for business start-up, domestic and foreign investment, promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurship, and innovation.

The goal of EU's enterprise and industrial policy is to help create, by providing support, a favourable environment

for European and Montenegrin producers and entrepreneurs that would help them be more competitive and able to do business in fair and equal opportunities in Europe and world-wide.

If Montenegro wants to position itself at the European market it needs to improve, in addition to entrepreneurship and processing industry, the technological and financial conditions in the country, and to develop continuously the human resources and organisation potentials.

The improved competitiveness of SMEs is among the European Union's priorities. This objective fully overlaps with Montenegro's strategic ambitions on its path towards EU membership, which include the following goals:

make SMEs the leading force for economic development, improve market competitiveness of domestic producers, make access to new knowledge and availability of new technology better, make domestic companies more export-oriented, complete the process of restructuring the remaining state companies and create strong self-sustainable entities. The realisation of these goals should lead to the creation of a functional market economy that would be able to withstand competition pressures and market circumstances within the EU.

To encourage entrepreneurship and industry development, the EU offers a number of financial assistance programmes aimed at promoting the business start-up process and making the creation of new jobs easier. The problem most often underlined when it comes to SMEs is

access to sources of finance, especially loans. Therefore, the Union aims to ease the access to new-project financing through banks and other channels, financial support instruments, and co-financing of regional partners and companies.

The industrial policy, as an important element of successful economic development of the EU, is still one of the main growth factors of virtually every European economy. In addition, it has been among the most important instruments in overcoming the consequences of the financial crisis, and is therefore important not just for the economy, but the overall development. Consequently, future EU policies will be aimed at improving the business environment as one of the most important driving forces of European economy.



6

Company Law

CHAPTER 6 - COMPANY LAW

Becoming an Equal Player in World's Economy

Company law is one of the key economic chapters, as it regulates issues related to organisation and operation of business associations, which directly shape the national economy. With the view to creating preconditions that would enable domestic business stakeholders to become equal participants in today's global economy, we have started the negotiations in the area of company law.



*Tatjana Tomić,
Directorate General
for European Integration*

Company law relates to the establishment, operation, and oversight of financial activities of business associations in European Union member-states. It comprises the law of business associations in general, accounting, and audit.

The *acquis communautaire* related to EU business associations in general includes directives regulating the rules on establishment, registration, and division of public companies, rights of shareholders, linking business registers, and the rules concerning capital requirements and transparency obligations. In addition to directives, the *acquis* in this area comprises recommendations on the remuneration of directors of listed companies, on the role of independent non-executive or supervisory directors in listed companies, and company boards. The recommendations, unlike the directives, are not formally binding, but they are desired regulatory solutions for certain relations in the areas they cover, and they are a kind of *legeferenda*.

Ultimately, the company law in general includes the rules contained in the Regulation on the Statute for a European Cooperative Society and the Regulation on the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG), which, unlike the other two kinds of legal instruments, are legislative acts immediately enforceable as law in all EU member-states, from which no divergence can be made during transposition into the national company laws.

Accounting and audit *acquis* covers activities such as the establishment of a system of checks by professional auditors of the quality of work in companies, development of an efficient system of public oversight, a system of publication of annual financial reports, as well as the establishment and consistent application of international financial reporting standards. This segment will exert a direct influence on the organisation of certain companies in Montenegro, by laying down an obligation of setting up audit boards in charge of internal financial control.

Legal harmonisation with the EU *acquis* in this area envisages, *inter alia*, an electronic registration of companies, easing of registration procedures, and lower founding capital. These measures encourage the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, which make up 99% of all companies in the EU, generate 70% of overall trade, and have a share of 60% in the EU's GDP.

Furthermore, harmonisation and keeping pace in this area will help create business preconditions that would help domestic companies become an equal participant in the single European economic area. It will also boost the level of legal safety and create a more favourable environment for foreign companies' involvement in Montenegro.

Harmonisation of legislation in this area will ensure a notable increase in business transparency, but will also boost unemployment rates and amplify the mobility of workers and the development of the labour market at the EU level.



5

Public Procurement



Milena Biro
Directorate General
for European Integration

CHAPTER 5 – PUBLIC PROCUREMENT Indispensable Component for any Country's Economy

Public procurement is an indispensable component of any country's economy. An efficient public procurement system is necessary for achieving the free market goals and to ensure market competition will be founded on transparency, equal treatment, free competition, and non-discrimination.



Public procurement in the EU is an important market. According to European Commission estimates, the total value of public procurement is around 16% of Union's GDP.

Harmonisation of public procurement systems in member-states is among the most important preconditions for the existence of the Single Market and removal of free trade barriers within the EU. The reform of EU public procurement directives envisages increased use of public procurement as an instrument of promoting sustainable development, which will be achieved by introducing an obligation to respect high social and ecological criteria, as well as by improving the access to public procurement for small and medium-size enterprises.

Negotiations in the Public Procurement chapter

The goal of negotiations in this chapter, on the one hand, is to improve economic development and efficiency, but also to give full meaning to the Single Market. Institutions established for this

purpose must ensure the full respect for the legal framework at all levels, and ensure an efficient system of legal protection in public procurement, which is based, among other things, on the right of complaint. The procuring entities are obliged to undertake the public procurement process with full respect of the principle of transparency.

This chapter has 10 areas: general principles (award of public contracts), concessions and public private partnership, the classical sector, the utilities sector, the public procurement dictionary of terms, sustainable public procurement, legal protection, defence, electronic public procurement, and international aspect of public procurement. An extremely important question is that of the international aspect of public procurement. The cornerstone document in this area is the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) by the World Trade Organisation. Montenegro still has the observer status to this agreement and negotiations on the accession to the GPA are in an advanced phase.

In May 2013, the European Commission sent the report on the

analytical overview in which it made an assessment that Montenegro has highly aligned its legislation with the directives in this area.

The EU presidency sent a letter on 12 June in which it stated that Montenegro is ready to open negotiations in this chapter and invited Montenegro to submit its negotiating position. On 10 October, the Government adopted the Montenegro Negotiating Position for Public Procurement and sent it to the Commission on 14 October. On the basis of this document, the Draft common position of EU member-states for this chapter was prepared and on 3 December it was delivered to the Council of the EU.

By aligning its legislation to the EU acquis, Montenegro makes additional regulation of the area of sustainable public procurement, and the introduction of electronic public procurement system opens up possibilities for more up-to-date activities in this area. Montenegro will improve legal protection, provide for a better oversight of the observance of contracts, and, especially, improve activities towards preventing conflict of interest in

public procurement contracts. With the view to ensuring full harmonisation with the commitments stemming from the EU acquis, the necessary efforts will be invested in the legal framework on concessions, simplifying the procedures in the utilities sector, as well as the regulations on public procurement in the area of defence. This will raise the level of the public procurement system competitiveness and put it on par with the best ones in the international arena.

In addition to harmonisation, Montenegro tackles all the challenges in this chapter with the view to protecting its financial interest. It is expected that by the time of accession the entire public procurement system will be improved through addressing all the areas where progress can be made.

Finally, the issue of fight against corruption in public procurement will remain in the focus and will be the guiding principle of public procurement in Montenegro. This will surely be recognised by the EU once more, when the negotiations in this chapter come to an end.



Nada Vojvodić
Advisor at the office
Chief Negotiator for Negotiations
over Montenegrin Accession to EU

Who are our negotiators?

In addition to a clear vision, strategic approach, and good organisation and coordination of the process of Montenegro's accession to the European Union, our success rests on a well assembled team of negotiators.

Even though the negotiation structure comprises more than 1300 experts from all areas, it is beyond doubt that a good, well organised, and stable team of negotiators has a special task and responsibility in achieving the vision of Montenegro's future EU membership. More importantly, the team has an important mission in transforming our social environment into a modern and rich European society, at the same time carefully preserving and integrating the traditional values and cultural heritage of Montenegro.

In accordance with the complex tasks they are facing, Montenegrin negotiators play the roles of architects and engineers of a new concept of modern Montenegrin society in line with European standards and founded on European values.

Appointing Montenegrin negotiators went in parallel with the establishment of working groups for negotiations, from February 2012 until April 2013. During this period, 11 negotiators, constituting the Negotiating Group, were appointed for 33 chapters of the EU *acquis communautaire*.

According to the Decision Establishing the Negotiating Structure, the Negotiating Group is tasked with the expert and technical levels of negotiations with EU institutions and member-states on all negotiating chapters, i.e. chapters of the *acquis*. Group members deal with individual chapters, provide expert assistance to the Chief Negotiator during negotiations, coordinate the Working Groups, discuss and define proposals of negotiating positions, and submit reports to the Go-

vernment on the state of affairs of negotiations after each meeting of the inter-governmental conference. Given the need for a clearer and more comprehensive approach and reflection on the current state of affairs and planning of the implementation of future activities and commitments on the European agenda, the team comprises, in addition to Government representatives, two academics and a Central Bank official. It turns out this kind of approach in establishing the team ensured forward-looking consideration of the state of affairs, high quality and comprehensive strategic planning, and a better overall implementation of the tasks at hand.

We are talking here of individuals from various backgrounds, selected on the basis of their expertise, primarily bearing in mind their education, professional experience, and communication skills.

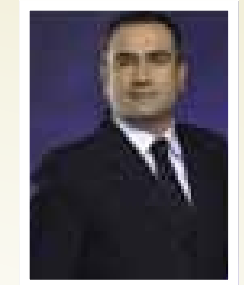
Each of the 11 negotiators is tasked with at least two areas, i.e. chapters. Even though they vary in volume and complexity, each of the chapters carries a specific weight and importance for the overall transformation of the society. If the *acquis* is viewed as a mosaic, all of the 33 pieces represent an invaluable segment for the big picture.

Same goes for people running the process. The team they build up is more than a sum of its parts, and their synergy is greater than their individual energies.

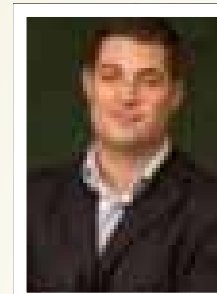
Well established inter-sector approach, as well as vertical and horizontal coordination of work, daily communication, and consideration of upcoming obligations, shortcomings, and challenges in finding best solutions shows we have set good foundations for our shared European future.



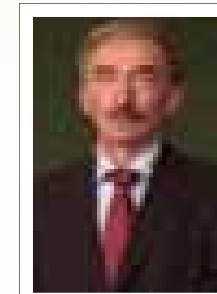
Aleksandar Andrija PEJOVIĆ
Chief Negotiator and negotiator for Chapters 22 and 31



Nikola VUKIČEVIĆ
Director General of the Budget Directorate
Finance Ministry
Negotiator for Chapters 5, 16, 29, 32 and 33



Vladimir SAVKOVIĆ
Associate Professor at Law Faculty
University of Montenegro
Negotiator for Chapters 3, 6, 7 and 20



Anđelko LOJPUR
Professor at University of Montenegro
Negotiator for Chapters 10, 25 and 26



Igor NOVELJIĆ
Secretary of the Ministry of Economy
Negotiator for Chapters 1, 8 and 30



Daliborka PEJOVIĆ
Secretary of the Ministry of Sustainable
Development and Tourism
Negotiator for Chapters 27 and 28



Angelina ŽIVKOVIĆ
Acting Director General, Directorate for
National Roads, Ministry of Transport
and Maritime Affairs
Negotiator for Chapters 14, 15 and 21



Danijela STOLICA
Adviser to the Minister of
Agriculture and Rural Development
Negotiator for Chapters 11, 12 and 13



Nikola FABRIS
Chief Economist of the Central Bank
Negotiator for Chapters 4, 9, 17 and 18



Svetlana RAJKOVIĆ
Assistant Minister of Justice
Negotiator for Chapters 23 and 24



Arijana NIKOLIĆ
Adviser to the Minister of Labour and Social
Welfare
Negotiator for Chapters 2 and 19

Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU



Snežana Radović



Nevenka Vuličević

Montenegro officially started the negotiations with the European Union on 29 June 2012, at the inter-governmental conference marking the beginning of our country's most demanding EU integration phase. This came after the Council's positive decision regarding the readiness to start accession negotiations, which was an official acknowledgment of Montenegro's efforts and the right path it has taken as regards EU membership. In the meantime, the negotiation structure was complete, as well as the analytical overview of the EU's *acquis communautaire*. Two chapters have been provisionally closed and five more have been opened, among which the most demanding two related to the rule of law and justice. This is a confirmation that Montenegro is ready for the EU's new approach to negotiation, as well as that it is able to implement reforms and the European agenda on schedule.

Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU is a strategic document required for the negotiation process. It is intended to serve as a comprehensive overview of the state of affairs in the country, and this overview is provided in the form of tables for each of the 33 chapters.

The Programme of Accession covers five years (2014-2018), a period that has been set in order to

ensure thorough preparations for EU membership and to create a clear overview of our obligations in EU integration. The said time-frame will be crucial for the negotiation process, as those are the years in which we expect to open and potentially close most of the chapters. This document ensures and maintains the necessary dynamics in the most demanding phase of Montenegro's European integration.

The Programme contains several segments for each of the 33 chapters: introduction to the chapter, strategic framework (status and plans), legislative framework (status and programme of alignment with the *acquis*), administrative capacity, and financial framework, which is related to the cost estimates for realisation of all measures and activities defined in the EU Accession Programme.

Special emphasis is on the legislation to be aligned with the EU *acquis*. After the harmonisation, implementation is an equally important step, i.e. carrying out the adopted measures in practice. The Programme of Accession provides a basis for successful monitoring of the adoption and implementation of the set tasks over a five-year period.

The adoption of a total of 228 laws is planned for the period 2014-2018, which will be of great impor-

tance for the negotiation process. The most legislative documents will be adopted in the following chapters: 1 - Free movement of goods (238), 11 - Agriculture and rural development (98), 12 - Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy (257), 14 - Transport policy (95), 27 - Environment (87), and 28 - Consumer and health protection (88). In addition to the previously mentioned 228 laws to be adopted in five years, a large number of rulebooks (845), decrees (63), and decisions (55) will also be adopted. It is important to note that each chapter is specific as regards structure and the amount of the *acquis* it covers. Most *acquis* legislation is contained in the areas of agriculture, phytosanitary overview, environment, free movement of goods, and transport, and for this reason the sections covering these areas are larger than others.

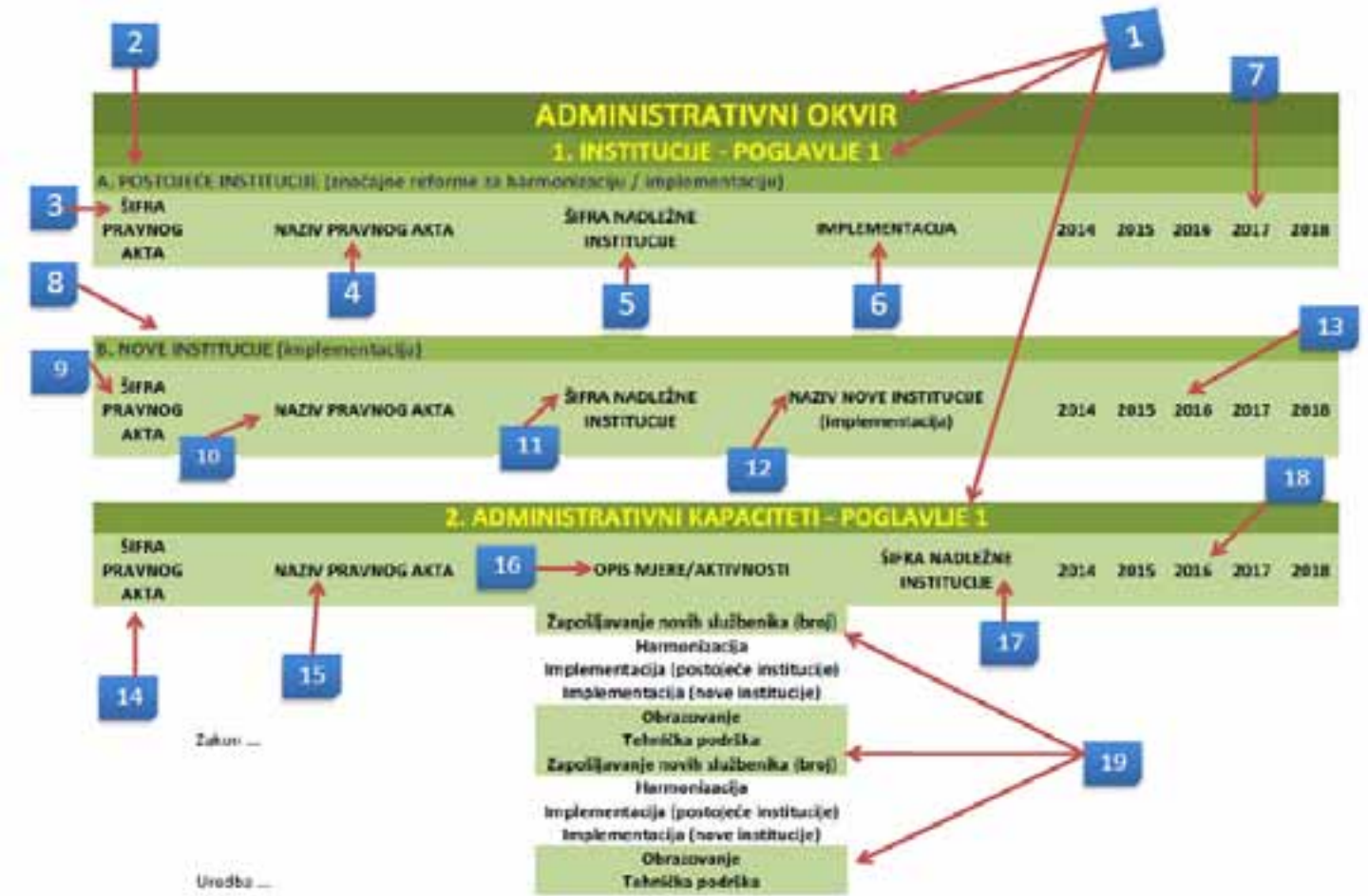
The administrative capacity section covers the establishment of new organisation units (which are not separate legal entities) within existing institutions, the establishment of new institutions (which are separate legal entities), and the requirement to improve administrative capacity within both the existing and new institutions.

The need for improved administrative capacity will be the most pressing in 2014, when 354 new employees will be required, followed by 163 in 2015, 143

in 2016, 81 in 2017, and 79 in 2018. Over the said five-year period, 820 new people will be employed, most of which in the areas covered by Chapter 27 - Environment (108), Chapter 11 - Agriculture and rural development (95), and Chapter 1 - Free movement of goods (90).

The revision of this document has also been planned, because the European law, and consequently the national law, is constantly changing. Accordingly, the Programme of Accession should reflect as closely as possible the state of affairs on the ground and should present accurately the obligations facing Montenegro on its path towards EU membership.

Snežana Radović, director general,
Directorate General for European Affairs;
Nevenka Vuličević, director,
Directorate for harmonisation
with EU *acquis communautaire*



Montenegro as a model of Euro-optimistic state vs. Euro-scepticism



– Iva Dabović, III Secretary,
Directorate General for Bilateral Affairs

Euro-scepticism, as a concept related to EU integration, stability, and global political positioning of the Union, has not been extensively researched in Montenegro or the rest of the region. Even though it is a new term, first used in a Times article in 1985, the meaning of the word Euro-scepticism and its subject-matter understanding have varied over time. This is not surprising given that early on in the development of the European communities the number of member-states was much smaller and integration was the best solution for mending the post-war economies. Departing from the Euro-sceptics' main argument that doubts regarding the progress of the European project are as old as the idea of a united Europe, the current developments in European integration (Croatia's accession to the EU, Montenegro's opening of the accession negotiations, EU's decision to open negotiations with Serbia following primarily the assessment that Belgrade and Pristina have reached a historic breakthrough in the normalisation of relations) provide solid arguments to those

believing in the idea of a united Europe. Moreover, the active participation by the official Brussels in the integration processes of candidates and potential candidates confirms the EU is in the mood for further enlargement, as well as for the reforms aiming to make the Union more democratic and effective.

The role and relevance of Euro-scepticism should be assessed according to its manifestation in individual countries. Therefore, we must first differentiate between Euro-sceptic parties and Euro-sceptics, i.e. between the Euro-scepticism of the politicians versus that of the citizens in all these countries. Furthermore, we must understand well the context of Euro-scepticism, i.e. whether it comes from an older member-state, a new one, or a candidate country.

Based on this approach, we may see that Germany, one of the founders of the European communities, is a country not overly Euro-sceptic, whether at the party level or among citizens. For many years it has been a model for

other countries due to its stakeholders' consensus on the future of the European project.

On the other hand, Poland and the Czech Republic are among those who joined the EU only recently, in the large 2004 eastern enlargement. Both had shared the same path of initial infatuation with Europe and later suffered a steep decline in support during the accession process. In Poland, Euro-scepticism is greater among the parties, whereas the Czech parties and citizens are equally Euro-sceptic. This occurrence is basically a given when it comes to the dynamics of the integration process and it is related to capacity development in a society and its capability to assess the needs and to raise the level and breadth of expectations presented to the political elites. In other words, as the society develops, so do its demands, and the public criticism grows stronger and sharper.

The example of neighbouring Croatia, the newest EU member, shows that six months after accession to the European family the majority of Croatians are Euro-sceptic.

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At this stage of integration, Montenegro boasts strong support of all social groups for the European path of the country.

According to CEDEM's March 2013 opinion poll, 61% of the interviewees support Montenegro's accession to the EU, which means that our citizens are Euro-optimists and believe EU accession is the best way forward for Montenegro's stable development. It could be said that these results lead to a conclusion that the European path of Montenegro's development is one of the most important development opportunities for a balanced economic, political, cultural, and media development of our country. A recent Eurobarometer survey on citizen understanding of European policies provides interesting data, e.g. that citizens believe the media publish sufficient information related to the EU integration process. This can partly be explained by media's strong sensibility for the need to emphasise the EU-related issues, bearing in mind our country's foreign policy priorities.

When we look at other aspirants and candidate-countries, comparative research has shown that Macedonia is also a Euro-optimistic country, i.e. that it has very low levels of Euro-sceptic sentiments, whereas Turkey is much more sceptical towards the EU. It is however important to note that Turkey has been in the process of integration since 1964, when it first voiced its interest in membership, which is a period much longer than the entire process of the latest enlargement round. This greatly affects the Turkish citizens' opinion towards the EU.

One may rightly ask: are the latest two rounds of EU enlargement the main reasons for growing negative public attitudes towards EU reforms in certain candidates and member-states? It should be taken into consideration that in most cases both the theoretical and the political approach to studying the effects of EU enlargement have favoured the economic aspect, and to a lesser extent the social one, which usually boils down to a cost-benefit analysis, i.e. the gains versus the "price" of new enlargement.

However, the process of EU enlargement and deepening of integration is a constant process which still fails to show any tendency of waning. Therefore, the bottom line of the effects of enlargement may only be assessed after the process is complete. In addition, effects of enlargement should not only be analysed from the view-point of internal implications, but also from the aspect of EU politics towards new members.

In sum of the arguments presented here, and going back to the example of Montenegro, what needs to be underlined is that our citizens largely fall into that category of individuals who believe that benefits of living in a united Europe create a good basis for further development of a single European identity. In spite of the global economic crisis and the doubts some countries have shown due to growing challenges the EU faces, our country is Euro-optimistic and believes in further development and enlargement of the EU, its institutional consolidation, and the renewed affirmation of the shared European values.

It is obvious that in spite of the existence of Euro-scepticism, it fails to "water-down" the idea of the European project in Montenegro and the Euro-optimists remain dedicated to and have a clear vision of Europe's future in the new political and overall concept of European integration.



Milica Vujošević
III Secretary at the Directorate General
for NATO and Security Policy

The fourth cycle of MAP

Membership Action Plan (MAP), defined at the 1999 Washington Summit, is the final step that a NATO aspiring country goes through before being invited to join the alliance. The country undergoing MAP is requested to make preparations and implement reforms in five areas - political, military and defence, financial, security, and legal matters. Membership Action Plan is a process consisting of several annual cycles and has no set time-frame. As an aspirant, Montenegro is required to prepare the Annual National Programme (ANP) for all MAP chapters, which it then presents to NATO. At the end of a yearly cycle, foreign and defence ministers present reform programme results and planned actions to the North Atlantic Council (NAC), which then assesses the progress in membership preparations. This process ends with the adoption of a Progress Report, which needs to be adopted by all Alliance members.



Montenegro is now successfully implementing the IV ANP, which it presented at the NAC + Montenegro meeting held on 28 October 2013 at NATO Headquarters, marking the beginning of the IV MAP cycle. This cycle is of great importance because Montenegro is now in the key phase of NATO integration. For this reason, additional efforts were invested to ensure goals and priorities are clearly outlined as well as to show Montenegro's serious commitment to the required tasks.





MAP is an overarching programme for country adjustment for the prospective Alliance membership. MAP is a required stage in the integration process, but it does not guarantee accession. The final decision depends primarily on the political evaluation, and the technical aspect of meeting the standards is only one of the criteria needed for the adoption of a positive assessment. Thus far, out of 10 countries that underwent MAP, nine have become NATO members (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia). Macedonia is still in the MAP process because disagreement with Greece over Macedonia's name stands in its way towards membership. Montenegro acceded to MAP at the meeting of Alliance foreign minister on 4 December 2009 and has successfully completed three MAP cycles.

The meeting between NAC and Montenegro in Brussels on 10 July 2013 discussed the Report on the Implementation of the Third Annual National Programme (ANP). It was concluded at the meeting that Montenegro has made progress in all areas, and it was noted that additional results are still needed as regards four key reform areas (defence and security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law, and increasing public support for NATO membership). Positive steps Montenegro made in EU integration were commended, as well as their effects on Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic integration, especially in the area of the rule of law. Montenegro was thanked for its participation in the ISAF mission as well as for its declared intention to remain involved after 2014. Montenegro's constructive role in the region was also praised, as well as its multi-ethnic accord.

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on 28 October 2013 at NATO Headquarters, marking the beginning of the IV MAP cycle. This cycle is of great importance because Montenegro is now in the key phase of NATO integration. For this reason, additional efforts were invested to ensure goals and priorities are clearly outlined as well as to show Montenegro's serious commitment to the required tasks. In drafting the IV ANP, particular attention was devoted to the continuity of the results achieved in the previous cycle, the allies' recommendations, the complementarity of the processes of EU and NATO integration, as well as Montenegro's general priorities in the future. Consequently, the ANP composition was amended and four key reform areas were identified in the document, and instead of five the document now has seven chapters: political matters, rule of law, parliamentary reforms, security matters, military and defence matters, economic matters, and legal matters. For the first time, the system of cross references was used to reflect more easily the complementarity of many reform activities.

It was underlined in the introduction that NATO membership will remain a key foreign policy priority in the future. The political matters section explains in more detail the new structure and the coordination of the process of increasing public support for NATO membership through new mechanisms (Council for NATO Membership, and National Coordinator with his Communication Team). In this way, Montenegro wishes to show its intention to intensify these activities further. When it comes to European integration, whilst aiming to meet the necessary criteria for opening Chapters 23 and 24, which would create preconditions for opening five more chapters, it was noted that Montenegro will continue leading a close political dialogue with neighbouring countries at the bilateral and regional level. In

the area of regional matters, Montenegro will continue closely cooperating with neighbouring countries bilaterally and through regional fora, bearing in mind the fact that relations with neighbours are not burdened by open issues, which allows for continued intensive bilateral contacts. In the context of regional initiatives, the priority of Montenegro's chairmanship of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5), which it assumed in July 2013, was to improve regional cooperation, continue contributing to global security, and support further progress of A5 member-states towards NATO membership. Montenegro will remain committed to participating in international missions and operations, as well as to the ISAF mission participation, including post-2014, in accordance with its abilities and capacities.

The rule of law section's structure was changed so as to make priority overview clearer, with an emphasis on the reform of the judiciary following constitutional amendments, and on further strengthening judicial independence, efficiency, transparency, and availability. A new section - parliamentary reform- was introduced in order to showcase the growing legislative and control role of the Parliament and its role in monitoring the EU negotiation process. The fourth section deals with security matters and it also underwent structural changes towards greater clarity. It focuses on the improvement of inter-departmental cooperation in this area, as well as on the security and intelligence community and the development of defence and national security system of Montenegro. A new section on cyber security was added to the ANP in order to portray Montenegro's notable progress in this area brought about by the adoption of the Cyber Security Strategy 2013-2017. The Strategy should provide for a coordinated development

of organisational, institutional, and management capacities towards the improvement of information security in Montenegro in line with EU and NATO standards. In the area of military and defence matters, Montenegro will continue the defence system development towards institution building, infrastructure improvement, and developing capability to undertake obligations arising from NATO membership. In the section on economic matters, key activities are listed aimed at ensuring a stable macro-economic environment through sustainable growth, low inflation, and FDI attraction. Future activities in the area of legal matters are related to the efforts of the expert legal matters working group, which is tasked to draft a sector analysis and relevant documents overview, as well as to assess their alignment with binding legal documents of NATO in cooperation with NATO representatives.

During the presentation of the IV ANP, the allies commended the continuity of

Montenegro's reform efforts, as well as its global and regional role. They were unanimous that the IV ANP was the best document of this kind presented thus far, containing clearly defined priorities and deadlines, which shows that Montenegro takes very seriously its commitments in the process. They also remarked those commitments appear likely to be met in the time to come. After the document's presentation comes the drafting of the Report on Implementation of IV ANP in the first half of 2014, which is then submitted to NATO. The report will contain the overview of implemented activities outlined in the IV ANP since the adoption of the document. After this, the NATO expert team comprising specialists from various areas (politics/economics, public diplomacy, science, crisis management, etc.) will visit Montenegro regarding evaluation of the Report and will meet with Government representatives, MPs, and the non-governmental sector.



One year of NATO Info-Centre

On 5 November 2013 the Podgorica info-centre on Euro-Atlantic integration marked one year of activity, and the guest at the Citizens' Hour was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić.

A year before, Mr Lukšić was a guest at the opening of the info-centre, when he spoke of the importance of this project with NATO's Assistant Secretary-General for Public Diplomacy Kolinda Grabar.

Info-centre was opened following a need to establish a different kind of communication on Euro-Atlantic integration and to coordinate all stakeholders concerned with the topic of security integration.

In 2013, info-centre's activities received support by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, Government of Montenegro's Coordination Team for the Implementation of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Communication Strategy, and embassies of the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Germany, Turkey, and Slovenia.

Since the opening of the info-centre, the CDT team performed daily activities aimed at encouraging public dialogue and educating citizens on Euro-Atlantic integration.

Our team's objective was to turn the info-centre into a contact-point for representatives of the government, the international community, parliamentary parties, and civil society, regardless of their positions or programmes.

Consequently, over 1000 citizens attended more than 20 info-centre events and heard various opinions of both supporters and opponents of Euro-

Atlantic integration. The citizens spoke on the topics of security and integration with state officials, politicians, ambassadors, journalists, and NGO representatives. We dealt with NATO integration through creative workshops for youth, themed film screenings, which were followed by lively discussions.

Our workshops on Euro-Atlantic integration were attended by 3,200 high-school graduates, and nine short Ping Pong TV debates, in which supporters and opponents of NATO membership present their arguments, were seen by several hundred thousand viewers.

Owing to the info-centre activities, state representatives, representatives of media outlets with varying editorial policies on NATO, communication experts, and NGO activists sat together for the first time and exchanged opinions on this topic.

The CDT team also created a policy brief "Strategic communication of Euro-Atlantic integration process," in order to help improve communication between the Government and other stakeholders concerned with NATO integration.

This document has given clear recommendations on how to improve public dialogue and inform the citizens and decision-makers gave it due considerations and took concrete actions based on these suggestions.

After a successful year, the info-centre will continue improving the communication with citizens, educating them and discussing the topics of interest and relevance for them.

Milica Kovačević,
President of CDT management board



Milica Kovačević



“Over 1000 citizens attended more than 20 info-centre events and heard various opinions of both supporters and opponents of Euro-Atlantic integration. The citizens spoke on the topics of security and integration with state officials, politicians, ambassadors, journalists, and NGO representatives. We dealt with NATO integration through creative workshops for youth, themed film screenings, which were followed by lively discussions.”





It's time to talk

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*What is Montenegro's national interest and if NATO is part of it why is it so?
What do we get out of it?
How will joining the Alliance reflect on our country?
Will the citizens live better? What will their obligations be?
Will Montenegrin soldiers become exposed to dangerous risks?
How strongly will our voice in NATO resonate?
What might happen to us if we take a seat at the planetary decision-making table?*

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Nedeljko Rudović

Media-government relations have a way of being strange. Sometimes they are polar opposites, sometimes they fully align. The media's goal is to publish information the Government isn't too keen on having out there and does all to conceal. On the other hand, Government sometimes has a great interest in publishing some favourable information. Journalists, even though their job in essence is to be critical towards those holding power in a society, should not have a problem in publishing those favourable information if they are accurate and relevant.

In this 'game' between those protecting the public interest and those believing the public need not always know what's taking place at the Government, the centre of attention is slowly shifting towards a topic that might in the long term shape Montenegro's future. Will Montenegro turn to the Western civilisation circle or will it embrace anew the Slavic motherland and be a proponent of Russian interests in this part of Europe? What is Montenegro's national interest and if NATO is part of it why is it so, what do we get out of it,

how will joining the Alliance reflect on our country, will the citizens live better, what will their obligations be, will Montenegrin soldiers become exposed to dangerous risks, how strongly will our voice in NATO resonate, what might happen to us if we take a seat at the planetary decision-making table? Or, how will Montenegro's future look if we accept being part of Russia's sphere of interest?

All these are key questions requiring best of answers, meaning we must have a dialogue on them. Media are the best place for such a dialogue and here we come to the ground where media and Government are not necessarily adversaries, supposing the Government doesn't view the media as its propaganda tool. National Coordinator for NATO Nebojša Kaluđerović told media representatives two months ago that the Government's aim is to open a dialogue and give room to both opinions. If that is really true, than the media and the Government are truly partners, as no one could expect (professional) reporters to favour NATO membership uncritically or be part of a propaganda machine of opponents of this, as the Government labels it, strategic objective of Montenegro.

Given that we are likely approaching an important decision, the key is to make room for a debate between supporters and opponents of NATO membership, but also to devote more attention to overarching thematic discussions on what it would mean for our country to join the club of world's mightiest countries or to remain outside it.

As the Government intention to boost activities in this area is evident, we might encounter a dangerous situation of Government 'campaign' producing a backlash among citizens and reduced interest among the media. This will surely happen if the previous 'strategy' reappears, where the focus was on frequent public forums in municipalities with recurring speakers, both domestic and international. This soon became boring, and it oft took aggressive turns, which only increased the opponents' defiance. That's why we perhaps don't need a 'campaign.' What Montenegro needs more is perhaps an open and honest talk.

Nedeljko Rudović,
journalist and deputy chief editor of Vijesti



Dynamising Economic Diplomacy



*Biljana Šćekić,
Director General
Directorate General for Economic Diplomacy
and Cultural Cooperation*

In 2014, we will continue pursuing economic diplomacy along the lines of the Government's priority to boost economic growth and create opportunities for greater employment in Montenegro. In that regard, the economic diplomacy priorities in 2014 will focus on promoting the image of Montenegro abroad, which is a precondition for the promotion of economic potentials and attracting foreign business, investment, and support to export. These priorities will be implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and other line ministries and agencies, in cooperation with Montenegrin diplomatic and consular representations abroad, Honorary Consuls, economic ambassadors, i.e. special envoys for foreign economic relations, as well as economic advisers and the diaspora.

Having in mind that economic development is among the Government's key priorities in 2014, we need to find efficient, pragmatic, and creative mechanisms for enhancing the economic component of diplomacy. That is why the Government of Montenegro has, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and following best global practices, decided to introduce economic ambassadors – special envoys pro-

moting Montenegro's economic interests abroad, selected from among prominent Montenegrin investors living in the country and abroad. Furthermore, a closer cooperation will be established with honorary consuls, and a special conference for them will be held in Montenegro this March. For a number of priority destinations, we plan to assign to our diplomatic and consular missions, in cooperation with other state institutions, representatives who will deal specifically with economic diplomacy. Equally important, the human and expert resources of our immigration are a realistic precondition for the social and economic development and further promotion of Montenegro internationally.

Appointment of economic ambassadors, as special envoys for foreign economic relations, from among renowned Montenegrin citizens and investors, may contribute greatly to the objectives of economic diplomacy and expand our diplomatic network in an efficient way in terms of costs and added value. Therefore, having in mind the required profile of an economic ambassador, they will potentially have an important role in promoting Montenegro and our economic interests abroad.

The concept of economic diplomacy, as adopted by the Government, envisages an integrated approach aimed at ensuring better coordination and bringing together all the potentials of the institutions that pursue foreign economic relations within their scope of work. In that regard, the Directorate General for Economic Diplomacy, as a "point of contact and support-centre" needs to mobilise all the resources to help foreign investors and boost export.

The 2013 Highlights

In addition to establishing and developing the capacity for economic diplomacy in the second half of 2013, the following activities were implemented:

Support to ministries

Mixed inter-governmental committees on economic cooperation were held with the United Arab Emirates, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Serbia, in cooperati-

on with the Ministry of Economy and with the help of other line ministries.

On the occasion of launching a tender procedure for oil and gas exploration, an international conference for the representatives of the oil industry and diplomats was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, which served as an opportunity for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy to present Montenegro's economic potentials.

Good practice has been established to initiate and hold bilateral meetings for Montenegrin officials at international conferences, seminars, and other events.

Cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro

Various business fora and promotional activities have been held with the view of presenting Montenegro's economic potentials to foreign companies.

Support to Montenegrin enterprises

Providing support to Plantaže in the markets in China, Russia, the US, and Austria, aided by the embassies.

Plantaže wines will be promoted in the US with the aid of the MIPA and line ministries.

Promotion of our economic interests abroad

The business opportunities and environment, as well as a number of strategic projects, were presented at the US State Department, Department of Commerce, and the US Chamber of Commerce.

Montenegro Days were hosted by our embassy in Vienna, where the representatives of the Government, the Chamber of Commerce, and various companies presented Montenegro's potentials to Austrian entrepreneurs.

Consulate General in Munich was established, whose primary task will be to rekindle old business ties and establish new cooperation. This way, the Ministry has presented cooperation possibilities to the Bavarian

Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Economy. Bavarian officials and entrepreneurs will also visit Montenegro to learn more about the possibilities for business cooperation. Furthermore, representatives of line ministries will present investment opportunities to regional chambers of commerce and Bavarian companies.

Support to foreign partners

Cooperation has been established to attract foreign investments to Montenegro and promote our economic potentials. Together with our embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a successful visit of the business delegation of the municipality of Gradiška was hosted, which helped make initial contact and make plans for future cooperation.

At the proposal of Malta's Honorary Consul, meetings were held with a prospective UK investor, who looked into opportunities to launch a factory for the production of solar panels.

Development aid

A memorandum on development aid was signed with Slovenia, whereby Montenegro received over 2 million € for co-financing infrastructure projects.

Key activities in 2014

EBRD will host a Western Balkans Investment Conference, where prime ministers will present investment opportunities and discuss potential cooperation.

Presentation of investment opportunities in London, Berlin, and Paris.

Strengthening cooperation with the countries in the region

Montenegro will host a conference for Honorary Consuls with the view to developing closer cooperation between the Ministry and the Honorary Consuls and helping them learn about Montenegro's potentials, history, culture, and economy.

INTERVIEW: Rastislav Vrbensky, UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro

Montenegro visible in the UN Human Rights Council and active in many global processes

UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro Rastislav Vrbensky tells Diplomarius about the UN mandate in our country and the areas where they pay most attention. He says that the United Nations mission's strategic priority is to support Montenegro on its road to EU membership. He emphasises excellent cooperation with numerous partners in the country, topped by the Government of Montenegro and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Could you please tell us briefly about the United Nations' mandate in Montenegro and your areas of work?

Vrbensky: One of the basic things we are doing is trying to focus on a few things where we believe we are good and where we have competitive advantage and can bring new value. In Montenegro we do only two things. We work on development and human rights. Our work is based on something which is called Integrated UN programme, which we have agreed upon with Government and other partners, and within these two areas, development and human rights, we further identified three very concrete programme areas, to which we are sticking rigorously. Those are: (1) Social inclusion, meaning working to support and improve the position of marginalised groups and working on including them in society and improving their access to social services. Then comes (2) Democratic government, which includes strengthening the institutions, working on human rights, working on transparency, and working on anti-discrimination. And the last one is what we call (3) integration programme for economy and environment, but it is basically Sustainable Development. What is specific for Montenegro is that the Government and the UN decided to apply voluntarily for the UN reform agenda called "Delivering as One," under which we are trying to work as One UN in the country. Montenegro is among 30 plus countries who volunteered globally for the introduction of this concept. This is also very good because it puts Montenegro in the global spotlight, and it means that we are trying to coordinate our activities very closely. Just to mention that in Montenegro, the UN presence, in the sense of UN agencies, is not that large. We have five agencies on the ground -

UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, UNDP, IOM - and then we have seven other UN agencies which work with us from their headquarters in Vienna, Geneva, or Venice. So it is 12 organisations altogether. Maybe the last thing I would like to mention is that, although the number of agencies and staff is maybe not that large, with our annual delivery around 12 million, and with almost one hundred UN staff in Montenegro, when we look at the country's population, it is definitely one of the biggest UN footprints in the entire region. It is at the same time recognition of the quality of partnership which we have here.

One of UN's key priorities in Montenegro is support to EU integration. Could you tell us more about it? How does the UN support Montenegro's EU accession process?

Vrbensky: In general, in various countries the UN is trying to align its programme activities with the priorities of the country. Clearly, the key foreign policy, but also a reform priority of Montenegro, is EU accession, and we are not hesitant to say that the relevance of the UN in the country will to a large extent depend on our ability to be useful for the country in its EU accession process. So we pay a lot of attention to the activities that are the priorities of Montenegro on its European path. How do we do it? What do we do in order to support the country in EU accession? We are offering, first of all our, analytical studies, products of our research, for the EU Progress Report. It has been acknowledged by the European Commission that the contribution of the UN family for the progress report is a very important source of information on the country's progress. Secondly, we are supporting Montenegro's negotiation process, and we do it in a very practical way for several negotiations groups. We especially provided support related to Chapters 23 and 24, but I assume that as negotiation will progress in those specific areas, we will also provide technical support, and, selectively, financial support. We will continue supporting the negotiations teams of Montenegro. The UN also supports the Government in programming IPA resources of funding, and we are also working with the Government and the Commission on the practical implementation of some of the progress in areas like social inclusion, gender equality, health, issues of refugees and internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, statelessness... In short - supporting the negotiations, supporting IPA programmes, and supporting practical implementation in some areas

where progress has been made.

I would like to conclude by emphasising that we have very close cooperation with the Government, especially with the coordination structures at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, but also with the division responsible for the programming of IPA, and with the European Commission, both in the Podgorica and in Brussels. So these will remain our key priority for the future.

Last year the United Nations launched a large-scale work on designing new development priorities for the period after 2015. What was the result and what was the role of Montenegro in the process?

Vrbensky: You know that the Millennium Development Goals, which were agreed in 2000, are going to expire in 2015. So, in a rather innovative way, the Secretary General decided that this time the definition of goals at the end 2015 is going to be done in a slightly different way. Previously it has been, for better or for worse, a top-down approach where politicians agreed on a set of goals in the framework of the General Assembly and some preparatory meetings. Now, the idea was that we would actually like to hear from the beneficiaries, from the elderly people, especially those who suffer most disadvantages, how they see their future, and what are the key issues they are concerned about. Montenegro participated very energetically in the process, and many stakeholders, including partners, the Government, us, participated in this process in a way which was recognised globally. We had an innovative approach to these national consultations; we were using a lot of social media, a lot of partner organisations, NGOs, to reach our various groups. And people in Montenegro have identified 8 key development priorities. Those priorities vary from good governance and fight against corruption to unemployment, health, education, values. What was also very interesting, almost

Rastislav Vrbensky, UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro





UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the construction site of the United Nations Eco Building in Montenegro, July 2012



"Employment" youth workshop within the UN partner initiative for a swift realisation of Millennium Development Goal 1 - Eradicating Poverty



United Nations Park in Cetinje, opened on the UN's 67th anniversary by the Government of Montenegro, Old Royal Capital of Cetinje, Uniqa, and the UN System in Montenegro



Painting by a 12-year-old from Plužine on the topic of future global challenges, made within the project of national post-millennium consultations on the post-2015 development priorities

amazing, was that more than 8000 people participated, which is more than one percent of the population. One of the results was that Montenegro got invited to the General Assembly last September to speak among very few countries at an event dedicated to Post-2015. We were very enthusiastic about that and we are not going to stop now. Issues have been identified and now we would like to talk with the people again about the means of implementation and how are we going to change the situation in these areas.

Recently, a Centre for Sustainable Development was established in Montenegro. What is the mission of the Centre?

Vrbensky: I would like to say that the idea of some kind sustainable development has been around for several

years. Bearing in mind that Montenegro by constitution is an ecological state, it originated from the fact that Montenegro's economy very much depends on the natural resources. With colleagues we have often argued that green economy for some countries is the matter of choice, but in Montenegro the green economy is a necessity. Because the economy depends on agropotentials, on natural beauty, on ecosystems, the work on sustainable development represents a significant part of our portfolio. We decided, together with the Government, that instead of just implementing these projects, we are also going to put an institutional framework to it.

We are going to use our cooperation to build something which will stay in Montenegro and which will stay perhaps beyond the UN presence in Montenegro. We decided to establish a sustainable development centre in Montenegro, which initially is going to focus on issues related to Montenegro, but, in the future, should really become an independent regional centre dealing with issues of sustainable development. At the end of last year we have signed a memorandum of understanding about the establishment of the centre, which started to operate on 1 January. We are going to focus on four areas which are important for Montenegro, but also for the region as such - sustainable tourism, sustainable energy, ecosystem management and climate change, and environmental security. In all these areas we already have expertise. What is also important is that the centre is not going to focus only on practical implementation of the initiatives, but also on the link between science and practical work. It is going to become part of a global network of sustainable development centres, such as, for instance,

Rio+ Centre opened last year by the UNDP and the Government of Brazil.

Montenegro is one of the youngest members of the UN. How do you see the position of Montenegro in the international community, and especially in the UN?

Vrbensky: I think that Montenegro has invested quite a bit of energy into building very good relations with the UN. Montenegro is a very active member. It is a very visible, not only through its participation in the Human Rights Council, but also through very active participation in global processes. Just recall the last General Ensemble in New York, where, again, the presence of Montenegro's delegation was very visible. We have been very proud to support, as I mentioned, Montenegro's participation in the discussion related to Post-2015, among just few other countries globally. The same goes for the high level event on the Millennium Development Goals, where we again supported the Government's preparation of the progress report entitled Report on Millennium Development Goals in Montenegro. I think Montenegro is very much praised for its active support to the "Delivering as One" approach. Of course, the Government decision to provide UN with a UN house, the Eco Building, is going to strengthen even further the partnership and show the country's commitment to the UN fundamental values.

Interviewer: Miraš Dušević, journalist at Codeks web-portal

UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro Rastislav Vrbensky presents the report on post-millennium national consultations *The Montenegro I Want to Branislav Gvozdenović, Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism*



Biography

Rastislav Vrbensky assumed the position of UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative to Montenegro in October 2011. Prior to his appointment in Montenegro, he served as Country Director in UNDP Tajikistan from November 2008 to October 2011. He also served as Deputy Resident Representative in UNDP Serbia from 2004 to 2007. He joined UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre in 2000 as Sustainable Development Policy Advisor, and since then he was Officer-in-Charge for support to countries without full UNDP presence, Democratic Governance Practice, Regional Coordinator for Capacity 21 Programme and Assistant Director. Before joining UNDP, Vrbensky worked for the Government of Slovakia and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Central and Eastern Europe in Bratislava. Rastislav Vrbensky holds a PhD degree in development studies from the Comenius University in Bratislava and Master's degrees in environmental management from the University of Amsterdam and in environmental science from the Comenius University. In 2008, he was a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. He is fluent in English and Russian.

Find more about the UN mandate and activities in Montenegro at UN communication platforms:

Official UN System in Montenegro website:
www.un.org.me

Official UN System in Montenegro Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/UN.Montenegro

Official UN System in Montenegro Twitter account:
www.twitter.com/UN_Montenegro

UN System in Montenegro online photo library:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/106991185@N05/sets>

UN System in Montenegro online library of reports and publications:
http://issuu.com/un_montenegro/stacks

Opening the Consulate General in Munich - Challenges and opportunities

Expansion of the diplomatic service in accordance with economic and foreign policy priorities is surely a great challenge for any country. It is an even greater challenge when the economic circumstances surrounding the process are tough, which begs the question: why open, at the time of a taxing economic situation, another representation in a country where we already have two?

I would say precisely because of it - precisely because we are trying to boost our economy by extending the cooperation with those who are economically strong, and Bavaria surely is strong. It is one of the strongest (if not the strongest) federal units in one of the strongest (if not the strongest) economies in Europe. Following this line of thought, the aforementioned question answers itself.

Just as any other diplomatic or consular representation, a Consulate General covers a broad spectrum of activities, such as political (in the amount and at the level pertaining to it), classical consular affairs, and cooperation with the diaspora. Economic diplomacy goes without saying and is not only a requirement, but also a necessity.

Bavaria is a very famous German federal unit. It has a rather autonomous and well organised cultural, but also political, administrative system, with a plethora of institutions with whom we now must initiate and build cooperation and trust.

Even though Montenegrin diaspora in Bavaria is rather small compared to other parts of Germany, their daily activities require various consular services. Likewise, one of the best organised



*Veljko Milonjić,
Consul General
Consulate General of Montenegro in Munich*

and most active Montenegrin societies in all of our diaspora runs its activities in Bavaria, which calls for an active communication and cooperation with the home country, or rather its Consulate General, as the first point of contact in the receiving country.

Bearing in mind that we have set our goals for each of the areas of our future activity as a Consulate, the main challenge ahead is how to act with our rather limited capacity, i.e. how to maximise our impact with minimal resources (human, financial, and logistical). How to manage time and how to set priorities?

What is needed here the most is a well organised system and good coordination between the Ministry (as the home institution) and the representation (as its branch). Having in mind the



Munich Consulate opening ceremony

overall capacity of the Consulate General, as well as the scope of work in all areas, it is necessary to create certain instructions and "ready-made packages" that the Consulate General may offer to the potentially interesting and useful target groups. This is primarily the case for the area of economic diplomacy. It is perhaps putting it too bluntly that the Consulate General should be a good salesman and promoter of everything that Montenegro is and that it has to offer (primarily its economic, political, and cultural image), but essentially it boils down to that.

In the case of Bavaria, up to now there has been no significant economic cooperation with Montenegro. The big names (such as BMW, Siemens, Audi...) do have their presence in Montenegro through various branches whose central institutions are not in Bavaria, but rather someplace else dealing with South-East Europe. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Bavaria (which employ up to 2.000 people) are virtually

non-existent in Montenegro. Conversely, in Croatia, and in other countries of the region, Bavarian companies are present, in a varying degree, not only as service-providers, but also as producers.

With its business environment, natural riches, other resources, and the overall policies all in line with the best Western values, Montenegro surely can and will be an attractive investment destination. To which extent this will be materialised depends mainly on our ability to promote ourselves and offer something qualitatively different from others.

The goals are clear, and the challenges are huge. An entirely new chapter in the relations between Montenegro and Bavaria is being written, and we need to fill the pages. The responsibility and warmth I feel towards the tasks entrusted to me by the opening of the Consulate General certainly match my great enthusiasm in undertaking them.

Early Montenegrin emigrants to the US



Gordana Stojović
Ambassador of Montenegro to Argentina

There is a particular topic from Montenegro's history that is very little known about today - that is the history of early emigrants who sailed from the Bay of Kotor (18th century) and the rest of Montenegro (19th century) first to the South and West coast, and then to the Ellis Island and settled in the USA in what was one of the greatest migrations in world's recent history until World War II.

First immigration from Montenegro during the so-called individual immigration period, encompassing the period prior to 1892 and the establishment of Ellis Island, took place in the area of Louisiana in the short period of Spanish rule (1762-1802). These people are believed to have crossed from the Caribbean ports under the rule of viceroys of New Spain to the area of south Louisiana prior to its readmission under French control (1800) and the act known in history as "Vente de la Louisiane" or Louisiana Purchase (1803), when the US bought 2.14 million km² of land, comprising a territory of roughly 13-14 today's federal states.

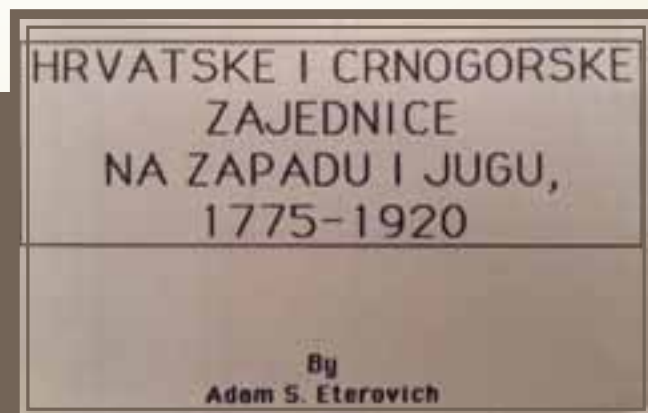
Already in the first half of the 19th century, several tradesmen from the Luštica peninsula were living in New Orleans. Further testifying to early migrations from Montenegro to the American South are the numerous Montenegrin last names found in two famous regiments of the Confederate Army - the "Cognovich Regiment" and the "Slavonic Regiment."

In addition to the American South, early migrants from Montenegro settled in California, especially its southern part. This took place just a few years after the first Russian colonists left their 1812 "Fort Ross" area in 1842 and after the American settlers in 1846, already then outnumbering the Hispanic settlers, or "Californios," proclaimed for a short time the independent Republic of California, which later became the 31st US state on 9 September 1850 after the end of the 1848 American-Mexican war.

We know of early Montenegrin settlers of the US West Coast, especially California, not only from the stories about famous pioneers, such as the Perazić brothers or the Medin brothers and other early settlers, but also from existing records. The first American-born who became Orthodox priest was Jovan John Dabović (clerical name Sebastian), born in California in 1863, whose parents were migrants from Sasovići village near Herceg Novi.

Our early emigrants to the US West Coast were largely researched by Croatian researcher Adam Eterović, whose first records of "Montenegrin and Dalmatian colonies" are at the same time the most valid proof of the existence and ways of life of our old diaspora in this corner of the world. The first immigrant society (Slavonic Mutual and Benevolent Society), co-organised among others by Montenegrin settlers, was founded in 1857. One of the oldest societies with a word "Montenegrin" in its title was the "Serbian-Montenegrin Literary and Benevolent Society" from San Francisco, founded in 1880, which still operates today and in whose cemetery many famous settlers were buried, among whom Nikola Petanović Naiaid.

First written record about a Montenegrin immigrant in the West Coast is about John Vicković (Jovan Vicković from Čeklići). In the documents about the Los Angeles pioneers he was first mentioned as a "gold miner" (in 1859), then as a San Francisco restaurant-owner (1877), and finally as a Los Angeles hotel owner (1884). A growing number of Montenegrin settlers moved to the West soon after,



USGS Place Name: Popovich Hill

Popovich Hill is classified as a Summit in Eureka County, Nevada.

Feature Name:	Popovich Hill
Feature Type:	Summit
County:	Eureka
Primary State:	Nevada
Latitude:	40.9118563 North
Longitude:	-116.3153638 West
Elevation:	6571 Feet above MS (2003 Meters)
USGS Quad Map:	Rodeo Creek NE

Mount Hajdukovich Details

Mount Hajdukovich is a mountain summit in Southeast Fairbanks (CA) County in the state of Alaska (AK). Mount Hajdukovich climbs to 9,354 feet (2,861.10 meters) above sea level. Mount Hajdukovich is located at latitude - longitude coordinates (also called lat - long coordinates or GPS coordinates) of N 63.540833 and W -145.208889.

Anyone attempting to climb Mount Hajdukovich and reach the summit should look for detailed information on the Mount Hajdukovich area in the topographic map (topo map) and the Mount Hayes C-3 USGS quad. To hike and explore the Alaska outdoors near Mount Hajdukovich, check the list of nearby trails.

[Read Condition Reports](#) | [Add Condition Report](#)
[View Locator Map and Local Weather](#)

Peak Type: Summit
 Latitude: 63.540833
 Longitude: -145.208889
 Peak Elevation: 9,354 feet (2,861.10 m)
 Nearest City: Delta Junction (22.4 miles away)



mostly from the regions of Paštrovići and Crmnica, most likely attracted by the stories of gold and opportunities to make quick money. They first settled in Nevada and would shortly leave the “wild” Nevada for a tamer and at that time more civilised California.

Among the first settlers were Peter Radovich, John Chatovich, John Ivancovich, Elias Franicevich, Nikola Dabovich, Peter Radoicich, Nikola Milovich, A. Marinovich, famous Perazić brothers Ilija, Nikola, and Petar, the Medin Brothers, John Lazarevich and many more.

“Daily Trespass” from Virginia City featured an add on 11 November 1867 about the “Adriatic Saloon” in the South C Street 8, owned by Spiro Vuckovich, originally from Risan. “The Carson Daily Appeal” from Carson City published on 16 November 1867 an interesting ad about a store owned by George Zenovich from Budva that offered fruit, vegetables, nuts, sweets, tobacco, cigars, and pipes.

The most successful among them was probably Marko Medin, born in Budva in 1824, whose life story resembles an old Western tale. He was one of the most successful and richest Montenegrin and South Slavic pioneers in the West, a man whose name went down in the history books of that part of America. In 1856 he owned a fruit store in San Francisco and gained a solid wealth. In 1861 he was among the first Nevada settlers. Medin’s building in Virginia City was among the biggest brick buildings in town. He and his partners registered on 29 June 1863 a gold and silver company operating in the mining areas of Argentina and the Washoe County, Nevada. The corporation’s base capital amounted to more than US\$100.000. During his many years of work on this project, Medin became a very wealthy man.

His compatriot John Gregovich, born in Paštrovići, married a French woman and became a wealthy man in Tonopah, Nevada. After

Nevada became a federal state in 1864, Gregovich was appointed to state legislature, holding several mandates. Ilija Franichevich, also born in Paštrovići, was a real-estate owner and alcohol tradesman in Reno. Alexander Drobnjak, born in Risan, owned vast land and a hotel in Reno. Jefto Davidovich from Paštrovići and Mark Maina from Budva were the pioneers in Tonopah, and Maina later became a well known restaurant chain owner in Sacramento.

Džon Chatovich from Morinj earned his initial wealth as a miner, and later became a businessman in Silver Pick, Nevada. His descendants lived in Reno, and in tribute a mine and a stream are named after him.

After 1892 and the establishment of the Ellis Island immigration station, the period of individual emigration of smaller groups of individuals mainly from the coast and the adjacent areas had come to an end. After this came the first settlements in Pennsylvania and Montana, where large immigrant colonies were established and shortly after in other parts of the USA, and especially Alaska, Wyoming, Colorado, Indiana, and the industrial centres such as Chicago and Detroit.

Even though Montenegrin immigrants were scattered across the US, in the early 20th century more and more of them began settling in the mining areas of Montana and Pennsylvania or the large industrial cities of Chicago and Detroit. Records at the time stated that in 1908 there were between 15.000 (P. Rovinjski) and 17.000 (Free Word) Montenegrins in Northern America.

The town of Butte in Montana had become quite a small-scale Montenegro, where at one point there were 5.000 Montenegrins from around the country, out of 10.000 inhabitants. Like everyone else, when the mining industry came to an end and town population decreased, Montenegrin immigrants mostly



abandoned Butte and other Montana mining towns. Consequently, the number of people of Montenegrin origin there is now considerably smaller than in early 20th century, as the second generation moved across the US in pursuit of work and education. A similar thing happened in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, where in 1902 there were allegedly 4.000 Montenegrins in a single part of town, and today there are barely 50 descendant families left, and many had returned to Montenegro or went to larger cities such as Detroit, Chicago, and New York. As reminders of those great colonies, there remained forgotten miners’ cemeteries in Hazleton, PA, Billings, MT, San Francisco, CA, and various toponyms such as “Popovich Creek” in Nevada, “Mount Hajdukovich” near

Fairbanks, Alaska are proof of early arrivals and notable presence of Montenegrin immigrants to the US.

When we speak today only of immigration that took place before WWII, it is hard to ascertain exactly how many Americans are descendants of early Montenegrin immigrants. This number is certainly not negligible if we bear in mind the early arrivals or simply browse through the Ellis Island papers containing thousands of names. Statistical methods usually applied in such research and estimations of numbers of descendants based on entry data will surely in time provide more precise numbers, but we may safely say at this moment that this number is between 50 and 100 thousand people.



Honorary consuls

Rights and privileges of honorary consuls

International legal standing of representations headed by honorary consular officers is regulated by the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The consular office and the honorary officer in charge of it enjoy the protection of the receiving State, fiscal exemptions, as well as exemption from customs duties for the import of articles intended solely for the official use of the post. The preamble of the Convention states that the "purpose of such privileges and immunities is not to benefit individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of functions." Article 41, which protects career consular officers from arrests except in the case of a grave crime, does not extend to honorary consuls.

Honorary consular officers are usually citizens of the receiving State and have close ties with the country they represent, albeit there are exceptions.

Honorary consular representations are usually a tool of small countries, when due to objective circumstances it is not feasible for them to appoint a career diplomat. A good example is Slovenia with its more than 80 honorary consuls, acting as a sort of economic ambassadors who promote development of business and investment in the country.

Honorary consuls are not paid for their work. In extraordinary cases they receive a symbolic reward or remuneration for their expenses in performing duties.

Appointment of honorary consuls

According to Article 33 of the Law on Foreign Affairs, at the recommendation of the minister and with the consent of the receiving State, the Government appoints as an honorary consul a distinguished citizen of the receiving State or of a third State willing to represent the interests of Montenegro. The consular duties and functions pertaining to the honorary consul are laid down by the Ministry and exercised within the limits of the consular area. Honorary consuls are required to perform their duties in accordance with the policies and positions of the Government, and following the instructions of the head of the permanent diplomatic mission in the receiving State, or the manager of the line unit at the Ministry. The honorary consuls procure the means required for the operation of the consular posts they are heading. At the recommendation of the minister, the Government terminates the functions of the honorary consul.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro has adopted, pursuant to the Article 33 para 2 of the Law on

Foreign Affairs (Official Gazette of Montenegro 46/10), a Rulebook on Rights and Duties of Honorary Consuls (Official Gazette 19/12).

Honorary consuls' functions

The basic functions of honorary consuls relate to: improving bilateral relations between Montenegro and the receiving State in all areas of shared interest; strengthening ties with Montenegrin immigrants in the receiving State; professional and responsible aid and protection of interests of persons and legal entities from Montenegro in the receiving State; aiding within the consular representatives of state bodies, Montenegrin officials, and entrepreneurs who are in working visits; taking concrete measures in providing necessary assistance to Montenegrin citizens in crisis situations and in that regard cooperating with the institutions of the receiving State; informing the diplomatic representation of Montenegro in the receiving State as well as the Ministry of the events, information, and documents relevant for interests and obligations of Montenegro; development of cooperation and friendly relations with consular representatives of other States residing in the same consular area; performing other duties in accordance with the law and other regulations, as well as international treaties and diplomatic and consular practice, and following the instructions of the head of the diplomatic representation and the Ministry.



Opening of the Honorary Consulate in Kyiv, Ukraine, 5 December 2013

Our honorary consuls

Montenegro presently has 28 honorary consuls, and appointment of 18 new honorary consuls is in procedure.

Montenegro has honorary consuls in the following states: Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Cyprus, Guatemala, Italy, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malta, the Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, the UK (in Scotland), and the USA.

Editorial team



FROM THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMACY

Montenegrins did not lag behind the world



*Dejan Vuković – director,
Directorate for Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities,
Legalisation, Visa and Passport Affairs, and Fly-Overs*

IN HIS DESIRE TO MAKE THE MONTENEGRIN CAPITAL CETINJE MORE EUROPEAN, PRINCE NIKOLA EVEN DONATED THE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EMBASSIES

Diplomatic activities go a long way back to the ancient civilizations of Egypt, China, and India. Numerous Ancient Greek city-states exchanged envoys, predecessors of modern diplomats, who were received with special consideration and given a privileged treatment, which tells us that hand in hand with diplomacy came the privileges and immunities. Ancient Rome cherished that tradition, whereas the exchange of envoys starts its full sway during the Renaissance, when in the 15th century the Republic of Venice had diplomatic representations in Rome, Paris, and Vienna. In its footsteps followed the city-

states of Milan, Tuscany, and Florence. The congress of Westphalia in 1648 recognises the establishment of permanent diplomatic representations. Esteemed diplomats and famous persons of the time, such as the historian and philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli, promote their States' interests, in his the Republic of Florence, and at the same time the diplomatic profession. The famous Dutch legal and philosophy author Hugo Grotius, famously labelled as the "father of international law," establishes diplomacy's two corner-stones: the accreditation of a diplomatic representative, and his protection in the receiving State. The 1815 Regulation of Vienna on the classification of diplomatic agents and the 1818 Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen) Protocol amending it mark the beginnings of the codification of diplomatic law. Their provisions were later incorporated into the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations – one of the key documents regulating present-day diplomacy.

The Vienna Convention reminded that since most ancient times the peoples and countries recognised the status of diplomatic representatives, and consequently their privileges and immunities, whose task was not to make diplomats a privileged class of people, but to ensure their tasks are performed efficiently and without hindrance. Accordingly, diplomatic privileges and immunities last during the period of the diplomatic mandate in the receiving State, and even during the times of armed conflict, and extend to diplomats' family, property, and lodging. Particular attention is devoted to the inviolability of the premises of diplomatic and consular representations. This means that only the head of mission may grant access to the diplomatic representation premises to the receiving State authorities, which in turn must provide all measures required for the protection of safety and dignity of the representation. The principle of inviolability extends also to the official vehicles, diplomatic correspondence, archive, and freedom



Royal family on the proclamation day of the Kingdom of Montenegro, 1910

*I row:
Grand Duke Peter Nikolayevich Romanov, Prince Francis Joseph of Battenberg, Princesses Vera and Ksenija, Heir Apparent Prince Danilo, Prince Mirko, Prince Peter.*

*II row:
Princess Milica Petrović, Princess Anna Battenberg, Princess Elena of Savoy, Queen Milena, King Nikola, Grand Princess Milica Nikolaevna Romanov, King Victor Emmanuel III of Savoy, Princess Natalija Petrović*

*III row:
Princess Jelena Karadorđević, Princess Marina Petrovna Romanov and Heir Apparent Alexander Karadorđević*

of speech of the diplomatic representation. Banners and flags of the sending State may be displayed on the representation building and on the residence of the head of mission. At the same time, diplomats enjoy complete immunity from criminal jurisdiction, civil procedures, administrative responsibility, arrest, and incarceration, in addition to the privileges related to tax and customs exemption. Diplomats must respect the law of the receiving State, must not interfere in its domestic affairs, or run lucrative businesses.

Being an old country, Montenegro cherishes the tradition of granting facilities to diplomatic representatives, even prior to the adoption of various conventions prescribing that "the receiving State shall... facilitate the acquisition on its territory, in accordance with its laws, by the sending State of premises necessary for its mission." After the 1878 Congress of Berlin, the Principality of Montenegro and the famous Cetinje officially become home to foreign diplomats. Cold winters under the Lovćen Mountain and a lack of active social life drives the diplomats to visit Cetinje only periodically and spend most of their times enjoying the charms of Kotor, Dubrovnik, and Skadar. Delicate perceptiveness and statesman's wisdom of Prince Nikola guide the visionary hands of the renowned Josip Slade from Trogir, who weaves the

elegant and urban shapes into the outline of Cetinje's city-centre, and ennobles the town's warrior spirit. Montenegro goes on to show its political sensitivity and commitment to diplomacy and relations with other states by endowing land for the construction of the Russian legation. Refinement is also shown when Italy starts building its legation, when due to inadequacy of the property Prince Nicolas buys parts of Church land and donates it to Italy, and also when the municipal authority of Cetinje gives, with his blessing, part of its land as a gift to the legation of France. Even though Cetinje suffered from water restrictions until the construction of the new water supply line in 1911, the diplomatic missions were allowed, in accordance with the Law on town municipalities and municipal decisions, "to take from public water drinking fountains as much water as they needed without the restrictions that are imposed on citizens."

Diplomats were given special treatment in all instances. When British Resident Minister in Cetinje Robert Kennedy was touring Montenegro, Cetinje sent telegraphs to other towns urging the authorities to ensure best possible travel arrangements and comfortable lodgings. A dispatch sent on 20 May 1894 to district governor of Nikšić nicely illustrates this treatment: "On Sunday night, the English Minister will

Austro-Hungarian Embassy



come with his wife and two servants to Ostrog, where they will stay the night. Inform Mr Abbot to provide the best possible welcome, to take no money for the services, unless he himself makes a donation to the Church. On Monday he will go to Nikšić. Ensure that the place where he will reside be comfortable and be at his service at all times." The English travel writer Miller mentions the British legation's "ostentatious" tennis court built at the request of the heir apparent for the use of Her Majesty's diplomatic representative, which is very telling of the efforts of the Montenegrin court to make the life of foreign diplomats as comfortable and, for those times, as opulent as possible.

The new and for those times stunning buildings of the missions of Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Serbia, and Turkey breathe charm and taste of distant cities and lands and adorn Cetinje, turning it into a veritable European capital. In addition, the social life becomes richer, with numerous soirées, formal dinners, and receptions held at the Petrović Palace, thus creating a truly European environment and making the snowy and rainy winters at Cetinje more bearable. The Principality, and later Kingdom of Montenegro, was finally able to bask in the diplomatic glory it deserved.

Embassy of Russia



The diplomats who served in Montenegro would usually leave the country with beautiful memories, such as the secretary of the French embassy, Mr Trubert, who made numerous friendships and spent unforgettable days in Montenegro, and wrote a song of gratitude in the "Voice of the Montenegrin" in 1900, whose rough translation would go as follows:

Goodbye land and proud rock / whose snowy peaks to the sky flock / where the thunders' noises pound / and the stone is cloaked in cloud! / Goodbye land of war and fight and glory. / With me eyes and thought I know the story / Of the fame of thy soil firm, unkind, / Where thy fathers found their peace of mind!

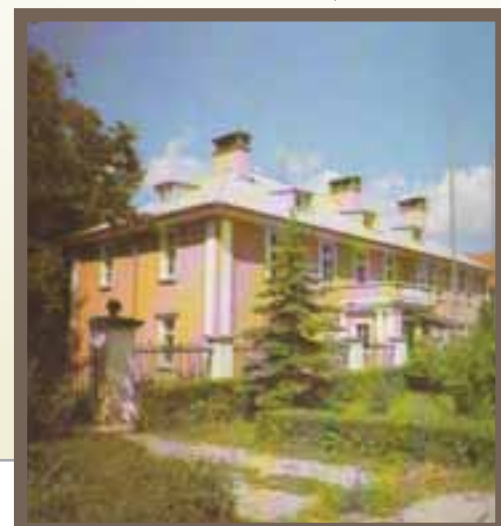
Since the restoration of independence on 21 May 2006, as in the past, Montenegro has shown due respect to foreign diplomats. This hospitality comes from our heritage, long-standing popular traditions, and natural generosity towards visitors, especially foreign ones. Consistent observance of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, with a special attention to the provisions on privileges and immunities, contributes to the success of foreign diplomatic missions to Montenegro, as well as to the development of trust and cooperation between countries.

Embassy of France

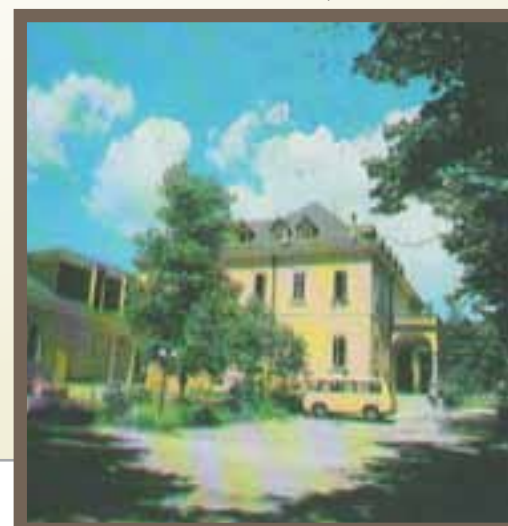


The bright colours of all the flags standing proudly at the embassies, missions, and consulates in Montenegro continue the olden tradition of Montenegro's diplomatic relations and friendship with other countries, and they send the message that our relationships are based on mutual respect, positive energy, and prosperity.

British Embassy



Italian embassy



Support to capacity development - CDP



Dragan Đurić, Core Technical Adviser, Capacity Development Programme



Olivera Dimić, Programme manager, Capacity Development Programme

The drafting process of the Montenegro EU Accession Programme enters its final phase. This comprehensive overview of the level of alignment of Montenegro's legislation with the EU acquis, the future work in legal harmonisation, and the assessments of the lack of administrative capacity and budgetary means for this task is an important cornerstone for the process of EU accession negotiation. Important support to the drafting process of this strategic document comes from CDP. This acronym stands for Capacity Development Programme, and has become part of a special administrative Eurojargon in Montenegro.

CDP provides support to administrative capacity development needed for further success of EU integration, because the issue of administrative capacity is underlined in all EU documents on

Montenegro. Frankly speaking, Brussels sends similar comments to all EU aspirants, but the administrative capacity issue is particularly highlighted in the case of Montenegro. Firstly, this is because Montenegro is the smallest of all the countries that have ever been involved in the EU accession process. In addition, one should note Montenegro restored its independence only recently, which created additional burdens in building the institutional and administrative capacities overall, and especially in creating new institutions which were previously reserved for the federal, i.e. state union level.

Challenges of a small administration

A small country like Montenegro faces, naturally, the same tasks as the countries with ten times as many inhabitants. The processes of economic and political integration in Europe over the past



Capacity Development Programme for the Government of Montenegro

50 years have led to the European Union as we know it today. This means European integration is not a state of affairs, but a process. Therefore, EU accession must be regarded as a highly complex, difficult, and slow process, whose completion requires years. What the EU member-states have been building with joint effort over the past 60 years, the new countries in the accession process now have to complete ten times faster. Furthermore, each new phase in the process is more demanding and complex. A particular burden falls on the shoulders of the state administration, as it is exactly the administrative structures' reforms that should ensure democratisation, rule of law, and adoption of European standards in a society. This means that the process of developing administrative capacities for EU accession is tightly intertwined with the entire process of public administration reform, in order to ensure full transition of a society.

Furthermore, all small administrations face similar problems and limitations: certain key functions must be performed regardless of a country's

size. Because of this, small states often use relatively larger administrative resources for solving issues. Common characteristics of small administrations include: Multi-functionalism: less opportunity for specialisation, both at the level of individual civil servants and institutions on the whole. Civil servants must deal with multi-disciplinary tasks. Relying on informal structures: small-state administrations are, according to comparative research, more likely to rely on flexible and informal structures to ensure timely completion of tasks. Limitations in management and control: in small states, political and bureaucratic activities oftentimes overlap. Greater personalisation: civil servants must often work professionally with cousins and friends, further complicating bureaucratic relations. Because of this, small administrations are often identified with poor management, as they often face peculiar risks: privatisation of public offices, conflict behaviour, nepotism... On the other hand, the famous saying that "small is beautiful" points to positive effects of small state administration: many things are done quicker, more flexible, and simpler...

For the said reasons, the process of EU accession requires continuous development of state administration capacities in Montenegro.

What does capacity development mean? There are many definitions, but at the bottom of it CDP means "the ability of organisations and individuals to perform functions effectively, efficiently, and sustainable". Therefore, from CDP viewpoint, capacity development is a "process through which individuals, organisations, and societies obtain, strengthen, and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time." In other words, this is the way an organisation becomes able to complete its tasks. The support of the capacity development process means that the CDP cooperates with the line institution in first identifying the gap between the existing and desired capacities, which is usually done by a "capacity assessment." This assessment requires an analysis of the existing vis-à-vis desired capacities and enables for a more precise overview of the needs. After this, specific responses are drafted to accommodate those needs. In this way, specific projects and concrete activities are defined for the development of required capacity.

What is Capacity Development Programme?

The establishment of the Capacity Development Programme is a product of an initiative by George Soros and Milo Đukanović from January 2013, after which the Government of Montenegro founded, together with the Foundation Open Society Institute Montenegro and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Capacity Development Programme for the State Administration of Montenegro.

The programme was envisaged to correspond to the public administration reform strategy and was to become an auxiliary mechanism for institutional reforms aimed at achieving European standards. This programme was specific compared to other donor programmes, among other things because the Government of Montenegro was a key partner and at the

same time sponsor and beneficiary of the programme. For example, the Government invested at that time 200 thousand US dollars, and in the following three years it received projects worth two million. Since then, the CDP spends on average around one million US dollars annually from various donors on administrative capacity building projects in Montenegro. Domestic ownership of the CDP programme activities was confirmed in 2007 when the CDP management moved into the Government premises, i.e. those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

The core CDP assistance is aimed at supporting the foreign policy priorities and building and developing structures for the coordination of the EU accession process.

The CDP has previously supported the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the drafting of the National Programme for EU Integration 2008-2012, capacity development for harmonisation of national legislation with EU acquis, etc. In addition, no less important were the CDP projects with two parliamentary committees - on international relations and EU integration, and on legislation and constitution, and virtually all younger civil servants remember well the textbooks for state licence exam, whose publication was aided by CDP. CDP also has a major role in programming European support to Montenegro. Since 2009, CDP assists in programming the funds from the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and now helps in programming the new IPA funds from the financial perspective 2014-2020. Among diplomats, the best recognised CDP activity is the organisation of Montenegro Summer School for Young Diplomats "Gavro Vuković." For six years in a row, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration hosts, with CDP support, this summer school gathering young diplomats from a growing number of countries each year.

Our traineeship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration



Ivan Vučinić, beneficiary of the professional training programme for university graduates at the Office for Public Relations and Communication Support to Integration processes at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro

In the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2011) 933) Youth Opportunities Initiative, it is stated that “a large share of the young generation is not equipped with the skills to enter and succeed on the labour market on a sustainable basis.” It is also noted that in most member-states one of the main reasons behind youth unemployment is the lack of required skills and experience.



Goran Ruljić, beneficiary of the professional training programme for university graduates at the Directorate General for Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro.

The Communication is also explicit in stating that “the acquisition of skills should go hand-in-hand with a strong focus on employment to develop work experience. Apprenticeships, placements in enterprises and traineeships are particularly important because, provided that they fulfil the necessary quality standards, they offer the opportunity to young people to acquire both the relevant skills and work experience.”

The recommendations of the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic

and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions were used in drafting the Law on the professional training of university graduates. This law provided an opportunity for over 4.000 graduates to undertake trainings and acquire skills required for independent work. This process was also meant to help them decide whether they want to work in an area of their higher education and what this work means in practice.

The first things that come to mind when thinking of traineeships are: applying knowledge, learning new things, and acquiring skills that prove a young professional is ready to work in a certain area.

The professional training programme for university graduates, as a systemic activity aimed at transferring skills, knowledge, and competences for independent work to young professionals without working experience, gave us an opportunity to apply in practice what we learned at university and helped us learn first-hand about the issues we previously encountered only in books, which gave us theoretical knowledge on how to solve them.

Together with over 4.000 university graduates, we started acquiring skills through the professional training programme in January 2013. As graduates of political science, we were offered an opportunity to work at the Directorate General for Consular Affairs, and the Office for Public Relations and Communication Support to Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro.

Whilst early experiences of trainees elsewhere varied, we started focusing from day one on the practical sides of the areas of our interest, which to a certain degree also helped shape our personalities.

Entering for the first time the work environment and inter-personal relations in such

a complex, yet very interesting and dynamic area of international and public relations, we sought advice from older co-workers, who were quick to help. It was this welcoming and friendly environment that made us feel, from the start, like we were in the right place, where human interaction is very good and where team-work makes all the tasks easier and performing them more efficient.

Early on, we were given tasks usually assigned to trainees and first-timers. Through our hard work, dedication, loyalty, and willingness to learn, we gained our superiors' trust, evident in the more complex tasks they started assigning to us as time passed, which provided an additional incentive for our further effort.

The tasks related to international legal assistance, visa policy, privileges and immunities of diplomatic and consular representatives to Montenegro, daily communication with the media and citizens, and participation in creative programmes became our everyday life.

The experience we are constantly gaining at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, team-work with excellent people, and interactions with individuals from diplomatic circles have substantially contributed to our better understanding of the area of international relations. In this experience, where we promoted the interests of our citizens, the state, and the ministry abroad, we found not only professional, but primarily personal satisfaction, which we believe this is the most important thing, and as such truly priceless.



*Dženana Bibezić,
III Secretary at the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro*

IX training for young diplomats from South East Europe and Turkey Clingendael Institute in the Hague, the Netherlands



The Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael organised a six-week training (30 September - 7 November 2013) for Junior Diplomats from South-Eastern Europe and Turkey in The Hague. The training was financed through the MATRA programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the funds provided by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In addition to several honoured participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro - Linda Berišaj, Fedisa Dacić, and Dženana Bibezić - the participants were 13 young diplomats from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

The Clingendael Institute, founded in 1983, is housed in an extraordinary spot, a castle built in the second half of the 17th century, surrounded by a gorgeous park just outside the Hague city centre, renowned for its many gar-

dens, among which the Japanese Garden particularly stands out. In this environment, the trainees got the opportunity to expand their knowledge at lectures given by more than 60 experts from Clingendael, Universities of Amsterdam, Leiden, Rotterdam, and Utrecht, diplomatic representatives to the Netherlands, business, and NGO officials. It is important to note that Clingendael has trained many influential officials, among whom the current Foreign Ministers of the Netherlands Frans Timmermans and Lithuania Linas Linkevičius.

The training was officially launched by Clingendael Institute's Director Ron Ton, and the keynote speech was given by Dirk Jan Kop, Special Representative for Europe and the Eastern Partnership at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, about the relation between the European Union (EU) and the countries of the Eastern Partnership. The training focused on the relations between South East Europe and Turkey with

the EU, new trends in diplomacy (public diplomacy and economic diplomacy), international security, rule of law, and trade relations. A considerable part of the programme was devoted to work-shops on improving diplomatic skills, including negotiation, communication, policy reporting, debating techniques, speech-writing, and policy analysis. The trainees highly praised in particular the workshop on intercultural communication, where they gained knowledge needed for analysing individual and national cultural profiles.

The programme included working visits to institutions of the Netherlands, but also to Brussels as the centre of the European Union. In the Netherlands, we visited the House of Representatives of the Dutch Parliament, where we were hosted by former diplomat and current Labour Party MP Marit Maij. This was followed by a visit to the Europe House and a constructive meeting with Andy Klom, Head of the Euro-

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pean Commission Representation in the Netherlands. At the Dutch Foreign Ministry, particularly interesting was the visit to the eighth floor, which characterised by an innovative concept - flexible office space. Many experienced Dutch diplomats gave presentations, most notable of which was by Deputy Director for Europe Margriet Vonno. She spoke about the current minister's promotion of the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter for the purposes of public diplomacy, efficient promotion of ministries' and embassies' activity, and foreign policy implementation through interaction. We later visited the inspiring Peace Palace, oftentimes called the seat of international law, because it hosts the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the main judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). We also visited the seat of the Europol and had a working visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where we attend Ratko Mladić's trial.

An intensive three-day visit to the Kingdom of Belgium began by a visit to NATO Headquarters and a briefing on NATO's current political agenda, tac-

king new security challenges, and partnerships with other organisations, with a special emphasis on the EU. On this occasion, we also got to visit Montenegro's mission to NATO. The rest of the programme was devoted to visiting the EU institutions: European Commission, European Parliament, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and to the meeting with diplomats at Montenegro's Embassy/Mission in Brussels.

Intensive training for young diplomats at the Clingendael Institute provided an excellent opportunity for the attendees to get to know in more detail the complex system of the EU, its structure and foreign policy, to expand their knowledge on the processes of European and Euro-Atlantic integration and current trends, to improve their diplomatic skills, and get to know the history, culture, and foreign policy priorities of the hosting country - the Netherlands - and other countries from South East Europe and Turkey. For Montenegrin young diplomats, this education opportunity helped broaden horizons beyond national boundaries and set a platform for future international cooperation of Montenegro.

Castle Clingendael Institute



Binnenhof Panorama



Binnenhof Europe House



Family photo of attendees at the Peace Palace

Budget execution report MFAEI



The Law on Budget for 2013 provided the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration with a budget of 12,654,317.81€.

With the adoption of the amendments to the Decree on State Administration Organisation and Operations (Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 20/13 from 26 April 2013), the Administration for Diaspora becomes part of the Ministry, and the total planned budget for 2013 is set to the amount of 12,752,739.61€.

The operating budget¹ of the Ministry for 2013 amounted to 13,103,237.24€.

The execution of the Ministry's budget in 2013 amounts to 13,047,823.78, or 99.58% of the operating budget.

Table 1 shows budget execution as per 31 December 2013:

Table 1

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration	Planned budget	Operating budget	Execution	%
Diplomacy	995.998,70 €	1,151,874.45 €	1,148,513.37 €	99.71%
Administration	1,527,240,00 €	1,535,914.33 €	1,521,139.26 €	99.04%
Diplomatic and Consular representations	9,239,754,13 €	9,386,356.10 €	9,380,315.44 €	99.94%
EU accession and association process	891,324,98 €	930,670.56 €	911,132.70 €	97.90%
Administration for Diaspora	98,421,80 €	98,421.80 €	86,723.01 €	88.11%
TOTAL	12,752,739,61 €	13,103,237,24 €	13,047,823,78 €	99.58%

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¹ - The operating budget is a plan for financing or complementing the regular activities and the recurring expenses related to one fiscal year.