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to take away

Interview

Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker, Ambassador
of the FR Germany to Montenegro

Region

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Foreword:

Mechanism



Vladan Žugjić

A recent inspection in the workshop of the Radio Television of Montenegro (RTCG) showed that deliberate damage was made to the company vehicle of the general director of that media house, **Rade Vojvodić**. The EU Delegation to Montenegro and the OSCE mission expressed their concern regarding this event.

RTCG and its employees did not have to suffer unpleasantness, or more serious offences, for over a decade, since the verbal attacks they received mainly came from the politicians of the opposition accusing them of lack of professionalism and bias towards DPS. Unless they chose to keep them secret, like Vojvodić did.

Following the discovery of intentionally and by no means harmless damage on his vehicle, Vojvodić revealed that this was in fact "the culmination of enormous pressure that has been mounting over the last seven months both on him personally and on the management of RTCG."

But instead of issuing a communiqué worthy of a communist bureau, in which he expressed the hope that the police and prosecution will do their job effectively, the director of the Public service should have disclosed who put the pressure on him and the management.

The series "Mechanism", which explores alleged corruptive actions of some of the ruling elite, elaborating on the deals that have been followed by the independent media in previous years, is a proof that RTCG still has both real journalists and technicians. Professionally, the series was well executed, although its denunciation of a part of the ruling elite conspicuously avoided any mention of the other parts.

However, should Vojvodić remain silent about the pressures his house suffered, and should the police and the prosecution as usual fail to discover anything, and should the RTCG's information programme continue to favour DPS as before, the "Mechanism" will become little else but a performance to rekindle the trust of the domestic public into the Public service, discredit some individuals from the ruling politico-economic elite and an attempt to persuade Brussels and other international spectators that there are "positive improvements" in professionalism and independence of RTCG.

Calendar

- 7-8 July **Danielsson in Montenegro** / During his official visit to Montenegro, **Christian Danielsson**, European Commission's Director-General for EU Neighbourhood & Enlargement, said that the rule of law, which includes the efficient fight against organised crime and corruption, is one of the main challenges on the country's path to EU accession.
- 16 July **EU provided 28 million for social protection** / **Roman Boitard**, manager in the EU Delegation in Podgorica, announced that in addition to IPA II funds, EU will invest another EUR 28 million to improve social protection in Montenegro, and estimated that the key to effective policy is the increased labor market participation.
- 21 July **Pig registration campaign began** / **Petar Ivanović**, minister of agriculture and rural development, announced the beginning of the pig registration and identification campaign, as part of the EU-financed project *Strengthening veterinary services of Montenegro*, and added that with that step Montenegro finishes the marking of all productive animals in the country in line with EU requirements.
- 23 July **Establishment of anti-corruption agency a significant step** / At the constitutive session of the Council of the Anti-Corruption Agency, **Mitja Drobnič**, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, said that the establishment of the Agency constitutes one of the most significant institutional steps towards improvement of the rule of law.
- 24 July **Montenegro ready to assist Serbia** / Montenegrin institutions are ready to share the knowledge and experience of the negotiation process with their counterparts in Serbia and other countries of the region, it was announced at the first meeting of the Joint Committee of Montenegro and Serbia on EU accession.
- 27 July **The Saline to be declared a protected area by September** / In a letter to Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović**, members of the European Parliament (EP), **Anneliese Dodds** and **Terry Reintke**, said that the process of declaring the Ulcinj Saline a protected area should be completed by September, and reminded that the Saline represents a home to millions of birds, including rare species. They welcomed the fact that the Government recognised the importance of the Saline and undertook the first steps towards the preservation of that area.
- 27 July **NGOs are not ornaments on Montenegro's EU integration** / Non-governmental organisations (NGO) should not be ornaments in Montenegro's EU integration, warned **Ana Novaković**, director of Centre for the development of non-governmental organisations (CRNVO), at the conference on the experiences of NGOs with integration process. "It will be possible to talk about the success of this process only when the Government takes into account the work and the proposals of the NGO sector," she said.

The EU should be more realistic, rather than building a Lego-land of new requests



By: Dejan Jović

Full membership in the European Union is still an attractive foreign policy objective for political elites and large segments of population in all countries of Western Balkans. Politicians in all of them issue statements to this effect. They measure their own political success by clear evidence that the country has made progress towards EU.

To be a member of EU still means – to be recognised as a “normal” country, no longer “in transition” and thus less successful than others. Transition in these countries has been painful and complex, and general public is by now tired of it. Without membership in the EU, many would feel that efforts so far have not been recognised and rewarded.

For long period of now almost 25 years since the old Yugoslavia collapsed, its successor-states have been treated more as objects, not subjects, of foreign policy. They often had to do what they did not want to do, and were prevented from doing what they wanted. Once members of the EU, they feel they would be much more independent in their foreign policy. Hence, even nationalists and sovereignists now support membership in the EU, hoping that the mail “national interests” would be best served if their country joins the Union.

However, it seems unlikely that the membership in the EU is to be achieved in near future by any of the countries of remaining Western Balkans. The EU itself is ever more sceptical towards the idea of further enlargement. Although the Western Balkans is actually not the area of enlargement – but of “consolidation” of EU – since the area is already encircled by EU member-states and thus new membership does not involve expansion eastwards, some countries announced referenda on any new state joining the EU. None of the candidate-countries has any strong “sponsor-state” within the EU – which is rather different compared to Germany’s sponsorship of Croatia, or Greek sponsorship of Cyprus. Furthermore, EU seems to be engaged with its own internal crises, such as: the crisis of financial sector, the Greek crisis, the issue of migration and the relationship with Russia over Ukraine. The vision of further development is now more blurred than ever. Although none of these crises originated in the Western Balkans, almost all have affected EU relations with this region too. Relative failure of Bulgaria, Romania and now also Croatia in consolidating of its own finances since they joined the EU, makes some member-states additionally cautious about new members. In 2003, before the economic crisis, EU issued a clear

promise to all countries of Western Balkans that the doors are opened to all countries of Western Balkans. Would EU be willing to repeat such promise today?

The more EU hesitates even to indicate tentative date of membership for the remaining candidates, the more difficult it would become to respond to questions such as: “Why would we even try to undertake serious reforms, when in our lifetime there might be no clear reward?” Changes that the EU demands from candidate-countries are deep and sometimes painful. In words, it is easy to promote “reforms”. But, in deeds, it is even easier to continue with “business as usual”, to float on the waves of inertia. The EU too is sometimes also rather unrealistic, as it keeps increasing its demands and expectations, in an upgraded version of “Copenhagen Plus” criteria. Many of these new requests are almost impossible to satisfy by countries that are in worse economic, social and even political situation than those that joined under less demanding criteria. Even those who joined in 2007 and 2013 have often only simulated reforms in order to please the EU. But, were the reforms irreversible? The EU should be more realistic when issuing new requests and expectations. It should concentrate on relatively small number of absolutely crucial improvements, rather than building a Lego-land of new and new requests, which can only discourage pro-EU forces in candidate countries.

After the crisis in Ukraine, the EU is facing political competition for influence in countries outside the Union, in European East and Southeast. This should also be taken into account, especially in Western Balkans. Russia and Turkey are unlikely to offer more than EU to countries of this region. However, unless EU offers membership in due course, the impact of these other regional powers will be ever bigger. It is in the interest of EU to include new members from Western Balkans as soon as it can.

Long lodging in EU waiting room is unproductive as it does not make candidate-countries much better. But it risks their turning towards other alternatives. In an emerging multipolarism in European internal and external peripheries, this would be a wrong direction to move on.

The author is Professor of International Relations at the University of Zagreb.

Source: europeanwesternbalkans.com

What impact can the Greek crisis have on
EU's enlargement policy and on the Western Balkans

Greece - lessons ought to be learned



By: Svetlana Pešić

According to most observers, the crisis in Greece, which we still cannot say is finished, could have negative consequences on the European integration of Western Balkans and on the progress of those states which - just like the European Union itself - could learn numerous lessons from what had been happening and continues to happen a country that used to be the European anchor in the Balkans.

"Greece is the perfect example of what clientelism, corruption and permanently flawed political elections can lead to. If we are smart, we will do everything to avoid such a political future. If we are not already too deep in it, that is", says **Ines Sabalić**, journalist of the Croatian "Globus", and a long-standing reporter from Brussels to numerous media from the region. She told for the *European pulse* that

decades of clientelism and corruption that permeate each through each pore of the Greek society, resulted in a corruption that affected everybody in the country, not just a handful of officials. And that, according to her, is the Greek's biggest tragedy.

"Merkel was not the one voting for decades for corrupt political elites, it was Greeks themselves. They were the ones who stood in line before the doors of the residence of the first Prime Minister after the fall of the military dictatorship and waved with blue envelopes

Greece is the perfect example of what clientelism, corruption and permanently flawed political elections can lead to. If we are smart, we will do everything to avoid such a political future, Ines Sabalić warned.

which contained money, and **Andreas Papandreou** would in turn promise and give them jobs in state administration", Sabalić said.

She said that it was both the citizens' and the politicians' perception of democracy - politicians treated it as the right to flattery and provided services in exchange for votes in the elections, and citizens as a self-evident right to, for instance, be rewarded if you are not late for work, retire at the age of fifty, have the fourteenth salary and so on.

"Almost nobody paid taxes, it was not just the rich and the privileged ones who evaded paying, but also the poor, even the middle class citizens did not have the habit. Greeks are struggling, they are going down, and today its everybody's fault, but not their own", Sabalić said.

She added that Greece is a typical Balkan country, in the negative sense of the word "Balkan", which implies a mockery of rules and procedures, lying and deceiving business and political partners, repudiation of the customs of better and more developed countries, but also the tendency to extract as much as possible from them."Greece is defended by a great number of people from the region. They do it out of fear because they recognise the similarities, they simply understand the way in which it has been working", Sabalić explained.



Ines Sabalić

She reminded that Greece obtained its membership of the EU in 1981, in spite of the negative opinion of the European Commission on its preparedness, and that twenty years later it faked its statistics in order to be allowed into the euro zone.

"Montenegro would be more developed than that because Montenegro realised that its judiciary should be improved, corruption should be vanquished, statistics should be made more independent - and the Central Bank - and that reforms simply have to be implemented. If there was any justice, Greece would be sitting in the waiting room next to Macedonia and they wouldn't be allowed to go forward until they realise that they must not do harm to their neighbours, but cooperate with them", Sabalić suggested.

She stressed that all states of the region are fortunate because they have the imperative of negotiations on EU membership. "That is something that Greece never went through, and it should have", Sabalić said.



Davor Đenero

Political analyst **Davor Đenero** believes that "the worst case scenario is behind us" after the Troika made a deal with Greece.

"The worst solution for the common European enlargement policy would be for Greece to exit the Eurozone, or the EU", Đenero said, explaining that there is no prescribed procedure for exiting the euro zone, only the steps necessary to exit the EU. He also agrees with the fact that Greece's main problem is that it does not function according to the EU membership criteria - it failed to maintain hard budget constraints, it greatly deviated from Maastricht criteria...

"Grexit" would greatly obstruct any further enlargement on the Balkans, but even if the worst case scenario is avoided in Greece it does not mean that the EU, and especially the group of member states supporting German policy, will not look upon the Balkans with even more suspicion", said Davor Đenero

Even though it faces similar challenges, and cannot maintain the prescribed level of budget deficit of public debt, Croatia, in Đenero's opinion, poses a lesser problem for the Union than to Greece, since it is not a member of the Eurozone and its fiscal imbalance does not have a direct impact on other member states of the monetary union. He reminded that there was discussion about the Montenegrin model for Greece, i.e. using the euro as a currency, but without the possibility of printing the money and monetary influence.

Đenero believes that the Greek crisis intensified not just the "enlargement fatigue" in the EU, but also the "Balkans fatigue".

"The question that keeps being asked throughout the most stable Eurozone member states, not just in Germany which we always hear about, but also in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, is whether Balkan states are capable of functioning within hard budget constraints. "Grexit" would greatly obstruct any further enlargement on the Balkans, but even if the worst case scenario is avoided in Greece it does not mean that the EU, and especially the group of member states supporting German policy, will not look upon the Balkans with even more suspicion", Đenero told *European pulse*.

The states of this region are fortunate because of the way in which they have to negotiate EU membership. This is something Greece never went through, and it should have, says Ines Sabalić



Ivan Vejvoda

However, the vice president of the German Marshall Fund (GMF), **Ivan Vejvoda** believes that the situation in Greece does not question the credibility of the EU nor of the entire European project.

It is not a coincidence that the German chancellor **Angela Merkel** recently visited Belgrade, Sarajevo and Tirana, where she delivered a message to Greece's neighbours reiterating German commitment to the idea of EU expansion in this region, a very important message should the Greek crisis not be solved any time soon, Vejvoda said. In a comment on GMF's website, he pointed out that every Balkan state is still vulnerable and that Greek crisis could jeopardise their progress. "Economies of the region are fragile, with poor growth and high unemployment levels", Vejvoda said and added that those are relatively young democracies, and the reconciliation in the region is fragile.

Local and foreign parties that advocate destabilisation instead of consolidation of democracy and security of the region could benefit from the turmoil in Greece", Vejvoda warned. He reminded that Greece was a significant anchor of stability in the southeast Europe and NATO: "When the former Yugoslavia imploded and disintegrated, Greece was a rare example in the region of a successful EU and NATO membership, and demonstrated the possible future of democratic stability and economic prosperity for the states that were created with the disintegration of Yugoslavia". However, now, according to him, Greece represents a source of potential economic and political instability in the South-East Europe. "Two decades ago, Greece was a role model for its neighbours, with a stable, consolidated democracy, which relied on good governance and rule of law, as well as on prosperous economy. Today it finds itself in a

Local and foreign parties that advocate destabilisation instead of consolidation of democracy and security of the region could benefit from the turmoil in Greece", Ivan Vejvoda warned

completely different situation", Vejvoda said. He believes that Greece needs deep structural reforms in order to combat nepotism among political parties and the influence of the oligarchs. Today, according to him, Greece must first undergo radical reforms, similar to those of their neighbours, perhaps again like a role model, but this time parallel to them.

Nonetheless, Greek GDP is still higher than the GDP of all former Yugoslav state put together, and the country plays an important economic role in the Balkans, Vejvoda said, adding that Greece was an important investor in the region until 2010. If the situation in Greece further deteriorates, "financial contagion" can be expected, he argued, stressing that Greek companies could start withdrawing their investments. Vejvoda also indicated that Greece has a key position in geopolitical respect, because it is in the centre of the Mediterranean, with a strategically important NATO base in Cyprus. Vejvoda said that while it was a very responsible NATO partner, Greece was less responsible towards Macedonia, blocking this country's membership in NATO and the EU. "As a country bordering the Middle East and not too far from Ukraine, and which until recently was a factor of stability in the Balkans, it is no wonder that Greece drew the attention of Russia, which is seeking strong energy partnerships", GMF vice president said.

If Greece was to leave the euro zone, it would be more exposed to foreign pressure and influence, Vejvoda said. That is why, we must take the potential of consequences of a deteriorating situation in Greece on the Balkans seriously, in terms of politics, economy, and geostrategy, Vejvoda warned.

Ambassador of Germany to Montenegro, Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker

Montenegro's main problem is the gap between laws and their implementation on the ground

Montenegro's main problem seems to be the gap between the reform of laws and regulations and the implementation on the ground. We want to see this gap becoming ever smaller. This gap is particularly visible in the reforms of chapter 23 and chapter 24. Germany has been supporting Montenegro to this effect with experts and numerous projects, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro, **Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker** told *European Pulse*.



Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker

Asked to assess the progress Montenegro made in the first three years of negotiations with EU, she said that this was in the first line the task of the EU delegation and the relevant units in the EU Commission since, she said, a small embassy with 14 collaborators,

most of them technical and consular staff, cannot have the capacity to evaluate the negotiations in detail. "Thus we generally support the evaluation of the EU Delegation and the EU Commission", Steinacker said.

» Three years after the opening of the negotiations there has not been a single final verdict for high level corruption. Also, recently there have not even been indictments that would involve high government officials. Is it possible that Germany and the EU are turning a blind eye on such developments when it comes to Montenegro and its authorities?

We don't turn a blind eye but raise our concerns with regard to the fight against high level corruption with the government on all levels. But it is better not to talk publicly of such sensitive issues. You cannot expect miracles. The new General Prosecutor started his job

We don't turn a blind eye but raise our concerns with regard to the fight against high level corruption with the government on all levels. But it is better not to talk publicly of such sensitive issues.

8 months ago, the Special Prosecutor's Office only started to work last month. It is in my view fair to give them some time and see what they can achieve.

» Germany strongly advocates Montenegro's membership of NATO, or rather supports sending it the invitation in December. What actually needs to be done in Montenegro for the German representative to vote in favour of the invitation for Montenegro this December?

NATO will decide whether Montenegro fulfills the conditions for the membership. But Germany agrees to what the Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said so far. We would like to see Montenegro in NATO. But that depends on the public support for NATO in Montenegro and the further commitment of Montenegro to democracy and rule of law.

» For some time the analysts have been warning that the Montenegrin government only responds to strong international pressure, but remains deaf to demands of domestic stakeholders and opposition. One example is the Ulcinj Saline which, despite the warnings, appeals and critics from the NGOs and media, reacted only after Yours, and the letters of Your colleagues from France and Poland, thanks to which that reservation might be preserved. What is your experience with the Ulcinj Saline?

Germany, France and Poland are in some way stakeholders in the protection of the Ulcinj Saline as a very important place for biodiversity in Europe. Our three countries supported projects there. Germany invested several hundred thousands of Euros. The German

biologist Dr. **Martin Schneider-Jaboby** did invaluable research of the Saline together with the NGO CZIP. Unfortunately the degree of past mismanagement, in particular in the last three years, was considerable. But I'm optimistic that the government and especially the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism understood now what needs to be done to preserve this unique place and will undertake all necessary measures to protect it.

» *How do you assess the state of affairs with regard to media freedom and freedom of expression in Montenegro?*

For an outsider it is amazing to see how divided the small Montenegrin society is and how this reflects in the media. The deplorably bad ratings of Montenegro in the ratings of NGOs like Freedom House and Reporters Without Borders speak for themselves. We would like to see fast improvements in this area

which would certainly have a positive effect for the reputation of Montenegro in this field.

» *I recently read a memoir of a German official from the last century who notes that corruption is nowhere so creative as in the Balkans. In support of this, he mentions the example of a judge who used to take bribes from both sides in the process, with the promise that he will return them if he is not in a position to rule in their favour. After ruling according to what he thought was just, he would immediately try to return the bribe to the losing party, and in most cases they would refuse to take the money back, in the belief that since he wants to return it he must be really honest. What are your experiences with the corruption phenomenon in Montenegro and the Balkans in general?*

There is in my view a higher degree of corruption in the Balkans than elsewhere for many reasons, for historical reasons as well as due to developments in recent decades. This also implies that corruption is not only a Balkan phenomenon. Until several years ago German companies could even deduct bribes in

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Governments to do more to halt illegal outflows of their citizens to Western Europe

» *How would you comment the situation in the region, which faces occasional severe tensions in the relations among Western Balkan states?*

Montenegro has good relations with all its neighbors and thus contributes to peace and stability in the region. But I agree that the region is faced with many challenges. One of the major issues is to improve the social and economic situation of the poorer parts of the population in all countries of the region.

I find it difficult to accept that many thousands of citizens of the Western Balkan countries are right now migrating illegally to Western Europe and in particular to Germany while most of these countries are EU candidate countries and even started EU negotiations. It is in my view justified to expect more efforts from the governments to stop this kind of migration.

foreign countries to get a tender etc. from the tax payments. But I'm personally convinced that corruption has a detrimental effect on the society as a whole. It undermines trust and disturbs economic and social progress. Thanks to activities particularly of the civil society, NGOs like Transparency International, the overall awareness of the problem of corruption has risen. Thus we must all strive to fight corruption and to strengthen the relevant institutions to this aim.

V. Žugić



Gudrun Elisabeth Steinacker

Every tenth textile-made product is a counterfeit



EU manufacturers of textile and leather goods lose more than EUR 26 billion a year to production and distribution of counterfeit clothes, footwear and accessories, such as scarves, belts and gloves.

Sale of counterfeit clothes, footwear and accessories in the EU accounts for nearly 10% of total sales, according to the new research done by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM), the EU's agency for the protection of intellectual property.

Among the EU member states, Italy recorded the biggest loss in sales to fake textile and leather products. Revenue lost to such goods also leads to 363.000 fewer jobs in the industry, as the manufacturers and retailers who operate legally produce and sell less than they would do if there were no counterfeits on the market.

"Stove bonus" abolished



On 21 July, German Constitutional Court scrapped the so-called "stove bonus", compensation for parents who opt to care for their children at home instead of sending them to kindergartens. This ends a long-standing dispute between

the Bavarian Conservatives who first introduced the measure and Social Democrats who see it as an incentive for women to stay at home.

This dispute reveals profound differences on various social issues between the two coalition partners in the German government. The Law introduced in 2013, and disputed by the Constitutional Court, grants parents to chose to keep their children at home a monthly compensation of EUR 150. A regional social-democratic government from the northern province of Hamburg brought the law to the Constitutional Court. The Court did not comment on the content of the law, but ruled that in this case the federal government has overstepped its powers, interfering with the responsibilities of regional authorities, and that it cannot decide on such issues.

Opponents of these payments believe that they incentivise women to stay at home, as they are then expected to take on nearly the entire burden of children's education, and that it discourages middle-

income households from hiring babysitters or sending their children to the kindergartens, even though it has been shown that collective activities have a positive effect on child's development.

Italy vs. powdered milk mozzarella



Mozzarella cheese made of powdered milk could soon go on sale in Italy, protected by the European principle of free movement of goods. The EC asked Italy to amend its regulations to enable production and sale of cheese made out of substitute ingredients. The Commission wrote a letter to Italian government in late May, threat penalties if the 1974 law, which prohibits sale of dairy products made of condensed or powdered milk, was not repealed. According to European regulations, Italy should allow domestic manufacturers to use these ingredients, and open its market to foreign products made on the basis of substitute ingredients. This sparked disapproval from local manufacturers and supporters of domestic production who called this the case of newest "dictate from Europe" and "heresy".

Greeks are moving companies to Bulgaria



Faced with a deep crisis at home, at least 11.000 Greek companies found shelter in neighbouring Bulgaria, the poorest EU member state, where they can also benefit from its cheap labour force. Companies moving to Bulgaria are primarily those that already do business with the West European countries, as well as those trying to take advantage of lower taxes and predictable business environment.

In the last six years, Greek companies invested about EUR five billion in the Bulgarian economy. Some 120 Greek companies opened their offices and facilities in Bulgaria since the beginning of this century, focusing on retail, metalworking, fuel distribution, construction and real estate. However, even though the Greek crisis has put an end to the great migration of business in 2009, a large number of smaller and medium-sized businesses continued to move to Bulgaria in order to take advantage of lower taxes.

Why more and more refugees are flocking to Germany, even as their chances of getting an asylum are almost nil

"The truth about the false refugees from the Balkans"



More and more refugees from the Western Balkans are coming to Germany, even though their chances of getting the asylum are minimal. The question that bothers the German media is why they keep coming. Weekly "Focus" wrote an article provocatively titled "The truth about the false refugees" which argues that more and more refugees from southeast Europe keep coming to Germany, despite the fact that their chances of getting asylum are almost nil. According to "Focus", more than 179.000 persons applied for asylum in Germany since the beginning of 2015, and this figure could increase to 450.000 by the end of the year. "The highest number of applicants comes from the Western Balkan

Manfred Schmidt, president of the Federal office for migration and refugees, believes that there is one factor that motivates high numbers of asylum applications - the German system of processing requests. Refugees from the states marked as safe countries, are still taking advantage of the long application procedures to collect some money before they are deported

To the question: "Why do refugees come to Germany?"; Mappes-Niedek replies: "Because people from the Balkans always emigrated to Germany. Many have friends or cousins in Germany"

states. 31.000 asylum seekers came to Germany from Kosovo alone, which is an increase of 1.188% compared to last year. Another 22.000 persons from Albania requested the asylum in Germany, which is an increase of 468%. More than 15.000 people came from Serbia."

Norbert Mappes-Niediek, who is quite familiar with the situation in the Balkans, wrote an article in the daily "Südwest Presse" in which he answers some questions about the wave of refugees from the Western Balkans. According to him, the majority of refugees comes from Albania and the number of asylum seekers from that country had increased seven times this year. Many others come from Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo in response to the lack of economic perspective in their countries: "Unemployment in Kosovo is over 50%. Particularly catastrophic situation is in the structurally weak Montenegro."

The article also argues that the majority of asylum seekers from the Western Balkans in Germany are not Roma and that, with the exception of a few cases in Macedonia, there are no political persecutions in Western Balkans. The Roma, explains Mappes-Niedek, are the most discriminated group of people because they represent the poorest category of citizens. "Even though the health care is free in theory, doctors and hospitals ask the Roma for money which they usually do not have. The money is thus asked of those who are usually chronically sick due to poor living conditions. In crowded classes, kids often molest Roma children."

To the question: "Why do refugees come to Germany?" Mappes-Niedek replies: "Because



people from the Balkans have always emigrated to Germany. Many have friends or cousins in Germany".

He also pointed out that this wave of refugees from the Balkans would not decline much with a re-introduction of visas, nor with the construction of a protective fence like the one Hungary is building on the border with Serbia. "If they know exactly where they want to travel and if they have the money, then practically anybody from Western Balkans can legally cross the border with Hungary. For others there is a sufficient number of free routes, through Croatia or Bosnia and Herzegovina. Pressures on the governments are also of no use. Pressure cannot create economic prospects and thus remove the main reason for escape", Norbert Mappes-Niediek told the "Südwest Presse".

"Augsburger Allgemeine" also wondered why such a great number of refugees is coming from the Balkans even though their chances of getting asylum are minimal. "To the surprise of many, the person who should have the answer to that question, recently gave his version of the story in a TV interview. **Manfred Schmidt**, president of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, believes that there is one factor behind the flood of asylum applications - the German system of processing requests. Refugees from the states marked as safe countries, are still taking advantage of the long application

Weekly "Focus" reports that more than 179.000 persons applied for asylum in Germany since the beginning of 2015, and that this figure could reach 450.000 by the end of the year

procedures to collect some money before they are deported.

More than 60 000 persons from this region filed a request for asylum in Germany, twice as many as the number of applicants from Syria", "Augsburger Allgemeine" wrote.

The report of the "Tagesspiegel" on the false refugees from the Balkans concludes that "asylum applications of persons who don't stand a chance of getting it should not be considered". The paper supported the Bavarian proposal to create a "reception centre" for refugees from the Balkans. "Whoever wants to help discriminated minorities in the Balkans has to check which EU programmes are operational there. Only the pressure on the local governments can change something", argued "Tagesspiegel"

Source: DW.DE

Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy



By: Nikola Djonović

Negotiations conducted under Chapter 31 cover the overall security and defence system of the European Union, whose aim is to preserve the common, fundamental values of the EU, strengthen international security and peace, as well as EU's identity on the international scene. The Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy are based on strategic documents, legal acts and particularly on legally binding international agreements. The EU regulation in this area stems from political declarations, common actions, positions and agreements. A state has to harmonise its national regulations with EU declarations in order to be able to conduct political dialogue within the Common Foreign and Security Policy framework, to participate in EU actions and implement restrictive measures, which are also implemented by the EU.

Specifically, this chapter includes the political dialogue with EU, issues related to relations between candidate states and the EU and its institutions, cooperation with international organisations (especially with the United

Nations and the Council of Europe), system of armament control, European security and defence policy focused on the development of civil and military capacities for the international prevention of conflicts and crisis management, as well as cooperation with NATO alliance and fight against terrorism.

Directorate for EU, a unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations, is in charge of implementing these activities, and its main objective is to improve cooperation between Montenegro and the EU. The Directorate deals with the collection, keeping and professional processing of information on political, security and other EU activities. It also prepares and attends discussions, conferences and round tables in the field of political cooperation with the EU, EU foreign and security policy, and briefing materials for the Government on political dialogue and EU foreign and security policy. Another key function of this body is to coordinate with the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the EU in Brussels and the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations is also expected to further develop the country's diplomatic service, as well as to strengthen the very Directorate for EU. Current administrative capacities are small: Montenegro has 21 embassies, 6 permanent missions and 2 general consulates. The diplomatic service consists of 238 officials - 89 in Podgorica, and 149 abroad.

Since its independence in 2006, Montenegro established close political consultations with EU member states. Institutional framework for the establishment of political dialogue began





with the formation of the Stabilisation and Association Council, after the Stabilisation and Association Agreement came into force on 1 May 2010. So far, Montenegro has been recognised by 157 states, and 156 established diplomatic relations with it. Montenegrin foreign policy is known for its good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation. Namely, Montenegro has been actively participating in the international organisations within the region of Southeast Europe, such as the Central European Initiative (CEI), South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) and Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (JJI).

Application of restrictive measures is also part of this chapter. These concern every limitation, special compensation (except for the customs, domestic tax or administrative fee for the provision of services) condition, permit, approval or other public measure that results in the limits on foreign trade. In this area, Montenegro applies every restrictive measures of United Nations Security Council, as well as those of the European Union.

Montenegro takes part in international regimes of export control and instruments of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This also concerns non-proliferation and strategies for mass destruction - small arms and

light weapons (WMD/SALW). Montenegro complies with international obligations on small arms and light weapons, including the objectives underlined in the Strategy on small arms and light weapons through national legislation.

As for nuclear safeguards, Montenegro is a signatory of the Agreement on General Safeguards and of the Additional protocol with IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency is the centrepiece of global cooperation in the nuclear field, established in 1957 as a body within the United Nations. It cooperates with member states and several partners to promote safe and secure nuclear energy).

Cooperation with international organisations is at a high level. Montenegro is a member of the United Nations, OSCE, Council of Europe, World Trade Organisation, World Health Organisation and other important organisations and agreements. Also, in the field of Euro-Atlantic integrations, Montenegro was invited in December of 2009 to join the Action plan for NATO membership (MAP - The Membership Action Plan - is NATO's programme of advice, assistance and practical support adjusted to individual needs of states that aspire to join the Alliance. Participation in MAP does not imply any decisions of the



Alliance regarding the future membership). Also, this area additionally improved with the signing of the Agreement on security procedures for the exchange and protection of confidential information with the EU.

The last part of this chapter refers to the management of civilian and military crises. Montenegro participated in the international peace missions such as the UNMIL (United Nations Missions in Liberia, created in 2003 to monitor the agreement on the ceasefire), ISAF (NATO-security mission in Afghanistan created by the UN Security Council on 20 December 20 2001 by Resolution 1386, as envisaged by the Bonn Agreement. Forces were drafted in the war with Afghanistan from 2001 to the present day), and EU NAVFOR (Operation Atalanta is a peacekeeping mission in Somalia, and also EU's first naval).

The Common EU Foreign and Security Policy is one of the most important chapters and requires strengthening of Governments' capacities to achieve better coordination and fulfilment of obligations underlined in the agreements and strategic documents. Through the inclusion of Montenegro in the existing defence and development mechanisms and peace missions, the EU stimulates such cooperation, as well as development of capacities and opening of new workplaces).

As a small country, Montenegro will always encounter difficulties in the fight against organised drug trafficking, illegal trade in weapons of mass destruction, cybercrime, illegal migration, and especially environmental and natural disasters. Close cooperation between states is needed precisely for these reasons, and Euro-Atlantic integrations and integration into the European security structure are some of the effective mechanisms to accomplish this.

The main prejudice related to the EU accession, and thus to the thereby the Common Foreign and Security Policy as well, is the fact that despite economic gains the "young democracies" can expect with accession to the EU, they must accept certain limits on their sovereignty. As an integral part of the EU, central and eastern European states had to limit their sovereignty to a great extent, transferring it to the supranational level after the accession. The adjustment process in these "young democracies" is rather slow and painful and the EU has to show a high level of understanding for gradual harmonisation of the decision-making process.

IV national conference on the fight against corruption in education

Only knowledge should get the title!

On 9 July, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) organised the IV national conference on the fight against corruption in education, titled "Only knowledge should get the title!", in cooperation with the Hellenic foundation for international relations ELLAMEP. The conference was part of the project of the same name, which the CCE implements with support of the EU through the EU Delegation to Montenegro, and with the co-financing from the Heinrich Böll foundation.

Daliborka Uljarević, executive director of CCE, emphasised in the opening that "a large part of the ongoing crisis is due precisely to the lack of teaching staff with integrity, and this is why our rate of tolerance for corruption in education should be zero. According to her, "corruption in education is most evident in higher education institutions, where the possibilities of abuse and benefit from that abuse are the highest, and where most damage is being done to the public budget, the students and ultimately the society as a whole." She referred particularly to the burning issues of the financial mismanagement of UOM, overregulation, parallel employments, plagiarism etc. She announced that in the course of this year the CCE will reveal some illustrative cases of plagiarism of the representatives of academic community and public officials.

Deputy Prime Minister **Duško Marković** said that "the area of education is quite reasonably marked as an area at high risk of corruption. In terms of the consequences, this may be the most sensitive and dangerous area. Simply put, it affects horizontally all other areas, given that all those who undergo the process of education will later on have a responsibility in privatisation, health, public procurement, urbanisation and local self-government. Not to mention the judiciary and law-enforcement agencies."

Radmila Vojvodić, Rector of the University of Montenegro, pointed out that Universities are the guarantors of stability of the community in which they act. "Without them, we cannot speak of identity or of the value of society. We are currently experiencing transition, and we cannot make high-quality changes if other participants of the society do not understand their roles", the Rector said.

The conference touched upon various aspects of higher education in Montenegro: the legal framework and the alignment with EU standards and practices were discussed by **Branka Tanasijević**, president of the municipal Committee for education, science, culture and sports, who said that corruption in education is a grave problem precisely because quality human resources are key to the prosperity of the society. **Mubera Kurpejović**, assistant to the Minister of Education, said that the "vision of education - effective, quality and flexible education - is one of the most important factors of economic and civil development, which results in human resources with competitive knowledge, skills and capabilities for labour market and creates

equal possibilities for personal and professional development as well as for social inclusion in a knowledge-based society". Prof. dr **Maja Baćović**, deputy Rector of University of Montenegro, said that "the basic ethical principle in the work of scientists is intellectual respect, which reflects in correctly applied methods, critical investigation of received results and their authentic publication". Prof. dr **Nenad Vuković**, Rector of the University of Mediterranean pointed out that the institution from which he comes "has been through many ordeals, because private education has no tradition in Montenegro. Prof. dr **Đorđije Borozan**, deputy Rector of University of Donja Gorica, believes that all "higher education institutions aim for higher quality of education, that is our common goal, and the newly adopted law on education contributes to that."

Student mobility, the system of allocation of scholarships and accommodations in student dorms were topics of the second panel, during which **Snežana Kaluderović**, programme coordinator at CCE, emphasised that it should be dedicated primarily to the students "who, in our opinion, are insufficiently in the focus of discussions on higher education, particularly when it comes to those topics which directly affect the conditions of their studies and the possibility of mobility, which is in the basis of the reformed system of higher education."

Božidarka Malešević - Marković, head of the Bureau for student standards in the Ministry of Education, clarified that "the decision on the allocation and termination of scholarship loan is made by a commission appointed by the minister". **Miloš Pavićević**, president of Students' Parliament of UOM, spoke about the system of allocation of scholarships and accommodations in student dorms. **Balša Lubarda**, president of the Association of students of UDG, pointed out that students of this educational unit have the opportunity to participate in different programmes of mobility within their own educational programmes. **Wanda Tiefenbacher**, CCE international programmes associate, drew some comparisons with the allocation of scholarships in the states of European union. **Maria Glišić**, coordinator in the Regional office of Heinrich Böll Foundation, concluded that there are no big differences in the academic circumstances across the region.

The aim of the conference was to open a discussion at the highest level of the challenges in the area of higher education in the presence of experts from this area, representatives of numerous state and international institutions, NGO sector, academic community, as well as of other interested parties, especially having in mind that European Commission in its progress reports on Montenegro stressed the area of education as particularly sensitive area for corruption.

Svetlana Pešić

Physical inactivity may be the biggest public health problem of the 21st century

Get out of your chairs!

Lack of physical activity – along with unhealthy diets – are key risk factors for major non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetes, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Thirty to 70% of EU citizens are currently overweight, while 10-30% are considered obese, according to the WHO, which warned that in absence of urgent measure Europe could face an obesity crisis over the coming decades.

To counter the “epidemic”, the WHO recommends 150 minutes of moderate physical activity each week. According to their research, this would already reduce the risk of ischaemic heart disease by approximately 30%, the risk of diabetes by 27%, and the risk of breast and colon cancer by 21–25%. However, Europeans are much less active than that.

Physical inactivity may be the biggest public health problem of the 21st century. Inactivity and low fitness are at least as strong predictors of mortality as any of the other risk factors, including smoking and obesity, and the consequences for the public health budget can be substantial.

A Eurobarometer survey published last year looked at how much EU citizens engage in physical activity and sport, following up on comparable surveys carried out in 2002 and 2009. The 2014 survey found that the number of people reporting that they never exercise or play sport increased by three percentage points from the 2009 survey - from 39% to 42%.

Though 48% engage in other physical activities, for recreational or non-sport-related reasons, such as cycling from one place to another, gardening or dancing at least once a week, 30%

Thirty to 70% of EU citizens are currently overweight, while 10-30% are considered obese, according to the WHO, which warned that in absence of urgent measure Europe could face an obesity crisis over the coming decades.

said they never engage in this kind of activity at all.

About two-thirds of respondents said they sit between 2.5 and 8.5 hours on average each day, an increase of five percentage points compared with 2002. 11% meanwhile, said they sit for more than 8.5 hours each day.

Insufficient physical activity already leads to more than half a million deaths a year – and possibly worse consequences in future, according to the report “The economic costs of physical inactivity in Europe” by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

“Inactivity is a health problem that stores up problems for the future,” said **Vicky Pryce**, lead author of the study. “It isn’t static. If we don’t get people moving now then physical inactivity is going to pose a greater risk than now.”

The report showed that a quarter of European adults and four in five adolescents are insufficiently active, and that inactivity costs €80bn a year to EU member states through coronary heart disease, type II diabetes, colorectal cancer and breast cancer.

Electorates are typically concerned about financing ways to fix the problem resulting from



inactivity, such as healthcare. So governments are often less interested in funding programmes that would get people moving more, even though these are less costly, said **Mogens Kirkeby**, President of the International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA). “On the political side, we know that preventive actions are not very attractive,” he said. “Cures are very attractive. But prevention is more fun – and cheaper.”

The promotion of physical activity and education remains a national competence. In recent years however, the EU-level institutions have become a part of the debate of how to encourage people to become more active.

In 2013 the Council of EU ministers adopted recommendations on health-enhancing physical activity aimed to encourage further cooperation among diverse sectors from education to urban planning and the work environment. In April this year, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) paid tribute to over one hundred European companies that have made an effort to combat stress in the workplace. In order to encourage people to engage more in sport and physical activity, the Commission also plans to launch a European Week of Sport, in September 2015. Hundreds of events will take

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place across the EU in September, and the idea is to get as many people as possible interested in sport and to encourage them to take up physical activities, regardless of age, fitness level or social background.

However, health campaigners believe European citizens are not sufficiently encouraged to exercise.

“The Commission’s approach to physical activity is too narrowly focused on promoting sport, whereas protecting and improving health should be considered in all policies,” said **Nina Renshaw**, Secretary General of the NGO European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). “That means looking at how other relevant policies could encourage activity in our daily lives,” Renshaw told EurActiv.

She mentioned transport policy and regional funding as the most obvious areas where the EU could take further action, by encouraging active travel, including walking and biking.

“EU policies have the opposite effect and still encourage car-centric planning, especially in regional policy where everything is focused on road building. But also, for example, the EU allows subsidies and tax breaks for company cars and fossil fuels – especially diesel – which damages our health even further,” Renshaw said.

Tying exercise promotion programmes to regional development programmes appears to be especially good idea in view of the huge gap



The European Week of Sport

The European Week of Sport is a new initiative of the European Commission to promote sport and physical activity across Europe. The first European Week of Sport will take place from 7th to 13th of September 2015. It will be structured around 4 Focus Days, i.e. Education environment, Workplaces, Outdoors, Clubs & Fitness centres. A wide range of initiatives and activities will be organised around these settings at different levels (EU, national, local and regional level) and with the involvement of many actors, in order to show that exercise is possible in various places and can be enjoyed at all ages.

The implementation of the Week across Europe is largely decentralised and takes place in close cooperation with the national coordinators and with the many different partners. The Commission is also planning various promotional activities with a team of European sports ambassadors. The first members of the ambassador team are the football icons **Steven Gerrard** and **Clarence Seedorf**, Olympic medalist skeet shooter **Danka Barteková** and four times Paralympic gold medalist **Marie Bochet**.

in physical activity between the more developed countries in the North of Europe and the less developed ones in the South and East.

As many as 70% of respondents in Sweden said they exercise or play sport at least once a week, just ahead of Denmark (68%) and Finland (66%), followed by the Netherlands (58%) and Luxembourg (54%). These are also countries known for a good bicycling infrastructure, where a bicycle is considered a common means of transport and not merely a recreation object. At the other end of the scale, 78% respondents in Bulgaria said they never exercised or did any physical activity, and this number is similarly high in Malta (75%), Portugal (64%), Romania (60%) and Italy (60%).

Source: EurActiv

CCE and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung announce an OPEN CALL for participants of the XXVI generation of

DEMOCRACY SCHOOL

- school for learning democracy from theory to practice -

School comprises of 5 modules in total duration of four months. The sessions will be held once or twice a week, in duration of two hours. All expenses are covered by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Centre for Civic Education (CCE), with obligation of the participants to attend not less than 80% of the programme. Upon finishing of the School the participants shall receive a certificate and be eligible for further educational development.

Eligible candidates are those who want to contribute to development of democracy and civic society in Montenegro. All candidates are welcome, regardless of age, gender, nationality, religion or personal convictions, with the indication that advantage will be given to the activists of the political parties and non-governmental organisations, as well as all individuals who are demonstrating high level of social activism.

The programme of the Democracy School is designed in such a manner to offer wider understanding of the democracy idea and forms in which that idea is implemented within various social spheres. For more information about the School please see <http://cgo-cce.org/en/programi/demokratija/skola-demokratije/#.VdsHqfmqBc>.

School moderator is professor Radovan Radonjic, PhD, and in addition to him eminent domestic and foreign lecturers will be working with participants.

All interested candidates may submit their application with short biography (CV) and motivational letter not later than **14 September 2015**, via e-mail address info@cgo-cce.org with the subject "**For Democracy School**" or directly via [application form](#). For all additional information call **020/665 112** or visit Centre for Civic Education in Njegoševa 36, I floor, Podgorica.

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) announces a CALL for participants of the XXI generation of the

HUMAN RIGHTS SCHOOL

- School for learning human rights from theory to practice -

If you are a high school student, if you want to learn about human rights, to meet and socialize with your peers, to spread and exchange experiences with other young people motivated to become actively engaged in solving problems that concern society, if you think you don't have enough information and you are eager to attain knowledge and build skills of active participation in advocacy and promotion of human rights in your school and community in which you live, the Human Rights School is the right place and opportunity for you!

The objective of the Human Rights School is to, through intensive multi-day course – lectures, workshops, forum theatre, film screenings, visits to institutions – provide participants with knowledge on human rights concept, starting with the history of human rights idea, development of human rights through generations, culture of human rights, principles of democracy, tolerance, solidarity, non-violent communication, legislative framework and institutional mechanisms available to citizens as means of protecting human rights and protection against discrimination, minority rights (with special focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups).

The School, in addition to broad theoretical and practical knowledge on concept of human rights, also 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 empowers them to have more direct influence within society in future. Upon completion of the School the participants shall receive a certificate and be eligible for further educational development. Furthermore, support will be provided to participants to transcribe their ideas into concrete actions aimed at improving human rights in their local communities.

Who is eligible to apply for the Human Rights School?

Regular high-school pupils from the whole territory of Montenegro.

How to apply for the Human Rights School?

Filling out the application and sending it by e-mail to info@cgo-cce.org, with a subject "For Human Rights School, XXI generation".

Deadline for sending applications is 15 September 2015.

The School is free of charge for selected participants, meaning that costs of travel, food, accommodation, organization of curriculum and other activities related to programme are covered by the organizer. Detailed information about the School programme shall be given to candidates who are invited to the School after selection process based on assessment of applications. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at info@cgo-cce.org or via phone at 020 665 112.

All costs of the School are covered by the CCE, with the support of the British Embassy in Montenegro, through the project „Youth build Montenegro“.

Project management

A seminar on project management was organised in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 28 June to 3 July 2015, by *Balkans, Let's Get Up!*, as a continuation of the summer school "*Gender and democracy*". It offered the participants an opportunity to present their ideas, and get them financed by this regional organisation. The idea behind this project was to stimulate young people to be active citizens in their environment; to apply the knowledge acquired in this summer school in their communities, and to bring changes that they see as necessary, thus contributing to both theirs and their community's development. The following themes were covered by the seminar: team work, communication, presentation of the project to potential partners and general public, SWOT analysis, conflict management, PR and marketing, reporting, financial management, etc. The seminar gathered 28 young participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Romania, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia. **Željka Četković**, programme associate, participated in the seminar on behalf of Centre for Civic Education (CCE).

Work on accelerated community development

NGO Juventas organised a round table on 10 July 2015 on the subject of "*Effects of the reform of professional education*", in cooperation with NGO SOS Hotline Podgorica, and Coalition for Social Changes, as part of the project SPEED UP, supported by the European Commission through the EU Delegation to Montenegro. The results of a six-month study by the Coalition for Social Changes were presented, alongside two additional studies on the development of the national qualifications framework by **Vlado Dedović** (CEMI), and a publication titled *Adult Education in Montenegro* by **Mira Popović**, programme associate in the Centre for Civic Education (CCE). Additionally, part of a study on the relationship between professional education and labour market, by **Ivana Vujović** from Juventas and **Ivana Smolović** from SOS Podgorica, was also presented at the round table.

Within the same project, a national conference "*Policies on poverty reduction and social exclusiveness*" was organised on 16 and 17 July 2015. A joint research team made up of the representatives of Juventas and SOS Hotline monitored the implementation of four strategies: Strategy for the development of social and child protection, Strategy for the employment and development of human resources, Strategy for the fight against domestic violence and National strategic response to HIV. After six months of monitoring, it compiled the reports that analysed the extent of implementation and effectiveness of measures implemented so far under these documents, and offered recommendations for improvement. Reports were based on information gathered through requests for free access to information, analyses of the laws and other legal acts, as well as on the meetings with relevant institutions. The findings were presented at the conference. **Mira Popović**, programme associate, attended the conference on behalf of CCE.

The objective of the SPEED UP project was to strengthen the role of civil society in further harmonisation of Montenegro's social policies with the EU standards, and thus contribute to the country's EU accession process. The coalition monitors social policies in the area of social protection, employment, health and education.

Public forum of the Committee for European integration

Parliamentary Committee for European integration organised a public forum in Podgorica on 3 July 2015 on the subject of *"Legislation of Montenegro and EU in chapters 15 – Energy and 19 – Social and employment policy"*, in the Blue hall of the Parliament of Montenegro. **Slaven Radunović**, president of the Committee for European integration, acted as the moderator, with a panel of discussants consisting of **Alberto Cammarata**, Head of Political, European Integration and Trade Section in the EU Delegation to Montenegro, **Angelina Živković**, Acting Director General of the Directorate for Public Roads in the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs and negotiator for Chapter 15 – Energy and **Arijana Nikolić-Vučinić**, Acting Director General of the Directorate for Pre-primary and primary education and education of persons with special needs in the Ministry of Education and negotiator for Chapter 19 – Social and Employment Policy.

In his introduction, president of the Committee Slaven Radunović said that the key global objective in the field of energy was to improve energy efficiency, while the area of social and employment policy required the fight against challenges such as long-term unemployment, youth unemployment, imbalance between the available and the necessary skills of the workforce, regional differences in the level of employment and discrimination in employment. Negotiator for chapter 15 Angelina Živković pointed out that Montenegro harmonised its legislation with the *acquis* to a great extent, and that the new law on energy is currently in the procedure, which will complete the country's alignment with the Third Energy Package. Negotiator for chapter 19 Arijana Nikolić-Vučinić noted that the EU *acquis* under chapter 19 consists of the labour law, health and safety at work, equal treatment of men and women in employment and social protection, employment policy and social dialogue. **Aleksandar Radonjić**, project assistant, participated on behalf of Centre for Civic Education (CCE).

NGOs' experiences in the European integration process of Montenegro: Achievements and Challenges"

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) organised a conference titled *"NGOs' experiences in the European integration process of Montenegro: Achievements and Challenges"* on 27 July 2015 in Podgorica, in cooperation with the Association for the promotion of human rights and media freedoms – Cenzura Plus. **Ana Novaković**, executive director of CRNVO, led the conference, which was introduced by **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović**, Chief Negotiator for the accession of Montenegro to the European Union.

Boris Marić, senior legal advisor in Centre for Civic Education and member of the working group for Chapter 23, spoke on behalf of CCE within the first panel *"The NGOs' experience with the working groups for the preparation of the negotiations"*. Other speakers in the panel were **Nataša Kovačević** from NGO Green Home, **Jovana Marović** from Institute Alternative, **Miodrag Radović** secretary of the Negotiating structure. The moderator was **Ana Novaković**, executive director of CRNVO.

Ana Vujošević, CCE's coordinator of European integration programme, spoke at the second panel *"Role of NGOs in the process of informing the citizens on the process of European integrations"*. Other panelists were: **Patrick Schmelzer** from the Delegation of EU to Montenegro, **Mirela Rebronja** from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, **Bisera Turković** from European movement in Montenegro and **Radoš Mušović** from CRNVO.

A.V

Marshall Memorial Fellowship

The Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) is GMF's flagship leadership development program. Created in 1982 to introduce a new generation of European leaders to the United States, MMF grew in 1999 with a companion program that began sending emerging leaders from the United States to Europe. GMF awards 75 **Marshall Memorial Fellowships** each year to the best and brightest from all sectors, including business, government, and civil society. Selected fellows engage in 6 months of preparation designed to enhance their understanding of transatlantic relations before embarking on 24 days of policy immersion across the Atlantic. Today, the MMF alumni network numbers nearly 2,500 leaders. Since 1982, the Marshall Memorial Fellowship has deepened leaders' awareness of the core leadership competencies they need to build cross-cutting coalitions to keep abreast of the topics and trends that will shape global affairs in decades to come. We invite you to help perpetuate the vital mission of the Marshall Plan by nominating a rising leader now for MMF. Potential fellows from the United States and Europe must meet the [guidelines for selection](#). To nominate a leader for this unique opportunity, please complete the form below.

Marshall Memorial Fellowship Nomination Form

The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, September 21, 2015 at 5:00pm EDT.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.gmfus.org/transatlantic-leadership-initiatives/marshall-memorial-fellowship#sthash.ocgr1gdN.dpuf>

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