The twenty-seventh Newsletter on European Integration offers an overview of the key developments

Editorial

and activities in the EU accession process that took place in the fourth quarter of 2023. The Ministry of European Affairs is committed to

JANUARY-MARCH

2024.

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Sadržaj

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- 29. | 2024. **EU - MONTENEGRO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE**

Dear reader,

coordinating the work of the negotiation structure

and intensifying activities aimed at producing tangible results in all chapters, ensuring partnership and cooperation with other bodies, and strengthening of the ties and relations with EU institutions and EU Member States so that Montenegro can take its place in the European family as one of equal partners. During the previous three months we continued

implementing the activities aimed at coordinating the negotiation process, IPA, cooperating with local selfgovernments and civil sector, as well as organizing appropriate activities and campaigns.

the level of information, understanding and awareness among our citizens about the accession process and future Montenegro's membership in the EU. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

the exceptional results of the 44th Government and The 15th EU-Montenegro Intergovernmental Conference took place after a break of more than Montenegrin Parliament revived the integration process, while the current geopolitical situation two years, sending a clear message of Montenegro's political will to become an EU Member State. opened a new window of opportunity to accelerate the accession process. That is why the meeting Montenegrin delegation in Brussels was led by the Prime Minister Milojko Spajić, while the Intergovernmental Conference was chaired by the path. Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hadja Lahbib. The Conference was attended by the EU High

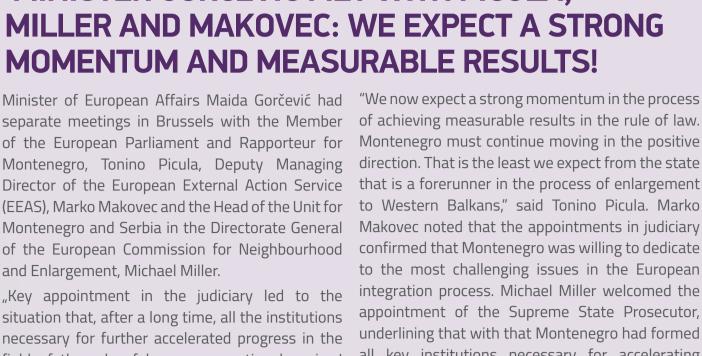
with utmost care.

Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi, and representatives of EU countries, which shows that the positive signs of Montenegro's accelerated work on the reforms and integration is followed

The Intergovernmental Conference underlined that

30. | 2024.

CRNA GORA THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS



accelerated way. The decisions that were made and that required a two-third majority have shown the required maturity of the Parliament, as well as the enthusiasm that will be additionally proven through our work on the remaining obligations in the field of the rule of law," said the Minister. the process.

15. II 2024.

Council for the Rule of Law, as the key body for coordination of activities aimed at implementation of the commitments within the chapters 23 and 24. In this way the negotiation structure has been finalized and the process of forming the working groups for all 33 chapters of the EU acquis has been completed. Innovation of the entire negotiation structure created the preconditions for better and more efficient coordination of the efforts on meeting the obligations from the negotiation process. This is to ensure that the innovated negotiation structure can work on meeting the remaining obligations in a faster, higher quality and more responsible manner,

The meeting of the Stabilization and Association

Committee discussed the activities and results in all

areas covered by 7 sectorial sub-committees and

The meeting was opened by the Minister of the

European Affairs Maida Gorčević and Valentina

Superti, Director for Western Balkans in the

the Public Administration Reform Special Group.

"We now expect a strong momentum in the process of achieving measurable results in the rule of law.

ZAOKRUŽENA PREGOVARAČKA STRUKTURA PREGOVARAČA ZA KLASTERE PREDSTAVNIKA DRŽAVNIH INSTITUCIJA I PREDUZEĆA PREDSTAVNIK CIVILNOG SEKTORA PREDSTAVNIKA NVO of 131 representatives of the civil sector that make 16.4% of the total number of members, 22 are representatives of non-governmental organizations.

with the intensified dynamics of the activities aimed

at meeting the remaining interim benchmarks

within the chapters 23 and 24, worked on meeting

all the obligations in other negotiation chapters, as well as on meeting the other interim benchmarks

that will be made concrete through development of

"An absolute priority of this Government is to

accelerate reforms and to ensure Montenegro's

a Roadmap for closing all the chapters.

Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, while the co-chairs

28. II 2024.

were the Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović and the membership in the EU. That is our strategic Head of the Unit D2 for Montenegro and Serbia commitment because we want rule of law, long in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and term economic and political stability, and freedom Enlargement, Michael Miller of expression to be constituent parts of our daily lives," said Minister Gorčević. Minister Gorčević said that Montenegro, in parallel

STABILIZATION AND ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

COMMISSIONAIRE VARHELYI The opinion agreed on in the meeting of the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and European Commissionaire Oliver Varhelyi who visited Podgorica is that the results that Montenegro has achieved in a brief period of time confirm in the best possible way that the Government is determined to

period of time, there was a constructive dialogue in

Montenegro and a successful cooperation between

the Government and the Parliament, that showed

with these results their clear commitment to

"We are glad that there is progress in the field of

the rule of law. We look forward to new results

Montenegro's membership in the EU.

AUDA GORCEVIC

28. II 2024.

1. III 2024.

European Union.

the conditions for further progress of our country

He underlined that, in the recent Intergovernmental

Conference, Montenegro got a great support and

encouragement from the European Commission

and EU Member States to continue the accession

"If we accelerate the pace of implementation of the reforms and in the following two months deliver the required results, there is a real possibility that by the summer we can get the Interim Benchmarks Assessment Report (IBAR) and the accompanying closing benchmarks. This would open a new perspective for negotiations and ensure that

Negotiator.





36 MEETINGS OF THE NEGOTIATION WORKING

PROGRAMME cities", said Miloš Marković, acting Director of the Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs, opening the Info Day. Marković emphasized that last year Montenegrin local self-governments achieved excellent results

ADRIATIC PROGRAMME

12. II 2024.

23. II 2024.

2024 in Zagreb, 67 project proposals submitted

These are the projects aimed at encouraging

strengthening of the capacities in the field of

innovation, support initiatives dedicated to the

protection of the environment, promote circular

within the First Call were approved for financing.

GROUPS, 4 CLUSTER COLLEGIATE MEETINGS, AND 2 MEETINGS OF THE NEGOTIATION TEAM

tasks in the following couple of months related to

the remaining benchmarks in the field of the rule of

law," said Božović.

Ministry of European Affairs organized a meeting with the institutions that will implement the five strategic projects within the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme in the period 2021-2027. Out of the total 5 strategic projects, Montenegrin institutions are the leading partners in two, while in the remaining three the leading partners are from Italy and Albania.

The 54 of the approved projects include 61

Montenegrin institutions and organizations. The

total amount of the funds allocated to Montenegrin

partners is about 8.5 million euros, which is twice as

much as in the entire previous financial perspective

2014-2020.

and connecting people, strengthening rural-

urban connections, and strengthening night-time

economy. These results assure us that within this

call we will also have local entities from Montenegro

in some of the networks", underlines Marković.

The key goal of the EU Strategy for Adriatic and The Conference that took place in Zagreb, within Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is to promote economic the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian and social prosperity and growth in the region Region (EUSAIR) made official the beginning of through the improvement of its attractiveness, implementation of three strategic projects that competitiveness, and connectivity, as well as to are important for managing this macro-regional encourage integration of Western Balkans in the strategy. EU. Ten countries participate in the implementation These are the strategic projects EUSAIR Facility of the Strategy: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Point, StEP and SP4EUSAIR, and they are co-Montenegro, Greece, Croatia, Italy, San Marino, financed by the European Union through the Northern Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia. programme Interreg IPA ADRION 2021-2027. The Strategy relies on 5 thematic pillars that The Conference was followed by the EUSAIR deal with the blue growth, connecting the region, Governing Board meeting which adopted the environmental quality, sustainable tourism, and revised Action Plan for the implementation of the social issues. Strategy. 1. III 2024.

IONIAN REGION (EUSAIR)

"The future of Europe is our common agenda. That

that the European Commission would soon send their feedback regarding the proposed measures.

(BEST-Public Sector) will be very important for the

The workshop emphasized that the support of 3.5 7. III 2024. IPA PROGRAMME COORDINATION MEETING

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ MET WITH PICULA, field of the rule of law are operational again. I believe that all three branches of power have the

The Government adopted eight decisions on establishing negotiation working groups and the ensuring tangible results and visible progress in the interest of all citizens of Montenegro. 21. II 2024. **MEETING OF THE EU – MONTENEGRO**

ALL 33 CHAPTERS

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ VISITED BY EUROPEAN fulfil its European agenda by the end of its mandate and to ensure that Montenegro can become the 28th member of the EU. Commissionaire Varhelyi said that the appointments in the judiciary had confirmed that, after a long

with the 33 negotiation groups. They also underlined the need to develop the Report on the implementation of the Programme of Montenegro's Accession to the EU 2023-2024 and to continue working on the new

The meeting chaired by the Chief Negotiator Predrag

Zenović was attended by negotiators for the thematic clusters that include all 33 negotiation chapters. They

agreed on the dynamics for the work of the working

groups and communication of the Negotiation Team

24.

MAIDA GORČEVIC

13. III 2024.

Since the 33 negotiation working groups were established, they have had 36 meetings, out of which 27 constitutive and 9 thematic meetings. These meetings were followed by the coordination of the negotiators and heads of the working groups through organization of the four cluster collegiate meetings and two meetings of the Negotiation Team. **IPA** 22. I 2023. PRIME MINISTER SPAJIĆ IN THE CONFERENCE "GROWTH PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND

FASTER INTEGRATION IN THE EU"

President of the Government of Montenegro Milojko Spajić, Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and Minister of Finance Novica Vuković participated in the Conference "Growth

The Fundamentals, Bojan Božović said that the

Government was aware of all the challenges

and of the need to improve things in many areas

Januar - mart

21. II 2024. 67 PROJECTS APPROVED WITHIN THE FIRST CALL FOR THE INTERREG IPA ADRION PROGRAMME In the Eighth meeting of the IPA ADRION Monitoring economy and development of multimodal forms of transport in the area of Adriatic-Ionian region. Committee that took place on 19 and 20 February

MEETING WITH THE PARTNERS IN THE STRATEGIC

PROJECTS WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA SOUTH

WORKSHOP WITHIN THE EU REFORM SUPPORT INSTRUMENT ENAN Acting Director General for coordination of the EU

> Government in developing and implementation of the mid-term reforms for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the public sector, in line with the priorities of our country on the path to EU membership.

to achieve a stable progress on the accession path and invest additional efforts to meet all the requirements, while EC will support the process through the recently initiated Growth Plan so that the benefits of membership in the EU can be used even before Montenegro becomes a Member State.

Cooperation With the E EVENT THAT MARKED ⁻ PERIOD BEHIND US

 Conferences, Regional and International We believe that this Newsletter contributes to raising

the Period Behind Us

financial support in the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović opened with the representatives of the World Bank and Delegation of the EU in Montenegro the workshop for presenting the programme to be implemented by the World Bank and financed from the European Union grant within the EU Reform Support Instrument.

> is why it is the duty of all of us, both the EU and the countries in the accession process, to work together and keep the enlargement momentum", said the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs and National IPA Coordinator Bojan Božović, opening the IPA Programme Coordination Meeting. "We are convinced that the support provided to us by the European Union, both through the Growth Plan and through IPA, WBIF and other instruments, will be an efficient mechanism for implementation of reforms necessary to bring the accession of Montenegro to the EU back to the right track", said WB partners will get support of 6 billion euros Božović. through this new instrument, as an addition to the He emphasized that in a short period of time IPA funds. This combined and increased financial Montenegro managed to prepare the first draft support will significantly strengthen the economies of the Reform Agenda for the Growth Plan for in the region. Western Balkans and conveyed the expectations

emphasized that it was time to continue reforms in order to use the momentum on Montenegro's EU During the Conference the particular emphasis was put on the appointments in the judiciary that, after several years, ensured continuation in meeting the benchmarks in the Chapters 23 and 24. The Intergovernmental Conference concluded that huge steps were made, but that Montenegro was yet to work a lot with the great EU support and the announced Growth Plan that should additionally reward all good reform measures.

all key institutions necessary for accelerating reforms and achieving progress towards the EU. He added that, in addition to the results willingness and will deal with the challenges and that Montenegrin Government made in the very meet all the obligations on the European path in an beginning of its work, it was commendable that they so quickly established all the bodies necessary to implement the remaining obligations in the field of the rule of law and that Montenegro could count on the support of the European Commission in its work on meeting the remaining obligations within

NEGOTIATION STRUCTURE FINALIZED, NEGOTIATION WORKING GROUPS FORMED FOR The new negotiation structure will have 801 members, 670 being representatives of the state institutions and state-owned companies. Out

MONTENEGRO

and accelerated progress towards membership in

the EU. We want Montenegro to become again an

exporter of good news and a positive example from

Western Balkans. European Commission will help

Minister Gorčević presented the Government's

plan to meet the interim benchmarks in the

chapters 23 and 24 by summer, through intensified

reforms. That will open the door to a new stage of

the negotiation process which means temporary

She informed the Commissionaire about the

development of the dynamic plans for the chapters

23 and 24, i.e. the obligations and deadlines that

Montenegro had, emphasizing the expectation that

the new results would open the door to the last

you on that path," said Oliver Varhelyi.

closing of all chapters.

stage of accession negotiations.





CONSTITUTIVE MEETINGS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

WORKING GROUPS FOR THE CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

on the European path.



CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ZENOVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN

Plan for the Western Balkans and Faster Integration in the EU" that took place in Skopje hosted by the Macedonian Prime Minister Dimitar Kovačevski. Leaders of the countries of the region and representatives of the European Union and the United States of America discussed the Growth Plan for Western Balkans that includes six billion euros of grants and loans for accelerating socio-economic approximation to the European Union, or more precisely, two billion in grants and four billion in favourable loans with EU guarantees. 07. II 2024. INFO DAY ABOUT THE CALL FOR INNOVATION TRANSFER NETWORKS WITHIN THE URBACT "URBACT Programme provides an opportunity to within the Call for establishing networks for the municipalities to cooperate with the local selfdeveloping action plans. governments from the entire Europe and to work "Three municipalities – Bijelo Polje, Berane and together with citizens on developing solutions Budva, got support to participate in 4 networks for greener, more inclusive and more innovative related to green transition, promotion of diversity

MEA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONFERENCE WITHIN THE EU STRATEGY FOR ADRIATIC AND

> million euros ensured from EU funds through the programme for Building an Effective, Sustainable and Transformational Public Sector in Montenegro

> > Director for Western Balkans in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Valentina Superti underlined that IPA was not only financial support but a joint investment into the socio-economic development and improvement of democratic processes of the Western Balkans region. It is particularly important

INTERREG EURO-MED PROGRAMME



beneficiaries.

representatives of institutions and organizations from all regions of Montenegro who expressed interest for participating in this call. The representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs presented the requirements of the Call 26. III 2024.

Info Day about the Fourth Call for submitting project

proposals within the Transnational Cooperation

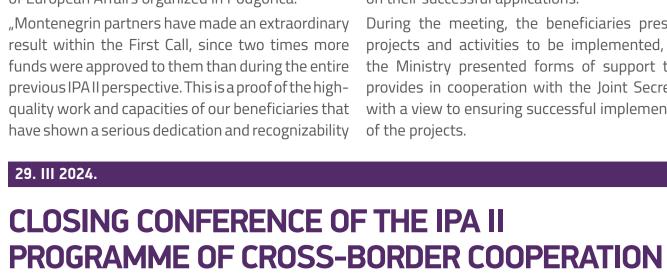
Interreg Euro-MED programme took place in

The Info Day attracted a large number of

Podgorica.

INITIAL MEETING WITH THE PROJECT PARTNERS WITHIN THE FIRST CALL OF THE IPA ADRIATIC **IONIAN PROGRAMME (IPA ADRION)**

Institutions and organizations from Montenegro have made a significant success within the First Call of the IPA Adriatic-Ionian Programme (IPA ADRION), through which 61 of them will be supported with about 8 million euros. This was noted in the initial meeting with the project partners that the Ministry on their successful applications. of European Affairs organized in Podgorica.



This programme is funded by the European Union

Enhancing Coomeration!

Gorčević participated in the closing conference of the IPA II Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo 2014-2020, which took place in Priština. "Within the programme framework of IPA II, that from European funds," underlined Gorčević. covered the period from 2014 to 2020, the total of 24 projects were supported in the value of over 9 million euro in the fields of employment, social inclusion, environment protection, adaptation to climate change, natural disaster risk management, neighbourly relations. CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 13. II 2024. MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF **EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DEDICATED TO THE GROWTH PLAN**

Montenegro adopted the draft Reform Agenda containing key measures in 4 policy areas and 22 sub-areas. "The goal of the Government of Montenegro is to continuously ensure a set of mechanisms of financial and non-financial support for further development of the private sector, economy. We have therefore identified and improving thus competitiveness of our economy. designed reform measures related to the business Creating conditions for easier business operations environment and development of the private sector, of small and medium-size enterprises and creating digital and energy/green transition, and human an attractive business environment influence their capital development", said Minister Gorčević and competitiveness, which additionally contributes emphasized how important it was to implement to the long-term growth and development of Montenegrin economy", said the minister.

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević the best way to improve quality of life through participated in the ministerial meeting "Growth intensive work and concrete, visible results", said Plan: Growth and Convergence for Western Minsiter Gorčević. Balkans" that took place in Tirana. She presented the reform measures, activities, "We highly appreciate the announced additional indicators and results that Montenegro had support through the new Growth Plan and believe planned through the draft of the Reform Agenda for that it will be an efficient mechanism for starting EU Reform and Growth Facility. She reminded that the reforms that are needed so that our accession the Government adopted the draft Reform Agenda

in early December 2023 and that it contained the

basic measures in 4 policy areas and 22 sub-areas

of the term of office of this Government. The

New Growth Plan will be only an additional tool

for achieving Montenegro's final goal, which is the

membership in the EU", concluded Gorčević.

THE MINISTERS OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

with about 90 reform measures.

intentions by consulting all interested parties "EU enlargement is no longer a dream for Montenegro that has started living it European regarding the most sensitive topics of domestic reality. We have already shown that it is possible policies, like implementation of census, i.e. to initiate changes and deliver results if there is alignment of the relevant medial laws", explained a genuine political will and stable parliamentary Gorčević. majority. The negotiations have been deblocked Commenting the New Growth Plan for Western after several years of stagnation, while getting Balkans she said she believed that this was a the IBAR will be a turning point and lead us into step into the right direction that would provide their final stage," said the Minister of European a valuable financial support, and what was even Affairs, Maida Gorčević in the conference "Western more important open the internal EU market for Balkans and EU enlargement by 2030: Dream or the Western Balkan countries. Reality?" organized by the Hellenic Foundation for "Meeting the criteria will not be a big challenge European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). for Montenegro because we are already eager to "With good intentions and introducing the practice implement all the necessary reforms by the end of a comprehensive dialogue with the opposition

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE MEETING OF MINISTERS

"The joint obligation of the EU and the countries of to regional cooperation, which is the best the region is to keep the enlargement momentum. recommendation for economic growth and further progress towards EU. We are encouraged by the messages coming from the EU leaders presenting an additional She said that the countries of the region were faced encouragement to all Western Balkan countries with numerous challenges in the field of security, to focus their energy on essential reforms. We peace, democratic governance, economic growth, hope that all countries of the Western Balkans will and climate change, while successful dealing with achieve the desired progress on the path towards these challenges required joint action. She said that EU, because every individual success is also the it was precisely why regional cooperation must go in parallel with the perspective of European

integration.

was progress in this field, the large number of improvement of gender equality and combating laws, National strategy and everything that the gender based and domestic violence in the process Government adopted was not enough to deal with of European integration. The guidelines are the challenges we were facing. intended for the state institutions. They resulted "We do not want to have declarations only. We from the Gender Analysis of the EC Report on want to be realistic in achieving the set goals", said Montenegro for 2023, that the Centre for Women's Gorčević. Rights developed with the financial support of She expressed the expectation that the political the European Union and the Ministry of European will and stability that at that time existed in Affairs through the EU4ME Project. Montenegro would deblock things in the field of The panel was moderated by Maja Raičević, equality and human rights. She announced that the Executive Director of the Centre for Women's Rights. Ministry of European Affairs would start a broader The participants were the Minister of European dialogue in February with the non-governmental Affairs Maida Gorčević, Minister of Interior Danilo organizations, inter alia also about the gender Saranović, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament Zdenka equality issues. 9. II 2024. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED **CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR ABOUT THE NEGOTIATION CHAPTERS 23 AND 24**

Popović and the German Ambassador Peter Felten.

Minister Gorčević emphasized that, although there

In that context he underlined the importance of

Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović noted the

importance of participation of NGOs in the

negotiation working groups, underlining that the

Ministry of European Affairs respected the work

and contribution of the civil sector in the European

strengthening institutional capacities.

CDT

behind that were contrary to the recommendations

of the European Commission or the Venice

"We expect Inter-Governmental Conference to

take place in June, during the Belgian presidency

and that in that conference we can get the

adopted IBAR confirming that we have met interim

benchmarks. And of course, it is now probably a technical thing, to get the closing benchmarks from

the Commission. That is what we strive to, to get

the IBAR, because it means that we can close some

chapters that are already ready for closing, and that

we do not have obstacles to close other chapters,

since the new methodology means that there is no

closing of chapters before the interim benchmarks

for the chapters 23 and 24 are met", said the Chief

Negotiator with the EU Predrag Zenović.

Commission.

integration process.

State Secretary in the Ministry of Interior and Head of organizations about the negotiation chapters 23 and the Working Group 24 Jovana Mijović noted that the Ministry of Interior was open for cooperation with He emphasized that through the process of European the civil sector and expressed the expectation that integration Montenegro was trying to reach the working together we would ensure that Montenegro highest standards in democracy and human rights. could become the next EU Member State. 21. II 2024.

underlined the importance of the activities that are "Media rights and freedoms are of essential importance for democratic development of every related to investigations in the cases of threats and society. The goal we want to achieve in this field violence against journalists, murders of journalists and attacks against the media property. is to develop the environment which is conducive to democracy in the society and to have informed Head of the Negotiation Group for Chapter 10 citizens, resilient to disinformation," said the Chief - Information Society and the Media, Ružica Negotiator Predrag Zenović in the consultations Mišković, underlined two closing benchmarks for with the representatives of the non-governmental temporary closing of that chapter that were related organizations about media freedoms. to the establishment of an independent regulator "Through development of the Media Strategy and and strengthening of administrative capacities. proposals of three laws - Law on Audio-Visual Director General of the Directorate General for the Media Services, Law on the Media and Law on the Media in the Ministry of Culture and the Media Public Service of Montenegro – we have made the Neđeljko Rudović said that the media laws were first, key step forward on our path to the EU in sent to the European Commission and that he the field of the media freedoms", said Zenović and expected that the Government and the Parliament would adopt them soon.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS HAD CONSULTATIONS

Konsultacije medijskim slobodama

WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR ABOUT MEDIA FREEDOMS

number of female students with scholarship for to become scientists and the messages they were sending to the girls who dream of understanding the doctoral studies in Montenegro. 14. II 2024. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED THE PANEL "IF YOU Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of took the roles of the Minister of European Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chief Negotiator and European Affairs, in cooperation with the grammar school "Slobodan Škerović", on the occasion of 100 Head of the Montenegrin Mission in the European Union. The event offered an opportunity for them days of the Government, organized the Panel "If you were in my shoes", with a view to discussing to say openly what should be done to ensure that Montenegro can become an EU Member State

to preservation of the rule of law and civil society. attended by the students of the final year of Master Opening the workshop, the Head of the Directorate Translation Studies of the Faculty of Philology for Preparation of Montenegrin Version of the EU within cooperation of the Ministry of European Acquis in the Ministry of European Affairs, Jelena Affairs with this educational institution. Samardžić Kotri said that translation lied in the heart The workshop emphasized that the new of the nature of the European Union, given the fact momentum of Montenegro's European integration that multilingualism was the key part of the chain in the process of making decisions and policies, and

its citizens.

On the occasion of 15th March, the World Consumer Rights Day, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of European Affairs, with the support of the EU4ME Project, organized the Info Day with the motto "We have consumer rights, let's The visitors of the Info Desk were distributed

use them!" promotion material with the QR code that links them to the website www.potrosac.me where they can get detailed information about their rights guaranteed in the Consumer Protection Law.

The event was organized in the Shopping Mall Big Fashion, where the representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development and other institutions 29. 111 2024. WORKSHOP ON COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS AND **MINISTRIES**

MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO 2014-2020

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević participated in Tirana in the informal meeting of work and consultations with the EC, in the first week of December 2023, the Government of the ministers of European affairs of the Western Balkan states dedicated to the Roadmap and true actions related to the Growth Plan. "The Government of Montenegro is committed to use the Growth Plan Facility for achieving longterm growth and development of Montenegrin

27. III 2024.

success and motivation for the entire region", said the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević. She underlined that Montenegro was committed COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

In the panel "Gender Equality in the Focus: Analysis of the European Commission Report", Centre for Women's Rights presented guidelines for the

sector is one of the important preconditions for successful finalization of the negotiations with the EU. The Government is open and wishes to develop a strategic partnership with the non-governmental organizations in this field," said the Deputy Prime Minister for Political System, Judiciary and Anti-Corruption Momo Koprivica in the consultations with the representatives of non-governmental

within the Project "Policy and Legal Advice Centre for Montenegro (PLAC)". The training was also 8. III 2024.

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED THE WORKSHOP "PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL **VERSION OF THE EU ACQUIS - EXPERT REVISION**

process was organized.

Environment, Sustainable

Development of the North.

and a quiz about EU and Montenegro's accession

The Minister also visited three projects whose

implementation is financed from EU funds, i.e.

through the support of the Ministry of Tourism,

about 200,000 pages of the EU Official Journal.

The existence of the national language version of

these enactments is a precondition for joining the

European Union, while translation of the EU acquis

is considered an essential and indispensable step

that it was a guarantee of the functioning of the

European Union system and legal protection of all

KOJE VODE

PREGOVORE CRNE GORE SA EVROPSKOM UNIJOM

Development and

in the Adriatic-Ionian region. Ministry of European Affairs will, as earlier, be there to provide support to all beneficiaries in the project implementation," said Miloš Marković, acting Director General of the Directorate for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, congratulating the beneficiaries

and responded to the questions of the potential

The fourth call is opened from 1 PM on 12th June

2024, while the framework budget allocated for

the projects within this call amounts to 44 million

euros. The call refers to the programme priorities

Smarter and Greener Mediterranean, as well as to

all four programme missions: innovative economy,

preservation of natural resources, green living

areas and sustainable tourism.

During the meeting, the beneficiaries presented projects and activities to be implemented, while the Ministry presented forms of support that it provides in cooperation with the Joint Secretariat with a view to ensuring successful implementation

as well as development of tourism through valorisation of the natural and cultural heritage. I am convinced that our successful cooperation will be even more intensive in the forthcoming period and that Montenegro and Kosovo through future joint project will be able to use even more funds Minister of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo Elbert Krasniqi said that cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo was a success story in the inter-state and good

Gorčević reminded that, as a result of intensive

reforms primarily in the field of the rule of law. 29. II 2024. **GORČEVIĆ IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING "GROWTH** PLAN: GROWTH AND CONVERGENCE FOR **WESTERN BALKANS"**

24. I 2024. PANEL "GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOCUS: ANALYSIS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPORT "

"Cooperation of the Government and the civil

6. II 2024. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED THE **CONFERENCE "CHALLENGES IN THE PROCESS OF** LEGISLATIVE ALIGNMENT WITH THE EU ACQUIS" The project "Policy and Legal Advice Centre for given the current stage of the negotiation process, Montenegro (PLAC)" financed by the EU was where Montenegro was trying to intensify the pace of work on meeting the closing benchmarks in a presented in the Conference, which was followed by number of chapters, it was particularly important a panel discussion dedicated to the key challenges Montenegro was facing in the process of alignment to ensure sufficient expert support for the most of legislation with the legal standards of the EU. important fields that would certainly increase the level of preparedness to respond to all the The Chief Negotiator Predrag Zenović said that, challenges of the accession process.

LAUNCHING OF THE CAMPAIGN ON THE OCCASION OF

universe, reveal its secrets and make the world a better

It was underlined that on the global level women

made only 1/3 employees in science. Montenegro,

surprisingly, has a better average, so for example we

have a larger number of women managers of science

and research projects than men, as well as a larger

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN

the topics important for development and future as soon as possible, how they would conduct the of Montenegro with those whose hands the future will be in – the young. accession negotiations, where Montenegro should be positioned in the global diplomacy and how an Students at the grammar school in Podgorica ambassador should represent us in Brussels. 23. II 2024. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED **EUROPEAN DAY IN ŽABLJAK**

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević with

During the visit to Žabljak, Minister Gorčević had

a meeting with the President of the Municipality

Radoš Žugić and his team and visited the Primary

School "Dušan Obradović" where a school class

her associates paid a working visit to Žabljak.

AND TERMINOLOGY"

27. II 2024.

process re-focused on the process of development of Montenegrin version of the EU acquis, the corpus of European legislation that currently contains MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED A CAMPAIGN ON THE OCCASION OF WOMEN'S DAY On the occasion of 8th March – Women's Day, the Ministry of European Affairs, within the EU4ME project financed by the EU, implemented the online campaign "Meet the Women Who Lead Montenegro's Negotiations With the EU". Women negotiators and heads of negotiation working groups presented the importance that the chapters they lead had for the citizens of Montenegro. The campaign emphasized that women dominantly participated in the negotiations. They make 64% of the negotiation structure and they are at the head of 21 out

LET'S USE THEM!"

Within the project EU4ME financed by the EU, a twoday training in communication skills was organized

Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro Maida

process can be returned to the right track, but also to show our citizens that, in addition to daily

15. III 2023.

MINISTER GORČEVIĆ IN THE CONFERENCE "WESTERN BALKANS AND EU ENLARGEMENT BY 2030: DREAM OR REALITY?"

political topics, the accession to the EU is actually

OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WITHIN THE SOUTH-EAST **EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS (SEECP)**

and civil society organizations, the Government

intends to increase national efforts to meet all the

required criteria. So far, we have shown the good

GORČEVIĆ AND ZENOVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE CDT **PODCAST "ACTION"** AKCIJA Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and

the Chief Negotiator with the EU Predrag Zenović

Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević said that this sector had made great results and

that precisely the Ministry that she was leading

produced the greatest results during the 100 days

She noted that the European integration was the

priority of the Government and the Parliament and

that in recent period they managed to complete

the entire negotiation structure that would in the

following month have their first meetings and draft

Milica Kovačević from the Centre for Democratic

Transitions commented the examples of proposing

and adopting laws by the Parliament in the period

participated in the CDT Podcast "Action".

of the Government's work.

plans for the forthcoming period.

19. III 2024.

OTHER

11. II 2024.

SCIENCE

Srećan Međunarodni dan

žena i djevojaka u nauci

The campaign on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a result of the joint creative work of women in the Ministry of Education,

Science and Innovation, Ministry of European Affairs

Women and girls scientists from Montenegro were

presented in the campaign, as well as their motives

and the Project EU4ME financed by the EU.

WERE IN MY SHOES"

The first in a series of workshops to be attended by the civil servants from relevant institutions was organized by the Ministry of European Affairs under the auspices of the European Union

15. III 2024. THE WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATED WITH THE CAMPAIGN ,,WE HAVE CONSUMER RIGHTS,

of 33 working groups.

MARIJETA BARJAKTAROVIC LANZARDI relevant for this field - Market inspectorate, Central Bank of Montenegro and Tourism Organization of Montenegro, talked with the citizens about consumer rights and the importance of an efficient implementation of the Consumer Protection Law.

with the media, strategic and crisis communication, in Bar for the civil servants in local self-governments and communication in social networks. and ministries. Participants in the workshop were

taught the basics of communications, relations