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Parliament's role in EU negotiations not clearly defined

interview

Chairman of the European Integration
Committee, Slaven Radunović

challenges in EU

How the EU fights obesity



Foreword: **Deadlines**

Vladan Žugić

As far as I know, the Government will finish it in the next few days. It won't go past deadline much. I was told this by a ruling coalition official on 30 August, deadline for the Justice Ministry and the Government to adopt draft amendments to the laws on the Constitutional Court, the Judicial Council, courts, and state prosecution and to ask for an extraordinary Parliament session. "You know what, I'm not a nit-pick, but the police fined me a few months ago for going 92 km/h in an 80 km/h zone. I didn't break the rules much, but I still had to pay the fine." This short dialogue brings up two questions. First, do the people at the Government think that during their EU accession negotiations they'll be allowed to be a few days late in meeting commitments from action plans, saying the deadlines are too tight, the capacities limited, or the vacation season on...? Second, more vital, how can the executive, tasked to implement laws, expect the citizens to abide by them and trust institutions when the Government itself breaks not just any law, but the constitutional law many legal experts put on the same level as the Constitution? A déjà vu: The Parliament will adopt in late September, probably with ruling coalition votes only, the laws that should be aligned with constitutional amendments in the area of judiciary, which was set as a key requirement for opening Chapters 23 and 24. They will do this under time pressure, rashly rejecting opposition and civil society suggestions, thus making the laws and their implementation handicapped and contested?

Calendar

- 03 August** **Commission continues to monitor 'Recordings Affair'** / The European Commission will continue monitoring the 'Recordings Affair' after the Parliament's Inquiry Committee for Fact-Finding concluded its work by only adopting a technical report, without an assessment as to whether DPS misused state resources in the October 2012 parliamentary elections. "The Commission will continue monitoring this case, including the judicial follow-up to the 'Recordings Affair'," the Commission notes. "The Commission underlines that the Parliament of Montenegro failed to adopt the conclusions on the essence of the parliamentary inquiry in the 'Recordings Affair' and instead limited its findings to a technical report," Brussels said.
- 08 August** **Expert assistance from Germany for Chapters 23 and 24** / After Germany, Europe's largest economy, spent years investing primarily in development projects in Montenegro (around 180 million EUR), private companies should now take the lead, Prime Minister Milo Đukanović and German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dirk Niebel concluded at their meeting. This certainly does not rule out further development projects. Around 300 million EUR of new investment is planned and Germany will send an expert to assist the Montenegrin government in preparing the negotiating positions for Chapters 23 and 24.
- 13 August** **New case of violence against journalists** / The latest assault on journalist Tufik Softić, but also previous attacks on media, must be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice, EU Delegation to Montenegro has said. The Delegation is concerned over the recent attack on Softić, when a bomb was activated in front of his house in Berane.
- 26 August** **Enlargement no longer top priority for Greece** / EU enlargement will not be on top of Greece's EU presidency agenda in the first half of 2014, even though the country is one of the key supporters of Western Balkan enlargement. The Greek government adopted the presidency programme in early August, comprising four chapters: growth, employment, and cohesion; further EU and eurozone integration; migration, borders, and mobility; and maritime policy. Thessaloniki hosted 10 years ago a Summit on Western Balkans confirming the region's EU future.

New Model Europe



Enrico Letta

It is becoming increasingly clear that if Europe is to overcome its crisis, business as usual will not suffice. We need a Europe that is more concrete, less rhetorical, and better suited to the current global economy. We need to focus not only on the European Union's specific policies, but also on how to change its "politics" – a change that must place economic growth at the top of the agenda. Europe does not need a debate between austerity and growth; it needs to be pragmatic. A good example of this was the most recent European Council, which addressed two of Europe's most pressing problems: malfunctioning labor markets, reflected in record-high youth unemployment, and malfunctioning credit markets, in which access to financing is difficult and lending rates vary considerably among different parts of the single market. The outcome of the Council's June meeting was encouraging, and we must continue on that path in the coming months to make progress on two equally important issues: how to foster innovation and the digital economy, and how to ensure Europe's manufacturing competitiveness. We need to assess what can be achieved at the national level and what EU institutions should do. With its 500 million consumers, the EU single market remains the largest destination for goods and services worldwide and is the best engine to restore growth. Key economic sectors, such as financial services, benefit greatly from the single market's common rules. Without the single market, all member states would be less attractive to foreign investors, who, once established in one member state, can move freely around the EU. The single market also provides a platform and leverage to export goods and services to international markets. So we must make the single market more open, internally and externally. But, to do so, we will need to make EU institutions more efficient, with better regulation and a lower administrative burden. Common institutions are needed to ensure that all EU countries' interests are protected, and to act as a bridge between eurozone and non-eurozone member states. Frankly, the functioning of the EU and its institutions during the crisis has been a part of the problem. For many people, EU decision-making is opaque, inefficient, and removed from democratic control. Most worrying, the crisis has challenged the very idea of European integration. Thus, we will be able to advance a reformist agenda only if we have a convincing narrative that explains



why we need Europe and why it serves the interests of current and future generations. I am a committed pro-European. I have in mind the extraordinary image of Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand at Verdun in 1984, two old leaders, standing hand in hand, remembering the victims of World War I. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of that war. The experience of two world wars was foundational for European integration. But these memories no longer provide a sufficient catalyst for action. We need to find a forward-looking rationale that, after 50 years of integration, shows how acting together can help Europe achieve its goals in a changed global environment. There is nothing worse than letting people believe that European integration is something that proceeds by stealth, a journey driven by invisible and uncontrollable forces. The EU cannot last unless it is built on its citizens' explicit commitment. Today, we have a chance to remodel Europe. Next year's European parliamentary elections will provide an opportunity for a fundamental debate about the EU's future. Unless we make a successful case for Europe (and for a different Europe), Euro-skeptic forces will gain ground and Europe's decision-making processes will be blocked. The choice is clear, and it will have to be made sooner rather than later.

The author is Prime Minister of Italy

Source: excerpts from the text published at Project-Syndicate.com

Fourteen months after the launch of EU negotiations
Montenegro's Parliament has no clearly defined role in the process

When MPs want to take a back seat



Mirela Rebronja

Montenegro started EU accession negotiations fourteen months ago, but the Parliament is yet to define its role in the process. The Parliament's new sitting has strengthened its oversight and control role this spring relative to previous sittings. The fact the Parliament sent back several legislative proposals to the Government, such as the one on higher education, the number of control and consultative hearings, and the very fact the Inquiry Board for the "Recordings" Affair was created (even though it didn't live up to the expectations), are the facts the Commission will view favourably. Moreover, the European Union will value greatly that all the political forces, except the Democratic Front (DF), voted for the constitutional amendments in the area of judiciary, which is a key precondition for the opening of Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and 24 – Justice, Freedom, and Security.



This entire time the MPs acted like they don't care how well the legislation is aligned with the *acquis*, what will happen to education, culture, rule of law... The working group that drafted a resolution clearly defining Parliament's role in the process was established on 26 November 2012, comprising: **Branko Radulović** (DF), **Damir Šehović** (SDP), **Aleksandar Damjanović** (SNP) and **Miodrag Vuković** (DPS). This body, chaired by Mr Radulović, drafted a document that was fiercely criticised by the members of the European Integration Committee, the Chief Negotiator **Aleksandar**

Someone from the EU will surely ask why we don't yet know the Parliament's role

Daniel Mondekar says the Parliament's role in the negotiation process must not be sidelined or underestimated, adding that Brussels expects the candidate state to ensure Parliament's position in the process in line with the country's political system.

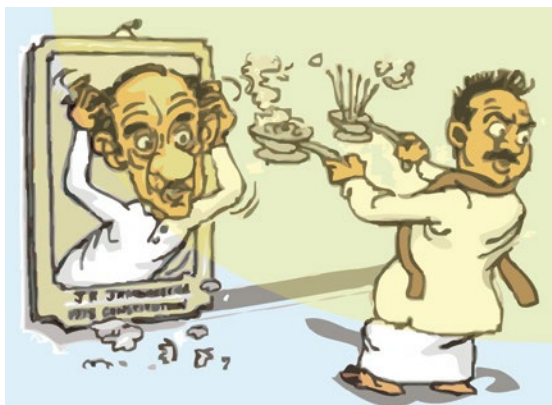
"If in 14 months it has not been dealt with, someone in the EU will ask the question, that's certain," says Mr Mondekar.

He notes that many discussions were held with various delegations of the Montenegrin parliament and he expects the issue will soon be resolved.

"I believe it would be more than good to reach the same level of national consensus as we did in Croatia; it would be good to make a National Committee to monitor and actively participate in the negotiations, whereas the EU integration committee already in place should be tasked to deal with the *acquis*, and let the National Committee deal with the political dimension. I believe that would make the process easier," he concluded.

Andrija Pejović, and NGOs. Their view was that the draft was too general and fails to define the Parliament's role in the negotiation process. The draft resolution was withdrawn from the parliamentary procedure and sent back to the Parliament Collegium, with a promise that the autumn sitting will adopt the Resolution on Parliament's role in the process of EU integration. It is unanimously accepted that the Parliament should be part of the negotiation process, but the MPs are divided on how and in what capacity.

In his interview for the *European Pulse*, MP **Miodrag Vuković** (DPS) said that the parliament cannot go beyond its constitutional remit and that it has its competencies and



tasks in the negotiation process. He added that the Parliament is neither ahead nor behind other institutions, but equal within its constitutional abilities. "EU integration has a bearing on all institutions equally and they all have to carry this process in a certain way and act towards making Montenegro and EU member as soon as possible. The Parliament cannot step outside its constitutional remit, but on the other hand it can't go sideways from the democratic experience of other countries that have already underwent the negotiation process," Mr Vuković said adding that the Parliament's role is very important in EU negotiation, but that it is more political and less operative. Contrary to that, different advice comes from Croatia, the EU's newest member. Chairman of the European Affairs Committee

that during Croatia's negotiations it was Sabor (the parliament) that played a vital role. Sabor's work was divided into two committees, one being the National Committee for Observing the Negotiations, and the other Committee for European Integration, which dealt with aligning legislation with the *acquis*. "The pillar of negotiations was the document expressing national consensus that EU membership is Croatia's goal, and the National Committee was meant to show that Europe is what all political parties want and that there exists a national consensus to reach that goal," Mondekar said. According to him, the National Committee was the corner-stone in monitoring the negotiation process: "The National Committee was chaired by the opposition, it comprised all parties as well as academics, trade unions representatives, entrepreneurs, and NGOs. The meetings were closed to the public, and the Committee had a great influence in giving mandate to the Government in negotiations, what to negotiate, how to open or close certain chapters, and it sometimes also had a right of veto." Opposition party Pozitivna Crna Gora's (PCG) MP **Dritan Abazović** has no doubts on the importance of including the Parliament in the negotiation and he believes its role should be clearly defined. "The Parliament's role should be the most important. The Parliament is the top institution in all parliamentary democracies and it therefore can't be ignored or in any way excluded from the process," he added. Mr Abazović believes that the existing European Integration Committee should steer the negotiation process, together with the negotiations team and Chief Negotiator. Discussing the fact that Parliament's role has not been clearly defined even after 14 months since the opening of negotiations, Mr Abazović said there is no simple answer to that question: "We must understand that Montenegro lacks certain laws and regulations on some very important matters. I believe this parliamentary sitting showed great desire to make a change in that respect, but I also concede we haven't been successful in that." Mr Abazović believes the resolution was long overdue, but that in July its draft finally reached the European Integration



Daniel Mondekar

in the Croatian Parliament, social democrat Daniel Mondekar believes that parliament's involvement is of vital importance. He reminds

Committee members. “Given that the majority believed corrections were needed, with intent of producing as good a document as possible, the resolution’s passing has been left for autumn; we now have several MPs’ amendment proposals and we now need to come together on the final version of the text,” he concluded. Mr Vuković also expects the resolution to be adopted at the autumn sitting. He also concurs that certain amendments were needed and added he had certain objections. “I had a few dilemma, because it [the resolution] was drafted in such a way that it all begins and ends in the Parliament, but missing the middle-part which is what the Government does,” said he. He believes that come autumn, when Chapters 23 and 24 are expected to start, things will be clearer and Parliament’s role defined, which could be a good start for this body, given that these chapters are the most important ones in

the entire negotiation process. If Government action plans for Chapters 23 and 24 are green-lighted by all EU member-states, Montenegro needs to prepare a negotiating position. It is up to MPs to decide whether by then they will secure for all of them, not just European Integration Committee members, at least to be informed of Government plans, or whether they will be left out from the process. More than a year since the beginning of negotiations and more than a year since the constitution of the new Parliament sitting, an impression remains that it is about time for the Parliament to become an active player instead of an observer of this important process for Montenegro’s progress.

Why should EU integration committee be privileged?

The civil society does not view favourably the delay in adopting the document placing the Parliament in its rightful spot in the EU-Montenegro negotiations. In an interview for the *European Pulse*, Ms Jovana Marović, research coordinator at Alternativa Institute, says certain efforts were made in the Parliament towards defining an inter-institutional model for participation in the negotiations and its role in the process, but she added that the Parliament still lacks an optimal framework for active contribution to negotiations.

She finds the reasons for constant delay in defining the Parliament’s role partly in the differing perception of the government and opposition, as well as the executive and legislative branches of government. However, she believes there should be a consensus on many things, especially those viewed as examples of good practice. She gave an example of Parliament’s monthly reports on the fulfilment of commitments from the action plan for implementing the recommendations from the Commission’s opinion.

“The relationship between the Parliament and the Government in the integration process should be regulated, among other things, by an agreement between the two branches of government, which would determine the pace of parliamentary reporting on the fulfilment of action plans for Chapters 23 and 24, as well as on meeting the criteria for progress in various negotiating chapters. In this way, the Parliament could better perform its control function and consequently the political oversight of the accession process,” Ms Marović said.

She added that when it comes to negotiating positions, the Parliament must allow other committees, not just the EU integration committee, to contribute to the negotiations.

Slaven Radunović, Chairman of the European Integration Committee,
Parliament of Montenegro

To expect opening of Chapters 23 and 24 without closing one of the affairs unrealistic



Slaven Radunović, Chairman of the Parliament of Montenegro's European Integration Committee, noted that it would be unrealistic to expect the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 without closing at least one of the big corruption affairs. In an interview for the *European Pulse*, Mr Radunović reiterated that in the past year we have heard, in his words, hundreds of statements by EU officials with the same message – without measurable results in fight against organised crime and corruption Chapters 23 and 24 will not be opened. "Based on those public statements, and many bilateral meetings I have had with high European officials and diplomats in Podgorica, it is not realistic to expect the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 without closing at least one of the big corruption affairs, arresting top drug-lords, and uncovering perpetrators of a number of killings and beatings. The ruling elites in Montenegro need to understand it is not enough to adopt laws, but that they must be implemented," said he. "If even after the new legislation, Vesna Medenica, Ranka Čarapić, and Svetlana Vujanović retain leading positions in the judicial hierarchy, we still will not have indictments, arrests, and verdicts in the cases I mentioned. If they were able and willing, they would have shown it by now," Radunović added..

» What, in your view, is the main reason behind the lack of a clearly defined role of the Parliament in the EU negotiation process?

There are some strong motives behind that. I think we often forget this same government has, under many names and guises, existed since

1945. They simply are not used to having someone meddle with their work, less even to have their decisions monitored or assessed. The rules are well known – the boss makes all the important decisions, in a café, yacht, or office, and others implement them. Imagine how painful it would be for them to have a "random" parliamentary committee and its opposition chairman make some important decisions for Montenegro. Most politicians here have not mastered basic democracy lessons. My DPS colleagues from the committee really show will to join forces and put Parliament, i.e. the committee, in its rightful place in this process, but I think their party colleagues are still waiting for a wink from the Government.

» In your opinion, what is the best model? Perhaps the Croatian one, where alongside the EU integration committee there existed a National Council gathering MPs and a broader circle of NGO activists, academic community, and so on, which had a right to veto Government's negotiation positions. Or do you have something else in mind?

There are many possible models for the Parliament's role in the negotiation process and they have varied from one country to the other. The best one for the Parliament was the Slovenian one. Državni zbor (Parliament) passed final decisions on negotiating positions. However, in some cases parliaments had entirely marginal roles in the process. There is simply no best model formula. It depends on the level of democracy and the level of trust among political actors. An example: When I asked an Icelandic colleague from the EU integration committee whether they can veto a negotiating position, if they believe it is bad for the country, he responded with another question: "What do you mean? Why would we do that?" When I added it would be a guarantee the Government will not just send their own position to Brussels, he said: "This is unthinkable in Iceland. The parliament would instantly vote no confidence, regardless of the composition." With such level of accountability they could grant themselves a luxury of

deciding to remain outside the EU. They already have all the standards and values of a developed European society. Competencies given to the committee in the Rules of Procedure enable an adequate position for citizens' deputies. It is, however, necessary to adopt a document making committee's decisions binding, not just politically relevant. If the multi-party Committee agrees that a position is not in the citizens' best interests, or that the deadlines for adopting standards are unrealistic, and then advises government accordingly, we must be sure the document would be revised and include Committee's suggestions. According to the Rules, we evaluate the work of the negotiating team, but there are no guarantees our assessments will lead to dismissals. All this must be defined clearly.

» Does the Committee for European Integration, and you as chairman, plan in the future some activities that would attract and include the broader community in the process seemingly monopolised by the Government?

As a parliamentary body, the Committee must make its work and the complete process of EU integration as transparent as possible and find the ways to bring these topics closer to the citizens. There are of course certain limitations, due to the confidentiality of certain documents. In that regard, we are hosting on 17 September in Hotel "Ramada" a public lecture "Montenegro and the EU – information society and the media." We are planning similar events for other municipalities, intended for education of high-school children, but also for local government officials, on what the EU means and what integration will bring to the citizens of Montenegro, and what role is held by the Parliament and the Committee. With a view to further improving the communication with citizens, we started a Facebook page (Odbor za evropske integracije Skupštine Crne Gore) and a Twitter channel (@EUOdborCG). I hope the media and the civil society will recognise the efforts made by the Committee and that they will contribute to a more efficient and interesting presentation of our activities.

» It appears that the majority of MPs are not well informed or at all interested in dealing with the EU integration process in the sense that

there are no debates in the Parliament or media statements by MPs on the issues of environmental protection, agriculture, fisheries, free movement of goods and capital, insurance...? Why?

EU integration and the big changes it brings for a society are a challenge even for bigger countries and more numerous parliaments. Montenegro lacks highly specialised cadre, due to its small population and underdeveloped economy, but also suffers from an inadequate education system. The country's fate is, of course, shared by its Parliament. Even if the Parliament comprised only top experts, they would not be able to cover even one half of the vital topics in the areas you mentioned. The Bundestag has over 500 MPs, Serbia's National Assembly 250, and our Parliament just 81. And the topics are the same. But lack of competence is not the only reason MPs are not much interested in some very important topics for the citizens. Our political scenery is swamped with "attractive" topics. Most of my colleagues apparently find it politically more profitable to remain focused on those instead of tackling more technical topics understood by very few voters.

» Your DF voted against constitutional amendments which were among top requirements for opening Chapters 23 and 24, even though they comprised the majority of Venice Commission suggestions, as requested by the EU. Is it not paradoxical that the DF is strongly in favour of Montenegro's EU integration, but on the other had you do not vote what the Commission and the EU ask?

We have on a number of occasions stated that we view the advocacy for EU membership as a shortcut to implementing democratic standard and civilisation values, which our society sadly lacks. Knowing the way things work in Montenegro, as well as the anomalies from the one-party system, we believed our suggestions for constitutional amendments to be the very minimum to ensure good progress. And, as you know, in this process the DF cares more about the benefits for citizens than ticks from Brussels. Although they matter too.

V.Ž.



Asylum seekers choose Germany and Sweden

Russians, half of them below 18, topped the list of EU asylum seekers in the first quarter of 2013, Eurostat reports. In the first three months of 2013, 8,435 Russians requested EU asylum, followed by Syrians with 8,395 requests. The next in line were citizens of Afghanistan (5,880), Pakistan (4,310), and Somalia (3,430). Kosovo was sixth with 3,380 asylum requests, followed by Serbia's 3,330. From January to March, the EU received 86,000 asylum requests, a 20% increase from the same period last year. Relative to country size, the greatest number of requests was sent to Sweden (9,720), and in absolute terms Germany took in most asylum seekers – almost one fourth of all requests.



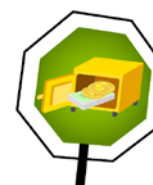
The South lags in online trade

By 2018, Europe's online trade will double to 323 billion EUR, market research firm Mintel predicts in their survey of 19 European markets. Mintel predicted that online sales would grow to 188 billion EUR in 2013 from 166 billion in 2012. The British are top grocery online shoppers, but they like to take their goods in stores. On the other hand, Germans prefer to have their products delivered. "There is a big North-South divide in e-commerce in Europe," said Mintel European retail analyst **John Mercer**. He noted that French participation levels lag Britain and Germany by five years and Spain, Greece, Portugal and Italy are even further behind.



Bar set to 10,000 EUR tax debts

Greek tax authorities will seize the assets of businesses and individuals who do not settle their tax debts, the government said. Under this plan, the Greek finance ministry will issue warnings that assets will be seized if the recipients do not arrange a payment plan within 20 days to those who owe more than 10,000 EUR. The move is the latest attempt by the government to clamp down on tax evasion. An estimated €60 billion in unpaid taxes and social security contributions are currently owed, leaving a gaping hole in the budget. In July, the finance ministry set up a five person committee, including two former tax collection chiefs from Ireland and Sweden, to advise the government. Greece currently has one of the lowest tax collection rates as a proportion of GDP. According to the EU's statistical agency Eurostat, taxes worth 34.9 % of GDP were collected by Greek tax authorities in 2011, with only Ireland and Spain having a lower collection rate.



Branches cut by 8% since 2008

Banks cut 5,500 branches across the EU last year, 2.5 % of the total. From the crisis outbreak in 2008 until 2012 the number of branches has been cut by 20,000, which is 8% of all branches. In early 2013, 218,687 bank outlets were operating, one for every 2,300 people, the European Central Bank data shows. The trend is expected to continue to the end of 2013 regardless of the predictions announcing the end of the recession.

How much did top public officials earn in 2012? (part I)

The data is still kept secret



Vladimir Vučković

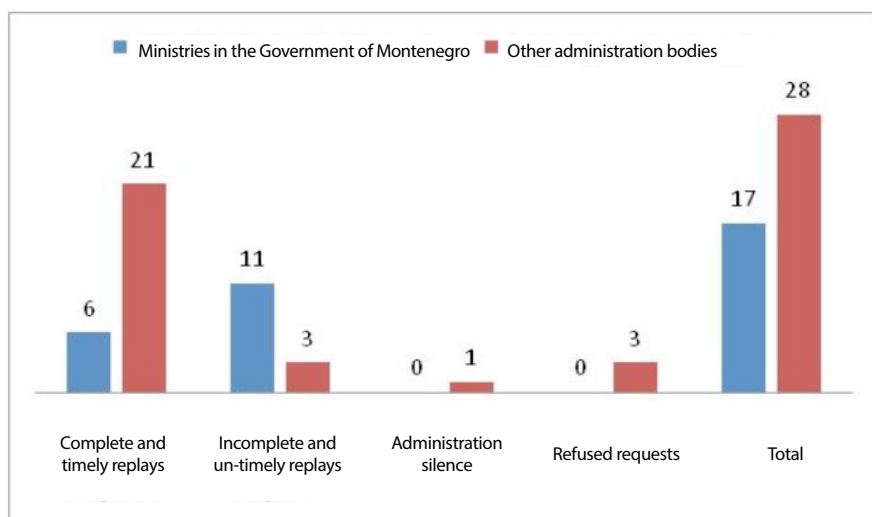
Within its sub-programme *Accountability and Transparency of Authorities*, the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) launched a survey entitled '*How much did top public officials earn in 2012?*' aimed at raising awareness of the need to spend budget funds responsibly. Goal was to ascertain the earnings of leading officials in public administration bodies during their mandates in 2012, as well as their other income paid from the Budget. Preliminary data, collected by following the Law on Free Access to Information, were presented at a media conference on 26 July 2013.

CCE surveyed 45 public administration bodies, of which 17 ministries, two agencies, four directorates, 19 administrations, two offices, and one secretariat. On the whole, the administration bodies failed to deliver information in a timely manner, some of them never did, and the quality of certain information was sub-par. This made the process of data gathering and processing difficult. It also prolonged the survey, and imposed limitations on the overall scope of the report.

When it comes to transparency and accountability, **the most efficient administration bodies, who have delivered very detailed information in a timely manner,**

are: *Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry for Human and Minority Rights.*

Incomplete or late information were provided by: *Ministry of Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sport, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunication, Ministry of Health and Minister without portfolio.* These ministries' level of cooperation is labelled satisfactory, although not commendable.



After the preliminary survey was published on 26 July 2013, CCE published data related to the lack of transparency in certain ministries in regard to the Request for Free Access to Information. **No response whatsoever** to the request for free access to information came from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Sport, and Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs. After we brought this lack of transparency to public attention, the Ministry of Finance publicly promised and provided with a slight delay the



information on net salaries and other income earned by managers, as well as the information on their remuneration for work in managing boards. Ministry of Education and Sport acted in a similar fashion. Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, after initially rejecting the request for free access to information on grounds challenged by CCE, later provided the requested information, thus ensuring, together with the other two, removal from CCE's *'black list of transparency.'*

Other administration bodies, on the other hand, mostly abided by the Law on Free Access to Information and delivered timely and relevant information, with a few exceptions. For instance, *Administration for Sport and Youth* **remained silent**, and the *Anti-corruption Initiative Administration* declined to provide information asking CCE to send requests to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice. *Directorate for Lottery Games* **rejected the request as insubstantial (!?)**, and the **Secretariat General** rejected the request by stating that all requested data are readily available at the website of the Commission for the Prevention of Conflict of Interest, and that all management officials

at the Secretariat are at the same time state officials. *Real Estate Administration* requested in their official response that 53€ be paid for the expenses, **providing additional oral explanation that the list of all net salaries of their 400 employees who at the same time are officials at the institution is 516 pages long!**

In 2012, leading officials of public administration bodies (41 out of 45 bodies provided information) *earned, from the Budget, net salaries and other income* worth **3,157,829€**, according to the survey.

The survey points to deliberate lack of transparency by a number of public administration bodies, which raises concerns as to those bodies' potential disregard of other laws. CCE believes it would be useful for the NGOs and the media to make 'black' and 'white' lists ranking institutions based on their respect for the Law on Free Access to Information. This could positively affect their openness and managers' responsibility, as they are not paid with taxpayers' money to hide information and to break laws, but rather to work in the public interest.

(to be continued)

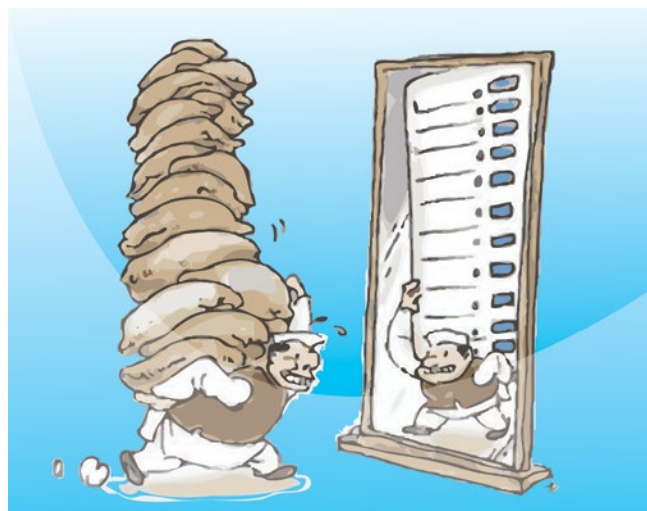
Chapter 8: Competition Policy



Marko Sošić

EU Member States have adopted rules that enable equal access to the common market to all. These rules thwart emergence of the so called cartels, which include activities such as forbidden agreements on price-fixing, limiting production, development, and investment, and division of the market or supply sources. The EU *acquis* in the area of competition covers anti-trust policies, including mergers, and state-aid. It involves the rules and procedures for fight against anti-competitive behaviour by companies (restrictive agreements between undertakings and abuse of dominant position) and for preventing governments from granting state aid which distorts competition in the internal market. Competition rules are directly applicable in the whole of the Union and member states must co-operate fully with the Commission in enforcing them.

Montenegro faces many obstacles in aligning its legal framework with the competition *acquis* and enforcing it effectively, including the need to strengthen the administrative capacity and maintaining operative autonomy of line bodies for state aid and competition.



When it comes to anti-trust and market concentration, the legal and institutional framework exists, but certain legal norms should be better aligned with the *acquis*, for instance the right of third parties to file complaints. Competition law is applied to all economy sectors, to goods and services, and to public and private companies. Competition Protection Agency, established in 2008, has investigative authority and may impose penalties to companies and state bodies if they do not follow competition rules.

Amendments to the Criminal Code and amendments to the law on penalties were adopted in July and they allow the court to impose a penalty of 1-10% of the turnover of the companies breaking competition rules. The penal law also envisages a penalty of up to 4,000 EUR for persons convicted of breaking competition rules.

There are no systemic challenges to Montenegro's ability to undertake the EU





membership obligations when it comes to state aid. As regards the institutional framework, the competent authority for state aid is the State Aid Control Commission, a collegial body passing decisions on state aid based on the opinion of the state aid unit of the Finance Ministry. Efforts are needed to enhance the institutional capacity and autonomy of the Commission. Its efficiency and quality of decisions will be a matter of high scrutiny by the Commission in the future. This entails in particular the harmonisation of the restructuring aid to the metal industry with the obligations outlined in the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA).

When it comes to liberalisation, a number of Montenegrin companies enjoy special and exclusive rights, for instance in the area of electric energy, pharmaceuticals, road and rail infrastructure, postal services, radio and TV, foresting, utility services, naval services management, and management of goods in the public interest. Before any progress is made in this area, it will be necessary to make additional analyses and monitor companies

that enjoy special and exclusive rights. When it comes to sensitive industries (such as electronic communication, energy, transport, finance, etc.), which are regulated by special sector regulations, it is likely that more amendments will be needed in order to loosen the barriers for entry into market and to boost competition.

State aid granted to the aluminium smelter KAP and the Nikšić steelworks, as well as their compatibility with Montenegro's obligations under the SAA, are problematic. The Commission has requested further evidence of the facts considered in deciding on the risk premium collected from the issuing of state guarantees to support these companies' loans.

The SAA contains provisions closely aligned with a great portion of the competition *acquis*, and these are related to the agreements on anti-competitive activities, abuse of dominant position and state aid which distorts competition. Certain SAA provisions are applied to public companies and to companies with special and exclusive rights and they prohibit quantitative limitations on import from the EU to Montenegro. The SAA envisages the establishment of an autonomous body tasked with oversight of the competition rules implementation. It also contains a protocol on state aid to the steel industry.



The competition policy chapter is among the more demanding ones, judging by Croatia's experience, who only closed the chapter towards the end of negotiations. As state aid control is of vital importance for preserving the single market, competition policy is one of the chapters in which Montenegro will have to meet all the requirements with virtually no possibility of meeting certain commitments later on or negotiating some exclusions.

– last time' principle, as well as in the sectors of steel-production, aluminium, and aerial transport. The European Commission will also closely monitor the cases brought to the State Aid Control Commission and will demand stronger administrative capacity, more transparency, and, most importantly, more cases solved by the State Aid Control Commission.

It is expected that torrents of work will be needed in aligning regulations on rehabilitation and restructuring and meeting the 'one time

Consumers' benefits from harmonisation with EU competition rules are notable and tangible. This is due to the adoption of a series of protective rules stemming from the competition policy, but also due to abetting competition between companies visible in better products, services, and prices, investment in innovation and new technology, product diversity, etc. For instance, EU competition rules enabled viewers from member states to watch large sporting events such as the Olympics and world cup in football on free TV channels. Another example of consumers' benefits from strict enforcement of competition rules are lower prices of new cars and greater transparency in price-setting.

Citizens of Montenegro, due to very difficult transition experience, often perceive the arrival of European companies as something that would devastate Montenegrin companies, tie them to central offices elsewhere, and establish monopoly on our already fragile market.

However, this will not happen, as European regulations clearly protect the market from agreements among companies that would bring about price-fixing or limit production or introduce monopolies. EU institutions and their regulations make up an anti-trust structure with anti-monopoly policies aimed to protect all companies.

Source: publication "Europe in my town – what are we negotiating and what the negotiations with the EU are bringing to us?", published as part of the project "Europe in my town", which was implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) during 2011 and 2012, in cooperation with the Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiatives (CI) from Belgrade, with the support of the EU Delegation in Montenegro.

European Union from Monet to Nobel

When in his 1946 Zurich speech **Winston Churchill** said: "I am going to say something that will astonish you. The first step in the recreation of the European Family must be a partnership between France and Germany," it seemed a bold statement to say the least, given that WWII had just ended and bearing in mind all the Nazi crimes. However, Churchill's visionary statement came to fruition as early as 1952 with the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community, which came to be precisely due to the relationship between France and Germany. The French planning commissioner **Jean Monet** was saying that economic integration must come before political unification. A guarantee of successful integration is the principle of supra-nationality; and in the integration processes one should tackle easy tasks first, those where consensus exists and which would be used as corner-stones for the more difficult issues. Owing to Monet and his principles, but also to **Robert Schuman**, who was the foreign minister at the time, a declaration establishing the Coal and Steel Community was signed and came to be known as the Schuman Declaration. The signatories to the agreement were France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The early motive for establishing the Community was security, as many Europeans felt German industry was developing too quickly and should be controlled. The establishment of the Community provided a control mechanism, as coal and steel were very important for the economy, especially military industry. The expansion of the European Union, which came about with the merger of the Coal and Steel Community with the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community in 1967, brought better task coordination, more efficiency, and less cost. From the early 1980s onwards, security motives increasingly started giving way to the social and economic ones. The EU's main political motives today are to preserve the rule of law, national interests, various social benefits, cultural specifics, and differing views among EU

member-states on the best model of market-based democracy. One of the main *integration motives* is economy. Precisely this motive is the main challenge to EU's survival. Today, when the crisis is affecting all, including the EU, the Union's greatest challenge is to reject any form of protectionism that would threaten to destroy numerous benefits which the citizens have reaped from the vast 500-million-people market. It is impossible to foresee in which direction the EU strategies will develop, bearing in mind the Union is a specific creation that has constantly been changing its structure since inception. This year's Nobel committee award, as a support to unified Europe, comes at a time of greatest challenges for the EU's survival. And just as many times before, it is Germany and France who have the greatest influence and are attempting to respond to the great challenges threatening to divide Europe. A question looms: whether a large united EU would be better equipped to respond to challenges than all the countries individually? The Union has already undertaken a coordinated action to stabilise the banking system and to assist the economic revival. Austerity measures are becoming inevitable having in mind the large debts accumulated by the member-states. Given that EU's own survival is at stake, it is only normal that Western Balkans' integration is slowing down, as the crisis effects are even stronger in the countries of prolonged transition. At the time when Europe faces many challenges, perhaps this year's Nobel Prize is a just and bold message similar to the one sent to an even more divided Europe by Winston Churchill.

by Nikša Grgurević

This piece was published in the daily newspaper Vijesti on 12 November 2012. European Pulse publishes it as the winner for the best article on Montenegro's EU integration.

How the EU fights obesity, a key cause of many health problems

Taxes on “unhealthy” food

In late August, the European Commission adopted an initiative promoting health-enhancing physical activity, the first ever proposal for a Council Recommendation on sport. This is just one among many measures undertaken by the EU institutions and member-states aimed at combating growing obesity in Europe. Obesity is one of the main risk factors for the development of non-communicable diseases, notably cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular and lung diseases. It is estimated that non-communicable diseases are the main causes behind almost 86% of deaths in Europe, and 77% of the disease burden.

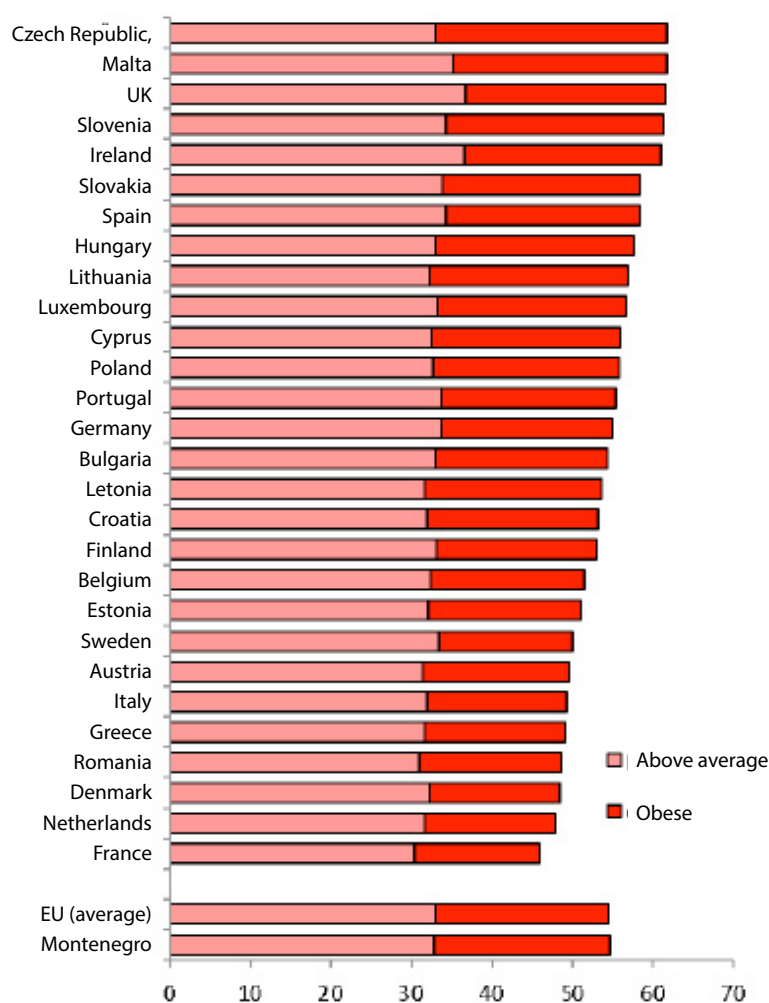
According to the WHO, it is estimated that in Europe 50% of all men and women were overweight in 2008, and on average around 23% of all women and 20% of men were obese. The situation is the worst in the Czech Republic, Slovenia, the UK, and Malta, where virtually every third person is overweight.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is estimated that in Europe 50% of all men and women were overweight in 2008, and on average around 23% of all women and 20% of men were obese. The situation is the worst in the Czech Republic, Slovenia, the UK, and Malta, where virtually every third person is overweight; the smallest percentage of obese people (15%) was found in France.

Androulla Vassiliou, the commissioner responsible for sport said that much more can be done through our policies to encourage people to get out of their chairs.

“This initiative is an important milestone in the Commission’s efforts to promote health-enhancing physical activity in the EU. We propose measures across all those policy sectors that can enable citizens’ to be or to become physically active,” the commissioner said. “By acting together with the member states we will reduce the significant costs arising from by the lack of physical activity in Europe,” Vassiliou added. The rates of physical inactivity in the EU remain alarmingly high: two thirds of Europeans never or seldom exercising or playing sport.

The initiative for grater physical activity is not Commission’s first such project, which has for a while been initiating and financing a number of activities to combat this modern menace.



Source: World Health Organisation Population older than 20 years and more

Since 1980, obesity has become a global problem affecting all social strata regardless of age, sex, or income. In addition to strict rules on nutritional advertisement on food products, the EU offers subventions to schools to enable free delivery of fruit and milk to students and help develop habits to eat healthy food instead of fast food. Every third Saturday in May is labelled “European Obesity Day,” during which campaigns and education programmes are undertaken to inform people of the ways of life helping prevent obesity.

The European Commission has already come up with numerous initiatives to combat obesity. In addition to strict rules on nutritional advertisement on food products, the EU offers subventions to schools to enable free delivery of fruit and milk to students and help develop the habit of eating healthy food instead of fast food.

In spite of all efforts, obesity in Europe is on the rise, and by around a million each year, and the experts concur that it is simply not enough just to inform people better. "Everyone talks about prevention and with prevention they typically mean education and finding ways to get people to do more physical exercise and live more healthy lifestyles, but when you raise the point with them; 'Is it effective?', very few can give an answer at all," says Frederik Erixon of the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE). Philippe Roux from the European Commission's health directorate agrees, adding that it is necessary to change the way people think about obesity and food. "I can confirm that despite many efforts both at European and international level, the number of obese people is constantly rising," Roux said at the recent European Parliament debate. Insisting that the obesity epidemic additionally strains already tight health budgets, and hoping it would help fill the existing gaps, a number of member-states have of recent started experimenting with more direct measures – introducing taxes on “unhealthy” food. For similar reasons, taxes on tobacco products have been extremely high for the past several years in virtually all EU countries. Such taxes have of late been introduced for certain foods and drinks, but the results are still limited. The Danish government's attempts to introduce additional taxes on beer, wine, chocolate, ice-cream, and carbonated drinks were a great bust. Instead of making Danish consumers eat more healthy food, the result was a large

trade increase in German border areas, whereas Denmark convenience stores had to cut jobs and the government reintroduced old taxes. Finland had somewhat more success, when in 2011 it introduced extra taxes on candies, chocolate, cocoa-based products, and ice-cream, as well as a separate tax on soft drinks. A similar initiative took place in Hungary, whose unhealthy food tax includes various soft drinks, energy drinks, pre-packed sweetened products, salty snacks, and condiments. In France, a tax on all beverages with added sugar or with artificial sweeteners was introduced in 2012, and a similar tax is being considered in Ireland. No one, however, knows whether these measures will have any success.

Annalisa Belloni, health policy analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), said that countries who introduce food and drinks taxes may expect similar consequences as Denmark, adding however that cross-border trade is a much bigger issue when it comes to alcohol and tobacco, as people have to buy food almost every day. Bigger taxes, however, will have a greater health benefit for the low social and economic status groups by changing their habits. This precisely is a category where obesity is widespread, among other things because fast food and food with additional sweeteners and salt is usually cheaper than healthier alternatives.

V.Š.

Health-care systems in the region suffer from corruption, poor equipment, lack of medications, long waiting lists...

No money no health

If region's citizens were to describe their countries' health-care systems, they would first name graft and corruption, on which health often depends, then poor equipment, lack of money, lack of medications, and long waiting-lists for appointments and surgeries. They will also note that some doctors know their jobs and treat patients like human beings and not just social security numbers. At the same time, many in Europe wouldn't be able to understand that due to deteriorating health-care systems doctors, nurses, but also patients go on strikes.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH)

BIH's health-care system's condition is – very ill. Just like the country itself, the health-care is divided into entities and cantons, with high levels of corruption. Hospitals have poor equipment, and dominion of ignorance is no rare sight. No one has offered a remedy, and the system's recovery is nowhere in sight. Health-care insurance rights in BIH are offered through 13 funds, meaning only loss, debt, and general frustration among citizens, who have to spend months waiting for appointments and buy medications on their own because hospitals lack them. Poor health protection institutes in BIH are incapable of meeting the needs of health-care users. This recently affected patients in the Republic of Srpska who require kidney dialysis. For a few days they protested in front of the Clinical Centre in Banja Luka and refused treatment in order to convince the health ministry they are indeed persons with disabilities. Losing this status, dialysis patients lost their 40 EUR/month income for free medical care, which goes up to 150 EUR in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the end, the ministry obliged. BIH health-care system is based on the principle of solidarity and social security contributions. However, a great deal is paid for by the insurers themselves. In several Federation cantons, citizens are offered to purchase additional premiums, allowing them to avoid paying for more complex medical services. For example, an MRI appointment costs around 60 EUR with a valid health-care ID. In the canton of Hercegovina-Neretva, one can avoid these expenses by buying an annual premium costing additional 10 EUR per year. In 2011, an average-salary worker in

In 2011, an average-salary worker in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had to spend on average almost 1.500 EUR on health-care. Official data show health insurance institute spent 290 EUR per patient.

the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had to spend on average almost 1.500 EUR for health-care. Official data show health insurance institute spent 290 EUR per patient. However, there's been a trace of light in BIH's health-care system recently. In the Sarajevo canton, electronic IDs have been officially implemented, and by the end of 2014 there should be no more waiting in lines or renewing the IDs in person.

Serbia

According to surveys, quality of its health services places Serbia at the bottom of 34 European countries, which may easily be confirmed by visiting a health institution near you. Crowded waiting-rooms where cramming patients hold pages of medical reports and other documents, waiting for hours since early mornings for set appointments are a regular sight on a working day in virtually all medical establishments treating Serbian citizens. And

When your priorities are mixed up as in Serbia, you get to be last in Europe with a general mortality rate similar to some African states (14.2 per thousand), says Draško Karađinović from NGO Doctors against Corruption.

this is just for those who made appointments, since one often waits for those from six months up to two years. The state showed its sluggishness even in a great number of cases of young people whose life was at stake, who applied for foreign transplant lists but whose families were unable to pay for the expenses.

Many people, often pensioners, some of whom are gravely ill, have suffered this year from a medications shortage in state-run pharmacies. After days of unsuccessful search, those more fortunate to have some savings bought them at private pharmacies or abroad, while the others waited for the state to act, solving the problem, but just for now. “The problems of Serbia’s non-reformed health-care system would be troublesome even for better organised and more efficient health-care systems, and are especially for Serbia’s one devastated by systemic corruption,” warns **Draško Karadinović** from NGO Doctors against Corruption. “We are perishing in great numbers from cardiovascular and malign illnesses. These two groups of diseases can easily be controlled through preventive action and good work. We face a great problem here for not dealing with them by providing treatment and therapy. It’s easy to spot mixed up priorities in Serbia’s health-care system. And when your priorities are mixed up as in Serbia, you get to be last in Europe with a general mortality rate similar to some African states (14.2 per thousand). This state of Serbia’s health-care is primarily due to systemic institutional corruption. These bad indicators of quality of health-care are a direct outcome of system’s malfunction,” says Draško Karadinović from NGO Doctors against Corruption.

Croatia

Around 50.000 Croatian doctors and nurses have announced protests for September, threatening to gather almost 70% of Croatia’s medical staff. They are unhappy with the new collective agreement and no overtime pay. But those in the know say the entire health-care system is about to collapse because its foundations rest on corruption, benefitting just health-care elites and big money, and not citizens. Every new health minister in Croatia waves around with waiting lists and promises they’d be shortened, but patients still spend months waiting for appointments, and some sadly never even get to have them. Free Dalmatia journalist **Nataša Škaričić**, awarded 2013 Reporter of the Year by Croatia’s reporter’s association for uncovering the so-called Farmal Affair of corruption links between doctors and pharmaceuticals industry, reiterates that this corruption is more complex than just the “blue envelope” model. The entire system, she says, is founded on corruption, benefitting the

“Last year, 40 Croatian doctors submitted complete documentation seeking employment in the EU. This year there were 36 just in July. If you multiply that by 12, you get 400 for the whole year, says Ivica Babić, president of medical doctors’ syndicate in Croatia.

pharmaceutical elites and the big money, not patients. That’s why it’s not in their interest to reduce the waiting lists. At the same time, the patients can’t commend enough the staff and service at the Rebro Clinical Centre in Zagreb, or medical Centre Siget (New Zagreb), or the Merkur Hospital, once they get to be treated by reaching top of the list or being brought in as emergencies. A middle-aged doctor, field specialist, who is on night duty four times a month, is paid 1.300 EUR, which is not a lot considering. Because of this they ask to be paid for every single hour of overtime, instead of a flat rate. Ivica Babić, president of medical doctors’ syndicate in Croatia (who is criticised by some for organising strikes only when SDP runs the Government, but not when HDZ does) warns that, according to EU standards, Croatia today lacks 4.500 specialist doctors and as much as 10.000 nurses. It is absurd, Babić says, that at the same time Croatian market is flooded with both nurses and doctors, many of who will look for employment in the EU countries, whose doors are now wide open for medical workers. “Last year, 40 Croatian doctors submitted complete documentation seeking employment in the EU. This year there were 36 just in July. If you multiply that by 12, you get 400 for the whole year.” Just this summer, MPs asked the Government to return the rate for social security contributions to 15% from last year’s 13%, as the decrease did not help the entrepreneurs much, but the health safety of citizens has been additionally shaken.

Source: Radio Free Europe

Promoting the national LGBT strategy

LGBT Forum Progress hosted on 26 August 2013, in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, within the *Visible LGBT Community* programme, a panel discussion entitled “Promoting the national LGBT strategy.” The event took place at the multimedia conference hall of the Human Resources Authority of Montenegro.

The panel was inaugurated by H.E. Laurent Stokvis, the Dutch ambassador, H.E. **Catherine Knight-Sands**, the UK ambassador, and **Aleksandar Saša Zeković**, president of the management board at LGBT Forum Progress.

The LGBT strategy was discussed in detail by **Mersudin Gredić** of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and **Stevan Milivojević**, deputy director at LGBT Forum Progress, noting in particular the importance this strategy has in promoting society’s acceptance of LGBT persons.

Speakers at other sessions were **Tamara Milić**, senior adviser at the Education Ministry, and **Srđa Korać** and **Tamara Popović** from the Police Directorate.

The panel was closed by LGBT Forum Progress director **Zdravko Cimbalević**, who spoke of the role police plays in ensuring safety of the SeaSide Pride and other parades announced this year.

The Centre for Civic Education (CCO) was represented by **Tamara Milaš**, programme associate.

CCE and Friedrich Ebert Foundation issue an ADVERTISEMENT for XXII generation of the

DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

- school for learning democracy from theory to practice -

School comprises 5 modules lasting for total of four months. The sessions will be held once or twice a week for two hours. All expenses are covered by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Centre for Civic Education (CCE), and the participants are required to attend at least 80% of the programme. Upon completion, the participants will receive a certificate and be eligible for further educational development.

The right to participate have all those who want to contribute to the development of democracy and civic society in Montenegro. All candidates are welcome, regardless of age, gender, nationality, religion or personal convictions, noting that preference will be given to members of political parties and non-governmental organisations, as well as all individuals who demonstrate a high level of social activism.

The programme of the Democracy School is designed in such a way to offer wider understanding of the idea of democracy and ways in which the idea has been implemented within various social environments.

Moderator of the School is Prof. dr Radovan Radonjic and other lecturers are renowned Montenegrin and international experts.

All those interested are invited to submit their applications with short biography (CV) by **15 September 2013** at the latest, to the following address:

Centre for Civic Education
(for “Democracy School”)
Njegoševa 36, I floor, 81 000 Podgorica
Tel/Fax: 020 / 665 112
E-mail: info@cgo-cce.org

International Day of the Disappeared

A media conference was held on 30 August, marking the International Day of the Disappeared, by the Association of the families of the victims killed and kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija "Crveni božur" (Red Peony).

The conference discussed progress made in the search for the disappeared, noting that according to official data around 12,000 persons are still believed missing or killed during the 1990s conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. A message was sent that the countries and the societies of the former Yugoslavia have an obligation continuously and with great commitment to work towards bringing to light the fates of all the disappeared, and that they must not forget the pain of the families who are still searching for their loved ones.

The conference speakers were the Association of the families of victims „Crveni Božur“ president **Ljubiša Filipović**, Association members **Milena Radević** and **Milena Jovanović**, as well as Centre for Civic Education (CCE) programme coordinator **Mirela Rebronja**.

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) is publishing an ADVERTISEMENT for XVII generation of the

HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOOL

- school for learning human rights from theory to practice -

School comprises 3 modules in total of one intensive week with numerous lectures, workshops, film screenings and theater forums which will offer an opportunity to learn and discuss various topics concerning human rights. All costs related to the School are covered by the CCE, with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the regional project of human rights education in the Western Balkans.

Human rights school provides broad theoretical and practical knowledge on concept of human rights, affirms the culture of human rights, inspiring and motivating people to stand for their rights, as well as for those who are not able to do that on their own and to empower them to have more direct influence within society in future.

Right to apply have all interested candidates aged 16-19 years, regardless of gender, nationality, religion or belief, with the indication that advantage is given to the offspring of political parties, nongovernmental organizations activist, youth leaders, volunteers, students and individuals who demonstrate a high degree of social activism.

Expert lecturers will be working with the participants through the presentations, workshops and film screenings dealing with broad spectrum of human rights issues.

Upon finishing of the School the participants shall receive a certificate and be eligible for further educational development.

If you want to know, listen to the others, to understand those who are different, and you are open, courageous, concern about the environment in which you are leaving and eager to contribute to the development of culture of human rights in Montenegro, Human rights school is the choice for you!

All interested candidates may submit their application with short biography not later than **30. September 2013**, on the address:

Centre for Civic Education
(for "Human Rights School")
Njegoševa 36, I floor, 81 000 Podgorica
Tel/fax: 020 / 665 112
Email: info@cgo-cce.org

Personal and Postdoctoral Research Grants, Estonia

Estonian Research Council is a governmental foundation, established on the basis of the Estonian Science Foundation and combined with the Research Cooperation Centre to concentrate the funding of R&D and guarantee the better functioning of financing systems. The body is the main funding organization of R&D, consolidating different grants and types of funding and giving research more visibility in the society.

The post-doctoral research grant is a research grant that the Estonian Research Council will award to an applicant as a result of an open international competition for the purpose of implementation of a particular research project. The duration of a post-doctoral research grant may be from 12 to 24 months. Estonian Research Council will award both incoming and outgoing research grants.

The scholarships are eligible for those, who have, on the due date for submissions, their first Estonian doctoral degree or the foreign equivalent and have not held such a degree for more than five years and have not received their doctorate from the same institution at which the postdoctoral project is being applied for.

The grant includes remuneration of the post-doctoral fellow 27,000 EUR annually, research-related costs (for an experimental research project – 6,000 EUR, for a non-experimental research project – 3,200 EUR). The post-doctoral fellows whose employment entails relocation to Estonia from another country or from Estonia to another country can request a non-recurrent relocation support of EUR 6,500. The evaluation committee will assess the justification for that request.

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2013.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.etag.ee/research-funding/personal-research-funding/?lang=en>

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