

**INTERVIEW:** KRISZTIAN POSA,  
AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY  
IN MONTENEGRO

**NATO AND EU  
MEMBERSHIP  
HAVE NO  
ALTERNATIVE**



## EU NEGOTIATIONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- MARINA VUJAČIĆ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION  
OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES OF MONTENEGRO (UMHCG)

## “FROM THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMACY

- BRANKO LUKOVAC, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF MONTENEGRO 1979-1985 AND 2000-2002

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and European Integration  
of Montenegro

## INTRODUCTION:

IGOR LUKŠIĆ, DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER AND MINISTER  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

”

Without a doubt, given the circumstances, this year will bring many challenges to Montenegro as well. Much is expected from us, in European and Euro-Atlantic integration, but also when it comes to launching sustainable economic growth, which can be aided by better coordination of the promotion of our economic potentials abroad, an area where a lot of work is needed. It should be kept in mind that when it comes to the Euro-Atlantic integration process this will mean that the enlargement decisions will be related to the overall context

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# The start of 2015 highlights challenges



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Editor-in-chief: Gordana Jovanović

Editorial team: Ivan Vučinić, Mirela Rebronja, Nada Vojvodić, Tijana Vuković

Editorial board: Vladimir Radulović, Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Predrag Stamatović, Anđela Čelebić, Željko Perović, Branislav Karadžić, Damir Grbović, Dragana Radulović, Ivana Petričević, Snežana Radović, Biljana Ščekić

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Design: Adil Tuzović

Contact: Unit for Public Relations and Communication  
 Support to the Integration Processes  
 tel: +382 (20) 241 416  
 e-mail: gordana.jovanovic@mfa.gov.me  
 web: www.mvpei.me

Address: Stanka Dragojevića 2, Podgorica

# The start of 2015 highlights challenges

The very beginning of 2015 indicates that it will be full of challenges. Terrorist attacks, large slump in oil prices, the announced large European Central Bank operation, the effect of Greece elections, and sadly the renewal of hostilities in Ukraine are the dominant topics in the first weeks of the New Year. What the short-, medium- and long-term implications of these and other events on the European and global society will be is hard to tell. Today even the best-equipped analytical institutions often make mistakes, but their attempts to guess have a strong effect on the positioning and planning of everyone, i.e. each country individually. With constant technological progress, the world is becoming a large melting pot, causing much extreme opposition to this process. At the same time, we in Europe are seemingly beginning to understand better how people from other continents think.

Without a doubt, given the circumstances, this year will bring many challenges to Montenegro as well. Much is expected from us, in European and Euro-Atlantic integration, but also when it comes to launching sustainable economic growth, which can be aided by better coordination of the promotion of our economic potentials abroad, an area where a lot of work is needed. It should be kept in mind that when it comes to the Euro-Atlantic integration process this will mean that the enlargement decisions will be related to the overall context.

We have crossed an important stage of our final phase of European integration. Accession negotiations

are going well. We opened 16 chapters, of which two have been provisionally closed. We made progress in key areas related to the rule of law, bringing 2014 to a successful close. Constitutional amendments have been implemented, many laws have been adopted, and the European Commission's and the member-states' expectations as regards consistent implementation are a logical next step. Boosting capabilities of our institutions to the level of showing they are up to any challenge no matter how complex is the key benchmark of our success, which will surely determine the overall assessment on the progress in this area, and also serve as an indicator of further development of the negotiation process.

The rule of law issue is inseparable from other two pillars of the new enlargement strategy, public administration reform and economic governance. Continuing the work on improving transparency and public sector functioning, clearly stressing and applying the principle of accountability for undertaken objectives, ensuring freedom of expression, and creating preconditions for all individuals to be able to expect reasonably that their problems will be dealt with is what will certainly remain in focus. Public administration reform does not mean bureaucratisation, but quite the opposite. It means professionalisation and measuring success as the first element of work appraisal. In other words, cutting various types of transaction costs. At the same time, there is no successful economic governance unless this also concerns the process of structural reforms, boosting innovation in the society, and reducing pater-



Igor Lukšić

nalism generated over the years. The dynamics of arising opportunities and trust in the system's functioning are much more important than any statistical indicator.

Rule of law and its achievements surely remain one of the key factors of assessing the success on our Euro-Atlantic path, in addition to other key areas such as security sector reform and public support. All security issues that emerge clearly point to the need for improving the primary role of the state, and that is the security and protection of its citizens. Having in mind the available resources, it is clear that this is only attainable by ensuring NATO membership. Additionally, solving the issue of security opens up a whole range of opportunities for economic progress. Therefore, decisions should be reached in a cool-headed and rational manner.

Regional cooperation is a precondition of successful European integration. Plenty has been done in that regard, but all of us in the region must be aware that we will never have done enough. The time just behind us has seen the rhetoric resembling in certain cases the early nineteen-nineties. The prolongation of the economic crisis triggers various forms of populism, both in our midst and in broader Europe. We moved far away from the final decade of the 20th century, but the awareness of how easy and costly it would be to slip should never be too far from our sight. The Western Balkans has been a direct witness of this too many times already. For this reason the best response is diligent work aimed at accelerating the European perspective in our

“ *Much is expected from us, in European and Euro-Atlantic integration, but also when it comes to launching sustainable economic growth, which can be aided by better coordination of the promotion of our economic potentials abroad, an area where a lot of work is needed. It should be kept in mind that when it comes to the Euro-Atlantic integration process this will mean that the enlargement decisions will be related to the overall context* ”

region through cooperation in the area of infrastructure, removing business barriers, and improving the rule of law. That is why regional cooperation remains a top priority for Montenegro.

This year will witness the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in September during the UN session. Multilateralism has always been a keen interest of small countries, as these are the fora where each vote counts the same. Montenegro has given contribution to efforts on defining these goals, just as we have continued working actively in other multi-lateral institutions, thus opening the perspective for cooperation with other parts of the world. This remains a priority in our future foreign policy, especially when we talk about the Mediterranean.

In discussing the foreign policy priorities at the start of a new year it is important to note that we expect the Parliament of Montenegro to adopt the draft law on cooperation with the diaspora, which will open up the possibilities for cooperation and a kind of reintegration. Certain results are already visible, but the unused opportunities are even more visible.

Each year has its flow and its story. This year, 2015, could surely be onedefining many years to come.

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

# Review of foreign policy activities of the Government of Montenegro

## Prime ministers of Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania meet in Cavtat, Croatia



25 August 2014

Prime ministers of Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania met in Cavtat, Croatia, on the eve of the conference on the Western Balkans, which took place in Berlin on 28 August, under the auspices of German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The meeting was an opportunity for prime ministers Đukanović, Milanović, Bečević, and Rama to exchange views on infrastructure projects and other topics of common interest which may be discussed at the Berlin's conference.

The German initiative is an encouragement to boost regional cooperation and to provide incentive to Western Balkans countries to work even harder on their European and Euro-Atlantic integration paths.

## Western Balkans Conference in Berlin

28 August 2014

The Conference on the Western Balkans was held in Berlin under the auspices of the Federal Government of Germany and chaired by Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The conference, attended by Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović, was aimed at providing additional incentive for progress in terms of economy, rule of law, security, as well as the reconciliation in the region and better regional connectivity.

The Conference was attended by high EU representatives and the PM of Austria.

Prime Minister Đukanović was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić and Economy Minister Vladimir Kavarić.

Stating that today's conference in Berlin met the expectations, Prime Minister Đukanović noted "it demonstrated a new initiative of Germany and the European Commission in relation to the countries of the Western Balkans."

"I suggested it would be useful to emphasise another dimension of the European Union – its responsibility for the development and catching up with Europe in terms of development of the countries of the Western Balkans, which is the most backward region on the continent of Europe, and yet, without which there is no complete integration," the Prime Minister told the press.



## Prime Minister Milo Đukanović attends NATO Summit in Cardiff



4 September 2014

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović took part in NATO Summit in Wales, which gathered more than 60 world leaders from NATO member states and Afghanistan ISAF Mission partner states. The meeting was attended by heads of state and government and it discussed the completion of the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

In his address, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović voiced his content about the recognition of Montenegro's contribution to global stability, not only because of the country's engagement within the ISAF Mission, but also its commitment aimed at strengthening regional initiatives. Montenegro's contribution to global peace and stability is one of the key foreign policy priorities and Montenegro is willing to continue its engagement in peace-keeping missions, PM Đukanović highlighted.

"I believe this Summit has confirmed that we have done a good job at come and that Montenegro is steadily moving towards meeting its top foreign-policy objective, which is the full-fledged membership of the Alliance," Prime Minister Đukanović said after the summit.

"All that I had heard at the Summit, not just the conference but



also the numerous meetings I held at the sidelines, assures me that as soon as the next summit Montenegro could become the full-fledged NATO member," Mr Đukanović has concluded. Prime Minister Đukanović attended the reception for heads of state and government hosted by the Prince of Wales, where he met informally with other world leaders.

## Prime Minister Đukanović in official visit to Azerbaijan

17 September 2014

Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović paid a three-day official visit to Azerbaijan.

Montenegro and Azerbaijan have developed good bilateral relations in every field and have achieved notable cooperation results, meeting between Prime Minister Đukanović and President Ilham Aliyev highlighted. The AZMONT's Portonovi project in Kumbor testifies of good cooperation established between the two countries, having in mind that this project is the biggest Azerbaijani investment in tourism. The two officials agreed that this investment opens possibility for further cooperation especially in infrastructure and better connectedness.

They also discussed cooperation in the banking sector and energy, particularly the construction of the Southern Gas Corridor, which will connect to a branch of the Adriatic-Ionian Pipeline and has been assessed as historic in its importance for Europe and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is a country developing quickly with strong financial potential for investing abroad. This is a great opportunity for Montenegro and I believe this will soon materialise in new investment, Prime Minister Đukanović concluded. During his stay, Mr Đukanović visited the Baku Diplomatic Academy, where he spoke to its rector and long term ambassador to the US. At the Academy, Mr Đukanović met Montenegrin students attending this renowned institution.

The talks in Azerbaijan give a strong impulse to future cooperation between the two countries, Prime Minister Đukanović and Parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov concluded in their meeting. They also spoke about the excellent parliamentary cooperation and the importance of political dialogue for the development of overall relations. PM Đukanović also spoke with Kamaladdin Heydarov, Minister of Emergency Situations.



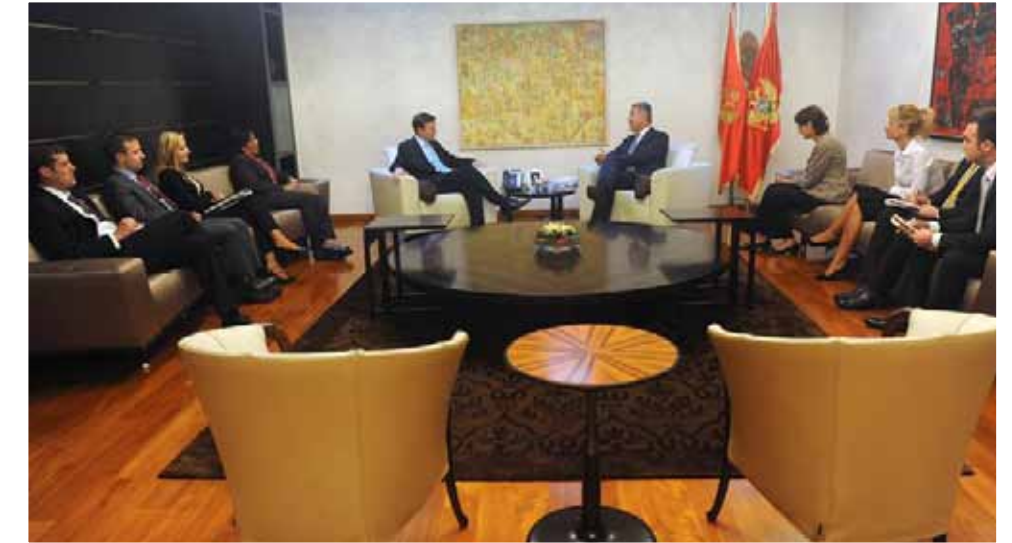
## Đukanović-Murphy: Montenegro confident and credible partner of USA in Western Balkan



17 October 2014

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović hosted US Senator Christopher Murphy, Chairman of the Subcommittee on European Affairs at the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

PM Đukanović thanked the USA for the overall support provided to Montenegro in its democratic and economic development, emphasising that continued support from the government and Congress in terms of reform process and stability of the state and the entire region is crucial for NATO and EU membership. European and Euro-Atlantic



accession process of the Western Balkans is a formula for the region's stability, precondition for development and progress of every single state and secure way for meeting European standards aimed at raising the quality of life of citizens of the region, PM Đukanović stressed. Senator Murphy thanked PM Đukanović for his personal contribution to strengthening bilateral cooperation and highlighted the significance of his leadership in current processes. He particularly praised Montenegro's contribution to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, adding that Montenegro is the most credible and confident partner of the USA in the Western Balkan.

## Prime Minister Milo Đukanović at meeting of Trilateral Commission for Europe

01 November 2014

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović participated at the meeting of the Trilateral Commission for Europe, which took place from 31 October until 2 November in Belgrade, Serbia.

"Today's meeting is very important. I emphasised the importance of the fact that such an event is taking place in our region for the first time. It is no secret that the Trilateral Commission is a forum discussing the most important issues of European and global stability and progress, and therefore I believe that the fact this event is being hosted in Belgrade is an opportunity to present the current problems in the Western Balkans and to bring yet again to the attention of the international political and overall public our view of limited stability and limited economic growth and democratic development of our countries," Mr Đukanović has said.

He added that the EU needs to care about the dynamic progress of all European countries and to help the non-members to join as quickly as possible.

"The locomotive should care to ensure a sufficient dynamic of each wagon of the train. The Western Balkans starts this journey with a fracture of several centuries of economic and democratic straggling. Therefore, I believe it is not enough just to repeat the phrase 'the door is open,' but the Western Balkans must be helped to pass through that door. In my view, this help would consist in the development of infrastructure that would help first of all the region to be connected internally and then with the EU," Prime Minister Đukanović has said.

He has noted that infrastructure development is an important precondition for the Western Balkans development and for overcoming, as he said, the stereotypes that have burdened us and kept us apart in the recent history and



very often defined instability, war, killing, and destruction of property. For this reason, I believe this is the number one question, that the European Union helps us, alongside insisting rightly on our development of the rule of law, develop infrastructure that would ensure we are no longer a patient on life support but a healthy economic organism that will contribute through further integration to global competitiveness, Mr Đukanović has noted. He said that the strongest and loudest message from the European group Trilateral Commission's event is precisely that it has taken place.



## PM Đukanović in Vienna: EU needs to pledge strong commitment to Western Balkan's economic recovery

24 November 2014

"European Union is our partner with whom we share common responsibility for the future of the European continent. Therefore, the Western Balkan's future is largely dependent on the EU accountability in implementing policies that concerns the region," Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović noted in his address at the Vienna Economic Forum's main session titled "The Economy is the Motor – Visions and Responsibilities in a Changing Time".

He emphasised it is reasonable to insist on the rule of law as the Western Balkan's key issue and that the criteria must not be lowered. However, the delay in this process is not indigenous product of this part of the Balkan, but it came as a result of centuries-old economic backwardness.

He commented on Montenegro's position in integration and economic processes, noting that Montenegro, from the least developed republics in ex Yugoslavia, became a state leader of the integration process among non-integrated countries of the Western Balkan, which economy has developed the best track record. Such development has been contributed by the consistency in implementing economic reforms, particularly in the area of advancing business

environment, which was confirmed by Montenegro's its rankings in the reports of the World Bank, the Fraser Institute and the Global Competitiveness World Economic Forum, PM Đukanović said.

It is of utmost importance for Montenegro, as well as for the region, the Prime Minister underscored, to overcome decades of backwardness and achieve higher economic growth, for which there are enough resources and initial skills, as well as the know-how necessary for catching up with the developed parts of Europe.



## Montenegro stays credible partner of Cental European Initiative, PM Đukanović says at Vienna's summit

25 November 2014

Regional cooperation and European integration are Montenegro's most important foreign policy priorities, and the country is fully committed to actively participating in regional organisations and initiatives, including the Central European Initiative (CEI), Prime Minister Milo Đukanović said at the summit of CEI prime ministers, which was held in Vienna.

Presidency of the CEI in 2010 was particularly significant for Montenegro, Prime Minister Đukanović pointed out, adding it was marked by the adoption and implementation of a strategic and political document entitled "Budva Recommendations", along with specific efforts towards streamlining the CEI programme to a common European future for all its members. He welcomed the CEI's decision to put the Western Balkan's integration into European structures at the top of its agenda, as an additional impetus for further cooperation, at the same time voicing satisfaction with the fact that 10 out of 18 CEI's member states are already in the EU, while others are candidates, potential candidates and EU partners, which testifies to the initiative's credibility and its contribution to the accession process.

In order to maintain a good pace of the integration process, PM Đukanović said the CEI member states, as well as the CEI as a whole,



can count on Montenegro as a credible partner which will remain committed to its foreign policy objectives, especially at the regional level, through the cooperation with its neighbouring countries and establishing regional mechanisms.

The Prime Minister congratulated Austria on its excellent chairmanship of the initiative and wished success to Macedonia, which takes over the CEI's presidency, sure at the knowledge that its priorities and calendar of activities will be aimed at further enhancing regional architecture.

The Vienna's summit adopted a declaration on the occasion of the CEI's 25th anniversary – a document that supports the member states' efforts towards the implementation of common goals through a coordinated approach and defining guidelines for further work in order to achieve a common vision: building a democratic, market-oriented and prosperous society based on European values.

Prime Minister Đukanović was invited by the Karl Renner Institute to give a lecture entitled "Montenegro on the road to EU" at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy.

## Barroso in Podgorica: My visit to Montenegro sign of support for its European future



5 December 2014

Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović met in Podgorica with former President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso.

Mr Barroso said he is proud of the fact that the accession talks with Montenegro were opened during the mandate of the European Commission he headed. He also commended Montenegro's track record developed in the integration process, as well as its economic and political achievements.

He particularly emphasised the constructive role of Montenegro and Prime Minister Đukanović in building and maintaining stability in the region.

Jose Manuel Barroso stated he believes the enlargement of the EU is fully justified, stressing the process is a success story, which the countries of the Western Balkan should join after the membership requirements are fulfilled. He added that his visit to Montenegro testifies to the support for the country's European future.

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović noted that during Mr Barroso's term of office Montenegro made a historic step towards a united Europe. He reiterated his government's political determination to overcome all the challenges towards achieving standards that will result in better quality of life and Montenegro's accession to the EU and NATO.

Both sides agreed that recent meetings with EU representatives have sent a clear message about the continuation of a proactive European policy, which encourages the countries of the region to continue the reform process on the path towards their full membership in the European Union.



## Prime Minister Đukanović pays official visit to France

9 December 2014

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović began his three day visit to the Republic of France with an official greeting ceremony, where he laid the wreath on the Monument of the Unknown Soldier at the Base of the Arc de Triomphe and signed his name in the book of honours.

In the capital of France, PM Đukanović was presented with the Medal of the city of Paris as a tribute to the friendship and respect for Montenegro's efforts towards preserving European values. The award was handed by the Deputy Mayor of Paris Patrick Klugman.

Regarding the French support towards Montenegro's European path, PM Đukanović highlighted that this award acknowledges Montenegro's efforts in pursuing this important goal.

Prime Minister Đukanović was also the guest of MEDEF - the largest federation of French employers, where he met with representatives of distinguished French companies. PM Đukanović gave an overview of the positive business environment in the country created by the Government.

At the meeting, economy and agriculture ministers, Vladimir Kavaric and Petar Ivanovic, presented to renowned French companies

Montenegro's investment potentials of Montenegro and current development projects in energy, infrastructure, tourism, and agriculture.

Prime Minister Đukanović held separate meetings with various investors and companies who are members of MEDEF and who were interested in projects in tourism, agriculture, construction, architecture, and energy, and he spoke to them about the investment opportunities in Montenegro. It was recognised that Montenegro is a country of excellent potential for investment and development, which is at the same time a great opportunity for French investors.

Prime Minister Đukanović also met with the President of the French Republic François Hollande. Mr Hollande and I recalled the historic alliance between Montenegro and France in the First and Second World Wars, but we spoke even more about the current relationship, Mr Đukanović has said.

Both sides agreed that bilateral relations are excellent and very broad. My proposal was to put economy in the focus of our future cooperation, Mr Đukanović noted, adding that he and Mr Holland spoke a lot about establishing a favourable environment for a greater involvement of French companies in Montenegrin economy.

"I also told him that we now have a hazy European perspective due to very overdue problems from the former Yugoslav area, and I asked Mr Hollande for a more intensive support and involvement of France in the ideas that have already been launched at Kranj and later with Chancellor Merkel - and this is to have the EU support more amply the infrastructure projects in this region," the Prime Minister stressed.

"It was my pleasure to hear President Hollande accept very openly all the initiatives I put forth, and that he has emphasised the importance of our historical and current partnership, as well as willingness to continue supporting Montenegro as a positive example of Euro-Atlantic integration," Mr Đukanović said after his meeting with Mr Hollande.

French Senate will be actively engaged in supporting Montenegro's full NATO membership at the NATO's Parliamentary Assembly, Prime Minister was told at the upper house of the French parliament.

Emphasising the positive effects of the NATO enlargement on this part of the Mediterranean, President of the French Senate Gérard Larcher told Prime Minister Đukanović that the Senate will address a letter of support to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly declaring a strong support for Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic bid.

The meeting between Mr Đukanović and Mr Larcher underscored France's strong support to Montenegro's EU bid and noted that Montenegro has made notable progress in the chapters especially relevant

for the continuation of the process.

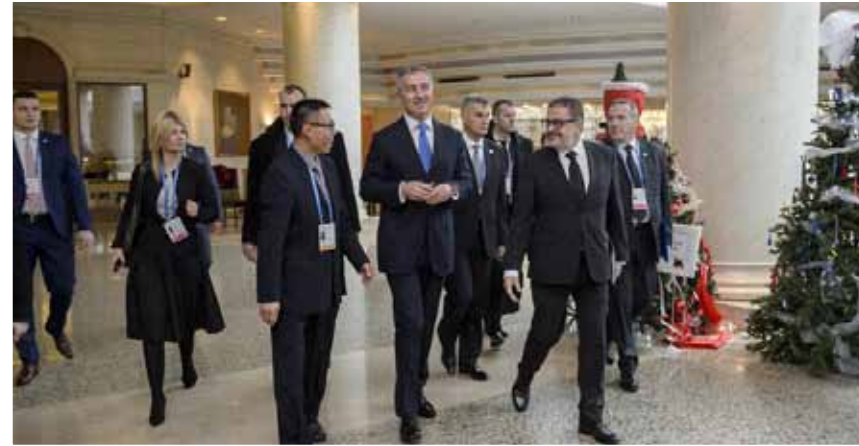
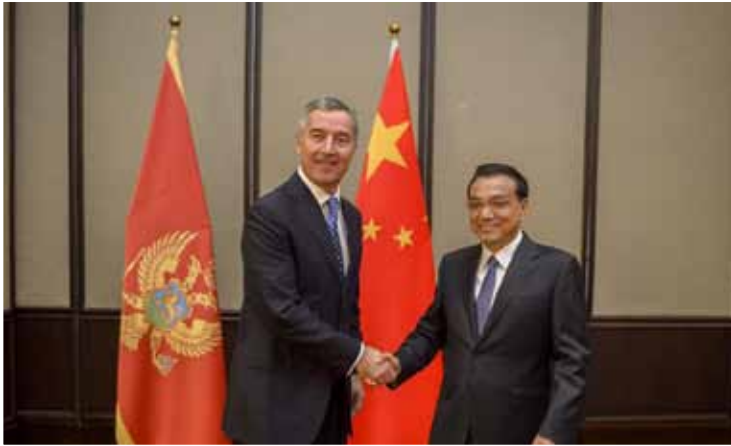
Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović also met with heads of leading French companies in the field of tourism.

At the meeting held at the French Foreign Ministry, under the auspices of Special Representative for the Western Balkans Alain Richard, Prime Minister Đukanović made a presentation about tourism and development potentials of Montenegro to representatives of the Paris Inn Group, Orex Loisirs, Vinci airport, Vichiya, D'Aquio Thermes and other French companies. They voiced particular interest in the partnership regarding modernisation of airports, as well as the overall tourist services, and voiced willingness of the French state to encourage investment and economic cooperation in order to deepen economic ties between the two countries.

Strong support for Montenegro's EU and NATO bid was repeated during the PM Đukanović's meeting with Mr Bartolone welcomed the efforts of Montenegro in the integration process, as well as Montenegro's role of a stability and prosperity factor in the Balkans, which is important for Europe as a whole.

They also discussed regional situation, especially in the context of providing the possibility for the Western Balkan to build its security and economic perspective within European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.





## Đukanović – Li: Economic cooperation between Montenegro and China successful with outstanding prospects for the future

16 December 2014

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović met with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in Belgrade. The meeting took place in Belgrade during the III Summit meeting between the People's Republic of China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The meeting noted that Montenegro and China have exceptionally good bilateral relations, which are based on close friendship and are strengthened by thriving economic cooperation. Intensive political dialogue at the top level gave an additional impulse to the concretisation of economic cooperation, particularly through the project of constructing the priority section of the Bar – Boljare highway. The two officials expressed their shared belief that the imple-

mentation of the most important project in the history of Montenegro would be successful. Prime Minister Li said that the Government of China strongly supports the partnership between the two states and voiced his belief that the extraordinary potentials of Montenegro would be an opportunity for continued cooperation in many other areas. PM Milo Đukanović highlighted the importance of China's initiative in terms of supporting the Central and Eastern European states, adding that Montenegro uses the funds successfully. The two officials agreed that cooperation in the area of infrastructure, and especially the modernisation of railways and the energy sector, is the main priority. They also pointed out the importance of cooperation in the field of education.



## Đukanović – Vučić: Montenegro and Serbia set to improve bilateral cooperation in economy and regional infrastructure projects

16 December 2014

Montenegro's Prime Minister Milo Đukanović met with his Serbian counterpart Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić in Belgrade. The meeting took place during the III Summit meeting between the People's Republic of China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and the two officials discussed further development of bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and Serbia, especially in the area of economy, as well as the infrastructure projects of great importance for regional development. Prime Minister Đukanović has underlined that in the previous period plenty has been done to restore and develop the bilateral relations between Montenegro and Serbia, through an intensive political dialogue at the top level, and prolific cooperation in numerous areas. The two countries have a European perspective, as well as an opportunity for economic prosperity, Prime Minister Đukanović said at the meeting. In the context of the Belgrade Summit, the importance of infrastructural inter-connectedness of the region for its further development was emphasised.



## Đukanović-Orban: Montenegro as the champion of integration has Hungary's full support

16 December 2014

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović met in Belgrade during the III Summit meeting between the People's Republic of China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban. The Hungarian Prime Minister said his country deeply respected Montenegro's achievements and results aimed at EU and NATO membership. Montenegro is the most successful country in the region as regards European and Euro-Atlantic integration and it enjoys Hungary's full support in those respects, Mr Orban has said. Mr Đukanović welcomed the continued support of Hungary, who is assuming the role of NATO contact-point for Montenegro after the New Year. This, the Prime Minister said, is additionally important because Hungary understands and recognises the Western Balkans' priorities and the importance of integration for stability and prosperity. The two prime ministers welcomed their two countries' excellent bilateral relations and emphasised the need to expand economic cooperation following the positive examples from the past.





## Integration Western Balkans State of Play



11 August 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at Croatia Forum 2014 - "EU Integration of Western Balkans: State of Play," which took place in Dubrovnik on 10-12 July. The event was devoted to integration and the Western Balkans, as well as the challenges facing EU values today. Mr Lukšić gave a presentation at the first session entitled "EU Integration of Western Balkans: similarities and differences." Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić said that political and social consensus is a good starting point for the Western Balkans' countries European path. Mr Lukšić said that Montenegro is monitoring its

### Dubrovnik: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at Croatia Forum 2014 - "EU Integration of Western Balkans: State of Play"

neighbours' progress and supports integration progress of all regional countries. At the same time, Montenegro supports all regional cooperation platforms that help implement concrete projects in areas of shared interest, which contributes to stability, democracy, and prosperity of the region. Establishment of a stable region is in Montenegro's best interest, and for this reason it remains committed to regional initiatives, bearing in mind that only common approach and cooperation among regional countries can ensure the implementation of projects and initiatives of importance for citizens. He noted that the countries of the region have recognised this and that they are working together to improve the existing cooperation framework and mechanisms.

### Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić pays official visit to New York

24 September 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić paid an official visit to New York, where he participated at the 69th UN General Debate with UNDP. He held bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of Georgia and Trinidad and Tobago, Maia Panjikidze and Winston Dookeran. Montenegro's head diplomat participated at the informal Western Balkans ministerial meeting, as well as the ministerial meeting of the Neum Initiative.

In his talks with Georgia's Foreign Minister Panjikidze, the excellent relations between Montenegro and Georgia were commended by both sides, and they recognised numerous potentials for their further improvement, especially in the area of tourism.

Minister Lukšić's first meeting with his counterpart from Trinidad and Tobago since the establishment of diplomatic relations was an opportunity to exchange opinions on the possibilities for improving bilateral and multilateral cooperation, especially within the UN system. In that context, the importance was underlined of the two countries' recent ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which confirms both countries' readiness to give active contribution to overcoming global challenges.

The informal meeting of Western Balkans' head diplomats was an opportunity to discuss the continuation and strengthening of regional cooperation following the Berlin conference. They also discussed possible ways and modalities of implementing projects, especially



ally in infrastructure. The ministers agreed the implementation of projects will contribute to economic and overall development of the region, its stability, and European perspective. During his visit to New York, Minister Lukšić took part at the ministerial meeting of the

Neum Initiative, in which Croatia assumed chairmanship from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting agreed on further activities in the process of implementing projects aimed at supporting good neighbourly cooperation in the best interest of local communities.

### Cardiff: Montenegro on the NATO 'fast lane', we see it as the next Alliance member



04 September 2014

While attending the NATO Summit in Wales, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at the meeting of NATO foreign ministers with foreign ministers of aspiring countries - Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Georgia. The meeting confirmed NATO's commitment to the open door policy and voiced the Alliance's readiness for enlargement when the countries meet the requirements. Member-states' ministers noted that Montenegro has made an impressive progress in implementing reforms and said that the June

NATO ministerial meeting sent Montenegro a strong message of support by deciding to launch intensified and focused talks. The ministers were hopeful that Montenegro would continue its stable course of reforms and voiced their readiness to extend, if reforms are successful, an invitation for membership by the end of 2015 at the latest. They also stated that Montenegro is "on the NATO fast lane" and that they view it as the next Alliance member.

Minister Lukšić underlined that Montenegro views the Alliance's decision to launch intensified and focused talks as a recognition of its hitherto efforts in the process of NATO integration, as well as an opportunity Montenegro will take to show its readiness for membership and secure and invitation by the end of 2015.



25 September 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić met in New York at the margins of the 69th UN General Debate with UNDP Head Administrator Helen Clark, Greece's Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos, and took part at the ministerial meeting of the US-Adriatic Charter and US-Baltic Charter.

The meeting between Minister Lukšić and UNDP's Helen Clark commended the comprehensiveness and quality of the UNDP's cooperation with Montenegro. UNDP is one of Montenegro's most important partners for development and we are happy that the Programme will stay active in Montenegro at least by 2020, Minister Lukšić has said. The two officials noted that the time ahead should be used to strengthen cooperation, especially when it comes to implementing sustainable development projects.

During Minister Lukšić's meeting with his Greek counterpart Venizelos it was underlined that the two countries cherish excellent relations, and added that they could further be improved in various areas, most notably economy and tourism. The meeting between head diplomats of the US-Adriatic Charter and US-Baltic Charter was an opportunity to confirm commitment to further regional cooperation, as well as to reiterate readiness for its upgrade at all levels, bearing in mind the ever more complex challenges facing the world of today. The participants exchanged opinions on current security issues, focusing especially on the Ukraine crisis and ISIL activities, and they agreed there was a need for more intensive cooperation and coordination in this respect.

Minister Lukšić participated at the special Security Council session devoted to the issue of foreign fighters which was, for the first time, chaired by US President Barack Obama. He also took part at the annual session of the Open Government Partnership, where Montenegro was awarded a prestigious award for the Be Responsible campaign.



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26 September 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić took part at the event sidelines in the ministerial meetings of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), France's initiative to limit the use of veto, and the LGBT Core Group. At the invitation of US assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland, Minister Lukšić also took part at the meeting gathering Western Balkans countries to discuss the issue of foreign fighters. At the SEECP informal ministerial meeting, which also invited EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Štefan Füle and Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) Secretary General Goran Svilanović, the participants exchanged opinions on the current developments in the region and the modalities for improving the cooperation even further with the view to promoting the region's overall development. The meeting underlined the importance of focusing on project-oriented cooperation and linking national investment strategies with regional priorities, with a special emphasis on infrastructure and energy projects of joint interest. The ministerial meeting organised by France and Mexico on France's proposal to establish a code of conduct

for using the right of veto in the cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity was an opportunity for several states, including Montenegro, to voice their support for this initiative whose task it is to promote international peace and security and protection of human lives and rights. The initiative aims to overcome the instances of Security Council paralysis and inability to respond to crises situations in cases of veto. Montenegrin head diplomat took part at the meeting of the so-called LGBT Core Group, which Montenegro joined recently. At the panel, held within the event which gathered UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, US State Secretary John Kerry, and foreign ministers of Argentina and the Netherlands, Hector Timerman and Frans Timmermans, underlined the need to boost activities aimed at promoting LGBT rights at the global level. The meeting hosted by the US on the challenges posed by foreign fighters was used to discuss the options for joint action in the fight against this phenomenon. The issue of foreign fighters was a central topic of this month's US Presidency of the Security Council. Minister Lukšić voiced Montenegro's readiness at the national level, as well as in the context of cooperating with regional countries, to undertake activities which would strengthen the framework for preventing foreign terrorist fighters.



28 September 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at the sidelines of the 69th UN General Debate at the OSCE and Group of Friends of Mediation ministerial meetings.

The informal OSCE ministerial meeting, hosted by Switzerland as chair, gathered 25 ministers and representatives of more than 35 OSCE participant countries, as well as partner country and security organisations representatives, with the view to discussing possibilities for overcoming the European security crisis which was deepened by the Ukraine crisis. OSCE countries' representatives agreed on the necessity to act together and to intensify the activities of the special monitoring mission, as well as to allocate additional resources needed to improve its efficiency with the view to stabilising the situation in Ukraine.

Minister Lukšić underlined that Montenegro supports a peaceful solution to the Ukraine crisis, which would be found through dialogue and democratic means, with the full respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence. OSCE's ongoing activities towards solving the crisis in Ukraine which would contribute to the establishment of a cease-fire and the launch of a political process have Montenegro's full support, Mr Lukšić has said. In that regard, we support the intensive activities of the OSCE's special monitoring mission, as well as the process of reconciliation, reconstruction, and reform in Ukraine as key steps towards solving the crisis. Montenegro's head diplomat also support the launch of the debate on re-consolidating European security as a joint project of OSCE member-states, thus confirming Montenegro's willingness for further constructive engagement under the auspices of the Organisation.

The ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Mediation on the topic of regional and sub-regional organisations' participation in mediation processes was an opportunity to underline, in the light of the multiplying and growingly complex security challenges in the world, the growing importance and role of regional and sub-regional mechanisms in preventing conflicts and solving them peacefully. Minister Lukšić underlined that regional and sub-regional organisations are, due to their good understanding of crisis situations, often best placed to respond to regional crises. It is therefore encouraging that the United Nations and increasingly relying on them with the view to safeguarding and promoting international peace and stability, Mr Lukšić has said. The meeting stated the need to avoid overlap in activities of the UN and regional mechanisms, as well as the need to ensure synergy and complementary approach in creating the preconditions for best use of comparative advantages of the stakeholders involved.

Minister Lukšić also met with Hoyt Yi, deputy assistant US state secretary for Europe and Eurasia. The meeting confirmed both sides' satisfaction with the quality and scope of cooperation between Montenegro and the US.

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## Sarajevo: Signing of the Agreement on consular protection and visas between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

03 October 2014

During his official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić met with deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdžija. After the meeting, the two officials signed the Agreement on consular protection and visas.

"The signing of this agreement is a concrete example of the development of good neighbourly relations, as this agreement enables for the protection of the two countries' citizens in the third countries in which one of the sides does not have a diplomatic or consular mission," Mr Lagumdžija said after the signing ceremony. Mr Lagumdžija added that Belgrade will host a meeting on 23 October where a number of projects will be discussed in more concrete terms, notably in the areas of infrastructure, communication, and energy cooperation. He underlined the importance of the Agreement on reducing roaming prices in mobile communication signed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Serbia, and noted that this is



another concrete result of regional cooperation. "Regional cooperation in the Western Balkans was more successful in the past year than it has been since our mutual recognition. This past year was the year of the Western Balkans as a region and of the EU commitment to supporting us," Mr Lagumdžija stressed.

Minister Lukšić said that the agreement signed today is of direct interest for the two countries' citizens, noting that it also broadens the possibilities for the two countries, having in mind that consular relations are related to visa matters.

"I fully agree with the assessment that over the last year or year and a half we have shown a new dynamic to regional cooperation. What is our common vision, the vision we share in this region, is to ensure, with EU's help, when it comes to infrastructure, good connections between our capital cities with highways, railways, and energy," Mr Lukšić has noted. He added that the essence of the regional cooperation project is to accelerate our shared European path. "This is not possible if we all close within our own borders and deal solely with domestic reforms," Mr Lukšić emphasised.

## Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić meets with Aurelia Frick, Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture

09 October 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić spoke in Vaduz with Aurelia Frick, Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture.

The two officials exchanged opinions on the possibilities for improving bilateral cooperation in various areas of shared interest, especially in the fields of economy, culture, science, and education. Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić informed his host of the activities Montenegro has implemented in the process of meeting its key foreign policy priorities - EU and NATO integration and regional cooperation. The two officials noted the importance of cooperation within multilateral forums the two countries are members of, noting among others the Global Governance Group (3G).

The two ministers agreed that their countries share an excellent friendship and also have similar positions on multilateral issues, including the issue of sustainable development. They defined concrete steps and initiatives with the view to ensuring an even more fruitful bilateral and multilateral cooperation.



## Support to Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path

16 October 2014

US Senator Chris Murphy said in his talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić that he supports Montenegro on its path towards the Euro-Atlantic structures. He discussed with Mr Lukšić Montenegro's commitments in the upcoming phase of intensified and focused talks, noting his belief that Montenegro will after this period be ready to receive a membership invitation.

Mr Lukšić said that Montenegro is glad that the NATO Summit clearly recognised in its conclusions that Montenegro has made progress in the reforms, as well as that it confirmed the ministerial decision to launch intensified and focused talks. He underlined that the positive messages from the Wales summit on the importance of enlargement and the certain membership perspective for Montenegro if it meets the requirements is of key importance for the Western



Balkans region, aspiring countries, and the NATO open-door policy in general.

Mr Lukšić thanked for the US support to the development, European, and Euro-Atlantic ambitions of Montenegro and the implementation of reforms necessary for its membership of the EU and NATO.

## Belgrade: Deputy PM Lukšić and Minister Kavarić take part at the Western Balkans Conference



23 October 2014

Montenegrin delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić, took part at the Western Balkans conference entitled "Economic management and ties," which took place in Belgrade. Economy Minister Vladimir Kavarić was also in the delegation.

Mr Lukšić spoke at the session entitled "Better economic manage-

ment through national reform programmes," which discussed macro-economic and fiscal programmes, structural reforms, competition programmes, and the SEE 2020 Strategy. He also spoke, together with Mr Kavarić, at the session entitled "Improving ties within the region and with the EU," where participants presented concrete cooperation programmes in the areas of transport and energy, defined a joint regional approach through national investment committees, as well as cooperation within the Western Balkans investment framework.

## Montenegro opens an honorary consulate in Krakow

29 October 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić opened the Honorary Consulate of Montenegro in Krakow, Poland.

In his address, Mr Lukšić said he was certain that the Consulate in Krakow will additionally improve the relations between the two countries, primarily in the areas of economy and culture, but also contribute to cultural exchange and closer ties. Mr Lukšić underlined the importance of cooperation and constant development of mutual relations. I am especially glad to be able to say that, owing to their good relations, mutual understanding, and support, Montenegro and Poland worked with com-



mitment in the previous years, through intensive political dialogue, on the development of our mutual relations, Mr Lukšić has said. During the opening ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić reiterated numerous joint activities and projects in the areas of culture, science, and education, which make a notable contribution to the better understanding and closer ties between Montenegro and Poland. Following the opening ceremony, the participants were invited to visit the exhibition entitled "In Boka hidden" by Polish archaeologist Janusz Reclaw.

## Bratislava: Podgorica's approach to EU negotiations commended, support for opening new accession chapters by the end of 2014



1 November 2014

Foreign Ministers of Visegrad Group (V4) and Western Balkans countries met in Bratislava at the invitation of Slovakia's Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák. The meeting was also attended by European Commission's Vice-President and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, Austria's Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurtz, and RCC Secretary-General Goran Svilanović. Montenegro was represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić.

The ministers spoke about the situation in the Western Balkans and exchanged opinions on the Commission's enlargement package published on 8 October 2014. V4 countries reiterated their support to the EU and NATO enlargement as their top priorities. The Ministers underlined the importance of the momentum and credibility of the enlargement processes. The approach based on conditionality and achievements should be in practice. On the other hand, the EU and NATO should respond adequately to the progress made by aspiring countries. It was noted that the V4 countries will continue sharing their transition and integration experience.

V4 ministers underlined Montenegro's progress in accession negotiations and stressed their support for opening new negotiation chapters by the end of 2014.

As regards NATO enlargement, V4 ministers welcomed the decision to



launch intensified and focused talks with Podgorica and to decide on accession by the end of 2015.

Deputy Prime Minister Igor Lukšić thanked for V4's continued support to Montenegro and its EU and NATO membership. In the context of further progress of Montenegro, he informed the participants of the appointment of the Supreme State Prosecutor, which marks the completion of applying constitutional amendments with the view to boosting judicial independence. He also underlined that the Parliament should adopt by the year's end another set of legislation with the view to strengthening the anti-corruption framework, which should in turn enable for a better track record.

He also emphasised the importance of the Berlin Process under the auspices of Chancellor Merkel for the future of the integration process and he welcomed the activities announced by Austria, who will host the next conference on 27 August 2015.

In a bilateral meeting with his Slovakian counterpart Mr Lajčák, Mr Lukšić thanked Slovakia for its continued support, as well as Mr Lajčák for his personal contribution to Montenegro's progress towards the EU and NATO.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić met at the meeting sidelines with Austria's Foreign Minister Kurtz, and Poland's Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna, with whom he spoke of the importance Montenegro attributes to furthering the partnerships with these countries in the context of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

## Berlin: Region's countries have a clear European perspective

06 November 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated, at the invitation of head diplomats of Germany and the UK, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Philip Hammond, at the VI ASPEN South-Eastern European foreign ministers' conference, which took place in Berlin.

The conference noted that the Western Balkans' countries have a clear EU accession perspective and that the region as a whole is very important to Europe in political, security, and economic terms. It was concluded that Montenegro is making a notable progress and the

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event commended the progress made individually by the region's countries. The conference also discussed the importance of completing reforms, which will help the countries continue meeting their European agendas successfully.



## Brussels: Presentation of the European Union's Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

18 November 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at the Conference on the European Union's Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), which took place in Brussels.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić underlined the importance of EUSAIR for Montenegro and the region as a whole. He emphasised that the Strategy is, in the context of the EU's current priorities, of multiple importance for the countries still outside the EU, in the sense of their adoption of European values and standards on their paths towards the EU.

The main objective of EUSAIR is to promote economic and social prosperity and growth in the region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness, and connections. Cooperation is envisaged to take place under four thematic pillars: blue growth, regional connectedness (transport and energy), preservation and promotion of the environment, and regional attractiveness (sustainable tourism). The cooperation will take place under "Research, innovation and SMEs development," as well as "Capacity Building," which are two cross-cutting aspects which will come across each and every pillar.

## Lukšić-Hahn: Enlargement remains European Commission's priority

21 November 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić hosted European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, who paid an official visit to Montenegro. There is no enlargement fatigue, Mr Hahn has said, noting that the process of negotiations with Montenegro confirms this. He noted that the Commission and all member states wish to see changes brought about by EU accession negotiations and he said Montenegro is on a good path.

Mr Hahn welcomed the fact that Montenegro is actively participating in and constantly promoting regional cooperation and in that sense he commended the Western Balkans Six initiative, whose objective is to improve further the cooperation and joint activities with the view to better connectedness and European integration of the region.

Minister Lukšić underlined that the Commissioner's visit to Montenegro is very important at this moment and confirms that there is no enlargement fatigue at the Commission. Enlargement remains a priority and that is very important for all the countries in the region, Mr Lukšić has said.

Mr Lukšić underlined the importance of regional cooperation and underlined that national reforms also contribute to regional connectedness and quicker EU integration. It is clear that the region's countries will one day be full-fledged EU members, but the priority at this moment is to use the time until that day in the best possible way so as to build strong and sustainable mechanisms of practical cooperation, Mr Lukšić has concluded.

The two officials also discussed the importance of regional infrastructure projects and mechanisms of ensuring high-quality implementation of legal regulations aligned with European standards, as well as further dynamics of launching accession negotiations chapters.



## Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić speaks at IX Meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee



1 December 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić gave an opening statement at the IX Meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee in Brussels.

Mr Lukšić underlined the importance of dialogue and inter-institutional cooperation in the process of European integration. He stressed the great contribution made by the Parliament of Montenegro and especially its European Integration Committee for the "fulfilment of the priorities stemming from our European agenda."

Mr Lukšić emphasised that the "professional, dedicated and above all, genuine, cooperation between Parliament and Government of Montenegro, in the accession efforts, remains of crucial importance for enhancement of internal reforms necessary for further prospects of the integration process."

Mr Lukšić highlighted that the European Commission has acknowledged Montenegro's efforts in its 2014 Progress Report, and he stressed the obligation of both sides to keep the "enlargement momentum." He also underlined that Montenegro will continue encouraging the countries in the regions "toward joint actions and enhanced project based cooperation."

On the second day of his visit, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić said on the occasion of the meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. We are confident that the rule of law, economic governance and improvement of administrative capacities, represent the key principle of political stability, security and economic development of the Western Balkans, Mr Lukšić has said. Montenegro expects stronger economic support of the EU to the region, particularly in terms of increased infrastructural investments in the region, as there is clear mutual interest, he added.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić also participated earlier at the ministerial meeting of NATO's and Resolute Support operational partners' forei-

gn ministers, chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. The meeting also invited the newly elected President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani and the chief executive officer of the national unity Government Abdullah Abdullah.

The meeting marked an official launch of the new Resolute Support mission, which will start on 1 January 2015 and will gather 42 countries. The mission will be non-combat in character and will provide support, counselling, and aid to national institutions and army of Afghanistan. The meeting welcomed the fact that Afghanistan's national defence and security forces (ANDSF) will take full responsibility for the country's security, which created preconditions for a new chapter in the relations between NATO and Afghanistan. The participants underlined that this fact testifies to Afghanistan's notable progress and capacity development. They reiterated their readiness to ensure financial contribution for supporting the ANDSF in the period between 2015 and 2017.

In his address, Minister Lukšić underlined that Montenegro will continue supporting Afghanistan's stability and security through its activity in Resolute Support, as well as by deploying financial support over the course of three years for strengthening the capacities of Afghan forces.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić also participated at the meeting of the Global Coalition for fighting ISIL, chaired by US State Secretary John Kerry, which was attended by around 60 ministers of the countries participating in the coalition. The meeting concluded that ISIL poses a global threat to safety and all the countries underlined their willingness to contribute to stopping it in a comprehensive and long-term manner with political, military, financial, and humanitarian means.

Mr Lukšić underscored Montenegro's commitment to the Coalition efforts in accordance with our abilities.

At the meeting sidelines, Mr Lukšić met shortly with his Turkish counterpart Mavlut Cavusoglu, with whom he discussed regional developments and EU and NATO integration. Mr Lukšić also met shortly with Secretary-General Stoltenberg, Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders, and other representatives at the meeting.



## Basel: 21st OSCE Ministerial Council

05 December 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at the OSCE Ministerial Council, which took place in Basel on 4 and 5 December 2014.

The central topic of this year's ministerial meeting was solving the European security crisis, and way forward in the context of the situation in Ukraine. The Council meeting was launched by Didier Burkhalter, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. Mr Burkhalter invited the OSCE member-States to give support to the Organisation's initiatives with the view to de-escalation and stabilisation of the situation in Ukraine, citing the trilateral contact group and the special OSCE observer mission in Ukraine.

Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić underlined that the OSCE is one of the pillars of European security and that it has employed all its capacities



towards preventing the deterioration of the security situation in and around Ukraine, with the aim of contributing to the re-establishment of stability in the OSCE region.

On Montenegro's behalf, Mr Lukšić signed the Amendments to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, General framework agreement for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina Article IV Annex 1/B, by virtue of which they assumed ownership of the Agreement. The signing of the agreement opens up a new chapter and is a tremendous success in the arms control area, and it could serve as a future model for establishing trust, and strengthening peace and stability in post-conflict areas. At the meeting sidelines, Deputy Prime Minister Lukšić met with Foreign Minister of Hungary Peter Szijarto, OSCE media freedoms representative Dunja Mijatović, and UNHCR Europe office director Vincent Cochetel.

## Istanbul: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić at international conference "The New Silk Roads: Inspirations and Opportunities"

12 December 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at international conference "The New Silk Roads: Inspirations and Opportunities," which was hosted by the Centre for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD) from Belgrade, Serbia, China's State Agency for Research and Development (DRC), and the Strategic Research Centre (SAM) from Turkey.

In his address, Mr Lukšić said that the Silk Road, over its 15 centuries long history, has played an important role in economic, social, and technological development and the establishment of relations between the countries in the region, through exchange of dialogue, friendship, and welfare. He especially underlined the importance of investment promotion and trade exchange between Europe and China, as well as of the infrastructure projects such as motorways, harbours, railways, etc.

"Revival of the Silk Road Concept, encompassing three continents



and economically, culturally, socially and historically very diverse areas, might prove an opportunity for linking the Western Balkans with distant countries and various regions along this more than 7000 km long way," Mr Lukšić has said.

At the conference sidelines, Mr Lukšić spoke with the Minister at the Development Research Centre of the State Council of China, Li Wei, with whom he exchanged opinions on bilateral relations with a special emphasis on the Podgorica-Kolašin high-way.



## Tirana: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić at Partnership Commission of the US-Adriatic Charter meeting

15 December 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić participated at the Partnership Commission of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5) meeting, held in Tirana within Albania's chairmanship of A5. The meeting host was Albania's foreign minister Ditmir Bushati, and the participants were high representatives of the Charter countries and partners.

In his address, Mr Lukšić has said that A5 is the most important regional security forum in the Western Balkans. He informed the participants with Montenegro's reforms in the key areas and the intensive and focused dialogue with NATO, and he was hopeful that our achievements will result in a NATO membership invitation by the end of 2015 at the latest. Mr Lukšić underlined Montenegro's dedication to developing all forms of cooperation with Charter countries in areas of

shared interest, and especially when it comes to regional and global security challenges.

During his visit to Tirana, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić spoke with Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati, following which he noted that the relations between Montenegro and Albania are an example of good neighbourly cooperation in the region, and they are steadily developing bilaterally and regionally.

Mr Lukšić congratulated Albania on receiving candidate status and was hopeful that it will soon become accession talks with the EU. He thanked Albania for its support to Montenegro's NATO integration, noting that enlargement policy and the membership perspective are very important for Montenegro and the region.

During the visit an agreement was signed between Montenegro and Albania's Council of Ministers on mutual recognition of driving licences.

## EU Council welcomes Montenegro's progress in accession talks

16 December 2014

The EU Council welcomed Montenegro's progress in implementing reforms aimed to ensure the independence and increased efficiency of the judiciary, EU member-States' foreign ministers concluded at their meeting at the Council headquarters.

"The Council notes with satisfaction Montenegro's work on a number of issues identified in the progress report and, in particular, the recent adoption of several important measures in the area of prevention of corruption. Montenegro has also continued to implement its obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and to play an active role in the region," the Council said. The EU ministers welcomed in particular Montenegro's continued involvement in further development of regional cooperation and its full alignment with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, adding



that they will continue closely monitoring the progress in Chapters 23 and 24, which will set the pace for the overall negotiation process. The Council concluded that Montenegro should implement economic reforms towards reducing unemployment and improving the business environment, which should be coupled with fiscal consolidation measures.



## Montenegro-EU inter-governmental conference: Four new chapters opened, dynamic progress in accession negotiations continues

16 December 2014

Montenegro continues making dynamic progress in the EU accession process, which recommends it for opening four new accession chapters, the fifth meeting of the Montenegro-EU inter-governmental conference concluded in Brussels.

The meeting, co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić and State Secretary for European Affairs of Italy Sandro Gozzi, marked the opening of four accession negotiations chapters: Chapter 18: Statistics, Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection, Chapter 29: Customs union, and Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions.

The opening of these chapters is a reward for the progress that has been made, and also an incentive to do more and continue meeting

commitments on our European agenda, which will in the time ahead of us provide tangible results in all areas, Mr Lukšić said at the press conference following the event.

This is a clear signal that the enlargement process is moving forward and that everyone who thought nothing important would happen in the next five years may now see that the reality is quite the opposite of this, and this is proof that we wish to continue with the process. I am sure that if Montenegro maintains this tempo we will soon be witnessing tangible results that would be to the benefit of the citizens of Montenegro, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said at the event.

Of 35 chapters in total, Montenegro has thus far opened 16, of which two have been provisionally closed. Accession negotiations began in June 2012.





## DPM Marković: Lithuania stays credible partner of Montenegro in pursuing its foreign-policy priorities

5 September 2014

Lithuania stays a credible partner to Montenegro in pursuing its foreign-policy priorities, and cooperation between these two states will be improved at all levels, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Duško Marković stressed during his official visit to the Republic of Lithuania. DPM Marković and his Lithuanian counterpart Juozas Bernatoniš



signed the Agreement on cooperation between the two Ministries of Justice related to the exchange of experiences and practise in negotiation chapters 23 and 24. During his visit, DPM Marković also met with Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius, chairman of the parliamentary committee on European affairs Gediminas Kirkilas and the president of the Constitutional Court Dainius Žalimas.



16 October 2014

Italy will provide full support to Montenegro in its efforts aimed at gaining the full-fledged membership in the EU, Lieutenant General of Italy's Financial Police Severio Capolupo emphasised at the meeting with Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Duško Marković, which took place in Rome.

Close bilateral relations between Montenegro and Italy are based not only on their geographic position and historical ties, but also on the common values cherished by both countries, Italian Minister of the Interior Angelino Alfano stressed at the meeting with Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice

## DPM Marković visits Italy

ce Duško Marković. Italian Ministry of Justice provides key support to the Montenegrin Justice Ministry in terms of creating the legislative framework necessary for strengthening efficiency and responsibility of the judiciary, and drafting the norms of criminal law in order to introduce new mechanism for combating organised crime and corruption more efficiently, DPM Marković pointed out after the meeting with his Italian counterpart Andrea Orlando in Rome. Chief Prosecutor at Italian Anti-Mafia Prosecutor Franco Roberti commended the legislative and institutional reforms in Montenegro in the area of fight against organised crime and corruption. In that context he voiced absolute readiness to give to Montenegro the software for keeping a database, which is invaluable for success in investigation in organized crime, in order to ensure the success of special prosecution. DPM Marković met with Nicoleta Parisi of the National Anti-corruption Agency. A possibility was announced for this institution's cooperation with Montenegro's Anti-corruption Directorate in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, which would be an additional basis for Italy's expert support in the phase of establishing a new anti-corruption framework in Montenegro.

## DPM Marković in official visit to United Kingdom

10 November 2014

The Memorandum on Cooperation in criminal matters related to taxes and customs duties and similar matters of mutual interest that Montenegro and the United Kingdom signed earlier today in London forms the basis for practical cooperation in the fields of rule of law and the fight against organised crime, tax and customs crimes, especially illegal trafficking of tobacco products and related financial crime, Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Duško Marković said during the signing ceremony with Financial Secretary of the UK Finance Ministry David Gouke, the Immigration Minister at the Home Office James Brokenshire, and Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties Simon Hughes. Mr Marković met with Immigration Minister James Brokenshire. The United Kingdom stays a credible partner of Montenegro in pursuing its foreign policy goals – EU and NATO membership, the meeting between Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Duško Marković and senior UK's officials emphasised.



During his visit, DPM Marković met with Attorney General at the UK Supreme Court Jeremy Wright who expressed an interest in expanding cooperation at the programme level, stressing at the same time absolute readiness to help Montenegro implement rule of law reforms. We are very committed to Montenegro's European and Euro-Atlantic objectives and we encourage you to continue with reforms, Minister for Europe at British Foreign Office David Lidington told Minister Marković at the meeting devoted to the Progress Report, the achievements and challenges, and the importance of cooperation with key European partners, among whom the UK. DPM Marković finished his London visit by meeting with Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Justice, which is a key justice function at the Cabinet. Mr Marković and his British counterpart discussed all areas where British experience could be useful for Montenegro's judiciary, bearing in mind the success of various projects that are being implemented in Montenegro with the help of British experts.

## Stoltenberg-Marković: NATO appreciates Montenegro's progress towards Euro-Atlantic accession

19 November 2014

NATO appreciates Montenegro's progress towards Euro-Atlantic accession, particularly when it comes to meeting the requirements within the four key areas: the rule of law, security sector reform, strengthening of the public support and reform process in the defence sector, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stressed at the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Duško Marković, which took place at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels. DPM Marković also attended as a special guest the North Atlantic Council's meeting, where the officials pledged their full support to Montenegro in terms of meeting the required preconditions for getting an invitation for NATO membership by the end of 2015. DPM Marković informed the NATO officials about Montenegro's key activities aimed at strengthening the rule of law, fight against organised crime and corruption, security sector reform process and comprehensive public dialogue. This was the first meeting of a Montenegrin senior official with the



newly appointed NATO Secretary General and the first official visit at the political level during the intensified and focused dialogue between NATO and Montenegro.

## DPM Vujica Lazović takes part in Annual Internet Governance Forum in Istanbul

2 September 2014

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications Vujica Lazović attended the Ninth Annual Internet Governance Forum Meeting, which took place in Istanbul on 2-5 September. In his address, DPM Lazović highlighted the importance of the project Wireless Montenegro aimed at covering the most popular locations with free Internet access, which represents the secure platform for economic growth of Montenegro. Global promotion of the national domain .me represents an example of proper use of virtual resources in modern economic terms, regardless of level of the economic development of the country, DPM Lazović added.

The main topic of this year's Internet Governance Forum is: "Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multi-Stakeholder Internet Governance", with a particular emphasis on gathering various stakeholders who share this common goal.

On the second day of the Forum, Deputy Prime Minister Lazović met with Turkey's transport and telecommunication minister for talks on joint ICT activities. The meeting was an opportunity to continue discus-



...sing cooperation and transfer of experience in cyber-security and eGovernment, where Turkey is making notable results.

Both countries voiced an interest in implementing concrete activities in this regard, as well as signing a Memorandum of Cooperation. The officials welcomed the growing number of Turkish investments in Montenegro and discussed possible cooperation in various infrastructure projects.

Mr Lazović also met with managers of the Ilbak Holding, who expressed an interest in investing in the areas of mining and energy.

## Lazović and Mladek pledge support to improving cooperation between two states



16 December 2014

On the sidelines of the Belgrade's 3rd meeting of heads of governments of China and Central and East Europe, Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister Vujica Lazović met with Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic Jan Mladek for talks on boosting economic relations between the two states.

DPM Lazović said that high quality economic cooperation established between the two countries should be continued, emphasising that the trade exchange does not correspond with the great interest voiced by investors from the Czech Republic. By the same token, he said that a meeting of the two countries' business people should be organised in order to present potential for cooperation, which Mr Mladek readily accepted.

As potentially priority areas, the two officials underlined energy, infrastructure and tourism. In that regard, Minister Mladek emphasised that his government pledges strong support to the Czech companies which have applied to participate in the implementation of Montenegro's development projects, namely the construction of the Block II of the Thermal Power Plant Pljevlja and certain infrastructural projects, such as the reconstruction of the railway station in Podgorica representing the continuation of the cooperation aimed at the reconstruction of the Podgorica-Nikšić railway.

During the Economic Forum in Belgrade, Deputy Prime Minister Lazović met with representatives of Chinese companies interested in making investment in Montenegro, such as China Poly Group Corporation, China Machinery Engineering Corporation, PowerChina and Hydrochina.

## Deputy Prime Minister Rafet Husović attended inauguration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan



28 August 2014

Deputy Prime Minister Rafet Husović participated, on behalf of the Government, at the inauguration ceremony of the newly appointed President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The ceremony was attended by high officials of over 90 countries, including President of Macedonia Nikola Gruevski, member of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency Bakir Izetbegović, Speaker of the Parliament of Serbia Maja Gojković, with whom he held separate meetings.

Deputy Husović briefly met with Mr Erdoğan and congratulated to him on the appointment, noting that he believes the dynamic of the two countries' cooperation will be further improved. He also voiced the invitation of Montenegro's President Filip Vujanović to President Erdoğan to visit Montenegro, which he readily accepted.

Mr Husović also met briefly with Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Emrullah İşler, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Economy Nihat Zeybekci and several other high officials of Turkey.



Aleksandar Andrija Pejović

## A look back at our achievements

The start of 2015 is an opportunity to look back at what we have achieved in the two and a half years of accession negotiations.

Building on our results from the previous period when we have laid good foundations for further work and progress on our European path, in 2014 we continued working with great intensity on meeting the accession process commitments. This has resulted in our opening by the end of 2014 of a half of all the chap-

ters (16 in total), of which two have been provisionally closed. Of those, in 2014 we opened nine chapters: in March we opened Chapter 7: Intellectual property law and Chapter 10: Information society and media, in June we opened Chapter 4: Free movement of capital; Chapter 31: Foreign security and defense policy; and Chapter 32: Financial control, and in December we adopted Chapter 18: Statistics, Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection, Chapter 29: Customs union, and Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions.

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*Within the negotiations on Chapter 28 we will continue working towards a greater protection of economic interests of consumers, improvement of health protection, and control of the health policy implementation. The negotiations on customs will create preconditions for the citizens of Montenegro to be able to purchase better quality products from all EU member states at lower prices than they do today. In addition, by joining the EU Montenegro will also join the internal market, which will facilitate the export of domestic products to a market of 513 million consumers*

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This result in itself speaks volumes about the efforts we invested, and it serves a recognition to all those involved in the negotiations process. However, more than numbers, it is much more important what these chapters mean for the life of citizens.

For example, the opening of negotiations and further alignment with European regulations in the area of statistics will improve the quality of information available to users at all levels. Within the negotiations on Chapter 28 we will continue working towards a greater protection of economic interests of consumers, improvement of health protection, and control of the health policy implementation. The negotiations on customs will create preconditions for the citizens of Montenegro to be able to purchase better quality products from all EU member states at lower prices than they do today. In addition, by joining the EU Montenegro will also join the internal market, which will facilitate the export of domestic products to a market of 513 million consumers. Just as each EU member-state has the right to use funds from the EU budget, they also have an obligation to make payments to the budget. These obligations are defined by Chapter 33 and they encompass three main sources of income: customs revenues, VAT-based own revenues, and GNI-based own resources.

The success we made in the integration process is all the greater if we take into account the fact that we are the first country to negotiate

under the new approach, which means we are working in parallel on building domestic capacities, improving expertise, and making tangible results.

We are aware that knowledge, energy, and effort that we are putting into the process now are a capital for the future generations. And not because our work will result in EU membership, but because they will result in a better organised society which will offer a better quality of life for all citizens of Montenegro.

Since negotiations started two and a half years ago plenty has changed in Montenegro. In addition to adopting regulations, standards, and values, we are also changing the people's mindset. And this is the longest and most thorough process.

I am certain that we will gradually start moving more and more from the technical domain to the everyday life and issues that affect the quality of life of each of us. What is particularly important for us is that citizens can already feel concrete change as a result of negotiations. As we move closer to EU membership the effect of change will grow. This is precisely the essence of accession negotiations and this gives true meaning to the overall integration efforts.

Ambassador  
Aleksandar Andrija PEJOVIĆ

# Chapter 18

## STATISTICS



Ana Tomković

*At the Fifth Intergovernmental Conference at ministerial level, held in Brussels on 16 December 2014, Montenegro opened negotiations on Chapter 18 – Statistics.*



The domain of statistics is part of the negotiations process as a separate chapter, but also bears relevance for other chapters as it is intrinsically tied with many aspects of the negotiations process. There is practically no negotiations chapter which is not in need of an official statistical survey. Progress in all areas will be measured on the basis of the data produced by the official statistics; likewise, our financial obligations towards the EU, and vice versa, will be determined on the same basis. Moreover, high-quality statistical data are of utmost importance in drawing from structural funds. Statistics also plays a vital role in explaining economic and social phenomena, as well as in decision-making and policy implementation. High-quality statistics is fundamental to a well-organised society.

The Chapter on statistics comprises five distinct areas: Demographic and Social Statistics; Macroeconomic Statistics, National Accounts, and Structural Business Statistics; Business Statistics and Prices; Statistics in Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Environment, Registers, and Classification; Coordination of the Statistical System.

The legal framework for the official statistical system for the production and dissemination of official statistics, as well as the framework for the organisation of the system of official statistics of Montenegro, is defined by the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics of Montenegro. The Law has been in its entirety brought in accordance with the acquis. The dynamics of harmonisation with the acquis depends on the dynamics of compliance in other negotiations chapters.

In addition to harmonisation with the acquis, fulfilling the obligations in this Chapter also requires the harmonisation with the principles of the European Statistical System, which is exacting even for member states with vaster capacities than Montenegro. The European Statistical System is a partnership between EUROSTAT (The EU's statistical office) and national statistical offices, as well as other bodies of member states responsible for development, production, and distribution of European statistics. Furthermore, the European Statistical System coordinates the cooperation with candidate states and, at the European level, with other services of the Commission, agencies, the European Central Bank, and international organisations such as OECD, UN, IMF, and World Bank. The European Statistical System is based on high-quality statistics free from political bias. The goal of European statistics is to offer precise and clear responses by which to monitor social phenomena and make decisions.

The purpose of negotiations on this Chapter is the harmonisation of the official Montenegrin statistics with European standards and methodologies by creating a unified, harmonised European methodological system, which offers at the minimal human and financial costs the most sophisticated data in as quick and accessible a manner as possible. One of the important strategic goals stated in the negotiations position of Montenegro is the building of administrative capacities through continued development of human resources, so as to make viable the official statistics.

One of the key areas of this Chapter, which touches also upon Chapters 17 (Economic and Monetary Union) and 33 (Financial and Budgetary Provisions), is the European System of Accounts (ESA), the harmonised methodology used in producing national accounts data in the EU with the aim of making sure that the economic statistics of member states is consistent, comparable, reliable, and up-to-date.

### Chief agents

The Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) is the key provider and disseminator of statistical data, as well as the accountable expert provider, organiser, and coordinator of official statistics of Montenegro, nationally as well as in international statistical system. The Statistical Office surveys and evaluates methodological and legal modifications put forward by other providers.

The Central Bank of Montenegro conducts the monetary and financial statistics of the balance of payments and international transactions, the statistics of private external debt, and any such statistics as may be necessary for the discharge of its duties, clearly distinguishing between its own and other statistical providers' activities.

The Ministry of Finance conducts the statistics of fiscal expenditure and non-fiscal revenues.

Other providers of official statistics in Montenegro are: Institute of Public Health, Customs Administration, Department of Revenues, Securities Commission, Health Insurance Fund, and Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, while indirectly almost all public organs are involved in statistics production.

Ana Tomković

Secretary of the working group 18 – Statistics

# Chapter 28

## Consumer and health protection



Melita Rastoder

The Common European Market as one of the largest retail markets in the world makes it possible for EU citizens and entrepreneurs to trade freely outside the borders of their countries and for EU consumer to have high-quality and diverse supply for their money's worth. In that context, the key role played by the EU consumer protection policies is to offer support and guidance to consumers in making the best of these possibilities, protecting themselves from fraud, harm, unfair business practices, and in taking an active part in the working of the common market, thereby also

contributing to economic development and social progress. Bearing in mind that there are 500 million people living in the EU, having quality supplies, having truthful information on products and services, and having buyer's and consumer's rights protected is a precondition not only to an efficient functioning of the European market but also to the equally important active participation of consumers in the process who via their decision contribute to innovation, efficiency, and economic growth.

Since consumers find themselves in an ever more complex environment influenced by the challeng-



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es and possibilities brought about by fast-paced technologic progress, e-trading, globalisation, rising levels of consumption which cause ecological problems, social exclusion and vulnerability due to the economic crisis, population ageing, and digital era, policies aimed at consumer protection ought to be as efficient as to help citizens adjust to these new realities.

Essentially, EU consumer rights and health protection policy is so designed as, firstly, to shield consumers from serious risks and threats with which they could not cope themselves; secondly, to provide them with a choice of products marked with clear and truthful information which would facilitate their rights protection through quick and efficient dispute resolution with producers; and, finally, to make sure consumer rights are keeping with the pace of political and social changes.

The domain of consumer protection in the EU is governed by regulations which prescribe measures for health protection, safety, consumer interests, right to information, education, and organising themselves to the end of protecting their rights. It should be noted that the *acquis* extends consumer protection to all consumers on EU soil regardless of their country of origin.

Consumer rights protection in the EU has loomed large in the general functioning of the EU reality, especially so since the efficient implementation of these regulations is key to the **safety of all EU citizens and the safety of products and services**. Moreover, the system of timely reaction to dangerous products has shown itself extremely successful, and such unfair business practices as aggressive sales methods, hidden cost, false claims, etc. have been regulated and banned by the EU law. Rules on product safety in the EU are meticulously updated so as to cover the newly arisen needs and challenges. In that sense, EU rules on safety of toys, electric appliances, and vehicles have been highly successful. It is interesting to note

that toys bought in the EU are among the safest in the world due to rigorous checks imposed on their crafting, flammability, chemical components, radioactivity, etc. Furthermore, one of the great achievements of European consumer policy has been that in low-value civil and commercial claims, national and transnational, no lawyers are required and the adjudication is applicable in all member states. European consumers also have the option of solving their problems through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms which are far quicker, simpler, and less costly for consumers. Finally, EU consumers have the right to have their product restored, refunded, or reduced; they may safely purchase items or services at great distance, by mail or Internet, in which they have the right to be sufficiently informed and to cancel the agreement within fortnight without consequences and penalties.

Another important segment of the EU consumer protection policy, in addition to product safety, is the **protection of consumers' economic interests**. The *acquis* prescribes a very high level of consumer protection in the domain of financial services, information on financial products such as consumer credits, investment, travel packages, insurance systems, time-sharing, roaming, etc. In that respect, rules on consumer credits stipulate that before signing consumers must be supplied with clear information on dues and limits and any relevant information bearing upon their future obligations. When it comes to travel packages, EU law minutely regulates the obligations of the organiser as well as of retail salesmen, so far as to require that the consumer be supplied with all the necessary information before signing, an emergency contact person, the right to transfer reservation to another person, the right to refund if the basic conditions of the package are altered, and the right to an alternative package without additional charges.

In the area of health policies, the EU aims at efficient disease prevention, promotion of healthy lifestyles, protecting people from serious cross-border health risks, extending access to healthcare, enhancing patients' safety, supporting dynamic healthcare systems, new technologies, higher standards of organ, cell, and blood safety, and, finally, at high quality, safety, and efficiency of medical products and apparatuses. The modern challenges to health protection, which are at the core of the EU health policies, are the demographic shifts and the rising need for medical assistance, population ageing, frequency of such diseases as cancer, diabetes, respiratory, mental, and other chronic diseases, and the risk factors of a number of diseases such as alcohol, tobacco, poor dieting habits, and absence of physical activity. One of the major challenges to health policies has been health inequality produced by income, employment, ethnicity, education, access to healthcare, etc.

In order that consumer protection policy be efficient, access to information and raising awareness on consumer rights is an inseparable part of that policy because it directly affects consumer trust and thereby the whole market competition. With this in mind, European regulation clearly sets rules and principles on providing truthful information about products and services, product markings and packaging, online consumer assistance, tracking, and evaluation of consumer policies so as to determine obstacles and shortcomings on the market.

As the Single Market is one of the foundations of the EU, it is one of Montenegro's priorities to adjust Montenegrin legislation with the *acquis* in order to remove as fully as possible the obstacles to the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital. In that respect, one of the goals of Montenegrin economic policy has been to improve consumer and health protection and providing Montenegrin consumers with equal rights as those possessed by EU citizens. Harmonisation of the Montenegrin system of consumer and health protection with the EU one is a key instrument for removing the obstacles to full application of the principles of fair competition and social responsibility, while at the same time efficient protection of consumer rights is a cornerstone of an effective and correct functioning of market competition.

Although Montenegro has made considerable progress in the field of consumer and health protection, especially in regard to harmonising its legislation with the *acquis*, we are aware that additional efforts must be put into it so that a good legal and administrative framework may be set up for further implementation and application of European technical standards of consumer and health protection.

Montenegro has appropriated the European vision of consumer and health protection and may boast its considerable activity in these fields, as well as having painstakingly over the past years worked on preparing, adopting, and implementing key legislative acts aimed at safeguarding citizens' consumer and economic interests. Montenegro adopted the Law on consumer protection in December 2013 (came into force in July 2014), Law on Consumer Credits in February 2014, and has harmonised its regu-

lations on tobacco control, organ, tissue, and blood transplantation, etc. Moreover, out-of-court consumer protection is ensured by the Board of Arbitration established within the Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce. National Programme of Consumer Rights Protection and the Action Plan which accompanies it have also addressed the problem of consumer rights protection. An inter-departmental committee has been set up and charged with monitoring the realisation of this Programme, comprising members not only from the Ministry of Economics (responsible for the Programme) but from other ministries involved in consumer protection, from the Chamber of Commerce and local administration involved via the Ministry of the Interior.

The European Commission adopted in December 2014 the Analytical Report on Montenegro in which it deemed Montenegro capable of opening negotiation on this chapter, followed by the President's letter of 5 February 2014 which called for opening negotiations on this Chapter and for Montenegro to define its negotiating position. The Government of Montenegro adopted on 10 July 2014 the Negotiating Position of Montenegro Regarding Consumer and Health Protection and forwarded it to the Commission.

Negotiations in this area and the harmonisation of Montenegrin legislation with the *acquis* will additionally regulate the efficient system of consumer and health protection, contribute to successful solution of existing problems in consumer rights protection, provide support for consumers in practicing their rights and raising awareness of their true position and strength in the market. Moreover, Montenegro is working on challenges in healthcare so as to ensure a better system of disease prevention and health promotion, to protect citizens from cross-border health risks, and to provide a better and safer healthcare.

Finally, the issue of consumer safety and the protection of their economic interests and health, what is more the issue of consumers' general welfare, will remain the corner-stone and the guiding principle for further policies of consumer and health protection in Montenegro. Thus, not only will Montenegro seek to continue harmonising its legislation with the *acquis* until it eventually accedes to the Union, but will seek to prepare itself to be a fully-functioning member state taking part in and contributing to the EU consumer and health protection on an equal footing with other member states.

Melita Rastoder  
Secretary of the working group 28  
- Consumer and health protection

## Chapter 29

# Customs Union



Đorđe Janković

Customs union is an economic area in which member states pledge to remove all customs (and all tariffs to that effect) and all quantitative limitations to trade between themselves and to impose upon third parties a common customs tariff. Customs Union was the chief economic underpinning of the Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community of 1957, which from its very beginning tended towards the creation of a single market and the realisation of the four freedoms: free movement of people, capital, goods, and services. This was established on 1 April 1968.

The chief goals of the Customs Union were creating a zone of free trade, strengthening economic ties between member states, boosting trading activity, improving life standard, and ensuring greater employment by increasing productivity and achieving financial stability.

### The course of negotiations on Chapter 29

Montenegro received the complete Screening Report for this chapter on 17 December 2014, which generally found the national legislation to be harmonised with the *acquis* in a satisfactory degree. The President of the European Union addressed a letter on 19 December 2013 which called for the opening of negotiations with Montenegro and for Montenegro to present its Negotiating Position. The Government adopted the Negotiating Position Regarding Customs Union on 29 May 2014 and the following day officially addressed it to the European Commission.

In the future course of negotiations Montenegro should continue harmonising its national legislation with relevant EU regulations and should focus on additional strengthening of its administrative capacities and securing a uniform and efficient implementation of customs procedures.

When it comes to digitalisation, it is imperative to set up the necessary IT systems for information exchange with EU member states, which will, in financial terms, prove our greatest challenge.

The importance of a complete compliance with the *acquis* in this area is manifold and carries benefits in all spheres of Montenegrin society. The fact that no customs duties will be collected means that Montenegrin citizens will be able to purchase higher-quality products at considerably cheaper prices than today. Moreover, many domestic products will become cheaper by virtue of being exposed to market competition from EU products, triggering a general fall of prices. Montenegro will become part of the internal market which will facilitate the export of domestic products to a market of 500 million consumers. After acceding to the EU Montenegro will become party to preferential trading arrangements with a number of Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia), Chile, Mexico, and the Republic of South Africa, thus being able

to trade with them at reduced or no tariffs at all.

Montenegrin legislation in this area is to a large extent already in harmony with the *acquis*, for which reason further legal harmonisation in this Chapter will pose no greater challenge. The area to which both the EU and Montenegro attach considerable importance, and which is to be our single greatest challenge in this Chapter, are the IT systems of the Revenue Administration, whereby it is to achieve inter-connectivity and interoperability with the IT systems of the EU. The practice of the EU member states show that the development of the Common Communication Network/Common System Interface (CCN/CSI), the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS), the Internet Traffic Monitoring System (ITMS), and the Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS) takes time, considerable financial resources, and expertise.

Đorđe Janković  
Secretary of the working group 29  
- Customs Union





Vladana Mitrović

## Chapter 33

# Financial and budgetary provisions

At the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels on 16 December 2014 Montenegro opened negotiation Chapter 33: Financial and Budgetary Provisions. Montenegro was deemed by the Commission to have achieved a satisfactory level of harmonisation with the acquis and the capacities for its implementation. In anticipation of the full application of the acquis, Montenegro will have to keep harmonising its national legislation with relevant chapters of the acquis, especially Chapters 16 (Taxes), 18 (Statistics), 29 (Customs Union), and 32 (Financial Control).

The Budget of the European Union is an important instrument whereby EU policy provisions are practically formulated and

defined. The Budget finances such obligations and activities because member states cannot finance themselves or because it may be more effectively financed by pooling common resources. Via grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance, the EU Budget offers financial support to hundreds of thousands of users from various sectors, such as students, scientists, NGOs, small and medium-sized enterprises, cities, and regions.

However, so that a country could have recourse to the funds of the EU Budget it is under obligation to contribute to it. **The EU Budget is financed from three sources:** traditional own resources (customs revenues), VAT-based own revenues, and GNI-based own resources.

Revenues from traditional own resources (customs) make up cca 15% of the Budget. From financial resources collected from customs, member states keep for themselves 20%, and the rest contribute to the EU Budget.

From other resources, member states contribute a smaller portion to the EU Budget, namely their revenues from VAT collected in member states and of which they apportion 0.5% to the EU Budget in accordance with the "harmonised tax base"; member states also make payments on the basis of their gross national income, which varies greatly in accordance with their varying national wealth.

**NGI-payments are the largest source of EU revenue** and make up for almost two thirds of its total revenue. These payments are to a large extent directly tied to the economic strength of individual member states.

**From its first day as a member state Montenegro will be making regular contributions to the EU Budget, while being at the same time eligible to draw a portion from the Budget from the Cohesion Fund and structural funds.**

The EU Budget finances a very large number of activities, from rural development and environment protection to external border protection and promoting human rights. The Commission, the Council, and the Parliament have a vote on the amount of the Budget and its distribution. The EU has allocated 959,988 billion euro for the period of 2014-2020, focusing primarily on:

### 1. Smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth:

**1a Competitiveness for growth and jobs:** comprises research and innovation, education and training, trans-European energy, transport, and communication networks, social policies, business

development, etc.

**1b Economic, social, and regional cohesion:** comprises regional policies aimed at helping less developed EU countries strengthen their competitiveness via international cooperation.

**2. Sustainable growth:** natural resources: comprises common agriculture policy, fisheries, rural development, and environment protection.

**3. Justice, freedom, and security:** comprises the judiciary and internal affairs, border protection, immigration, asylum, public healthcare, consumer rights, culture, youth, information, and communication with citizens.

**4. Global Europe:** comprises EU foreign policy, including development and humanitarian aid.

**5. Administration:** comprises administrative expenditure of all European institutions, pensions, and European schools.

**6. Compensations:** a temporary mechanism which ensures that a new member state does not contribute to the Budget more than it draws from it in the first year of its accession.

**Until its accession to the EU Montenegro will be committed to establishing a coordinating structure and implementation rules so as to ensure the right calculation, collection, prognostication, payment, and control of its own resources and reporting to the EU on the implementation of the rules pertaining thereto.**

Vladana Mitrović

Secretary of the working group 33  
- Financial and budgetary provisions





Aleksandar Andrija Pejović

## EU's IPA Support for Long-Term Achievements

Over the past seven years we have been drawing resources from the Instruments of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). This support has so far been used with the view of making more thorough and quality reforms in the process of EU integration. To that same end, but with enhanced capacities, knowledge, and experience from the past seven years, we shall continue to make use of the financial support offered by the IPA programme for 2014-2020.

Our hitherto knowledge and experience in implementing projects provides a sound and solid basis for a far more demanding stage which awaits us in the future. It is of special importance when we take into account that from the IPA financial perspective 2014-2020 the

EU has apportioned 270.5 million EUR to Montenegro, a 10%-percent increase in comparison with the previous financial period, which is a considerable boost to our negotiation process.

A novelty in IPA II (2014-2020) is its strategic focus, i.e. project implementation in eight specified sector in accordance with the Enlargement Strategy. This was introduced chiefly in order to enhance strategic planning, improve combining different aspects of support, and to make more efficient the use of the existent knowledge and capacities in recipient countries.

Montenegrin institutions were thus working intensely during 2014 on the formulation of a national IPA 2014

programme. After five rounds of consultation between the European Commission and Montenegro, the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for 2014, which is so shaped as to focus on democracy and governance, rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as mechanisms for boosting economic governance and competitiveness. Among the eight priority sectors identified by the Indicative Strategy Paper of Montenegro for IPA II, six of them were also singled out by the Programme of 2014, specifically in order to meet the needs identified during the negotiation process on numerous chapters.

The Programme will thus finance **seventeen action documents** for six sectors, amounting to **39.2 million EUR**.

In the sector **Democracy and Governance** the Programme provides support for administrative reforms in public finance, taxation, customs duties, and public procurement, and enhancing project planning quality, efficiency in implementation, and absorption capacity of IPA funds. These activities amount to 16.2 million EUR and will strengthen administrative and operative capacities via a training programme. Furthermore, these funds will cover a full computerisation of the Department of Public Revenues, and in the financial domain key policies in public finance management will be improved (e.g. state aid, concessions, public procurement). Setting up a system of electronic procurement in the classical sector will greatly improve transactions in this area.

The sector **Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights** comprises two actions amounting to 5.3 million EUR, aimed at strengthening judiciary capacities and supporting the fight against corruption and organised crime. It will put a special emphasis on enhancing the capacities of financial investigations and mechanisms of coordination between competent authorities. In the domain of antidiscrimination, the Programme will work on improving legal and institutional framework for protection against discrimination, especially of such vulnerable groups like women, Roma people, sexual minorities, people with disabilities, and minorities.

Within the sector of **Environment and Climate Action** two actions amounting to 3 million EUR will be funded; these actions are directed towards aligning the Montenegrin with the *acquis* legislation on air quality and towards procuring the necessary stations (two automation fixed stations and an EMEP station) and instruments for the existing grid control. Furthermore, we will provide prime conditions for water management of Montenegrin rivers and draw a Plan for Managing Adriatic and Black Sea Drainage Basin.

The **Transport** sector funds two actions amounting to 5.8 million EUR with twofold objective: the improve-

ment of transport network and reconstruction of the Kos-Trebešica railroad so as to reduce travel time.

In the sector **Competitiveness and Innovation** the Programme will support three actions amounting to 5.9 million EUR aimed at enhancing business environment and supporting Montenegro in aligning with and implementing European legislation in the domain of financial services and internal market.

Finally, in the sector of Agriculture and Rural Development two actions amounting to 2.8 million EUR will be implemented in veterinary policies and fisheries. As regards fisheries, we will bring our electronic data in line with EU standards, whereby we will enhance control and management of activities in this sector. As regards the veterinary sector, by conforming to the EU regulations we will eventually eradicate certain diseases among animals.

In addition to the actions included in this Programme, the sector of **Regional and Territorial Cooperation** will be supported by multi-country programmes and by programmes of cross-border and transnational cooperation.

Furthermore, two action documents, the Instrument of Support to the Civil Society, amounting to 2.25 million EUR, which includes grants to media, and the Regional Housing Programme, amounting to 1.5 million EUR, which provides a long-term solution to the housing problem of Roma people and internally displaced persons, will be financed by the national IPA, but will be programmed and executed by the European Commission.

I believe that we will address our set priorities on our European path in the best way possible with the financial help provided to that end by the European Union.

The Actions of 2014 are above all a reflexion of the needs arisen from the accession process. The funds are primarily allocated to priority areas revealed by the negotiations process.

When defining these Actions we specifically focused on improving infrastructure and equipping institutions for implementing legislative regulations in accordance with the *acquis*. We expect that the planned programmes will improve the quality of life of Montenegrin citizens by enhancing their access to the services provided by these institutions, by providing them with better infrastructure in the area of transport and environment, advanced control of fisheries, and a strengthened system of animal health control.

Ambassador  
Aleksandar Andrija Pejović  
National IPA Coordinator



## EU negotiations and persons with disabilities



Marija Vujačić

EU accession negotiations process is not just a political story, but a comprehensive social process of concern for each citizen individually and for the society as a whole. Consequently, EU membership cannot benefit just the state as a “political apparatus,” but primarily the citizen, as a human being. However, EU membership alone cannot guarantee progress, which is dependent on our own dedication and interest in the negotiation process, i.e. accession talks. Progress and satisfaction depends on us alone, on individual men and women, and for this reason it is important for each individual to be aware of this.

In many countries that are now EU members, certain portions of the society and social groups were entirely disregarded during the negotiation process, and consequently they did not feel satisfied by their countries’ EU accession, nor did they note any progress. On the contrary, quite

often such individuals and groups, and sometimes the majority of those societies, felt disappointed and deceived. To avoid the same thing happening to Montenegro, it is necessary to invite, early on, everyone to join the process and ask for their contribution. In order to feel personally satisfied and progressing, we should not wait for our country to join the EU, as the Union alone will bring us nothing. As the negotiation process lasts several years, a decade even, on average, it is of special import for marginalised group, among which persons with disabilities. Fully aware of this fact from the very beginning of Montenegro’s EU accession talks, we at the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG) did not want to be left out from the process or let slip the link between the negotiations and persons with disabilities.

On several occasions I noted publicly that several negotiating chapters are of concern for per-

sons with disabilities, and have repeatedly called for those persons’ awareness of this fact. First, in order to ensure a greater quality of life of persons with disabilities it is necessary to ensure balanced progress in several areas, such as: education, employment, health-care, accessibility (of the environment, information, communication, and services), equal access to justice, access to various social services, etc. In order to attain all this it is necessary to talk about persons with disabilities’ human rights and consider persons with disabilities in the context of human rights. If this is done, many chapters (such as: Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services, Chapter 10: Information society and media, Chapter 19: Social policy and employment, Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights, Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security, Chapter 26: Education and culture, Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection) can be understood as very important for persons with disabilities. In addition, these chapters overlap in many respects.

UMHCG has, on its own and by participating in an NGO Coalition for Monitoring Montenegro’s EU Accession, contributed to semi-annual and annual Progress Reports in the areas covered by Chapter 23, to the drafting and revision processes for Government’s Action Plans for Chapters 23 and 24 and the reports that followed up on them, we have a representative at the working group for Chapter 19: Social policy and employment. We have also made a contribution during the process of drafting the Strategy for informing the public about Montenegro’s accession to the European Union 2014-2018 and are now also contributing in the Operational Structure for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and drafting the action plans. What we are particularly proud of is the enthusiasm associated with UMHCG’s work and the desire for change to which we can contribute. Finally, we did not want the process to pass us by and in that sense we are part of it. Through all our activities mentioned here, UMHCG is trying to contribute to this process constructively and in good faith. It aims to give support and propose measures and activities that will make persons with disabilities more visible rather than left aside in times when more emphasis is being put on the alignment of legislation with the EU *acquis*, and at times when more people, in the Union and in Montenegro, seem to care more about legal harmonisation in the areas of crime and corruption than in

the area of human rights. It is obvious without a doubt that the progress and results in the area of human rights depend on the results in the area of fight against crime and corruption, but it is often the case that in the “overall fight” we forget the day-to-day developments from which certain groups, like persons with disabilities, are completely excluded. In order not to be excluded and disregarded, the persons with disabilities themselves must exit the proverbial “boxes” the society has been seeing them in for years and break the proverbial chains they often put on alone. Namely, a large number of persons with disabilities are not aware that the negotiation process concerns them, and that they must be a part of it. In that context, each area of a person with disabilities’ life can be treated from the point of view of negotiations and be a part of that process. Everything that is part of a person with disabilities’ life and everything they encounter daily is a part of the European story, it is just that somewhere those processes took less and somewhere they took more, which has depended on the whole of the society.

If, for instance, persons with disabilities wish to reduce the obstacles they face daily they must speak about that publicly, because others, including the state, will not be aware that they are responsible for not providing equal opportunities for all. However, in order to ensure the contribution and involvement of persons with disabilities to social processes, they must be informed about them in a way that best suits them, and at the same time as other citizens, i.e. at the time when they require the information the most.

Persons with disabilities should therefore not be viewed only from the aspect of social policy, but also from the aspect of human rights, as this is the only way to ensure their becoming equal citizens, with choices and decision-making power in issues that concern them. Persons with disabilities should not expect the state’s help, but only its support and a possibility to get involved as socially beneficial citizens, who can contribute to the well-being of the entire society. Only once the process becomes a two-way street and persons with disabilities get equal access to it, EU membership will be a simple association into a bigger community, and the way and quality of life will be determined by each citizen for themselves.

Marina Vujačić,  
Executive Director, Association of Youth with  
Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG)

# Montenegro's Accession Process to the EU as Seen from the Perspective of the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration



Andrej Orlandić

**M**ontenegro's Accession Process to the EU as Seen from the Perspective of the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration

Montenegro is a balanced parliamentary polity with a legal framework which facilitates the cooperation between public institutions from the three separate branches. In view of the prospective development of Montenegrin democracy and the strengthening of the rule of law, the Parliament's control and monitoring function is of utmost importance in that it enables a continued supervision of the dynamics in which public priorities are pursued by creating social, political, and economic circumstances which the achievement of high standards of social justice is possible.

Bearing in mind that Article 15 of the Montenegrin Constitution clearly invests the Parliament with the power to decide on the manner in which the country is to accede to the European Union, and recalling also that the Lisbon Treaty stipulates an enhanced role

of national parliaments within the framework of the European Union, the Montenegrin Parliament has taken a number of measures in anticipation of the opening of accession negotiations which have considerably empowered it in the process of negotiations. By changing its Rules of Procedure in May 2012, the Parliament established two new committees—Committee for International Relations and Emigration and Committee for European Integration—in lieu of the former Committee on International Relations and European Integration. Moreover, it extended the competences of a number of committees, so that the seven standing committees are now authorised to monitor and evaluate the compliance of Montenegrin legislation with the *acquis* and also to monitor and evaluate, on the basis of Government reports, enforcement of law, especially of such laws as produce legal consequences by virtue of their being conformed to the *acquis*. Parliament officials were directly involved in the screening process via membership in working groups for preparation of negotiations for all chapters. With the aim of specifying the

competences of the Committee for European Integration, and of the Parliament as a whole, as regards the formulation of official negotiations policies, the Parliament adopted on 27 December 2013 the Resolution on the Manner, Quality, and Dynamics of the Integration Process of Montenegro to the EU, which more clearly defined the positions of the Parliament and the Government in the negotiations process.

Having been legally and institutionally so rounded, the Committee for European Integration has become the umbrella organ charged with monitoring, on behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro, the accession negotiations, supervising and evaluating the course of negotiations and to give advice and directives to adopted negotiations positions, examining the data on the negotiations process and discussing and advising on matters which come up during the negotiations, as well as with assessing the work of the negotiations team itself.

In accordance with its competences, the Committee has so far considered draft versions of negotiations positions for 21 chapters. It unanimously adopted a revision proposal for seven negotiating positions (on chapters 2, 3, 4, 10, 14, 23, 28) for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro's Accession, while drafts for other chapter were unanimously approved. It should be noted that the negotiating positions for the said chapters were altered in accordance with Committee's proposal.

Parliamentary diplomacy in the EU accession context is another of the Committee's priorities. Since its foundation, Committee members have held numerous bilateral meetings with representatives of European institutions and member states' parliaments and ambassadors from EU countries. Committee members regularly attend the meetings of the Conference of the Community and European Affairs Committees (COSAC), convened biannually by the country presiding over the Council of the European Union. Recently, the Committee itself successfully brought to a close its presidency over the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees on European Integration/Affairs of the States Participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process in South East Europe (COSAP). In addition to the cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments of West Balkan countries, the Committee for European Integration hosted a number of regional parliamentary conferences, organised in cooperation with the European Parliament.

Acknowledging the importance of raising the public awareness of the integration process, and with the view of enhancing the transparency and quality of the negotiations, the Committee has initiated a series of activities aimed at familiarising Montenegrin citizens with the process. To that end, the Committee organised seven public debates on chapters under negotiation, sponsored a series of public debates for high-school students, and organised meetings of Committee members with representatives of local authorities. All these activities sought to acquaint younger generations with the process of integration, who shall draw most benefits from it and who shall be its future carriers, as well as to exchange information with local authorities on development projects and how they may access pre-accession funds. So far such activities were organised in Herceg Novi, Cetinje, Berane, and Bijelo Polje. Committee representatives were included in the working of the Operational Structure for the Implementation of the Strategy for Informing the Public on Montenegro's Accession to the EU 2014-2018, whereby it has been directly involved in the supervision of the Strategy's fulfilment.

Finally, the Committee for European Integration is the first working body of the Parliament to have an active Facebook page ("Odbor za evropske integracije Skupštine Crne Gore") and a Twitter account (@EUOdborCG), with ever rising number of followers. The Committee is thus pursuing one of its chief objectives, namely to familiarise all segments of society with the process of European integration and to set up channels of communication between citizens and the Committee, which is to enhance the transparency and the quality of the integration process.

Montenegro has been recognised as a country which is already progressing satisfactorily in the accession process, especially so in view of the external circumstances which define the present moment of integration, such as the new approach taken by the Commission, the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, and the economic and institutional crisis in the Union. Internal circumstances, on the other hand, although there is still very much to be done, are determined by a positive energy which is accompanying the process, as well as the existing consensus within the Parliament and the general support in the Montenegrin public to Montenegro's European trajectory.

Andrej Orlandić

Parliament's Committee for European Integration



# NATO Membership Council's Communication Team activities

The public dialogue launched in 2014 created an environment of calm, enabling for a fruitful exchange of arguments about Montenegro's NATO membership. The dialogue with all segments of the society, including those who oppose NATO or have reserves towards this foreign policy priority of Montenegro, had an opening argument that NATO is not something the Government, a party, or some individuals join, but the country as a whole and all its citizens, which had a positive impact on public opinion change.

Intensified cooperation with various society segments - NGOs, media, academic communities, youth, entrepreneurs, local governments, and political parties - resulted in a series of activities aimed at informing, educating, and providing for an exchange of arguments. Establishing a partner-like relationship with the media regardless of their editorial policies showed how important the process of Euro-Atlantic integration is, and highlighted the need of supporting this topic editorially and of promoting it in a moderate, dialogue-oriented way, which has resulted in a significant rise of NATO topics in all media.

The innovated approach to communication with citizens with the view to boosting support for NATO in the wake of the Wales Summit has yielded result. **In just a few months the support rose from 37% to 45%, which was the best result in the past year.** International and domestic events, however, had an effect on a decline in support that followed suit. The indications that the Cardiff Summit will not be an enlargement summit, the Ukraine crisis, the EU negotiations dynamic, and local elections were some of the key challenges that have affected the public opinion as regards integration into NATO and the EU, as two processes that cannot be viewed separately.

In the coming period we will continue the dialogue with all segments of the society, in order to spark social activism and citizen involvement in the Euro-Atlantic integration process. In addition, particular attention will be devoted to high-quality information provision on all the aspects of this process, with the view to enlightening the upsides and positive effects of NATO membership for the everyday life of Montenegrin citizens. **We are particularly glad to learn that citizens are certain that Montenegro will join NATO. This view is held by a great number of citizens and it does not fluctuate over time.** In March 2014, 62% of citizens believed Montenegro would eventually join NATO, and in November 2014 63% held this view.

In all times, the most important obligation of a state has been to protect citizens, territory, and economic riches. Each time carries its risks and uncertainties and the decisions to form alliances were always of utmost importance for states. When we are talking about safety and security, than we are also talking about economic safety and security, desire to build a stable economy, a favourable business climate for the development of entrepreneurship and the inflow of FDI, that will bring about economic growth and new jobs. **This generation of Montenegrins was given a historic chance to restore independence, and with it the obligation to preserve it for the future generations. And NATO is the best way to do so.**

” The Alliance's summit in Cardiff has shown that in all key areas for Montenegro's NATO integration we have made high-quality reforms. With their decision to launch intensive and focused dialogue, the allies commended Montenegro and this recognition has further been corroborated by the chance given to Montenegro to be the first country in the history of enlargement to be invited in between two summits

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# INFO DAY

High school students from Bar, Berane, and Kotor attended info days hosted by the NATO Membership Council's Communication Team, where they were able to learn about the processes of European and Euro-Atlantic integration and the benefits they ensure.

The students also got to visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Defence, and the Interior Ministry and to learn about their work, the EU accession process, and NATO integration activities. The Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Education provided support in organising the info days at the premises of the NATO info-centre and EU info-centre in Podgorica, where the students learned about NATO and EU projects related to science and education, and about the activities of NGOs that are involved in integration processes. The students also visited Montenegrin companies that have codified their products in accordance with NATO standards in order to have better placement of their products in foreign markets. During the info days, students had the opportunity to talk to diplomats from Slovenia, Hungary, and Germany, who informed them about their countries' EU and NATO integration experience.



## “Euro-Atlanticism - A Safe Harbour” seminar

The “Euro-Atlanticism - A Safe Harbour” seminar took place in Bar on 26-28 November 2014, under the auspices of the Communication Team and the Faculty of Humanistic Studies of the University of Donja Gorica.

The seminar gathered students from all Montenegrin universities and renowned lecturers, thinkers, and practitioners of international relations, who talked about the NATO integration process. This was an opportunity to learn about other countries' experiences, to exchange opinions with important stakeholders, and to improve cooperation on topics of national importance.

“Reforms and attainment of criteria are necessary for the change of thinking, i.e. social awareness that we have built over a half of a century. It is not just the government that enters NATO and the EU, but the society as a whole, and it is therefore important for everyone to understand these processes. Public support for NATO in Montenegro is no different than it was in other states prior to their invitation to join the Alliance. It is important to inform citizens so they would understand the process and the importance of joining the Euro-Atlantic family of nations,” Zagreb University Professor Lidija Čehulić Vukadinović told the students.

## Using facts and arguments to form opinions about Montenegro's NATO membership

The strong link between NATO and agriculture, unclear to many at first, was explained to Faculty of Administrative and European Studies' students by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Prof. Dr Petar Ivanović.

Talking within the public dialogue framework as part of a series entitled “Using facts and arguments to form opinions about Montenegro's NATO membership,” Minister Ivanović mentioned several important projects that, under the NATO auspices, countries can develop their agriculture and rural development policies. Some of these projects are related to

mine-sweeping, purification of land that has been contaminated and polluted, including agriculture as an area of the Science for Peace and Security Programme, creation of seismic maps, and development of a centre for natural disasters' simulation.

He noted in particular the importance of the food production standards and business opportunities. “The most important thing is to seal the issue of security permanently by joining NATO, so that we can all focus on economy and improving the living standards of citizens,” the minister told the students.





## School of Euro-Atlantic integration for youth

The Communication Team support NGO CEMI in organising the School of Euro-Atlantic Integration for Youth.

The School took form of a three-month course on the process of Montenegro's NATO integration. The attendees came from youth councils of political parties, youth members of NGOs, young journalists, and graduates and post-grads who are actively involved in social issues and are 35 or younger. Attendees were selected through a public competition, and CEMI took into account the

need to have equal representation in terms of gender, vocation, education, ethnicity, and religion. At the same time, precedence were given to students who do not in their study programmes have extensive courses on Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as youth representatives of political parties, NGOs, and the media, who have not previously had the opportunity to learn about NATO, Montenegro's membership bid, and the commitments membership entails.



Vidak Latković

## Only a safe Montenegro...



web: [www.natomontenegro.me](http://www.natomontenegro.me)



facebook: sigurna buducnost



Liberty, egalitarianism, national equality, political and economic stability, social justice and respect for human rights, rule of law and democracy, safety of property, environmental protection... All these national interests are unattainable without the basic precondition, and that is - security! There-

fore, national security is at the very top of national priorities, and it entails, most importantly, the preservation of independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of all citizens. It is a precondition for the development of democracy and economy in any society, as well as the requirement for the citizens to feel safe.

Montenegro is determined to ensure its national security within a framework of collective and cooperative security system, i.e. the framework of integration within NATO and the EU. I believe that small countries, who naturally have limited security resources, should cooperate and integrate into larger security alliances in order to ensure the security and peaceful and prosperous lives for their citizens. NATO, an alliance of 28 prosperous countries, offers collective security to its members through joint action and joint defence if any country faces any threat of aggression. New security challenges are of such nature that no country could respond to them unilaterally, and they all demand a joint response. Therefore, new global threats demand a global response. Montenegro will, as part of NATO, ensure in the best and most rational way its security, national independence, and territorial integrity. The fight against terrorism, as a global threat, is possible only within the framework of NATO, together with mighty allies, but taking our own share of global responsibility. Montenegro is confirming its commitment to building a safe and stable international environment, and the readiness to contribute to it in line with its capabilities. Such position has made Montenegro recognisable as a reliable partner in preserving global peace.

As a NATO member, Montenegro will sit at the table with the most developed Western democracies and discuss and decide on an equal footing about the important political and security issues of the Euro-Atlantic region and the world as a whole. This will make the tiny Montenegro politically positioned in a much better way than if it were to act individually in foreign and security policy. In short, Montenegro will no longer be discussed in Brussels as a part of the Western Balkans, but instead Montenegro will participate actively in decision-making. This means we will be 'at the table,' rather than 'on the menu!'

Furthermore, Montenegro will, as a NATO member, spend much less from its budget to ensure national safety and defence, and it will be able to build a more modern and efficient defence system with significantly lower investment.

Only a safe Montenegro is interesting to investors and able to be a good place for dynamic economic activity, which means economic

growth and development and improved living standards of all citizens. Capital is easily scared away, and only lasting security and political stability in a country will ensure the investors it is safe to invest in new development projects.

Only a safe Montenegro can be a successful tourist destination, guaranteeing each tourist a comfortable and peaceful sojourn on its beautiful beaches and mountains. A country's security is the first thing every tourist will check before deciding to come, and a precondition for further development of tourism as a strategic industry in Montenegro.

Montenegro belongs to a region which has recently been swayed by dynamic change and its security must be viewed in a regional context. After almost a century Montenegro has restored its sovereignty and reclaimed its position at the political map of Europe and the world. Security integration of Montenegro is an important guarantee of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, but also of its place in history as part of a European and Euro-Atlantic family of nations. Therefore, I believe 2015 is a year of historic importance for our country, just as 2006 was! That was the year when we restored our independence and international recognition, and in this year we will substantiate the decision we made in 2006. For this reason, every responsible citizen, who loves this country and cares about themselves and their loved ones, will have no dilemma as to which choice they should stand behind, whether in a direct or indirect manner.

To conclude, only a safe Montenegro can be stable politically, prosperous in terms of economy, and interesting to Europe and the world as a tourist destination. Only a safe Montenegro can provide comfort, peace, and well-being for all its citizens. Only a safe Montenegro can be a part of Europe and all of us!

Vidak Latković, Secretary-General  
of the Atlantic Alliance of Montenegro,  
MA in International Relations

## Honorary consuls as promoters of Montenegro's economic interests

**A**n important role in the system of economic diplomacy aimed at promoting Montenegro's economic interests abroad is played by the diplomatic and consular representations, including the growing network of around 40 honorary consuls active on virtually all continents. Diplomatic and consular representatives of Montenegro must be guided by the idea of a need to act pro-actively in pursuing economic diplomacy, i.e. they must seek actively the opportunities to improve the overall economic situation in the country.

Their work should be and is significantly aided by prominent associations and individuals from the diaspora, with their contacts, experience, understanding of the business opportunities in their countries of residence, and their desire to contribute to the development and progress of Montenegro.

Economic diplomacy now faces a very serious task. In pursuing it we must be guided by a vision of Montenegro as a prosperous and advanced country that will provide high living standards for all its citizens. In that pursuit we will rely on our rich network of honorary consuls, who are active from Slovenia to New Zealand, from Canada to Japan, and from India to Germany.



Vojislav Kovač

### Kranj, Vojislav Kovač, Montenegro's honorary consul in Slovenia

I have been living in Slovenia for over 20 years, and I have been an honorary consul since early 2012. When I was awarded this honorary function, it has institutionalised what I have been doing for years here in Ljubljana as an active participant in the

economic and social life of Slovenia, whilst remaining all that time very close to my hometown of Nikšić and Montenegro.

This role that I view as a recognition and honour for my hitherto work is not just ceremonial in nature, as the title might suggest. I view the importance of this function in the fact that, as an honorary consul, I possess concrete knowledge on the specifics of my country and its economy, on the basis of which I can propose to potential investors from Slovenia where to invest, and vice-versa, I stand ready to provide information to Montenegrin companies that would make their access to a new market easier.

Most of all, I use every chance I get to present Montenegro as a country offering many advantages to investors, such as a very stimulating tax policy, acceptable wages, and rich resources. With my activity I wish to spark interest in the project-areas where I believe Montenegro has a great potential - energy, transport infrastructure, and tourism.

Naturally, in addition to a pronounced role in the area of economy, I view my role of a consul as being much larger, and therefore I also support cultural projects and activities of Montenegrin societies.

In the year behind us, the most important project was certainly the erection of a monument dedicated to Petar II Petrović Njegoš in Ljubljana city centre. This was entirely my gift to Ljubljana and a contribution to the celebration of two centuries since the birth of the greatest Montenegrin poet and ruler. I believe that the monument will be remembered as a token of the historic and cultural ties between the two peoples, good bilateral relations, and Ljubljana's hospitality.

To conclude, the consulate in Kranj, and I as consul, will remain open for all projects that could in any way contribute to the two countries' good relations. I myself believe in the institution of honorary consuls, which after a long period of stagnation is again gaining the importance it deserves.



*As a NATO member, Montenegro will sit at the table with the most developed Western democracies and discuss and decide on an equal footing about the important political and security issues of the Euro-Atlantic region and the world as a whole. This will make the tiny Montenegro politically positioned in a much better way than if it were to act individually in foreign and security policy.*





Jovo (John) Gregović

## The Role of Honorary Consul in Economic Diplomacy

By Jovo (John) Gregovic,  
Honorary Consul of Montenegro  
in New Zealand, BA Political  
Sciences & MA International  
Relations and International Public  
Law

Montenegro has opted for the so-called "joint model," i.e. foreign affairs promoting economic diplomacy. However, worldwide there are other entities created solely for the purpose of promoting business relations without the participation of diplomacy like a "third agency model." Take for example the Singapore Trade Board, or many other countries that prefer to establish independent bodies and opt for staying away from the "mixed bag" of things when it comes to diplomacy.

Commercial diplomacy is the answer to the constant growth of trade and foreign investment, more effective integration of all countries into the global economy, the globalisation of production through the outsourcing of components and business services, and the creation of regional trade agreements to remove barriers to trade and investment.

The importance of this cannot be stressed enough, especially when the world has been in a recession for

good number of years with no end in sight and nothing to show apart from an anaemic economic recovery. Some of the available tools are: promoting trade, investment, economic assistance, and stimulating the business community of the receiving country to invest. Apart from classic consular roles, consuls should take upon themselves to deal with commercial issues across national borders effectively, which indeed requires special knowledge and skills.

Commercial diplomacy requires some basic political and public relations skills: knowledge of foreign languages, legislative strategy, media strategy and public relations, and research into new areas of knowledge.

One ought not to be afraid of geographical distances and the feeling of isolation, as nowadays with modern electronic communications everything is at our fingertips. Unlike the classic diplomacy and instructions-based foreign policy, honorary consuls enjoy a degree of flexibility and creativity unfamiliar to career diplomats. In principle, they come from the business communities and have business experience. Their domain comprises many activities, to mention just a few here:

- Matching business entities of the receiving country and the sending one.
- Keeping in touch with other consuls, honorary and career ones, fellow diplomats, etc.
- Presentation & Promotion & Image Controlling - creating favourable image of the sending country, its advantages in the modern-day world, injecting the "feeling good" factor and staying positive about the home country, quoting statements of individuals/ tourists, and media-positive reporting.
- Economic assistance - trying to obtain one from the receiving country if possible.
- Analysis - getting to know economic realities of the receiving country,

export and import capabilities.

- Outreach - searching actively for economic and trade partners and their associations, not spamming business community and bombarding them with communications, but doing footwork and going after Chambers of Commerce, Ministries of Commerce, stock exchanges, Employers' Associations.

- Delegation - organising two-way traffic of commercial people dealing with general or special issues.

- Tourist promotion.

- Creating a pool of people from the business world to maintain regular contact with.

In a nutshell, it is the duty of Honorary Consuls to provide high quality leads for the Ministry and not those that would lead to dead ends.

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For all this to happen, a single point of responsibility (a bottle-neck so to speak) should be created by the Ministry, meaning that honorary consuls should have a single person or a small team that will retrieve or indicate the data much needed by investors or entrepreneurs in a snap of the fingers in order for them to make decisions, instead of being shuffled from one department to another with slow or no response whatsoever.

The websites, brochures, statistics, graphs should be readily available, as no amount of writing could replace the plainness of empirical data.

*Directorate-General  
for Economic Diplomacy and  
International Cultural Cooperation*

# From the history of diplomacy

After World War II, within SFR Yugoslavia, Montenegro re-established its foreign policy service in 1979, following the 1974 constitutional amendments that allowed republics and provinces to maintain international relations with federal entities of other states. This decision came after the devastating earthquake that hit Montenegro on 15 September 1979. A number of states and international organisations expressed a great desire to help rescue citizens, rebuild cities, objects, infrastructure, and cultural and historical heritage of Montenegro. The Parliament of Montenegro adopted the proposal of the Government of Montenegro (Executive Committee) of April 1979 and established the Republic Committee for Foreign Relations.

The opening of this office enabled certain republic institutions (Government, President, Republic presidency, Parliament, some ministries, and municipalities) to take part in the federation's international relations, as well as to maintain contacts with other states and international organisations, host foreign delegations, experts, negotiate priorities, and get assistance and support. Montenegro, like other republics, was able to establish cooperation with other nations' federal units, and did so with Puglia (Italy), Baden-Wurtemberg, Hamburg, Bremen (Germany), Russia, Armenia (USSR), and many others. Montenegro was also equipped to take part on equal footing in the processes of planning and implementation of Yugoslavia's common foreign policy and international cooperation in the institutions tasked with creating the foreign policy (Federal Council for Foreign Affairs, Parliamentary Committee for international affairs, Federal Secretariat for Foreign Relations, Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Government, and others). It hosted a number of missions, which was important

for attracting partners for development programmes or long-term cooperation (Norway in the Simo Milošević Institute of Igalo; technical cooperation with German, British, and Italian partners in Obod, Radoje Dakić, KAP, and others). In this period, Montenegro had a notable initiative to launch, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement, a gallery of the non-aligned countries in what was then Titograd (Podgorica). This was adopted first at the federal level, and later at the Movement itself, where more than 70 countries decided to bestow their nations' works of art for this common institution.

The establishment of the Republic Committee for Foreign Relations enabled Montenegro to prepare, select, and propose in a planned and organised manner its administrative capacities to work in Montenegro's and Yugoslavia's foreign affairs bodies, especially at the Federal Ministry and the diplomatic and consular missions. Finally, the Republic Committee provided support to the state bodies and many economic, scientific, cultural, educational, sports, and municipality organisations in their contacts with foreign partners and international organisations.



Branko Lukovac

Branko Lukovac  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro 1979-1985  
and 2000-2002



# Montenegro's Foreign Ministers' Forum

Montenegro's Foreign Ministers' Forum was organised in Cetinje by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration's Diplomatic Academy. Its primary purpose was educational, for young and future diplomats, as well as to mark two jubilees - 35 years since the re-establishment of Montenegro's foreign service and 135 years since the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro. Forum panellists were Foreign Minister of Montenegro office-holders from 1979 onwards, who spoke on the general topic of "21st Century Challenges of Montenegrin Foreign Policy." Students from the University of Montenegro, University of Donja Gorica, Mediterranean University, and Faculty of Administrative and European Studies (FDES), as well as Ministry employees, also took part in the event. The Forum was divided into panels, which were followed by a discussion with the participants.

Mayor of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje **Aleksandar Bogdanović**

gave an introductory speech, in which he said he was hopeful that this event will have launched a fruitful framework that would observe and influence the path of future diplomatic activities in Montenegro, at the same time underlining Cetinje's ambition to become once again the diplomatic centre of Montenegro.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration **Igor Lukšić** also gave an introductory speech. He said he was hopeful that this event will grow to become a recognisable and traditional forum and place to discuss Montenegro's foreign policy, where young people will have the opportunity to exchange opinions with seasoned diplomats, historians, and functionaries, and to employ their enthusiasm and creativity towards generating new ideas and defining the guidelines for Montenegro's future international role.

Mr Lukšić recalled the words of the famous Duke Gavro Vuković that diplomacy must at the same time be dynamic and flexible, especially

the diplomacy of small countries, which could sometimes play a role in international relations that is disproportionate to their might. It is for this reason extremely important to train and develop Montenegro's human resources, and to involve them in planning and decision-making procedures, so our diplomacy, as an instrument of promoting our values and securing our needs, could go hand in hand with the dynamic tides of international relations, relying on our own intellectual and expert potentials, Mr Lukšić has noted.

Forum panellists were: **Branko Lukovac**, (foreign minister 1979-1985 and 2000-2002), **Milenko Stefanović**, (foreign minister 1985-1988), **Igor Jovović** (foreign minister 1988-1989), **Dragiša Burzan** (foreign minister 2003-2004), **Miodrag Vlahović** (foreign minister 2004-2006), **Milan Roćen** (foreign minister 2006-2012), **Nebojša Kaluđerović** (foreign minister July-December 2012).

The event also mentioned the late foreign ministers, as well as their

importance and contribution to Montenegrin diplomacy. Forum speakers were unanimous that in spite of Montenegro's many foreign policy challenges EU and NATO integration bids are a priority, and they underscored these processes' importance for Montenegro. They also highlighted Montenegro's regional role and its good-neighbourly relations. They also discussed the importance of Gavro Vuković, the 19th-century Foreign Minister who brought the tiny Montenegro onto the major European diplomatic scene, noting that even then there used to be much talk about aligning with European standards in many areas, as well as about the many projects that are still talked about today. The panellists welcomed this initiative by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić and they said they were hopeful that the event will grow into a traditional gathering.

DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY





Gordan Stojović

# Montenegrin toponyms in Latin America and the Caribbean

We often talk of the marks left by our emigrants across the globe, especially in the so-called new emigration lands. In my last piece I somewhat touched upon the topic of Montenegrin toponymy in Northern America. This is a very broad and complex topic, especially when it comes to the streets, institutions, and places that were named after Montenegrin toponyms or people. Academic work on this peculiar topic within the study of emigration demands a specific methodology and a study approach akin to those in other countries that have a similar experience with great migration.

Just as in Northern America, many toponyms originating from or related to Montenegro are still unknown in Latin America and the Caribbean, and it is difficult to enlist them all until an extensive study is made. Without this it is impossible to raise awareness and in general to learn about the history and intellectual and material heritage of our emigrants in the "new world."

An interesting piece of information is that both at the extreme south and extreme north of the American continent, i.e. Tierra del Fuego and Alaska, there are several toponyms that got their names after people originating from Montenegro.

In Alaska those are Mount Hajdukovich and Rika's Roadhouse close to Fairbanks, and in Tierra del Fuego those are the passage of Zambelich and the Petar Zambelich street in Punta Arenas in Chile.

In Cordoba, one of the largest Argentine towns, there is a Hector Vukotich Park at the corner of Huan Diaz de Solis and Garrido streets, whereas in Resistencia, the capital city of the Chaco Province, there is a street named after one of Montenegro's first

emigrants to Paraguay, Sixto Lakonich.

The general public is well aware of the La Montegrina colony in the Chaco Province, and the importance of this toponym is immeasurable for further preservation of identity of Montenegrin emigrants who live in these areas of Argentina. And even though it has never been officially written down under that name, the local residents of the region close to Villa Mugueta in the Santa Fe Province have been calling this area Colonia Montegrina for decades.

In Uruguay, even though more influenced by Croatian emigrants, it is important to note the presence of Montenegrin families that participated in the establishment of the Colonia Nicolich Municipality close to Montevideo.

In Peru, the famous Montenegrin emigrant Batrich Bozovich created through his hard work and knowledge one of the greatest wood-processing industries in Latin America, called Maderera Bozovich ([www.bozovich.com](http://www.bozovich.com)). He has also been the first mayor of Oxapampa, and close to Lima, in the San Borja Sur Quarter, there is Calle Batrich Bozovich - a street named after him.

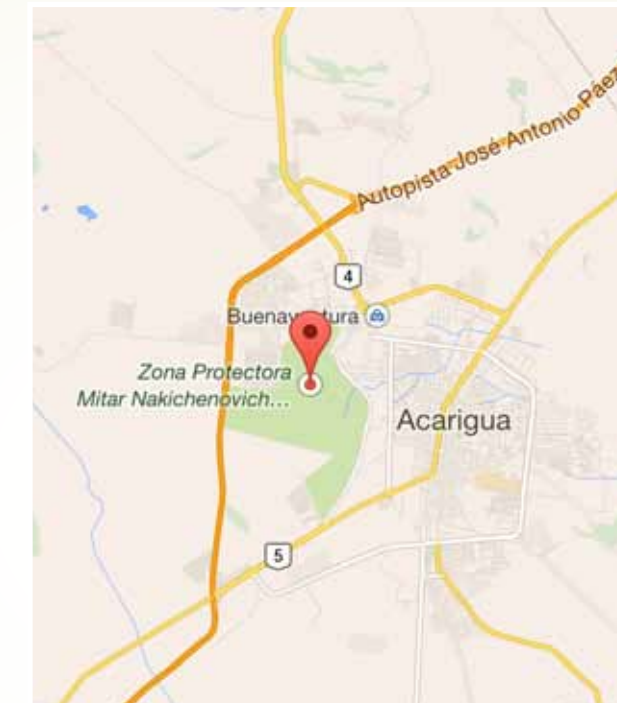
Many descendants of emigrants gave names to companies and properties in ways that would remind them of whence their ancestors came, and such is the case of the Chilean Durmitor Bank, owned by Marcos Kraljević, Huse Tomashevich's investment fund [www.hercegnovi.cl](http://www.hercegnovi.cl), and many others. Some gave names to companies after their last names, such as the Buenos Aires real-estate agency "David Peijovich": [www.davidpeijovich.com.ar](http://www.davidpeijovich.com.ar), the "Otasevic" law firm and financial corporation from La Plata: [www.otasevic.com.ar](http://www.otasevic.com.ar), The Dabinovic law firm: [www.dabinovic.com.ar](http://www.dabinovic.com.ar), Krivokapic: <http://krivokapich.com.ar>, and many others.

It is important to note that Saint Leopold Mandić is much revered in Latin America, and a faculty of medicine in Sao Paulo in Brazil is named after this saint born in Herceg Novi: [www.slmandic.edu.br](http://www.slmandic.edu.br).

There is a state-protected natural reserve park in Venezuela carrying the name of another famous pioneer originating from Montenegro: La Zona protectora Mitar Nakichenovich (Parque Mitar), which this famous Montenegrin from Kute near Zelenika has cherished for years and which now is a natural reserve of national and international fame.



Around 1798, from a ship somewhere in the Bay of Kotor or Dubrovnik, Geronimo (Jovan) Gojković sailed off into the world with several Montenegrins, Russians, and Austrians, and got stranded close to Cabo Rojo in Puerto Rico. His son Pedro later became a famous politician and the first ever born Puerto Rican to study at Sorbonne, and the Pedro G. Goyco School has been named after him.



This brief reminder on the importance of toponyms and names originating from Montenegro has no intention or ability to capture the whole picture. The aim of the text is to raise awareness of the importance of this topic, since Montenegro-related toponyms are to be found not only in the Americas and Australia, but also in Italy, such as the Palazzo Gopcević in Trieste, a former palace of the glorious family from Pode near Herceg Novi, and now a cultural centre of the town, or the remains of the churches built by emigrants from Bjelopavlići in Puglia, and in many other countries.

Gordan Stojović,  
ambasador Crne Gore u Argentini

# Public diplomacy as a means to advancing Montenegro's foreign policy goals

Vuk Vojnović



## New dynamics of international public relations

The public and public opinion exercise increasing influence, globally, on foreign (and internal) policy making, which is why understanding and support of international publics is becoming increasingly important for advancing a country's foreign policy goals.

According to Simon Anholt, a leading British public diplomacy expert, international public opinion is 'the only remaining superpower' in today's globalised world. In an effort to attract more tourists, more foreign investment, better positioning of their products and services in foreign markets, and, generally, more influence on global social, economic, and political developments, all nation states are now competing for the favour of this 'superpower' and better international image.

Today, in an age of abundance of information and scarcity of attention, interest and capacity to absorb information, it is extremely difficult to advance a country's image by simply providing information to international publics. In particular, any attempt to advance international image through embellished presentations of a country by official state institutions is doomed to failure. Modern dynamics of communication not only renders any attempt at propaganda futile, but also makes it counter-productive and extremely detrimental to the country's international image.

Therefore, in order to improve its image abroad, a country needs to forge meaningful ties with international audiences, based on common values and, in doing so, earn their understanding, support, and cooperation.

That is the exact role and task of public diplomacy. Public diplomacy encompasses cultural, educational, and information activities, exchange and cooperation programmes carried out, or supported by

the state, in order to inform, encourage understanding, or influence an international public.

Thus, investing in public diplomacy, by promoting the attractiveness of its own culture, achievements, and values abroad, Montenegro helps advance its foreign policy priorities.

Public diplomacy is especially important for Montenegro which, just like many other small countries, does not wield much hard power (in terms of its territory, population, economic strength) and, in particular, in times when international perception can decide to a substantial extent the dynamics or even prospects of achieving its integration goals.

## Public diplomacy in the context of Montenegro's EU accession

What further accentuates the need for developing public diplomacy in the context of Montenegro's EU integration is the fact that the past decade has seen a notable downward trend in public support in EU member states for the enlargement policy.

Since the 'big bang enlargement' of 2004, regular public opinion polls done for the European Commission (Eurobarometer) have registered a decline in public support for future enlargement. According to the latest poll, in November 2014, only 39% of citizens of EU member states support further enlargement, while 48% are against. This trend is even more notable in the so-called 'old member states', where the level of public support for enlargement is even lower facing the opposition of an absolute majority of citizens.

On the other hand, positive perception and positive image of a country in the public opinion of EU member states will be an extremely important, perhaps even crucial, factor when reaching a final decision on Montenegro's accession to the EU institutions, as well as in the process of ratifying Montenegro's Accession Treaty in all EU member states.

In the atmosphere of declining popular support for enlargement in EU member states, the role of public diplomacy is to offer answers to a number of challenges that stand in the way of advancing Montenegro's international image and getting support in the international public for Montenegro's EU bid.

The most notable challenges include insufficient availability of information about Montenegro to the international public, predominantly bad publicity of the whole region of South East Europe in influential Western media, lack of 'good news' from Montenegro in the international public sphere, and a lack of financial and human resources for international promotion of Montenegro.

## Social synergy and value as a basis for public diplomacy

The attractiveness of Montenegro's culture and national values to the international public is most effectively advanced through partnership with social stakeholders outside public institutions (artists, athletes, academic community, media, religious communities, professional and interest groups, etc.), by using modern information and communication technology and relying on international partners and funds through a variety of regional and international cooperation programmes.

Small countries normally do not have enough resources to maintain costly and demanding public diplomacy projects, such as international exchange programmes, international broadcasters, developmental aid initiatives, or global sports competitions. Instead, they are compelled to compensate for the lacking resources by being inventive and relying to a greater extent on non-governmental players, international funding opportunities, and Internet-based technologies.

Therefore, through the synergy between public institutions, civil society, business, and citizens themselves, Montenegro is capable of pooling the necessary resources, know-how, innovative solutions, and credibility for its public diplomacy, which is critical in the circumstances of economic downturn and globally declining level of public trust in state institutions.

Public diplomacy is, therefore, a joint responsibility of the Montenegrin society as a whole, while public institutions are, above all, responsible of being partners to the civil society, businesses, and citizens in kick-starting and backing initiatives to establish and reinforce ties between domestic and international stakeholders.

Understood in this fashion, public diplomacy could not only promote the existing but create new social and economic values in Montenegro, values that would set grounds for building meaningful ties that breed understanding, support, and allies in important international public circles.

Vuk Vujnović  
Public Relations and Information Specialist  
Mission of Montenegro to the European Union



# NATO and EU membership have no alternative

## From your perspective, what was 2014 like for Montenegro when it comes to Euro-Atlantic integration?

Montenegro has made good results in 2014. If we look at the reforms aimed at upgrading the processes of moving towards NATO and the EU then we can surely talk about this topic in a positive sense. Anti-corruption laws were adopted in December, which is valued greatly not only from Hungary's but from the standpoint of the European Union as a whole, and now of course we are expectant as to these laws' implementation. In Wales, the Alliance reached the decision which gave Montenegro a mandate no country was given before. The opportunity provided by the focused and intensive talks is one that must be taken by Montenegro and its political elite, as it could get you a NATO membership invitation this year. If we observe the fact that Montenegro is the only country that has been given an opportunity to be invited in between two summits in NATO's history, it is a great recognition in its own right.

## In that sense, which event has left the greatest mark on the year behind us?

It was without a doubt the Wales Summit. And the year that has just begun could be very important. I believe that if Montenegro receives a NATO invitation in 2015 it would be one of the most important dates in your recent history, after 2006.

## Hungary is Montenegro's NATO contact-country. What in practice does this mean for you and how will the two countries cooperate in this regard?

Our main task is to promote the North Atlantic Alliance in Montenegro. In order to do that in the best possible

way, we intend to establish good relations with the civil society, the general public, and of course all the political subjects that wish to maintain a dialogue on this topic. We view our contact-country task as a two-way role, which means that in addition to promoting NATO here it is equally important to promote Montenegro in Brussels.

In any case I must note that in promoting NATO what we want to do first is focus on our experience, on Hungary's pre- and post-accession experience. Our goal is to inform your public as much as possible about what NATO is. It is definitely not our goal to tell you what is good for you, and we believe this is something that is best known by people who live here. As I said, it is important for Montenegro to get to know NATO, but it is just as important for NATO to get to know Montenegro.

Montenegro's path towards Euro-Atlantic values will surely bring positive change in every possible sense. This change will reflect on the state of affairs in the society. At least this is what happened in our country. It should be noted that there will always be groups in the society that will have more opportunities to improve their situation, and there will be those for whom the process of improvement will take longer. The greatest possibilities will certainly become available to the younger generations who generally adapt more easily to new challenges. Hungary has been a NATO and EU member for several years now, but even today we still have groups of the population that we were not able to involve fully in the positive developments. What is certain is that if citizens wish to live better in any aspect, the EU and NATO have no alternative.



Interview by Bojana Komnenić,  
Cafe de Montenegro (CdM) web-portal journalist

## What is your view of the security reforms in Montenegro and the empty seat of the National Security Agency (ANB) director?

Security services' reforms in the past year have received good assessment. We hope the new Agency director will be appointed as soon as possible, but I must add that it is up to the Government of Montenegro to decide when this will happen. We believe the new ANB director will pick up where the previous director left off.

## How do you view the statistics on public support for NATO membership, is it sufficient at this stage and could it grow further still?

At this moment it is necessary to concentrate on the tasks the Government of Montenegro needs to complete, and I believe everyone is aware that this takes maximum effort, and the results will follow. Whether the public support now is at a sufficient level is not so important, it is important for it to grow as much as possible in the future. Now is the time for focused work. The issue of support from an angle of a referendum is an issue one hears often, but to talk about it before an invitation is talking about it too early. I must note however that only four of the current NATO countries have held referenda, and, in my opinion, no one could question the democratic capacities of those countries where referenda did not take place, such as Germany or the Netherlands.

## What can we expect from Hungary in this year, what are the areas where the two countries' cooperation could be improved?

Bilateral relations between Hungary and Montenegro are excellent and very intensive. This year we are planning to organise several high-level meetings. For

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*“I believe that if Montenegro receives a NATO invitation in 2015 it would be one of the most important dates in your recent history, after 2006.”*

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example, the Budapest meeting of the two foreign ministers is planned for this spring, and the two Prime Ministers, Mr Victor Orban and Mr Milo Đukanović, will meet in Podgorica. Also, due to our good and active economic relations we are planning to host a meeting of the inter-governmental joint commission on economy, as well as to have a large presence of Hungarian producers at the Food Fair in Budva. We should also recall that last year we opened an office of the Hungarian National Trading House in Podgorica, which is another confirmation of the Hungarian entrepreneurs' growing interest in Montenegro. In addition, I hope that our ties in the area of sports will grow even further and in that regard I hope that Montenegro's Budućnost will meet Hungary's Győr again in the women's handball finals.

Krisztian Posa, Ambassador  
of Hungary in Montenegro



# Montenegro and regional and global security challenges

The year 2014 was the year of several historic anniversaries that had shaped the 20th century: 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War, 75 years since the Second, and two and a half decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The world symbolically entered this year with the greatest global sporting event, the Winter Olympics that took place in Sochi. Paradoxically, while this south-eastern Russian town celebrated fair-play, esprit de corps, and contest of 88 nations, not too far away a crisis was starting to rage in Ukraine, which later on resulted in a de facto secession of Crimea and its annexation to Russia, and whose consequences for the stability of Ukraine, Europe, and the world are still not easy to predict.

In mid-2014, the world faced yet another major security threat – the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), whose terror attacks, violence against civilians, and mass murders, that took place amid the Syrian civil war, caused a new humanitarian and refugee crisis, further worsening the fragile stability of the Middle East, with potential repercussions on global security.

Unlike these two security focal points, which raise many concerns in the international community and demand swift and efficient response, the Western Balkans another geopolitical region where big conflicts used to take place and that has in the past two decades made efforts to heal the political, social, and economic wounds of the 1990s entered 2014 with an encouraging climate of improved relations and cooperation. The issue of the region's stability and further development is not just of top importance for the Western Balkans countries, but also for the stability of Europe as a whole. Taking this fact into account, being aware about each country's responsibility for the region's further progress, and acting accordingly has produced a series of events that we may interpret as signalling a new chapter in the bilateral relations of the Western Balkans and its identity transformation from an unstable area in the heart of Europe into its integral part not only in terms of geography but also values. Among these, it is important to note that Croatia has become an EU member, Montenegro is successfully negotiating its EU accession, Serbia and Kosovo made steps towards normalising relations, and Albania has been granted EU candidate status.



Maja Simonović

All these developments are reasons for optimism, but they also require further action in the Western Balkans, action that would ensure sustainable and lasting stability of the region. Over the past 20 years we have gone a long way from mistrust, enmity, ethnic and religious intolerance, to today's comprehensive cooperation in all areas and strong political dialogue. Especially important is the fact that all these developments have not taken place just at the level of political elites and official policies, but at the societal levels. A full transformation of a society, however, is a very complex and lengthy process, so believing that national and religious chauvinism are no longer posing a threat to the region's stability would be politically naïve and self-deluding.

Societal transformation in the sense of full democratisation, eradication of nationalistic and extremist tendencies, and increased tolerance towards others with all their peculiarities and differences is inextricably linked to internal development and prosperity of a country, which entails solving practical daily issues of citizens by ensuring steady economic progress and rule of law. Montenegro's strategic foreign policy objectives, EU and NATO membership, are an important incentive towards meeting these values and they are a precondition for the development and lasting stability of both Montenegro and the region as a whole.

The results Montenegro has made in the integration processes confirm we are at the right course and that we are successful in implementing reforms and adopting benchmarks on the path to full-fledged membership of the European and Euro-Atlantic structures. The success it has made makes Montenegro ever more interested in preserving regional security and stability, as it is fully aware that destabilisation anywhere in the region could have a domino effect of endangering all other countries, bearing in mind the multiple geographic, economic, social, and cultural ties. This was one of the reasons behind Montenegro's launching the initiative for upgrading regional cooperation in the Western Balkans, aimed at overcoming the challenges in the region with the view to the region's steady and dynamic growth and reducing risks of destabilisation. It should be noted that such approach has also been the essence of European integration since its inception. Our intention was to devise a framework which more than any existing regional cooperation mechanism would be tailored to

the needs of the Western Balkans countries as they move closer towards European integration.

In addition to a speedier EU integration of the participating countries and the regular dialogue of their decision-makers on regional topics, an important element of this concept is the project-oriented cooperation. In that regard, emphasis is being put on defining projects of regional importance, primarily in the areas of infrastructure, energy, and the rule of law, which the countries could jointly submit for EU funding. Currently, there are several programmes under consideration intended to ensure closer regional cooperation, greater economic exchange, and growth. Some of them are the Adriatic-Ionian Highway and Trans-Adriatic Pipeline.

Promotion of such project-oriented approaches to cooperation is very important for the long-term stability in the region. This is the only way for us to ensure true democratisation, economic growth, and full rule of law in our countries until the next round of EU enlargement, which are the preconditions for improving the quality of life of citizens and strengthening the security of the region.

In addition to its role in ensuring and strengthening regional stability, Montenegro is making an active contribution to solving some of the most important global security challenges. Montenegro's commitment to global peace and security is expressed in our efforts to join NATO and in the fact that we are already assuming, prior to joining the Alliance as a partner, as much responsibility as if we were a member. Montenegro is currently participating in five international missions: NATO-led Resolute Support in Afghanistan, EU NAVFOR ATALANTA in Aden Gulf waters, UNMIL in Liberia, EUTM in Mali, and the UN mission in Cyprus, UNFICYP. In addition, over the past five years, Montenegro was an active participant in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

Learning from the devastating events of the religious and nationalistic extremism that the Western Balkans has gone through not so long ago, Montenegro advocates for finding a prompt solution to the threat posed by ISIS and other terrorist cells and organisations. For this reason, we were among the countries that recently co-sponsored the UN Security Council resolution on foreign terrorist fighters, and we are currently in the process of adopting a law on foreign fighters, i.e. mercenaries, which will make illegal any form of participation in foreign conflicts on the territories of third states, as is prescribed by this UN document. At the same time, it is becoming evident that in fighting terrorist organisations additional effort must be invested towards educating the population, in order to diminish the influence and recruiting by terror groups who legitimise their action through a misuse of religion. It is alarming that ISIS is more successful than any other terrorist organisation in recruiting citizens of European countries, including the Western Balkans. Their numbers are still insufficient to influence in any way the relations in Syria and Iraq, but their return to their home countries is a threat for the region and Europe as a whole. The fact that ISIS possesses, according to many accounts, sizeable financial means, and that fighters from Europe that join it later wish to return suggests that the reasons behind joining ISIS are more socio-economic than they are religious or ideological. In that regard, the efforts aimed at improving the socio-economic circumstances and living standards, especially in the Western Balkans, are as important as the preventive measures aimed at stopping people from going to the war-zones.

In relation to the Ukraine crisis, Montenegro supports the efforts at overcoming the current situation in a peaceful and democratic manner, through dialogue and constructive participation by all sides, and adequate support and mediation of the entire international community. In accord-



dance with its strategic foreign policy priorities, and its European inclinations and commitment to international law principles, Montenegro has joined the EU in introducing restrictive measures against the violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. In finding a way out of the crisis, however, far-reaching economic, political, and security consequences must not be overlooked, for Europe, Russia, and the rest of the world. In that regard, additionally worrying is the resurgent Cold War rhetoric, which is politically obsolete and anachronistic, bearing in mind the multi-polarity of today's world. For this reason, it is necessary to invest great diplomatic effort in order to show to the concerned parties that a frozen status is in no one's interest and in order to find an acceptable and viable solution as soon as possible.

It is no accident that the introduction to this piece on security challenges talks about the 2014 Sochi Olympics. This event, whose essence is the celebration of mutual respect and co-existence of all nations in peace, has since its modern re-establishment in 1896 failed to take place only twice – during the First and the Second World Wars. Observing the mistakes history is reminding and warning us of, each international participant must take their share of responsibility for maintaining global security in order to ensure such a discontinuity never to take place again.

Maja Simonović,  
Directorate-General for Bilateral Affairs



# Replacing dzeferdar rifles with elaborate arguments

Prince Nikola held a view that his ministers and diplomats should be of good upbringing and from esteemed noble houses, in addition of course to possessing the necessary higher education and language skills.

**By Dejan Vuković**

In 1626, the famous French Cardinal Richelieu established, during the reign of King Louis XIII, the world's first ministry of foreign affairs. Other European states followed in those footsteps soon after. The 1648 congress of Westphalia marked the end of the Thirty Years War in Europe and ushered in permanent diplomatic representatives. The development and importance of standing diplomacy, as well as its prevalence over the ad hoc diplomacy, was sped up by the dynamic social relations in Europe. Further élan was given by the powerful repercussions of the French Revolution, and later by the industrial and economic progress which put an end to the isolationist national policies. The relations between states were becoming more complex and multi-faceted, and therefore the refinement of diplomacy was gaining more importance, and the role of diplomatic representatives grew ever important. Russia's reformer Peter the Great had also established a foreign affairs' service.

At that day and age, Montenegro was a free country. It was breathing with the spirit of autonomy and independence. Even without formal international recognition, after the adoption and implementation of the 1796 Stega, the 1798 and 1803 General Code of Montenegro and the Highlands, and the 1855 Code of Prince Danilo, Montenegro's sovereignty over its territory was confirmed. More and more Montenegrins in those turbulent times went to work in the immensely rich Turkey, and therefore the forebears of Montenegrin diplomatic representatives were to be found in Istanbul, and later in other cities of the vast empire. In order to avoid difficulties in the coun-

try with which they waged wars constantly, the representatives of Montenegrin citizens' interests for a while went under the name of "Hrvat-baša" (Captain of Croats).

Ljuba Nenadović, a famous author, wrote the following about his friendship with Mišan Martinović, a Hrvat-Baša in Istanbul: "A young and good looking man; and also bright and eloquent. He always wore clean and beautiful Montenegrin robes, and over those silver breastplates, awards, and medals. Prince Danilo appointed him his representative in Istanbul, to shield and protect the Montenegrins. Every Montenegrin gave him a dinar yearly. This was his wage, and with it he could live as a gentleman. The Turkish authorities tacitly recognised him, as they would have had much more business with the Montenegrins were he not there. He alone was allowed to carry weapons around town at all times, and he had beautiful weapons indeed, silver-plated. He knew all the Montenegrins in and around Istanbul; he knew where they lived and what they did. He investigated and solved their disputes, so that the Turkish police and courts had no business with them save when they committed some grave transgressions. When the Turkish authorities would blame a Montenegrin for some such thing, they would immediately call on the Hrvat-Baša to investigate and find the culprit."

In late 1870s, Montenegrin representatives in Turkey were called Captains, and one of the first holders of this office was Đoko Pejović, a priest. The Captains were appointed by the Prince, but also by the Montenegrin Senate, which in 1872 appointed Dragiša Plamenac as Captain in Istanbul.

The Montenegrin rulers of the day were engrossed in thought on the importance of diplomacy. They felt that the Highlander spirit of bravery and chivalry, with which generations of Montenegrins were nurtured, should start assuming more steady contours, and that their warrior genes should be directed



Dejan Vuković

towards more refined and gentler of activities, as diplomacy required other skills, methods, and habits. The time that was coming and the rules of diplomacy required that fearlessness and rawness born of perpetual battle, the romanticised dzerferdar miquelet rifles, and celebrated yatagan sabres, be supplanted with a refined style of conversation, elaborate opinions voiced in subtle tones, and courteous notes written in ornate language, and all shrouded in a great deal of secrecy.

Changing close political allies and economic partners on the basis of national interests, although relatively commonplace in diplomacy, was in stark contrast with Montenegro's character. And the strong, brusque words, coming from deep and sharp thoughts, had to give way to a balanced way of communication, which would correspond to the State's interests, and would sometimes be opposed to personal opinion, which was deemed contrary to morality. Montenegro of the day had champions and heroes at each hilltop, many volunteers ready to give their lives for the safeguard of the motherland and the liege, but due to objective circumstances it was short of educated folk; they were a rare and precious few.

The lack of diplomatic practice and weak organisation of the State apparatus caused early setbacks in the foreign policy of the Principality of Montenegro. After the Berlin Congress in 1878, the famed Prussian Chancellor Bismarck sent a personal envoy Baron Testa to present to Prince Nikola the text of the Treaty of Berlin. He spent three days in Cetinje without being officially summoned to an audience, because the ministry of foreign affairs was not yet established and Duke Stanko Radonjić was away together with Prince Nikola. The Prussian nobleman and diplomat left angrily for Kotor, and the wrath of Chancellor Bismarck and the resentment and disregard of Prussian policy were felt for a long time by Montenegrin diplomacy.

Prince Nikola held a view that his ministers and diplomats should be of good upbringing and from esteemed noble houses, in addition of course to possessing the necessary higher education and language skills. This testifies to his desire to lift diplomacy to the status it deserved, but also to honour a well-known and everlasting rule of diplomacy: rulers and countries are valued among other things on the basis of persons who are their diplomatic representatives. The first minister of foreign affairs of the Principality of Montenegro was Duke Stanko Radonjić, from the famous Guvernador (Governor) family from Njeguši, close to Cetinje, who was educated in Paris together with Prince Nikola. The second minister was Duke Gavro Vuković, son of the famed Duke and Senator from the area of Vasojevići, Miljan Vukov, who united Vasojevići with Montenegro. The long-standing and very successful Minister Vuković was educated at the Đurđevi Stupovi Monastery in Berane, in Nice, and in Belgrade, and he was the first Montenegrin with a law degree. He is considered the founder and great visionary of Montenegrin diplomacy, pursuing it very successfully on the basis of Prince Nikola's guidance.

After the Congress of Berlin, the first embassy (mission) of Montenegro was opened in Istanbul. It helped improve bilateral relations and worked on safeguarding the rights of Montenegrins in Turkey, which is evident from a dispatch by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro sent on 1 March 1886 to Mitar Bakić, diplomatic representative in Istanbul: "The Ottoman authorities are mistreating Montenegrins who are crossing to Serbia and Bulgaria via Berane, Bijelo Polje, and Sjenica; they are tossing them in dungeons - and sending them back. Require of the Porte to instruct the authorities to remove the difficulties, all the more so given that Serbia no longer returns Montenegrins from the border, since the signing of the Travnik Treaty."

The diplomacy of the day paid due attention to restraining the warrior temperament of Montenegrins and saving their lives, which is evident from a dispatch by the Embassy of Montenegro in Istanbul of 5 March 1904, sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cetinje: "Over two hundred Montenegrins wish to go as volunteers to Russia, and as many will follow suit if they were to be admitted; shall I submit their requests to the Ambassador?" Minister Vuković replied promptly: "Montenegrins who are in Istanbul are to remain where they are; the Manchurian expedition will be able to proceed even without them."

Apart from consulates and the especially many honorary consulates across the world, the Principality and later Kingdom of Montenegro opened up embassies in Belgrade and Paris, on the reciprocal basis. Lack of finance and the outset of World War I halted the intentions of launching the embassies in Austria-Hungary, Russia, and other countries.

In 1918, the last embassy of the Kingdom of Montenegro was opened in Washington, at the time of the very unjust twilight of the ancient Montenegrin state, in the same year when the aging and forlorn King Nikola wrote in his Parisian exile the wistful poem "To Montenegro": "Montenegro, it is still alive, in it Highlanders still thrive; true men in it still are knights and heroes; Montenegro still has heart, it has heart and mountains; It has God, it has the sun from above; Its former glory will not succumb nor vanish; As before it will upon the world shine."

After almost one hundred years, the romantic verses became a reality and the glorious name of Montenegro is now shining yet again and shining benevolent rays from the Embassy in Washington, Consulate General in New York, and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, from a graceful modern edifice at the East River, as well as from numerous other Montenegrin embassies in world's capitals.

The author is Director at the Directorate for Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Het Plein square, The Hague, at night



YOUTH AND DIPLOMACY

## Alumni seminar for South Eastern European countries' representatives at Clingendael Institute



Dženana Bibezić

Diplomats from South Eastern European countries who over the last decades attended one of the trainings offered by the Dutch Clingendael Institute for International Relations have had the opportunity to gather at a five-day alumni seminar in The Hague on 15-19 December 2014, organised by the Institute and financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro

was represented by the atache at the Directorate for Regional Organisations and Initiatives Fedisa Dacić, and III secretary at the Directorate for Europe, Dženana Bibezić.

Clingendael's seamless organisation started with a gala dinner to welcome the alumni, and served as an opportunity for the participants to meet other seminar attendees at the relaxed atmosphere of Juliana's restaurant.



Winter scenes by Avercamp



Family photo of attendees with representatives of the Hague Centre for International Relations

After the seminar programme was presented by senior associate for training at research Dr Marianne Ducasse-Rogier, Erasmus University in Rotterdam Professor Etienne Augé held a workshop on public diplomacy and nation branding. In addition to his impressive biography, which encompasses education in politics, film, and culture studies, international academic experience, and expertise in PR and public diplomacy, Professor Augé is also renowned for his authentic view of public diplomacy, which he defines as "nation seduction." Having in mind that nation branding's objective is to measure, build, and manage country reputation, i.e. it is concerned with a country's DNA, Professor Augé has noted that we should heed the famous Italian writer and philosopher Umberto Eco's saying that 70% of our knowledge comes from Hollywood. In that context, it should be noted that Montenegro has taken some good initial steps in Hollywood owing to the 2006 *Casino Royale* James Bond movie. The theoretic knowledge in this area was further shaped in a workshop where we developed a nation branding plan by applying methods taught by Clingendael's Mariska Heijns.

The alumni seminar programme also included the panel discussion on the topic of The Role of Diplomacy in Arbitration and Mediation. Discussion moderator was our old acquaintance, senior research associate and expert for diplomacy and foreign affairs, Dr Paul Meerts, who participated at Montenegro's Gavro Vuković Summer School for Young Diplomats. Panellists were two senior legal advisers at the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Laurentiu Hadirca and William Romans, and famous journalist and commentator diplomacy and assistant director at Hill+Knowlton Strategies, Robert van de Roer. Mr van de Roer, who was member of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York, was awarded a golden medal for reporting for his interview with the then-UN Special Representative for former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi in 1998. OSCE legal advisors presented the organisational structure and work of the High Commissioner, noting that the Western Balkans is considered a peaceful area at their Office. They also explained the Office's activities in the region, and they responded to our question about their activities in Montenegro by saying that Montenegro is not on the Office's priority

list, and that OSCE's Mission in Podgorica does all the work and maintains cooperation with the Government on legislation issues. A very resonating expression at the session was the saying uttered by late US diplomat Richard Holbrooke that "diplomacy is like jazz: endless variations on a theme."

We also met with representatives of the Hague Centre for International Relations, special advisor to the Mayor of the Hague for international relations Williem Post, and a member of the Hague diplomatic team, Martin Born. With them we spoke about the concept that is just over half a decade old - the concept of city diplomacy. According to Mr Post, the future lies in city connections, and the first efforts in that regard should be invested towards building a representative building of the local government. The hosts showed us the new modern City Hall building, by American architect Richard Meier. They emphasised the importance of city slogans, which in the case of The Hague is aptly echoing the spirit of the Peace Palace, the legal heart of the UN: The Hague: The International City of Peace and Justice.

City diplomacy allows not only promoting the current city offers, but also lobbying for future development, both nationally and internationally. Even though the principle of city diplomacy on the one hand dictates competition between cities, due to the fact that each city has a unique selling point the same principle it on the other hand promotes the possibility of constructive cooperation between cities that have complementary offers.

The session inviting reflections on the topic of the Future of EU Relations with its Neighbours took place towards the end of the seminar, moderated by Clingendael lecturers Tim Masselink and Anne Marinussen. The group exercise underlined the importance of the new European Parliament and Commission, as well as the persons from these bodies who can contribute positively to the Western Balkans' European path, such as enlargement and neighbourhood Commissioner Johannes Hahn, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, and the Council President Donald F. Tusk. On this occasion, the UK-German initiative for Bosnia and Herzego-



Family photo of attendees at Clingendael Institute

vina was commended, and the participants underlined the need for an intensified and continued developed of regional cooperation through e.g. IPA projects, with particular attention on cooperation in infrastructure and agriculture. The WB6+2 initiative was also welcomed, as well as interior ministers' cooperation and regional projects aimed at preventing corruption, crime, and similar developments. Finally, the work of the MARRI centre for migration, asylum seekers, and refugees was also noted.

At the closing ceremony, the Academy Director Ron S. Ton presented certificates and souvenirs to alumni event participants.

The final day was devoted to a visit to Mauritshuis, the Royal Picture Gallery in The Hague, where we saw such masterpieces as Rubens' Old Woman and Boy with Candles (c. 1616) and Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665). A particular impression was left by the winter scenes by Avercamp, notable for their lively colours and witty scenes of people on ice.



Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665)

Owing to this art experience, this nice and useful visit ended in a spirit of inspiration.

We hope that the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue hosting these trainings and promotions of the Dutch society, recognising thus the importance of such events for young diplomats from South Eastern European countries and the excellent reputation the Clingendael Institute has earned in our part of Europe.

Dženana Bibezić  
III secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and European Integration

## FINANCE

## Budget execution



The planned Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration 2014 budget was 12,899,597,68€, whereas the operating budget for 2014 is 14.247.777,71 €.

Budget execution is a phase in using the budgetary means for implementing policies envisaged by the budget.

Article 5 of the 2014 Law on Budget defines the dynamics of budgetary spending of the granted funds for the fiscal year and its realisation depends on Montenegro's budgetary revenue for each respective month.

The Ministry's budgetary execution in 2014 has amounted to 14.594.072,64 €, which is 102,43% of the operating budget.

Table 1 shows budget execution for each programme.

MFAEI	Planned budget	Operating budget	Execution	%
Diplomacy	934.157,94	1.093.320,66	1.092.647,40	99,94
Administration	1.456.819,44	1.410.831,38	1.411.431,09	100,04
Diplomatic and consular posts	9.586.369,49	10.793.459,52	10.791.824,51	99,98
The process of EU integration and accession	826.347,33	847.140,29	1.200.190,38	141,68
Directorate for Diaspora	95.903,48	103.025,86	97.979,26	95,10
Total	12.899.597,68	14.247.777,71	14.594.072,64	102,43

NB: The column entitled 'Administration' contains an obligation from the previous period amounting to 1545,52 €.

The Diplomatic and Consular Posts programme on the budget execution form includes IPA donations amounting to 370.168,96 €.

Observing the need for full transparency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration will periodically publish reports on budget execution.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS UNIT