

NEWSLETTER

OF THE EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION OFFICE

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Introductory speech

Dear readers,

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

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

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

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

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

European Integration Office

Sector for informing the public about the EU and the EU accession process
General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro



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

-  Provisionally closed chapter
-  Opened chapter
-  Negotiating Position submitted
-  Drafting of the Negotiating Position

EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD



19. VII 2018.

PROGRESS IN CHAPTERS 23 AND 24 ESSENTIAL FOR THE DYNAMICS OF NEGOTIATIONS

The priority that remains essential for the Montenegrin administration is the fulfilment of commitments in Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security in order to maintain the good dynamics of negotiations and contribute to further development of all segments of the Montenegrin society, Montenegro's Chief negotiator with the EU Aleksandar Drljević has stated at the meeting with members of the EU Council's working group for enlargement (COELA). He noted that Montenegro would intensify its work on fulfilment of obligations in the field of rule of law and strengthen the administrative capacities of all key institutions in order to enable them to achieve measurable results in the field, which will reflect on the overall accession process and the social environment in general. "We are determined to carry out all the necessary reforms in order to become a credible member of the European family. This demanding process of negotiating on accession to the EU is the most powerful mechanism for conducting reforms that will contribute to building a democratic and mature society with strong and efficient institutions", he stated.

17. VII 2018.

OBLIGATIONS ON THE ROAD TO THE EU PRIORITY OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION

The 15 session of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) was held at the Parliament of Montenegro. The Chief Negotiator



Aleksandar Drljević stated that, besides all challenges, Montenegro maintained its leading position in negotiations with the European Union, and that fulfilment of obligations from the European agenda would remain priority for the Montenegrin administration. He pointed out that Montenegro was the most advanced country in the region when it comes to the negotiating process, with 31 of the 33 chapters opened and three provisionally closed chapters, governed by the quality of reforms in the accession process rather than swiftness, with the expectation that its progress would be evaluated in accordance with achieved results.

6. VII 2018.

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR DRLJEVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Montenegro's Chief Negotiator with the EU, Aleksandar Drljević participated in the work of the 22 and 23 meeting of the parliamentary Committee for European Integration and informed its members on the work and organisation of the European Integration Office. Drljević stated that that the previous period was marked by intensive work on fulfilment of obligations arising from the negotiating process, which resulted in 31 open chapters and the readiness to open as soon as possible the remaining two chapters, Chapter 8 - Competition and Chapter 27 - Environment and Climate Change.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

25. IX 2018.

HIGH IMPLEMENTATION RATE FOR CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

Montenegro continues to have a high implementation rate when it comes to the measures from the action plans for chapters 23 and 24 and it remains focused on further and continued progress in the rule of law, which is a precondition for maintaining the good dynamics of the negotiating process, stated participants of the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security, which took place in Podgorica. Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević indicated that in the period January-June 81% of the measures for Chapter 23 have either been completed or were being continually implemented, as well as 74% of the measures for Chapter 24. Head of the Montenegro Unit at the European Commission's DG NEAR Thomas Hagleitner stated that the implementation of the action plans for chapters 23 and 24 led to a significant progress in legislative reforms and institutional development and that the laws now need to be implemented in practice and applied through the work of institutions.



20. IX 2018.

MONTENEGRIN AGRICULTURE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL MAP

Montenegrin administration was on the right track to align its legislation with the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union and meet its goal - strong agricultural sector with competitive farmers and food producers, stated participants of the Subcommittee meeting on agriculture and fisheries. Representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented progress achieved in the reform process in areas of agriculture and rural development, food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy and fisheries. Participants of the subcommittee meeting stated that the hard work of the line ministry services is proven by the fact that the largest number of obligations under all chapters was planned during the last year, and more than 95% of them was ful-

filled. The Deputy Head of the Montenegro Unit at the Directorate-General for Enlargement, Barbara Jesus Gimeno, said that Montenegro had made a progress in the development of its food safety sector, adding that the work defined by the action plans should continue in each of the chapters covered by the Subcommittee, which was equally important as the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks.



18. IX 2018.

MONTENEGRO COMMITTED TO FULFILMENT OF CLOSING BENCHMARKS FOR SEVERAL CHAPTERS

The eighth meeting of the Subcommittee on Innovation, Information Society and Social Policy, during which representatives of Montenegrin negotiating structure and European Commission discussed results that Montenegro achieved in negotiating process in fields covered by the Subcommittee took place in Podgorica. Participants of the meeting discussed the ongoing activities, as well as the upcoming key obligations and plans in Chapter 2 - Freedom of movement for workers, Chapter 10 - Information society and media, Chapter 19 - Social policy and employment, Chapter 25 - Science and research, and Chapter 26 - Education and culture. Montenegro's Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević stated that Montenegro was committed to fulfilment of closing benchmarks in chapters related to innovation, human resources, information society and social policy and determined to maintain a good dynamics of implementing reforms and meet standards of the most developed countries in Europe. Deputy Head of Unit for Montenegro in DG NEAR Barbara Jesus-Gimeno stated that the negotiating process was not only about opening and closure of chapters, it was also hard work and commitment of both sides.



CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

26. IX 2018.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CELEBRATE EUROPEAN LINGUISTIC HERITAGE

Respect for linguistic diversity is a fundamental value of the European Union. Knowledge of foreign languages will make it possible for young people to make connections and find jobs more easily. This was concluded at the event organised to mark the European Day of Languages. Students from Gymnasium “Slobodan Škerović” gave recitals and sang songs in several European languages, following which they had a conversation with representatives of embassies, but they also taught them several phrases that are being used in their native language. Representatives of embassies proved to have good knowledge of Montenegrin language. Among the proverbs learnt, they singled out the following one: Bez muke nema nauke (English equivalent: No pain, no gain). The event was organised by the European Integration Office, Ministry of Education and Gymnasium “Slobodan Škerović” under the “EU4ME” project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP.



13. IX 2018.

MONTENEGRO COMMITTED TO FULFILMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

National goals and directions go in parallel with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and Montenegro has made significant efforts and achieved visible results when it comes to their fulfilment. This is what the Chief Negotiator Aleksandar Drljević stated at the sub-regional conference on promotion and progress in implementation of the 2030 Agen-



da. At the invitation of Ms Slavica Đukić Dejanović, Minister without portfolio responsible for demography and population policy, Mr. Drljević participated at the conference, which was held on 13 and 14 September in Belgrade. The Chief Negotiator pointed out that Montenegro was committed to partnership with Member States and other global actors in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, he pointed to the need for greater efficiency at global level in achieving objectives in all three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and ecological.

6. IX 2018.

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS IS A PROCESS BASED ON PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND EU

The process of accession negotiations is based on partnership between Montenegro and the EU Member States. This was concluded at a joint meeting of representatives of the European Integration Office and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Ms Dragana Marković, Adviser to the Montenegro's Chief Negotiator, got the members of the German delegation acquainted with the organisation of the negotiating structure and, in particular, with activities and competencies of the European Integration Office. She presented the progress made in the negotiation process and underlined the commitment of the Government of Montenegro to the fulfilment of obligations arising from the area of the rule of law, bearing in mind the new approach in the negotiation process and its focus on the rule of law. Marković stressed the importance of support provided by the EU to Montenegro through IPA funds, and particularly emphasised the role of the Berlin Process and its contribution to the implementation of comprehensive reforms in Montenegro and in the countries of the region.



4. VII 2018.

MAKE USE OF ALL MECHANISMS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EU PROVIDE

States should use all the social reforms mechanisms offered within the process of negotiations with the European Union and should set realistic goals, and the entire society should be involved in the process. This was concluded at the panel debate “Negotiations with the EU: Then and Now”. Mr. Aleksandar Drljević, Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's accession to the EU, prof. Tanja Mišćević, Head of the Negotiating Team

for Accession of Serbia to the EU, and Veselko Grubišić, Croatian Ambassador to Montenegro shared and discussed their experiences in the negotiating process, while the moderator of the panel was the President of Montenegrin Pan-European Union, prof. Gordana Đurović. Drljević talked about the new approach in the process of negotiations with the EU, pointing out that it was good that the reforms had started exactly in the areas covered by Chapters 23 and 24. He added that readiness for further progress in other chapters as well needed to be shown in this stage of integration. Ms Mišćević praised the very good relations between the negotiating teams of Serbia and Montenegro, indicating that if a country wants to bring about many changes, it must be aware that that process takes time. “This is the reason why the exchange of experiences plays a very important role in this process”, she added. Ambassador Grubišić pointed out that membership in the EU brought about better living conditions to the Croatian society when compared to the state of play 15 years ago. He added that Croatia used the mechanisms available during the negotiation process and implemented the necessary reforms, stressing that it was important to involve the entire society in the process.



IPA

25. IX 2018.

SEMINAR ON SUCCESSFUL PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNDER THE ADRIATIC-IONIC TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME

As a part of the First Call for Proposals under the INTERREG Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Programme 2014-2020 (ADRI-ON), a seminar for beneficiaries of EU grants was held on 24 and 25 September in Bečići. Representatives of the European Integration Office and the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of EU Assistance Funds (Ministry of Finance) presented the hitherto results at the program level and informed the



beneficiaries about the modalities of project implementation and reporting, eligibility rules and cost recovery procedures, exemption from VAT, issuing of certificates, on-site verification, public procurement procedures and rules of communication and visibility under the EU-funded actions.

21. IX 2018.

EUR 26 MILLION FOR THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME CROATIA-BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA-MONTENEGRO



On the occasion of announcement of the Second Call for Proposals under the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020, for which a total of EUR 26 million has been allocated, a ceremonial conference was held in Trebinje. Mrs. Ivana Glišević, Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator, pointed out that joint work and efforts made by all the structures involved in the implementation of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020 lead to successful projects and good results in the previous period. She recalled that cross-border cooperation between organisations and institutions from the three countries had started under bilateral cross-border programmes, during the financial perspective 2007-2013, stressing out that it resulted in many quality projects.

18. IX 2018.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROJECTS CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER REGIONS



Through implementation of cross-border cooperation projects, cooperation between institutions and organisations belonging to cross-border regions has been significantly im-

proved and significant number of projects in various fields supported. This was concluded at a two-day workshop dedicated to the exchange of experiences in the implementation of the cross-border cooperation programmes under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. The workshop was held in Budva, and was organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, with the support of the CBIB + project. The workshop gathered representatives of the programme structures coming from the countries of the region, as well as representatives of the European Commission participating in the planning and monitoring of the process of implementation of the cross-border cooperation programmes. Mrs. Ivana Glišević, Deputy Chief Negotiator and National IPA Coordinator, pointed out that the projects implemented so far had significantly improved the cooperation between institutions and organisations belonging to cross-border regions. She added that cooperation was a basis for future joint initiatives in a number of areas, including culture, promotion of tourism offer and environmental protection, inclusion, employment and the overall social and economic development.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SECTOR

17. VII 2018.

COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

The EU-Montenegro Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee is a significant basis for improving political and social dialogue, as well as for considering further directions and perspectives of the negotiation process. This was concluded at the 11th meeting of the EU-Montenegro Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee. Members of the Joint Consultative Committee are civil society representatives from the EU and Montenegro, including associations of employers, trade unions and citizens' associations. What was concluded at the meeting is that joint work on sustainable social and economic changes that would guarantee a quality accession framework and give legitimacy to further and more demanding stages of transformation of Montenegrin society was of interest of all involved. As it was pointed out, the civil sector plays an important role in directing Montenegrin society towards European values, through monitoring of negotiations and active participation in this process. Mr. Aleksandar Drljević, Montenegro's Chief Negotiator, stressed that cooperation between the Government and the civil sector was very important for successful integration of Montenegro into the European Union within the foreseen timeframe. Drljević added that the cooperation had been particularly strengthened through involvement of civil society representatives in the work-

ing groups for preparation of EU accession negotiations, pointing out that they comprised nearly one third of the negotiating structure (which has around 1,400 members).



OTHER ISSUES

11. VII 2018.

INVALUABLE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN THE EU INTEGRATION PROCESS

The role of the media in Montenegro's accession to the European Union is of vital importance and journalists have the power to get the citizens acquainted with this process and to present successful stories. This was concluded at the award ceremony organised to present awards to journalists who prepared the best journalism story under the competition called "Europe seen through lens" competition. Journalist of TV channel Prva - Jelena Gardović, journalist of RTCG - Darko Bulatović, and journalist of the TV channel Vijesti - Danijela Lasica, won the award for the best video report outlining concrete results of the EU accession process and the impact on everyday life of citizens. They received cash prizes amounting to EUR 1,500, 1,000 and 500 respectively. The competition was organised in accordance with the Strategy for informing the public about accession of Montenegro to the EU 2014-2018, under the project "EU4ME", with a view to encouraging the media and independent productions in Montenegro to deal more closely with the process of European integration.

