



FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE

To what extent are
the Montenegrin
regulations on
preventing
money laundering
harmonised with
EU directives

INTERVIEW

Fedor Černe,
Secretary of the
Government of
Slovenia Council
for sustainable
development and
environmental
protection expert

ANALYSES

A wing of the governing
structure breeds first
Montenegrin Eurosceptics

European
Information Centre



ESCAPE FROM THE GREY ZONE

Soon after March 15, when European Commissioner for Enlargement **Olli Rehn** and president of the Government of Montenegro, **Željko Šturanović** initialled in Podgorica the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Montenegro and EU, one of the opposition parties announced that this was to be the most important event since the last year's referendum on independence. This was hardly an overstatement, although the Agreement is to be signed only in June, and its chapters on trade will probably come into force by autumn. Formally, the Agreement will become entirely operational once it is ratified by all 27 EU member states parliaments, which is realistically expected to happen in a few years, but all those details are of secondary importance compared to the fact that Montenegro has factually established its first contractual relationship with EU.

Aside all the scepticism about the future of EU and the questions of whether Montenegro can hope for membership in the next 5, 10 or 15 years. At this moment, it is of a crucial importance that Montenegro enters a new phase in EU relations, a phase when it can count on the EU assistance to escape the grey zone marked by corruption, monopolies, weak institutions governed by party directives, drop and trickle reforms... Now we have deadlines and an authorisation for Brussels to actively monitor the way in which Montenegro is implementing the SAA, to urge promptness and corrections...

The domestic public wishing to see some concrete progress has just gained a powerful ally. The dynamic and direction of Montenegrin development towards the company of "normal" states will no more develop solely on the will of the ruling "elites".

Unless overruled by those interest groups that want to use the remaining one mandate to grab whatever they did not manage to seize until now, these "elites" will have to learn to play by the rules of a new reality.

If not, they will inevitably end up in the opposition.

N.R.

RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

74% Montenegrins in favour of EU accession

The support for EU accession is still very high among the Montenegrin citizens, although slightly declining when compared to previous public opinion polls.

Results of the most recent regular poll, conducted by the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) from 9 to 18 February 2007, show that 74% of the citizens believe that Montenegro should follow the path of political rapprochement with European Union. This is 2% less than in August 2006, while the number of those opposing the road to EU grew unexpectedly for 3% of respondents.

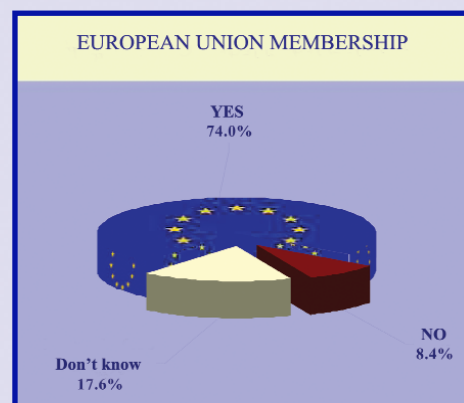
Accession to the NATO is adamantly supported by 36.6% of respondents, while 28% are undecided. At the same time, the number of respondents opposing the NATO accession increased for 3.2% compared to the August research.

In March, the US National Democratic Institute (NDI) conducted a separate inquiry where almost two thirds of the respondents (64%) said that Montenegrin priority should be to implement European standards, even if it does not become an EU member. According to this poll, only 28% of the respondents said they would like Montenegro to join EU as soon as possible.

Associated with "European" living standards, are primarily European wages (49% of the respondents), European standards (17%), opportunities to travel freely (14%), while 8% mentioned the importance of a larger market, and 7% European investments.

Asked to recommend to the government one economic issue which should be the absolute priority, 66% of the respondents mentioned unemployment and the need to create new jobs, states the NDI research.

As for other most important tasks



for the government, 34% of the respondents asked for equality before law, and 28% indicated fight against organised crime and corruption. If these two issues are considered separately, it turns out that 10% of the respondents are more concerned with crime.

According to this poll, citizens have the most trust in the University (72%), local authorities (60%), and President of Montenegro (57%), while the Government and the Parliament have the confidence of 48% of the respondents. Among the listed institutions, the least trust is expressed in the courts, only 43%.

CEDEM's poll shows that 45.3% of the respondents support cooperation with the Hague tribunal, or 5% less than in August 2006.

Most citizens believe that in the matters of foreign affairs Montenegro should rely on Serbia (36.4%), while the European Union features as the first choice for 27.1% of the respondents. Russia is third, with 16.6%, while the United States of America are the preferred partner for 11.6% of the citizens.

According to the NDI research, most respondents (22%) consider the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integrations, Dr **Gordana Đurović**, to be the most successful member of the executive in the first 100 days of the government.

More than a half of the respondents, or 53%, trust that the Government wants to secure its citizens a European standard of life, but 42% believe that the Government is not really capable of it.

N.R.



José Manuel Barroso

A VIEW FROM EUROPE

EU to lead the world in tackling climate change

consensus where the Commission's.

The renewed Growth and Jobs Strategy as well as better regulation agenda empower us to move on with an ambitious agenda for energy and against climate change. At the same time, energy and the fight against climate change are key elements of the Growth and Jobs Strategy. We cannot deliver medium term growth and jobs without secure, competitive and sustainable energy, and without keeping the cost of climate change in check.

Two years ago, nobody talked about a European energy policy. This has changed. New realities have brought about new commitment. World temperatures, our import dependence and oil prices are all rising. The status quo is not an option.

The EU needs to continue to show world leadership. What does that mean? I expect to see the vast majority of the Commission's proposals from January agreed.

First, agreement to the main climate change targets we proposed: a 30% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 for developed countries and an EU commitment to reduce EU greenhouse emissions on its own by at least 20%. These represent the most ambitious commitments ever made to tackle climate change.

Second, we must agree on the measures to show that Europe is serious about these targets: 20% energy efficiency goal by 2020, with a mandate to the Commission to take further action to achieve this. This could save 100 billion euros and some 780 million tonnes of CO₂ a year.

Tackling climate change and dealing with energy challenges, such as the security of energy supplies and better

services to the public are the perfect examples of the need for European cooperation. They must be a defining mission for the European Union for the future, and we should say so clearly when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Union on 25 March.

Let us take this historic opportunity to secure a wealthier and cleaner Europe, a Europe that is more socially inclusive and more competitive. To transform the upturn into sustained and consistent growth. And to lead the world in tackling climate change. Because there is no other choice for the planet. And because if we move first, we will have a competitive edge.

Although the challenges are tremendous, this is not a question of whether Europe has the capabilities. It is a question of whether it has the political will.

The political will to deliver results will provide the context to solve the Constitutional Treaty. Over dinner, Chancellor **Merkel** will brief the European Council on the declaration on the future of Europe that will be signed in Berlin on Sunday 25 March. This is not about being nostalgic for the past. But how we see the next fifty years.

Energy, climate change, migration, terrorism are global challenges that we face. Europe is part of the solution. We now need to also equip our European institutions for globalisation. The Berlin declaration must be a meaningful stepping stone towards institutional settlement.

From the speech of the President of the European Commission on the eve of the EU Spring Summit 2007.

Europe's leaders have an occasion to show that Europe is as relevant and necessary – today as back in 1957. This is an opportunity for European leaders to turn words into actions. Only three years ago, the EU's economy was stagnating. Today, the renewed strategy is delivering – we have seen GDP growth of 2.9 % in 2006, with figures close to this predicted for 2007; the latest Innovation Scoreboard shows the gap with the US beginning to close; in 2006, Europe created three million jobs, and unemployment is down to around 7.5 %. That is still too high. But it is the lowest figure in more than a decade. We have withstood the external shock of rising energy prices without runaway inflation.

The reform process is a key driver for Europe's recent strong economic performance. The upturn is real. Now we must take advantage of it.

We mustn't relax. We must speed up and make progress on the Commission's country specific recommendations – this year must be a year of further delivery.

To create growth and jobs, we must also cut red tape. We have proposed to reduce administrative burdens stemming from the EC legislation by 25% by 2012. But red tape is not only an issue for Brussels. If we want to succeed, Member States must commit to an equal level of ambition – I look forward to see a

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE MONTENEGRIN REGULATIONS ON PREVENTING MONEY LAUNDERING HARMONISED WITH EU DIRECTIVES



by Vladan Žugić

There is no state in Europe which did not have to work hard on preventing money laundering. There are plenty of organisations in Europe and the world dealing with this issue, primarily through monitoring. If it turns out that a country is not cooperating on the issues of money laundering and it fails to implement international standards which have been tightened lately, it can easily end up on the US government black list, which entails certain consequences with respect to EU. The consequences may involve interruption of any business relations or cooperation with the country in question.

Those are the words of **Klaudio Stroligo**, a Council of Europe expert providing expertise to the Working group drafting the new Montenegrin law on the prevention of money

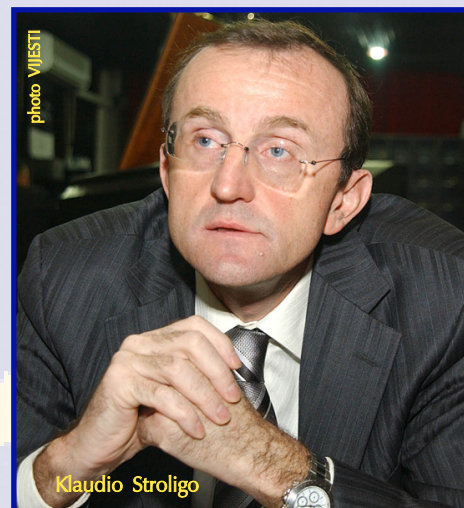
The Government only now begins to suspect the unemployed tycoons

laundering and financing of terrorism, answering the question of how interested the EU is in monitoring the money laundering prevention trends in Montenegro.

The current Law on preventing money laundering in Montenegro is in force since March 2005. Although its implementation yielded some results, in the form of a number of criminal charges, Brussels administration and State Department warned that the current legislation contains certain flaws which must be fixed in order to improve prevention efficacy in fighting this deviation.

In the 2006 Progress Report for Montenegro, European Commission notes that the Directorate for the prevention of money laundering "failed to create guidelines on what can be considered a suspicious transaction and there is no adequate monitoring of the financial transactions outside of the banking system (especially with regard to the real estate and domestic investments)".

The Government has been



working for a couple of months on the new law on the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism. In mid-March 2007, as a precursor to the new law, Directorate for the prevention of money laundering announced an action of education and information of the taxpayers on the set of new indicators allowing for precise identification of dubious transaction, especially in real estate trade.

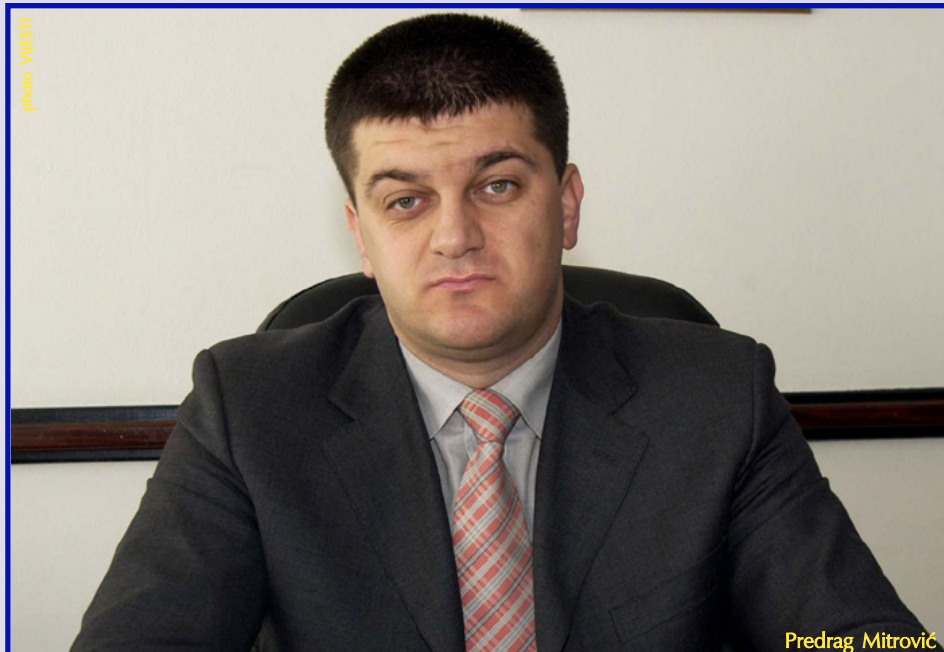
According to the new system, it is considered suspicious that citizens who were never officially employed possess large amounts on their bank accounts, as well as when those who are "known as public figures", purchase valuable real estate which is not in accordance with their earnings. Other cases include young people buying real estate and equipped with luxury automobiles, motorcycles, watches, boats... Transactions with off-shore companies and countries known as narco-states will also be closely monitored.

The list of 65 indicators of dubi-

POLITICIANS IN THE HIGH-RISK GROUP

Speaking about novelties that the future law on the prevention of money laundering in Montenegro will bring, Stroligo emphasised that designated under the high-risk group will be foreign and national politicians and officials.

"Montenegrin officials will be under a special regime when they travel abroad and the other way around, because these are situations when money can be illegally acquired. Another novelty is the possibility to veto a certain transaction on the request of a foreign financial intelligence service – until now it was only possible to do it through the national intelligence network", Stroligo explained.



Predrag Mitrović

ous transactions, adopted by the Directory two weeks ago, is divided into three groups: general, which is obligatory for all taxpayers; bank-specific indicators and indicators for the capital markets.

"Implementation efficiency of these indicators will depend on the taxpayers' knowledge about them. With these in mind, taxpayers will not be in doubt as to whether a certain transaction is "dubious" or not", says for *EIC Bulletin* the spokesperson of the Directorate, **Miroslav Radojević**.

Recently, the State Department sent out a warning to Montenegro in its annual report on the control of production and trade of narcotics and money laundering. According to the report, money derived from financial crimes in Montenegro is "laundered" through real estate investments.

Deputy Prime Minister for European Integrations of the Montenegrin Government, Dr **Gordana Đurović**, responded to the news of the report by saying that Montenegro does not feature among the critical states in any of the reports of the US Foreign Affairs Ministry. She added that the group of countries known for a prominent problem of money laundering contains 59

states, 9 of which belong to the EU.

"Fortunately, Montenegro is not among them, and we hope not to be there in the next report either", Đurović stated.

Lest the whole thing remains in the realm of hopes, Montenegrin governments should adopt and implement the new law as soon as possible. Appearing on the State Department "black list", or receiving a lower mark by the EC or US government reports would certainly jeopardise our chances to attract serious investors and genuine green

field investments.

State Department recommended Montenegro to "strengthen legislation, establish a more robust regime of property confiscation, and improve its capacities in terms of intelligence and crime investigation technology". They also insist on "securing sufficient resources to the Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering, police, and other agencies".

Head of Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering, **Predrag Mitrović**, said that some of the recommended activities, whose necessity is highlighted, are already in the process of being implemented.

"Directorate is dedicating more attention to the monitoring of the real estate markets. Alongside the existing reports which are regularly incorporated into the database, we are currently working on an auxiliary database, which contains copies of all contracts which have been approved by the basic courts", Mitrović said for *EIC Bulletin*.

He added that the new law will grant Directorate broader competences in the realm of the real estate markets, as all traders and contracts will have to be double checked.

"The need to separate the growth of the real estate market

50 CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION

Mitrović points out that the State Department report underlined some positive advances in Montenegro in terms of prevention of money laundering.

"During 2005, authorities received documentation on 14 cases suspected of money laundering, and in 2006, 29 cases, with additional 8 referring to suspicion of different kinds of crimes. The trend continues in this year – in the first two months of 2007, we received 8 cases under suspicion of money laundering, and another 3 suspected of other crimes. State Department report also emphasises doubling of the amounts of blocked monetary transactions in 2006 with regard to the previous year – 22.8 million euros. This year continues the same positive trend: we already interrupted 9 transactions. Such data provides an objective perspective on the achievements of our Directory – in a very short period we achieved the maximum that could be achieved within the existing legal framework, and with assistance from other state organs", Mitrović underlined.

which is due to the attractiveness of the offers, from the increase in transactions which is a result of money laundering, prompted us to incorporate extended mandate for

the Directorate in the new law, including monitoring and inspection of real estate agencies. This will allow us to enhance our ability to control the situation on the market",

Mitrović said.

According to his announcement, the new law on the prevention of money laundering will implement the so-called Third Directive of the EU.

"The most important regulations that we will adopt are those regarding identification of the real owners of companies engaging in any kind of transactions in Montenegro, which is extremely important for the monitoring of off-shore companies. Other issues refer to the monitoring of public figures engaged in politics, as well as analysis and monitoring risky persons and transactions. We decided to harmonise our regulations with EU directives within the deadline obligatory only for the EU members, which proves that we have realised that certain risks and dangers exist, but also our readiness to respond to them timely and adequately", Mitrović emphasised.

Stroligo, a long-term Head of the Slovenian Directorate for the prevention of money laundering, and a president of MONEYVAL, a CoE agency specialised in fight against money laundering warns that the European and international standards in money laundering and financing of terrorism significantly changed in the last few years.

"This why not only Montenegro, but most of the countries in the world are now in the process of drafting new laws. There are a few new conventions, recommendations and directives by EU, FATF, and other organisations, whose members are obliged to adopt and implement them", Stroligo stated.

He reminded that the problem of money laundering exist in every country "where there is crime, which is to say, everywhere".

"Somewhere more, somewhere less, it is all the question of readiness and ability of the state and its agencies to fight this phenomenon and to punish the perpetrators", concludes the Council of Europe expert.

KEY SOURCES OVERLOOKED

President of the Movement for Changes, **Nebojša Medojević** reiterates his warnings voiced at the occasion of parliamentary discussion on the adoption of the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering, saying that the law is flawed, as it avoids tackling the key sources and flows of money laundering.

"That means investments. It is well known that everywhere in the world investments into hotels, sea-side tourist industry, are the key target for money laundering, especially if done through off-shore companies. In the documentation of these companies, you can easily show millions or hundreds of millions of euros of investments that never materialised. Outside of the scope of control are also sports clubs, which everywhere in the world, and in EU especially, are under close monitoring because of the opportunities they present for money laundering. Similarly, the law overlooks companies trading in oil, cigarettes...When did you hear of someone going to inspect a casino or a betting house? You cannot since their owners have the protection of certain powerful people in Montenegro", Medojević said.

According to him the money laundering in Montenegro is a well-organised business.

"It is impossible that people just land in here by plane carrying huge amounts of cash for the purchase of real estate, without organised assistance by someone in Montenegro. I claim that Montenegro has a well-organised chain for the smuggling of narcotics and money laundering. It is impossible that somebody just sends in half a tone of cocaine through the harbour of Bar, without a promise of protection by somebody high in the criminal milieu, in the state infrastructure. One could take the risk with a kilo or two, but with 500...", explains Medojević.

The leader of Movement for Changes doubts that the new law on money laundering will change anything seriously in Montenegro with respect to the prevention of money laundering.

"It will not happen before we change the government that provides logistic support to such groups. Structures in charge of monitoring dubious transactions are less powerful or completely powerless compared to those whom they are supposed to control", Medojević is convinced.



Nebojša Medojević

A WING OF THE GOVERNING STRUCTURE BREEDS FIRST MONTENEGRIN EUROSCEPTICS

Vukotić's school of economics on the rise

Only four months after having christened his government a "Brussels cabinet", Montenegrin Prime Minister **Željko Šturanović** had to convince the Parliament that he still firmly stands behind his words, emphasising that the key task of his cabinet is to maintain commitment to cooperation with Brussels and to accelerate implementation of European standards.

The reason for the doubts is an ever growing concern that the strategic goal of the Government – EU accession – could find its first and very powerful contenders under the very aegis of the government itself. It appears more and more certain that their leadership can be sought in the person of the influential professor of the Faculty of Economics and Vice president of the Government Privatisation Council, Dr **Veselin Vukotić**, who is also the closest business partner of the head of the ruling party and former Prime Minister, **Milo Đukanović**. Unofficial warnings that the Faculty of Economics may be developing a doctrine whose goal is to prove that Montenegro will not benefit from EU membership received their proof in late February, in the form of an article by Dr **Maja Drakić**, lecturer at the Faculty of Economics and a researcher at the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses (ISSP), whose founder and president is Vukotić.

The strongest opposition party, Movement for Changes, immediately reacted by warning that the government shelters an anti-European lobby. President of MiC, **Nebojša Medojević**, even pointed its leadership by name:

"Those lobbies are ideologically concentrated around this 'New Montenegrin School of Economics'. The leading ideologist of the whole thing is Veselin Vukotić, and the gist of his doctrine is that the new tycoon class, which made a fortune out of smuggling, crime, and plunder of the state property should direct the future of Montenegro. Vukotić is the brain, but there is a clear connection with Đukanović and his closest friends and relatives. This is the 'capitalist class' of Montenegro, whose capital did not come through building factories, inventing brands, or export, but through illegal enterprises, only to be multiplied through process of privatization and now we have a handful of people controlling all the resources in Montenegro. They own



companies, banks, media, they are backed by a few corrupt branches of the secret police, customs, prosecution and judiciary. They have monopolies and they want to keep them, and the European standards are now getting in their way", Medojević said.

In her article for the February issue of the American Merkatus Centre, Drakić asks whether Montenegro can profit from joining EU. She did not explicitly take a stand against the accession.

"Many transition economies in East and Central Europe see the EU accession as one of the major reform goals, but this aim may not be the optimum solution for some of their problems", claims Drakić among the other arguments in the article.

Drakić and her associates elaborate further that the EU has become a supranational government, which produces bulky legislation in order to harmonise economic conditions among its member states.

"Under such circumstances, it is unclear what the East Central European transition countries may gain by joining the EU. It is true that Estonia joined EU in 2005, but it is yet to be seen what impact it may have on Estonian economy. Montenegro already felt the impact of EU in its relations with Serbia, when EU forced Montenegro to reform its economy through economic harmonisation, which obviously brought no benefits to the citizens of Montenegro. What will happen if a tiny

state like Montenegro tries to implement 120.000 pages of the EU legislation?" asks Drakić in her article.

Although she does not explicitly oppose Montenegrin membership in EU, Vukotić's colleague clearly sets the path for the future of Montenegrin Euroscepticism. According to recent analyses, such sentiments have not yet gained ground in Montenegro, because the level of knowledge on what the EU brings remains very low, but they are bound to appear soon, like in all other candidate countries. Their public engagement is indeed eagerly expected – mature debates on the benefits and disadvantages of EU membership are the only way to crystallise the best development road for the youngest country on Earth. What is disconcerting, however, is that in Montenegro Euroscepticism is being bred among the winners of the transition, who made a fortune in those murky years, instead of, say, associations of farmers or agricultural workers, who may indeed be hurt even more by the implementation of EU standards. The question is, then, whether the goal of "Eurosceptics" is to avoid EU market rules in order to preserve their monopolies, or do they really care about the wellbeing of Montenegro and its integration into the family of European nations.

N. RUDOVIĆ

FEDOR ČERNE, SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SLOVENIA COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EXPERT

For Montenegro, to invest in environment is to invest in economy

When we began the accession talks with EU, out of the 80.000 pages of *acquis communautaire* 20.000 were devoted to environment. This is the second most elaborated area of EU legislation, explains in the interview for *EIC Bulletin* **Fedor Černe**, Secretary of the Government of Slovenia Council for sustainable development and expert for environmental protection.

"If I compare Slovenia then with Montenegro, I would think that the biggest problems were those related to solid waste, waste water management... The question is whether the problem is recognised at all, whether there are available technical solutions and whether it is possible to calculate the related costs. EU accession is premised upon fulfilment of the environmental standards", Černe said.

He emphasised the need for development of operational programmes for the fulfilment of environmental requirements, whose implementation will be monitored by EU.

"Slovenia underwent great changes in this respect. I must mention that the EU provides substantial assistance to make the process less costly for the state. The state is not left alone with this, but the EU supports the process. We began by building filtration systems for the waste waters, opening small garbage depots, we started searching for regional solutions and that caused a lot of problems as well – citizens are usually very opposed to regional waste disposal sites. People asked questions and some got upset about



Fedor Černe

the issue. Companies also had to introduce new standards in line with the regulation or to close their activities by 2007. The transition period for Slovenia ends with this year".

● Does it mean that Montenegro could be given a transition period of

some 10 years for its factories to construct filters in line with EU regulations?

You will have to negotiate that. On the other hand, Montenegro also has its own regulations. You do not have to wait for European Union. We were in a situation where we had to do some things on our own, so that EU naturally brought in new control elements and forced us to change some of it.

● Is it true that one of the norms requires each settlement, even a village, to have its own sewage and water supply system?

This was not my expertise, but as far as I know every settlement with more than 2.000 inhabitants had to construct filters for waste water management. There is certainly an EU directive regulating drinking water.

We had problems in this respect, because our country typically consists of a multitude of tiny settlements. Slovenia has 6.000 settlements, which is a lot for such a small country, so we got the longest transition period regarding the water waste management. We simply managed to prove in the negotiations that anything less was technically unfeasible.

So we got a transition period that was different for the "big cities", small towns, and those tiny systems. You simply ought to convince the European Commission representatives with reasonable arguments, to show that the country knows about the problems, that it is willing to solve them, that it knows the right way to go about it and has an idea about the time necessary for the project to be implemented. This applies to the European Union

accession negotiations.

● **Some claim that environmental standards are the most expensive part of European integrations process. What do you think?**

It is impossible to give a straight answer to that. It depends on what you mean by "expensive". I believe that for a country that wishes to live on tourism and agriculture producing healthy food, a well preserved environment is a necessary precondition. If you fail to invest in environment, other important parts of the economy will suffer.

● **You know that we have the Aluminium Plant (KAP) just outside of Podgorica polluting the Zeta valey, and another big polluter in Nikšić, the steal factory?**

We had a similar case as well. The question of the environment is also a question of economic environment. The conditions are known, and each business actor struggles to survive in the changing environment. Every actor should therefore know what the conditions will be, in order to calculate the costs and benefits of readjusting – constructing filters, for instance. There is not much choice, really. Anyone who fulfils the requirements can continue working.

We had a refinery whose products proved to be incompatible with EU standards, and after we joined the EU it could not continue to work like that. We asked for a transition period, but unfortunately the factory went bankrupt before we finished the negotiations. If it continued to work as it did, it would have been an unfair competitor for the rest.

● **Can you estimate the amount that Slovenia invested in the environment since the beginning of negotiations?**

I can give you a precise answer to that once the process is over.

● **How big is the share of EU funds in the financing of environmental programmes?**

With us, it was a rather large sum. I know that we spent around 40% on waste water management,

CRITICISM IS NECESSARY DURING NEGOTIATIONS

● **How loud were the Eurosceptics in Slovenia?**

Just before we joined the EU, they were very loud. If everybody is in favour of it, something must be wrong. We organised a dialogue with our Eurosceptics, there were arguments, warnings, but our official attitude was: thank God for the criticisms, for they are always necessary. No process is without mistakes. If there were no criticism, the things could easily take a course which is perhaps not always the best. In political terms, only one parliamentary party was against the accession.

● **Were you considering their arguments?**

The process of EU negotiations is based on facts. Every argument was listened to, and carefully analysed. Slovenia developed the whole strategy; we even considered option of not joining the European Union. Then it turned out that, if we do not join, sooner or later we will be surrounded by EU members on all sides and we would go bankrupt if we lost the privileges we got regarding export of our products to the European market.

Membership gives you access to a huge market, and you must find a competitive advantage in order to succeed in this environment.

40% on the solid waste, some 10% for air pollution issues, and the rest was relatively negligible.

● **If the Government of Montenegro asked you for an advice regarding the environmental standards what to do immediately, what can be left for later – what would you tell them?**

There is not much to be left for later on, because you must implement whatever is required by EU in order to become a member. You cannot leave things pending. Of course, the most important thing is to identify the problems, to define the programmes, and to set up a clear road to reach the goals.

The third advice would be to evaluate the situation in the economy and to see how the environmental goals are compatible with the objectives in agriculture, tourism, to look for yet unpolluted land. It is important not to think about the EU legal system as something that is being imposed on you, but as something which is in your own interest. This can be a way to development of country.

● **From your experience with the EU negotiation phase, what are the mistakes which Montenegro can-**

not afford to make?

Slovenia had a rather difficult starting point. Our problem was a lack of cadre the word mistake, however, has a creative connotation. My lesson was to keep the process simple and transparent, and to base each of your moves on facts.

For me, the important thing to learn was that the story of EU accession is in fact a story about stability, prosperity, security. If you think of it as of something imposed from above, it is easy to fail.

● **Looking at Montenegro, how would you assess its European perspective in comparison to other countries in the region?**

This is a difficult question. Simply put, this is a competition. It is important to realise that in the EU nothing comes for free, EU only gives you a great opportunity to make something on your own. Every country has to tackle the challenge of making the best out of the opportunities of this big market. EU offers the freedom of movement for goods, services, money..., and the opportunities can be taken, but can also be missed.

N. RUDOVIĆ

Fifth column of the fist five year-plan

by Brano Mandić

This is, of course, a week of celebration, we initialled the Agreement, chinked our champagne glasses, began a new cycle, historically imbued ourselves with the first epic sip since the referendum.

Then the Secretary General of the NATO came to visit...All very gentlemanly, to make a man forget having recently seen in front of the Parliament the vice president of that institution catapult a spitball worthy of a Bulgarian backstreet apprentice from the end of the seventies...

But somehow it all slides into oblivion like the war on Dubrovnik, a man simply must think positively. A human brain contains billions of neurons, and all of them are equally ploughing towards the same goal – to be a good political animal, pay your rent, read Kyrie, and slouching in your armchair in the position Agnus Dei (god's cattle) watch **Filip Vujanović** on the RTCG.

Even the above mentioned mammal, long-haired sheep, with its modest amount of neurons can tell a good from not so good grass. Unlike her, a healthy human being, sitting in front of a TV set, can barely tell as much: thinking that you found yourself in a bad trip, or in front of a nugget of sprayed Albanian gold, which is an alarm to change the dealer (information), you move on to RTV Atlas, the family show "Life is beautiful".

That the life has not been beautiful since primary school is only a result of your personal inabilities and lack of self-confidence, lazy perfectionism, petty hair-splitting. The facts (in fact) are as follows: we are all anti-war profiteers, the war is over.

This mistaken perception of business opportunities therefore takes an emotional toll: we fall prey to a neurosis believing that we are in fact the guardians of truth, which by now only

abides in our memories, while the actual power resides with vox populi incarnate in the President whom we elect directly.

Honourable Filip Vujanović, aka Catharsis, a bohemian of logic and politics, as well as a good guy and a prophet, in his overwhelmingly charming lawyer's diction establishes the following and proclaims it to the citizens he presides over:

"**Marović** and **Đukanović** did not wear a uniform, they did not err against the rules and customs of warfare, they did not in any manner influence the reality of the war in Dubrovnik and those pages of the Montenegrin history that we are jointly striving to close".

Whatever happens in the body of mister President while he pronounces such sentences? Do his capillaries palpitate, the lymph boils, is there a physiological explanation – suppressed winds – or should we study him from a purely behaviourist stance, while he glosses over with patina of a professional historian?

"Filip the colour of silver", to quote

a title taken from one Montenegrin poet, became "Filip the colour of gold", and it is not my intention here to write a philippic – just the opposite. He is the president of all Montenegrin citizens – his words are beyond individual experience, and therefore, to wit, beyond the party line.

"If the Croatian side asks these two officials, or any other two officials, to step down because they are jeopardising good relations between the two countries, we are responsible to urge them to do so".

The hope remains that the Republic of Croatia will be asking as much as possible. The official Zagreb should also request that we check the tenders, to lower the electricity bills, to adopt a law on lustration...

In the meantime, the leaders of the ruling party will do everything possible to bring *The Rolling Stones* to Montenegro, to reunite *The Beatles*, and to find *Elvis*, who is still wisely hiding on some island betraying his youth ideals at the wheel of some off-shore company and eyeing Montenegro for



the investment of posthumously earned monies. Marović's cabinet is on a good way to establish some contacts with the King. The only condition for the potential concert on Cetinje (where else could the King sing, in Titograd?), is that popular *Presley* refrains from performing the hit *Suspicious Minds*. It is simply no time to doubt anything, the first five-year plan of the European agreement is ticking. It follows then that the sophisticated Cetinje public should not be allowed to hear *Separate Ways* either, as regional cooperation features as the main trick by **Jap de Hop Shefer**.

Regional cooperation, by the way, with all of its Zagreb-Podgorica sobbing slowly becomes an easy paranoia score for anybody with even the slightest inclination to conspiracy theories. Is it possible that a dozen of grown-ups (and respectable figures too), just like that, in a single week, sheds streams of tears on each other lapels both in Zagreb and in Podgorica?

This should be a good sign, indeed, if someone has decided that Montenegro should slide into the trail of the progressive neighbour, heading towards the civilised world... ("It seems Montenegrins have finally understood that their only road to Europe leads via Zagreb", c.f. TV NOVA, daily news for 20 February 2007).

Vujanović the sycophant, then, should be therefore observed in the light of European integrations. On the shaky back of the logic of national mythology, he transforms the cannonballs from Konavle into the letters of Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The man is sacrificing himself. What a grand President he is.

Marović and Đukanović can now breathe freely. Their political maturation in the wartime setting has been



redeemed by the benign smile of humble Filip. President is experienced, his abundant talents were already apparent back in the days when, as a young lawyer, he defended **Momir Bulatović**. It is a shame that Mr. President is not a member of the team negotiating with European Commission, where he could humbly bow to tie the shoelaces of some president of the Brussels subcommittee. This is why we elected him, after all, we who raged against the walls of ancient Ragusa, oblivious to the peace-urging cries of Marović and Đukanović who, risking their own safety, remained dedicated opponents to that senseless campaign.

And I fully understand mister **Stjepović** and his spitting in front of the Parliament... The whole thing can make a man nauseated. Instead of making the best out of this opportunity, drawing the line (of cocaine) and concluding the past, some people just cannot get over the nineties, which, chronologically speaking (and politically most of all!) are being slowly delegated to the past millennium.

In a society that seeks to deal with its own crimes on the level of diplomatic metaphors, madness is bound to spill over from the political realm into economics. We are talking here about capitalism in its ugliest guise: as it turns out, blood is after all the most profitable business, and the public voice retreats into a more or less well paid PR enterprise.

The climate is such that one just ought to take a nap to the notes of *Disintegration* LP by that island band with a soothing name. *European disintegration*, should be the ideal title for an LP of some local band here, to spice up that discourse a little, to make sure the champagne does not carry us too far – and to sing each song in Macedonian.

It would be nice, it would also be very nice if our proud fans "the Barbarians", instead of stoning homosexuals took to stopping at least a few of the Podgorica limousines that cost as much as a medium sized private university on the coast.

That would be a feat, almost as much as a victory of Montenegro against Hungary. Which reminds me, the Hungarian ambassador said a few days ago that Montenegro will certainly win. There, it is not only our own President who turns hypocritical when talking to foreign journalists.

Ergo, one should never be too critical. One should also maybe read all those European rules and procedures... but hellas, it is such boring literature! Let us then trust **Gordana Đurović** and her team to do their administrative work well enough.

Turn thin eyes to the inner enemy, for we have no other left. Who is the fifth column of the first five year plan that is the question!

The author is a journalist of the daily newspaper "Vijesti".

WHAT FOLLOWS AFTER THE INITIALLING OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT (SAA)

Implementation to begin by autumn

A year and a half after the beginning of negotiations and three months after the last round of technical negotiations with representatives of the European Commission (EC) on 15 March 2007 Montenegro initialled the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with European Union.

The first contract between Montenegro and the EU, which marks the beginning of a formal preparation period for EU membership, is now waiting to be translated into all EU languages. The Government of Montenegro announced that translations could be completed within a few months so that the SAA could be signed even before the end of June, i.e. by the end of the current German presidency.

According to the procedure, once the document is translated the EC will recommend the Council of EU Ministers to accept the agreement with Montenegro. Some unofficial sources claim that certain EU members could block the Agreement until Serbia and B&H catch up with Montenegro (as in the case of accession to the NATO Partnership for Peace). However, if everything goes well, the Prime Minister **Željko Šturanović** and the EU Enlargement Commissioner **Olli Rehn** could finally sign the SAA in Brussels within the next two months.

Once the agreement is signed, the Parliament of Montenegro and the European Parliament (EP) would pass the agreement, which is then forwarded for ratification to all the parliaments of the EU member states.

As this process could take time (in the case of Macedonia it was three, and for Croatia four years), the SAA is initially preceded by the Interim Agreement.

The purpose of the Interim Agreement (IA) is to enforce those chapters of SAA regarding trade between EU and Montenegro (80% of SAA) as soon as possible. The IA comes into force immediately after the SAA has been ratified by the Parliament of Montenegro and European Parliament, probably somewhere in mid-2007.

The example of Croatia illustrates well the long track from the initialling the SAA to its coming into force: Croatia initialled SAA in March 2001, signed the Agreement in October, and it was ratified by the EP and the Croatian Parliament already in December 2001. The Interim Agreement became operational in January 2002. The



Initialling the SAA

agreement was first ratified by Austria and Ireland (February and April 2002), and the last EU members to ratify it were Italy, the Netherlands and Great Britain – between March and October 2004.

The main reason for the delay was lack of cooperation on the part of the Croatian government with the ICTY. Croatian Stabilisation and Association Agreement with EU came into force only in February 2005.

In the meantime, in February 2003, the Croatian government submitted a request for the candidate status. Croatia received candidate status after 16 months, in June 2004. Accession negotiations between Croatia and EU began in October 2005.

The core of SAA are trade-related issues, which compose some 80% of the Agreement: EU will abolish all tariffs for Montenegrin goods complying with EU standards, except for those products (baby beef, wine) where certain export quotas exist. For its part, Montenegro will abolish custom tariffs for EU goods gradually, usually within three to five years. The delay is meant to enable Montenegrin producers to upgrade their production technology and face EU competitors on the domestic market.

Except for the deadlines for the establishment of a free trade area between Montenegro and EU (five years), SAA envisages clear timeframes for the implementation of reforms and adoption of EU legislation in practically all spheres – from environment to transport to consumer protection. SAA also defines cooperation between Montenegro and EU in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well

as Home and Judicial Affairs.

The goal of SAA is to prepare Montenegro over time politically, economically and legally, to become an associate EU member.

"The SAA will bring concrete advantages to Montenegro and its citizens – often, it means more than just trade with EU, it means more jobs and better opportunities for the overall development of Montenegro", said Olli Rehn on his visit to Podgorica on the 15 March.

Rehn said that he regrets that EU is sometimes a "complicated political animal", but that the Montenegrin team of negotiators proved capable of dealing with complex procedures.

"I would like to conclude with an adage coming from an EU member state, Finland: a good plan is already half the work done", said Rehn, accepting from Prime Minister Šturanović the last version of the National Plan for the implementation of the SAA.

Šturanović explained that the key condition for progress is a common action on the part of all internal forces in Montenegro.

"This is the key to quality integration of every country, and Montenegro is no exception. I would therefore like to emphasise on this occasion strong support for the process of European integrations by all parties in Montenegro, as well as the trade union, business associations, and civil society. It is a spirit which the Government encourages and supports", Šturanović said.

N. RUDOVIĆ

RON VAN DARTEL, AMBASSADOR OF THE NETHERLANDS IN MONTENEGRO

To the rule of law with EU help easier

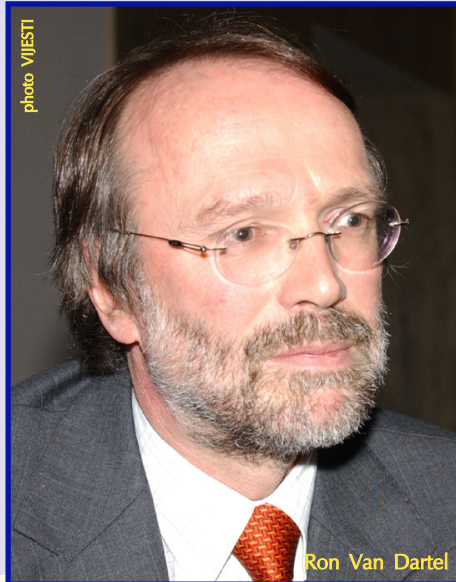
We promised your country to become an EU member as soon as it fulfils all the conditions. Once you are ready to become a member, we will deliver on our promises, says for *EIC Bulletin* **Ron van Dartel**, non-resident ambassador of the Netherlands in Montenegro.

In early March, van Dartel visited Podgorica where he announced that the Netherlands, one of the six founding members of the European Union, will for the first time in celebrate the 24 April, Day of the Nation, in Montenegro.

"It is clear that Montenegro has no alternative but to become an EU member. When, it is a very different question. If you look at the map, you can see that you are a part of Europe, you belong to Europe, and even if you are not a member you will have to do a lot of work in order to create a functional, democratic state based on rule of law and capable of providing jobs and decent living standards to all of its citizens. You can do it on your own, but it will be a lot easier to do it within the EU framework", van Dartel stated.

He added that European Union can provide a model for Montenegro, through its *acquis communautaire*, support...

"Montenegro already has Euro, but this is only a small aspect of EU. If you wish to have a functional state and to receive impulses from other parts of the EU, you should become a member. Waiting will do no good. Montenegro is a new independent country, and it must develop own state and institutions, own economy, and waiting will not help you. While you are waiting, others are working hard and moving forward. So what will you gain? You have waited for so long to become an independent state, why would you wait any longer?" emphasised van Dartel.



Commenting on the opinions that Montenegro is a tiny state and that it is not quite clear what the advantages of membership will be, the Dutch ambassador recommends comparison with the Netherlands.

"Look at the Netherlands. In terms of territory, we are a very small state too, but take a look at our national income, our trade – we are the third biggest exporter of agricultural products in the world. Why would you limit your market opportunities to the size of your population? You must prepare yourself, of course, but waiting will not make things any easier. The current political system has a responsibility to develop the country, to create jobs for people...Just see what the EU already brought to its new members, look at the difference between the former Yugoslav states and the Central and East European countries who have joined the EU earlier. This is why I believe that waiting is not a good idea", van Dartel said.

He announced that the Netherlands is willing to help Montenegro to become a functional new partner in Europe.

"We are looking for priority areas where we can play a role. The first

such area is the defence sector, the second is the judiciary which we are monitoring through OSCE, third is coordination of European affairs which we support through UNDP, and the fourth is the financial sector – we will be representing your country in the IMF and the World Bank", van Dartel explained.

He announced the beginning of implementation of an assistance programme to the Montenegrin Ministry of Defence, worth 620.000 euros.

"Montenegro will have a role to play in the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme. We are now helping the Ministry of Defence to organised and prepare for this role. Our assistance programme consists of counselling services with regard to organisation of a functional army and ministry, in order to enable you it adequately participate in the Partnership for Peace", van Dartel emphasised.

He explained that the work will be done by two experienced advisors from the Jefferson Institute, both citizens of USA.

"They will be working in Montenegro for two years, and they already have experience in similar work in other countries which underwent the same process. They will be providing advice with regard to strategic planning, and explain what it means to be active within NATO. The first step is to create action plans. There will be a lot of support coming from other countries as well, and we will assist ministry in coordinating this assistance efficiently. The whole project is worth 620.000 euros. It is a lot of money, but we believe that the army is a vital part of the society and of the Montenegrin system. In our opinion, this is one of the pillars of our cooperation", van Dartel said.

N.R.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE ROAD TO EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC INTEGRATIONS



Piše: Ivan Jovetić

Integrations – certainly one of the most widely used expressions in Montenegro in the last few years. And its full potential is yet to be explored. It will be interesting to observe the polarisation of today's absolute integrationists once we realise what the European Union really means and that besides "privileges" it may also demand a lot of hard work and obligations which all come at a cost. Euroscepticism will grow stronger in Montenegro.

Does that mean that we should give up on the "European integration race" right at the beginning? Of course not. But standing at this notorious "beginning" we should realise who the rivals are. It is definitely not the EU or other potential membership candidates – we are the competitors to ourselves. We ought to realise that the integration process is not done for the sake of the integration process, but for ourselves, and that we should act as if there were no integration at all. We must build a prosperous society on our own efforts, regardless of the dynamics and outcome of the integrations or the destiny of the EU.

Perhaps you paused at the word "destiny" and wondered why somebody should ponder it at all. The existences of the EU, however, has a particular purpose, and let us not forget that it also harbours many deep rifts and conflicts over regulations of the internal market. It is not a god-given creation.

However, despite of the possible

Euroscepticism will grow stronger in Montenegro

gloomy outcomes, we will probably make it into the family of European nations, states, and why, not, individuals. We must not believe in the accession as a placebo to all our troubles. It is quite the opposite: we are the only medicine to our own problems, and the rest is only mechanisms, or, if you will, the ways to measure out the medicine. Nor should we look at it as an "EU with no alternative", which awakes uncomfortable associations – as an economist, I believe that alternatives always exist. The question is about their accessibility and price. This regards the "NATO with alternatives" as well. It is an empirical fact, however, that the European and Atlantic integrations are highly compatible processes that often precede one another.

I am a supporter of integrations, but I also have my doubts about the situation in the EU today and about our future in it, but the "fault" is always with the angle of perception. The reason perhaps lies in my understanding of integrations as primarily economic, and less of a political issue, although the latter cannot be disregarded.

Whenever we speak about a goal, path or project, we should bear in mind the benefits it may bring and the potentially attractive offers we can make to increase the total benefits. Both the EU and the NATO have their goals regarding the integration of new members, which is entirely legitimate. However, we also have our own aims, which may not be entirely compatible, and precisely for

THE EU WANTS A PATTERN, NOT A COMPETITOR

Whether Montenegro should join the NATO and whether it should be demilitarised is a question to be answered by its citizens. The task of all participants in the integration processes is to explain the reasons, alternatives, and the costs of these alternatives. General references to examples of Switzerland, Norway, or Island, are by no means a constructive contribution. Comparative analysis of temporal differences, political and military relations and concrete specificities of some states would be the adequate response to help choosing the right road. It is important to respond consensually to whether Montenegro (without pretences to the mythical historical glory) can survive outside the collective (EU) and, especially, the global (NATO) security system, and whether it can and should resist the phenomenon called globalisation.

The story about integrations is a story about globalisation, growing choices and opportunities to improve living standards...Globalisation is linked to specificity and success of various "products". This will be the first obstacle on the road to EU, because, in economic terms, the EU requires a mould and promotes harmonisation, not competition. What we need is a balance of integrations on the one hand and particular comparative advantages on the other – we want to join the EU for our own reasons, not for the love of Brussels. Perhaps the European politicians do not feel too happy about such prospects. The struggle to preserve our own will be difficult, but its fruits will be sweet. EU will insist on its most rigid solution, but our task is to try and implement the most flexible ones.

these reasons we should insist on translating them into reality. We should define our own interests and resist all attempts by anybody to "teach" us (again) what our own interests are and how to achieve a better life and a prosperous society.

I believe that the key (common) benefits of Euro-Atlantic integrations lie precisely in the particular character of EU and NATO. The benefits can be divided into two groups, political and economic.

Political benefits are primarily those ensuing from the supra-nationality of the EU, both in the field of decision-making and norm-setting. The former regards transferring powers from the national to



the supra-national level, while the latter denotes binding decisions of the European Court of Justice as well as the primacy of the Community Law over the national law. To quote Professor Mojmir Mrak, supra-nationality, as well as the

extended "political market" and therefore increased transparency "limit the space of manoeuvre for the stupidity of politicians". Perhaps put bluntly, it clearly emphasises the changing role of politics and strengthening of the control mechanisms of the national and European institutions as well as the market and the civil society. Pressure for the strengthening of institutions is growing

within the EU.

Institutional setup can be transformed into a competitive advantage of Montenegro inside EU. Another political benefit could be the prevention of all potential future conflicts in the Balkans, which tend to "burst into flames" more or less every 50 years. Here the integration logic of France and Germany following the World War II can be applied. The result is rather obvious.

Economic advantages of Euro-Atlantic integrations lie in the access to the world's greatest single market (approximately 500 million inhabitants), learning from the stronger competition within this market, possibility of transferring know-how and inflows of capital through foreign direct investments, as well as efficient exchange of goods and services. Many would perceive security component of integrations as an additional benefit. For me, however, it also has significant economic consequences.

Although the EU itself strives to strengthen its security role, I primarily think about the issue in terms of NATO and our membership in this organisation. Economic effects of the security aspect can be best gauged through the reaction of market capital to the invitation issued to Montenegro to join the Partnership for Peace: growth in total transactions and all three indexes confirm the correlation between security and economy.

The author is participant of the II generation of the European Integrations School and an expert of the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses (ISSP).

STRENGTHEN THE ADVANTAGES THROUGH IMPROVED BUSINESS CLIMATE

A frequently heard reproach is that Montenegrin economy is currently not competitive on the European market. This is a truth that however rests on two fallacies. First of all, there is no such thing as Montenegrin economy – all the companies are in private hands, or will be, and it is up to them to be competitive. Second, in times of globalisation the base of competitive advantage of a certain company is provided by the competitive advantages offered by its home country. Based on competitive advantages of Montenegro, therefore, its companies can also become competitive on the world market. The basis of this competitiveness lies in individualisation of the society, strengthening of institutions and the rule of law, and the creation of beneficial business climate. Individualisation of the society requires a change of mindset, and the creation of the supreme legal act – the Constitution – so that it promotes individualisation; strengthening institutions and the rule of law is supported by integrations, but the key and most efficient moves must be made by our own powers. A benign business climate is created, first of all, through mechanisms of cost cutting entrenched in the institutional framework, especially regarding the costs of business entry and exit, as well as the fiscal policy.

Liberal fiscal policy is founded upon principles of quality service, with predominance of fiscal federalism as the key basis for development of a competitive advantage of a state. Fiscal federalism among municipalities today or among the EU member states tomorrow is a mechanism that supports growing living standards of the citizens. This is precisely why the EU resists it, insisting on fiscal harmonisation, because competition today is not among the big and small any more – it is between the quick and the slow. And the fact is that the small adapt faster and hopefully our "size" will for once finally turn into our basic competitive advantage.

WHAT INTRODUCES eSEE INITIATIVE – INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IT IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE, WITHIN THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE



by Marijana
Vidas-Bujanja

In order to address the challenges of Information Society development, to tap all the potentials offered by modern IT and to increase the possibilities of integration in the current world market, South Eastern European (SEE) countries are active on the regional level in initiative dealing with IT introduction and development, that is within eSEE (Electronic South Eastern Europe) Initiative of the Stability Pact for SEE.

The aim of the eSEE Europe Initiative is to better integrate SEE countries into the global, knowledge-based economy by supporting the countries of the region in the development of the Information Society, including benchmarking, best practices and the transfer of knowledge. The Initiative is to promote the creation of a proper institutional environment for building the Information Society for all, in line with EU policies. It also aims at the co-ordination and facilitation of the introduction of ICT projects in various fields among others business, governance and education.

On October 29, 2002, at the Telecommunications for Develop-

Regional Cooperation as a Way for Information Society Development in SEE

ment Conference in Belgrade, SEE countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia) signed and accepted the international agreement, "eSEEurope Agenda for the Development of the Information Society" (eSEE Agenda), as a basic document for IT development activities in their region. This agreement is in line with eEurope 2002 and 2005 Action Plans and eEurope+ plan of candidate countries and represents the confirmation of SEE countries' commitment to develop information societies in their economies in accordance with European models and standards, and to associate themselves with Euro-

pean IT development process. This document was also endorsed by member countries at the March 2003 South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEEC) Summit.

As is defined in the eSEE Agenda, countries from SEE will take concrete actions within the constraints of their specific environments in the fields of:

- Adoption of policy and strategy for the Information Society;
- Adoption and implementation of Legal Infrastructure for the Information Society accordingly to Acquis Communautaire settled within European Union countries;
- Establishment of regional cooperation and national implementation

REGIONAL PROJECTS FOR MONEY FROM EU FUNDS

The scope of co-operation between countries participating in the bSEE Initiative shall include the following areas relating to broadband:

1. Setting statutory and regulatory objectives and frameworks with respect to European Union Directives and global standards;
2. Aggregating demand leading to broadband development;
3. Evaluating broadband technologies and international best practices;
4. Developing skills through exchange programmes and through joint sponsorship of conferences, training programmes and seminars in the field of broadband technologies and services;
5. Prompting planned activities regarding broadband investment that would result in building awareness, increasing level of public interest, and empowering SMEs to participate in such initiatives;
6. Addressing market failures that are beyond the reach of policy tools;
7. Providing incentives to the private sector for broadband development, especially in rural and remote areas;
8. Monitoring progress and producing timely reports; and
9. Formulation of agreed regional projects, which could be financed from European Union Funds or other available sources.

mechanisms; and

- Promotion of the Information Society for development.

The expected result for SEE countries of the eSEE Agenda for the Development of the Information Society is to get stronger political support first in their own countries, than in the EU.

On the Regional Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, held in Thessaloniki, Greece between 30th June and 1st July 2005 SEE countries took stock and reviewed the progress achieved so far under auspices of the Stability Pact eSEE Initiative and discussed continuation of the eSEE Agenda as a joint action plan for development of the Information Society in this region, and also as a prerequisite for more profound integration of SEE region in European technological and develop-

mental currents.

Recognising the complexity of some tasks included in the eSEE Agenda, SEE countries agreed on the Thessaloniki Ministerial Conference to modify their deadlines and consider Jun 2006 as final deadline for fulfilment of all accepted obligations.

By recognising the need to align the eSEE Agenda with the new targets set out by the i2010 Initiative and the WSIS documents, and by taking into account regional and national circumstances and priorities, SEE countries also agreed that the eSEE Initiative Working Group shall prepare a proposal of the eSEE Agenda+ to be adopted at the next South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Jun 2007.

In eSEE Agenda+ the i2010 European defined priorities for In-

formation Society development policies are rephrased into our region specific priorities, as follows:

- further development of a Single SEE Information Space which promotes an open and competitive internal market for Information Society and media, moving it toward a common European Information Space in terms of interoperability;
- strengthening Innovation and Investment in ICT Research and Education while working with the private sector to promote growth and more and better jobs;
- achieving an Inclusive Information Society that promotes growth and jobs in a manner that is consistent with sustainable development
- development of better public services and quality of life.

The Ministerial Conference held in Greece was also an opportunity for SEE countries, as well as Greece and Romania, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Broadband for Southeast Europe (bSEE) Initiative.

The main ideas behind this bSEE Initiative are the following:

- the need to promote integral links in the Electronic Communications sector between the countries of the SE European region with a view to leverage capabilities and opportunities on both sides
- common interest in advancing the growth of investments, joint ventures, joint initiatives, technology development and markets in the Electronic Communications sector.

The main aim of this new Initiative is to develop a unified broadband market fully interconnected to the European and global networks and to implement a technology and industry co-operation programme aimed at fostering business partnerships between countries of the SEE region.

The author is Chair of Stability Pact's eSouth East Europe Initiative.

SUPPORT TO INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT

Beside eSEE Agenda + and organization of the second Ministerial Conference in Sarajevo by Jun 2007 other priorities for eSEE Initiative for 2007 are:

- A private sector ICT Forum led by the Stability Pact's Business Advisory Council– an association of leading business persons from the region and from major investor countries, which aims to create closer links between the region's governments and the private sector on ICT;
- And, an "e Government Center" which is public-private sector effort to create an effective platform for supporting the development and implementation of national (and regional) e Government programs in South East Europe and to allow the transfer of the experience and the best practices of more advanced EU member states to the region.

Implementation of eSEE Agenda, renewed eSEE Agenda+ and further activities under eSEE and bSEE Initiatives will bring the following results for SEE countries:

- Strengthen promotion and co-ordination of mutual interests in IS development
- Combine and synchronize activities and scarce resources for IT development
- Stimulate innovation and exploit the technology potentials of e-business
- Promote and establishment of Business networking of the IT companies in SEE region
- Create an integral central database of IT resources on national and regional level
- Develop partnership with the public sector and universities for the realization of projects of interest of each state and region as the whole
- Promote and provide the investment in IT modernization regardless of industry/sector
- Organize and introduce services such as e-commerce, e-banking, e-tourism, e-agribusiness etc
- Start initiatives for human resources development
- Jointly to face strong competition in the western countries markets

HOW TO PROVIDE MONTENEGRIN CITIZENS WITH A RIGHT TO MOVE FREELY ON THE EUROPEAN UNION TERRITORY



by Maja Vujašković

All public opinion polls show that the EU membership, in the countries aspiring to that status, is first perceived among the population as a recipe for better living standards and a guarantee of the greater freedom of movement. Montenegro is no exception in that regard. And while better living standards are to be gained through meticulous economic reforms and improved economic performance that should come with access to the single market, freedom of the people to move has been, and remains, a sensitive spot for EU.

It is often forgotten that the single market had as one of its basic postulates the four freedoms: freedom of movement of capital, goods, services, and people. Freedom of the movement of capital and goods is fulfilled in full capacity in previous decades, freedom of the movement of services is slowly moving in that direction. As for the people, let us admit that the issue of a very specific nature, and is constantly and vigilantly monitored by the public. Its controversy stems from the fact that it is intertwined with currently particularly delicate issues.

White Schengen list the first step

One of them is certainly the fear of uncontrolled migration of workers towards the prosperous countries of Western Europe, especially those with high levels of social protection. Another is the issue of terrorism and organised crime which in our times have become a global problem. This is why the EU insists on the implementation of standards that would ensure security and impermeability of borders, even in the early phases of the accession process. Already the first European Partnership for Montenegro insists on the fulfilment of objectives regarding visas, border controls, asylum and migration. Montenegro is required to develop

institutional capacities for a visa policy which would be compatible with the EU regulations, to improve integrated border control, to adopt a law on asylum and establish centres for the reception of refugees and asylum seekers. Related to this issue are the demands for the improvement of customs controls and checkpoints.

Such issues are also directly relevant for the free movement of goods in the Single Markets. As an illustration, the European Union standard for the movement of goods stipulates that the maximum transport time should be 12 to 14 hours, which is far from the reality on our borders. Someone may ask why the

JOINT FIGHT AGAINST CROSS BORDER CRIME

Except for the Great Britain and Ireland, all the old EU members are currently members of the Schengen zone, together with Norway and Island. It is important to underline that the countries of the Central and Eastern Europe did not have the chance to opt out of the agreement, in a way that the Great Britain and Ireland did. Instead, they were required to implement as much of the Schengen acquis as possible and to secure their borders, although they were not automatically included into the Schengen zone, and their admission is yet to be discussed in the following period.

Schengen criteria, which our country also will have to adopt, are numerous, and in order to fulfil them the country will need expert and efficient administration and institutions capable of dealing with such issues. Custom controls must have a legal basis for their work. Their competences should also be delimited by separate legislation, especially with respect to cross border crime and illegal crossing of people and goods. All passengers must be controlled according to the principles stipulated by the Agreement. It is also necessary to ensure cooperation among the states, in order to enable their border controls to jointly fight against cross-border crime. Further requirements regard a national strategy and a special agency/institution which would be responsible for this issue. Among other things, having "right" travel documents is very important, although our country is not doing to well at acquiring them, which is certainly a problem, especially now that we are in the middle of negotiations with EU on visa facilitation and readmission.

EU cares so much about it. The answer is a simple one: Montenegrin borders will one day be the borders of EU itself, and we must be able to implement relevant EU policies, observing the standards of efficiency and security. Let us remember that the Central East European countries had to introduce a visa regime for our citizens after they joined the EU, and so did Bulgaria and Romania recently, although these were the two countries that allowed our citizens to enter even in the 90s when our country could have been considered a lot less stable than today.

The question of the outer borders of the EU is mostly regulated through the Schengen Agreement, thus the guidelines for the adequate regulation can be found in this part of the acquis. Schengen chapter was created with the signing of the "Schengen Agreement" in 1985 in Luxembourg. It was signed by France, Germany, Belgium,



Luxembourg and the Netherlands, who wished to create an area without internal borders. The agreement is the outcome of a debate which developed in the early 80s questioning the achievements of the

European Union with regard to the free movement of people, which was established as a goal already in the 50s. Schengen acquis expanded in the following years, in order to confront contemporary security challenges, and more and more countries joined the agreement.

Regarding the free movement of people, Montenegrin citizens are most curious about the chance of avoiding complex and expensive visa procedures on the occasion of every journey, which is further complicated by the fact that a number of countries do not yet issue visas on the territory of Montenegro. Few still remember the times when our citizens could travel freely.

Montenegro today is on the "black" Schengen list, meaning that its citizens must have visas in order to enter the territory of European Union. The first step towards greater freedom of movement will be to move onto the "white list", which allows for free access to and movement in the territory of the countries signatories of Schengen agreement for a limited time period. There are no clear requirements that a country must fulfil in order to achieve this privileged status, although progress in the above mentioned areas and the relations between the Union and the third country can be considered useful indicators.

A NEW WALL AFTER BERLIN

It is surprising that after 50 years of its existence the EU did not yet manage entirely to liberalise one of the fundamental human rights – right to free movement of people – which was set as a goal at the very moment of its establishment. It seems that the role of the symbolic divide, previously borne by the Berlin Wall, is now taken over by a Schengen Wall separating the EU from the rest of Europe. As so many other benefits inside the EU, the freedom of movement must be won through profound reforms of the system. Conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with European Union is a sign that we are indeed on the right road.

Another issue is the question of finding a job in the EU countries. This, however, should not raise the hopes too high, at least for a number of years to come. Citizens of East Central European countries will have to await their opportunity for a minimum of seven years, except for the territory of Great Britain and Ireland. A number of barriers must first be overcome: from protectionist attitudes of the old member states to mutual recognition of qualifications and other similar issues.

The author is currently finishing MA studies in European Affairs at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade and she is associate of CCE. She completed III generation of European Integration School.



by Maja Simonović

The 2004 European Union enlargement wave was the biggest and most important one in its history. This year symbolises, in a way, a definite end to a divided Europe. Out of the ten new members, eight had a history of communist rule. Joining the EU in the same wave, Slovenia "broke the ice", opening the EU gates to the rest of the former Yugoslav republics. Croatia and Macedonia are already on this road. This is when I first started to wonder about the European Union, its advantages, and disadvantages.

In January 2007, Romania and Bulgaria too joined the EU. I celebrated the New Year in Bulgaria and, together with them, their accession to the European Union. And I felt ashamed. I still come from the Western Balkans. On that day, I asked myself: how is Bulgaria better than Montenegro? Which criteria does it fulfil that Montenegro cannot? In my view, on that very day, Montenegro had more "right" to be a part of EU than Bulgaria... Maybe because I was met by a pile of rubbish at the border crossing? Or perhaps because most Bulgarians cannot or do not want to speak English? Or because of all those holes in the road, all the way to Sofia? Or, because of the rude customs officers, policemen, waiters?

However, Montenegro is not much better – it is, in fact, very similar to Bulgaria, at least in those terms. The European Union itself keeps developing, and so do its criteria. And we are also expected to prove ourselves more, given our history and the general perception of the Balkans. Also, Montenegro will not be able to sneak into the EU like Greece in 1981 or Romania and Bulgaria this year... And today, I am grateful for that,

Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe?

because I know that Montenegro will have to reach some, let's call it a decent level of development, to be at least as well off as the least prosperous EU country, in order to become a part of it.

I will answer the question: Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe? – with another question: What does it mean, to be a citizen of Europe? Does it mean that I can freely travel in all European countries, the 27 EU members included? Does it mean that I will not have to step aside into the "NON EU citizens" line? Does it mean that I will have an opportunity to enjoy my civic rights, to be free? Does it mean that I should celebrate the 9 May, stand up at the sound of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy"?

It does, among other things. Disappearing borders are one of the major reasons, especially among the young people, to choose a "European orientation".

Most of our citizens are in favour of joining the EU, and this is the road that our country has chosen. We are all, at least rhetorically, for the "European road" of Montenegro, to quote our politicians, who usually fail to distinguish between the Council of Europe and the Council of European Union. In general, however, our citizens do not quite understand what being a part of EU really means. There are very few so-called "Eurosceptics", who are necessary for every country wishing to join the EU, in order to prompt the debate and show to the citizens what they stand to gain, and what to lose.

I know that Montenegro cannot lose by becoming a member of EU. I am one of those who believe in the advantages of growing up, studying, and living within EU. For me, the EU stands for peace and stability, security and freedom. And I want that. I want "Europeanism" to replace "Balkanism". I want to be a citizen of Montenegro and a citizen of Europe, of the world, not just someone from the Western Balkans. I want Montenegro to be an EU member, not just a "tiny state in the neighbourhood of Italy".

EU accession will not improve our rights overnight, but I believe that joining the EU is the only alternative, and that many of us are aware of the improvements experienced by countries that became members. Especially in post-communist states.

To be a citizen of Europe is certainly a source of many opportunities. As I already said, just removing the borders would be enough. Not to talk about studying and working abroad, "unity in diversity"... The EU membership in itself is a very attractive idea, bearing in mind that EU pledges to guarantee peace, stability and democracy, economic growth, freedom in all areas of life, with a special focus on free access to markets...

And yet, it seems to me that being a Montenegrin in Europe is easier than being a European in Montenegro.

Although the EU itself grew out of the need for unification, cooperation among the neighbouring countries in order to ensure peace and stability, our path need not necessarily lead to EU. It must, however, be similar to the path chosen by its members!

If the civic conscience is ever developed in Montenegro, with respect to the issue of EU accession, there may once appear a question as to whether the state loses its own identity by joining the EU? Life in a united Europe is, according to me, and advantage – not a flaw. Creation of a common identity, too. No country can lose its identity, unless it wishes to do so. We are all different, all equal. In the EU, there are no second-rate citizens. There is equality in its full meaning. The idea of a European identity exists ever since the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community. If the states such as France, Germany, or Great Britain never feared losing their identity, why should we?

After the failure of the constitution, following its rejection by the French and Dutch citizens, many have predicted an end to the European Union. I do not want to think about it. The future of the EU is not my immediate concern. Instead, I want to imagine my own state as a free, democratic and developed one, finally deign of becoming a member of the European Union. Deserving to be called a part of the "great European family".

The author is the participant of the V generation of European Integrations School and Vice President of Montenegrin Association of Political Sciences Students (MAPSS).

Southeast European Times

Careful planning is a must for euro adoption

Countries planning on entry into the eurozone must not content themselves with meeting the nominal criteria, writes economist and former Romanian Finance Minister Daniel Daianu. They must take a hard look at the actual conditions for solid performance within the monetary union.

by Daniel Daianu

Adoption of the common EU currency, the euro, is not a simple matter, as several new EU members have been finding out. While Slovenia has adopted the euro, Lithuania has been asked by the European Commission in Brussels to wait. At the same time, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary have decided to extend the timetable for adoption.

Under its accession treaty, Romania is also supposed to join the eurozone. Its convergence programme has set, as a strategic target, euro adoption and accession to the monetary union by 2012–2014. Clearly stating this aim may be a means to achieve a more consistent economic policy in Romania. However, there are difficulties involved in basing a comprehensive policy platform on an objective that is wrapped up in many technicalities. Furthermore, the platform needs to be easily digestible for the public at large.

Taking a look at the actual functioning of the monetary union should provide some indication of the specific challenges ahead. There are certain factors which, hypothetically at least, can enhance entry into the eurozone. It is not necessarily the nominal convergence criteria (inflation, interest rate differentials, public debt, exchange rate volatility) that play the key role here. More important are factors that make solid performance within the monetary union achievable.

These include flexibility in production/service markets and in markets for

production factors (including labour), adequate prior reform of the welfare and pensions system (eliminating some of the expected additional burden on the public coffers in the future), and a tax policy focused on the mobility of production factors under single market conditions, including labour migration.



Such prerequisites are not easy to meet. They imply a certain level of economic development that must in no way be accidental if euro adoption is to be successful. After accession into the monetary union, the only macro-economic instrument left to national policymakers, for adjustment purposes, is the public budget. Unless domestic markets function properly, putting too heavy a burden on the public budget would have a boomerang effect. Attempting to reduce excessive external deficits this way could make the economy stall and go into recession – as shown by Portugal's experience. Italy, too, offers an example of how tricky operating inside the monetary union can be unless markets adjust smoothly and rapidly.

Economic policy after accession has to deal with unavoidable and complicated tradeoffs, for which theory does not always provide clear solu-

tions. For example, major tradeoffs are entailed by the complete liberalisation of the capital account when domestic interest rates are still high (attracting hot money inflows). Another example applies to emerging economies. These need massive investment in infrastructure, as part of the overall effort at modernisation. Such investment requires a significant growth in public and private expenditures which, unless accompanied by corresponding productivity gains, would create inflationary fits while enlarging foreign deficits.

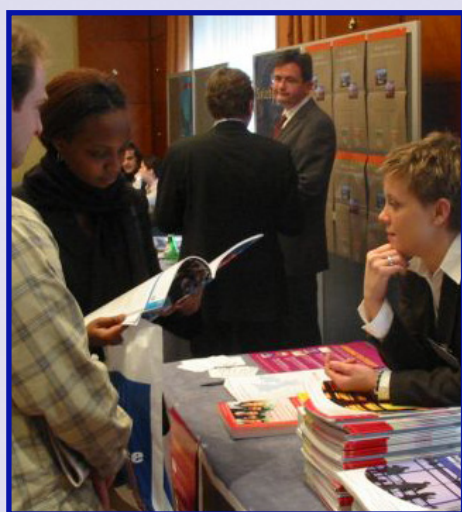
Some analysts argue that the Maastricht criteria are less applicable to emerging economies that are growing quite rapidly. This is not only because of the Balassa–Samuelson effect (entailing a sharp rise in the price of non-tradeables), but also because of possible conflicts between a considerably larger public budget (with expenditures that can rise by 4–5% of GDP due to post-accession requirements and the availability of EU funds) and the sustained disinflation that is required by accession into the monetary union.

The more complex and bigger an economy is, the more difficult it is to tackle macroeconomic trade-offs — a lesson that has been learned the hard way in Prague, Budapest and Warsaw. For Bulgaria and Romania, a further challenge looms — namely, the upward pressure on wages caused by steady migration. This may make it difficult to achieve an inflation rate of 2% on a durable basis.

The article is taken from Southeast European Times.

INTRODUCING THE EU INSTITUTIONS

European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO)



European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) was established on 26 July 2002, and it became operational on 1 January 2003.

Its mission is to select highly qualified staff for recruitment to all institutions and bodies of the European Union. In other words, EPSO acts as a mediator between the EU institutions seeking staff and citizens who are interested in working for these institutions. EPSO has no right to mediate the selection process only if the procedure explicitly requires that the selection is conducted under the regulations of the national law of the member state in question. EPSO acts as a mediator in those cases when the selection is mandated by the Regulation on Selection of European Communities officials.

EPSO ensures implementation of common selection standards for the cadre in the EU institutional structure.

Candidates for jobs in EU institutions need no more roam through various offices and deal with complex and confusing selection procedures. EPSO provides all the necessary information, advice on the application process and it organises recruitment tests.

Establishment of EPSO is a result of efforts to provide better service to the citizens, minimise the burden of administrative costs for the taxpayers and improve the image of EU and its institutions.

Competitions for posts in EU bodies and institutions organised by EPSO are open and public. Application calls are

published in daily newspapers of the member states, specialised reviews or EPSO website. Every competition is different, depending on the requirements of the given post. Application calls are also published in the Official Journal of EU. Each of them details all the relevant information regarding the requirements, number of candidates, qualifications and experience. In order to participate in the competition, a candidate must be a citizen of a member State or a citizen of an accession country and be fluent in at least two official EU languages.

The average number of applications for each call is above 20.000, coming from all EU member states. A recruitment competition takes roughly one year from the time of publication until the drawing up of the reserve list.

In order to facilitate the procedure, EPSO modernised and simplified the selection process. All the applications and a part of the selection tests are performed via internet.

After applying, each candidate is required to pass an initial exam testing their verbal and numeric reasoning, as well as verbal and numerical skills.

Those who pass the initial test successfully proceed to further verbal and written examinations in their respective areas of expertise. Only those with the highest marks are then selected for the recruitment.

EPSO is fully committed to the principle that each organisation or institution must, to the greatest possible extent, aim at creating a personnel and professional structure which reflects national and other diversities of the European society.

Whenever reasonable and practically applicable for a given case, special arrangements are made for persons with disabilities in order to enable them to compete with other candidates. Subsequently, they are also provided with assistance which helps them integrate into the working environment.

Further information on EPSO, current competitions and application procedures can be found at:

www.europe.eu.int/epso

Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ

NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPEAN UNION

CEE bankwatch network

CEE BANKWATCH NETWORK

CEE Bankwatch network is an international non-governmental organisation whose current membership consists of organisations from 11 countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The goal of this network is to monitor activities of international financial institutions active in the region, and to propose constructive alternatives to their policies and projects.

CEE Bankwatch Network was established in 1995, and it became one of the most influential non-governmental networks in Central and Eastern Europe. The members of the network are non-governmental organisations from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Bankwatch mostly focuses on energy, transport, and EU enlargement, at the same time working on improvement of public participation in and access to information on activities of international financial institutions in the region.

CEE Bankwatch Network has five main goals:

- To create public awareness about the activities of international financial institutions in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and their social consequences;
- To strengthen public participation in decision-making about policies and projects of international financial institutions on local, national, and regional level;
- To assist non-governmental organisations and groups of citizens in supervising the activities of financial institutions in Central and Eastern Europe;
- To fight or change socially destructive policies and projects by international financial institutions and to promote alternative solutions;
- To cooperate with other non-governmental organisations in fighting destructive activities of transnational corporations and to limit their influence on the society.

More information about the organisation can be found at www.bankwatch.org

Prepared by: Vučić ČETKOVIĆ

VASSILIS MARAGOS GUEST OF THE FORUM OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION SCHOOLS

A breaking point for Montenegro



On the 14 March 2007, Forum of European Integration Schools hosted **Vassilis Maragos**, desk officer for Montenegro at the European Commission DG Enlargement.

At the Forum, organised by Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO), Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM), with support of the Foundation Open Society Institute – Regional Office in Montenegro (FOSI ROM), Maragos spoke about the current position of Montenegro on its path to the EU to an audience of about 50 participants of the previous five

generations of European Integrations Schools.

Speaking about the initialling of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), Maragos stated that Montenegro is now facing a crucial turn in its relations with European Union – beginning of the process of adjustment and implementation of European standards.

"The key concern of EU countries is whether Montenegro has the administrative capacity to implement Stabilisation and Association Agreement", Maragos emphasised, explaining that the SAA is a crucial step bringing Montenegro closer to EU membership.

He warned that the Parliament needs to strengthen its capacity as well, and to improve stability in the realm of legislation.

"European integrations are a chance for a broader consensus in Montenegro", Maragos estimated.

He also noted several key points of SAA and summarised findings of the annual Progress report on Montenegro and priorities of the European Partnership for Montenegro. He reminded that the European Union allocated 95 million euros to Montenegro through the new IPA programme for the period 2007 to 2009.

THE FIRST SUCCESS OF JEF MONTENEGRO

Candidate status

A recently founded NGO, JEF Montenegro, already qualified for a place in the JEF Europe network. At the JEF Europe Federal Committee (FC) meeting, held on the 24 and 25 March 2007 in Berlin, upon sending its official application to JEF Europe on the 2 March 2007, and answering numerous questions by JEF representatives from all around Europe, JEF Montenegro was granted a candidate status for membership with overwhelming support of the members of the FC JEF Europe. The application was presented by **Daliborka Uljarević**, president of the Executive Board of JEF Montenegro.

In this way, JEF Montenegro gained access to the procedure for achieving full membership in the strongest European movement of young federalists. JEF Montenegro hopes to become a member already next year, which is rather quick, considering that some associates gained full membership only after a decade. At the same time, JEF Montenegro acquired powerful allies in other sections and JEF Europe representatives for the promotion of European Integrations in Montenegro.

Also, President of JEF Montenegro, **Vučić**



Četković, participated in the seminar "Clash of Civilisations", organised from the 18 to the 23 March in Berlin by JEF Germany, while Secretary General of JEF Montenegro, **Petar Đukanović**, represented the organisation at the seminar "Identities – identity in Europe", from 23 to 25 March, organised by JEF Germany.

In the following period, JEF Montenegro will begin with a series of activities related to advocacy of European values, networking with other related organizations in the country and abroad in accordance with its mission and defined goals. Already in the process of its formation, it was supported by Centre for Civic Education, European Movement in Montenegro and numerous individuals from these and other partner organisations, as well as by JEF Austria, whose support was decisive for such as successful beginning of the organisation.

Media and non-governmental organisations

European Union recognises the importance of activities and engagement of the civil sector in the process of European integrations, and through its funds it assists the process of strengthening of non-governmental sector in the region. One of the crucial factors for the success of NGOs is their ability to cooperate with the media, the most important communication channel for the promotion of the civil sector and a decisive factor for fostering effectiveness of their work.

In order to improve these relations, and to enhance regional cooperation among the NGOs, Balkan Civil Society Development Network, in cooperation with NGO "Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation" organised a training titled "Media Relations for Non-Governmental Organisations". The training was organised with financial support of the European Union.

During the seminar, twenty representatives of non-governmental organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia had a chance to acquire substantial theoretical knowledge about civil society and the media, and to develop practical skills through exercises of writing press releases, simulations, media conferences and appearance before TV cameras. The trainer was Kristina Plavšak Krajnc from Slovenia, a PR expert in the team of the President of Slovenia. Montenegro was represented at the seminar by members of the Centre for Civic Education and European Movement in Montenegro.

A strategic framework for cross-border cooperation

On the 23 and 24 March, in Kumbor, representatives of non-governmental organisations from the region (Dubrovnik, Trebinje, Boka Kotorska) met at a seminar titled "Strategic planning for a network of non-governmental organisations". The meeting is a result of a ongoing process of establishing contacts among NGOs from the region, who agreed on the need for a network of organisations, in order to promote cooperation among regional NGOs, and to identify common interests and potential for cross-border cooperation, with a goal of establishing better cooperation among the NGO sectors and subsequent normalisations of cross-border relations in the region.

During the meeting a strategic framework was made for the development of the network, accompanied by the necessary documents, nominating the representatives and coordinators of the network for every region and developing the plan of activities of the network. Except for the NGOs from the border territories, the meeting was attended by representatives of the Centre for Civic Education, Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations, and European Movement in Montenegro.

The organiser and donor of the meeting was the East West Institute from Dubrovnik.



MASTERS PROGRAMME (ENGLISH) ON GENDER, SEXUALITY AND SOCIETY (GSS)

The University of Amsterdam

Gender and sexuality studies are devoted to enhancing our understanding of the differences among certain groups of women and certain groups of men – as well as between women and men – in an era of globalization and transnational migration. A range of social distinctions among and between women and men, and the particular forms of agency available to them, are grounded in their ethnic and religious identities, age categories, class location, sexual orientation, or access to political power. These distinctions produce different experiences and entitlements in civil society and citizenship; they endow most human beings with contrasting perspectives on their options in the environment in which they live, work, and forge social and sexual bonds. This scholarly endeavor represents a systematic attempt to address structurally embedded prescriptions concerning gender relations and sexual behavior on a par with other analytical variables such as class, ethnicity, religion, age, or political ideology.

The programme on Gender, Sexuality and Society aims to integrate the social and cultural imperatives that shape gendered identities and sexual relationships into the normal research repertoire of social scientists. Accordingly, in the programme students will learn how to incorporate a multi-disciplinary and transnational approach. The historical and comparative dimensions emphasized in the majority of the courses train the student to analyse issues in society and culture from various perspectives and to put them in their wide-ranging sociological, political and cultural contexts. The programme on Gender, Sexuality and Society provides the student with a solid theoretical, conceptual, and methodological foundation in the social sciences. The combination of empirical studies with theoretical reflection and reading will provide the intellectual tools and abilities that students need to better understand, analyse and cope with the world's contemporary problems and complexities.

www.ishss.uva.nl

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:

For questions and more information, please contact the programme managers **Heleen Straesser** H.M.Straesser@uva.nl (undergraduate) and **Machteld Rijsingen** M.vanRijsingen1@uva.nl (graduate)

MA IN ADVANCED EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales (I.E.H.E.I.) offers a one-year interdisciplinary graduate programme in European Studies and International Relations, leading to the "M.A. in European and International Studies", awarded in cooperation with the Institut für Europäische Politik of Berlin, the University La Sapienza in Rome and the University of Rostock. The Master in Advanced European and International Studies comprises three terms.

The trilingual branch includes trimesters in Nice and Berlin interrupted for a one week stay at our partner university in Rostock and a two week stay at our partner university in Rome. Additionally the Institute offers a study trip to European and international organizations in Strasbourg and Brussels. This Master program is the only one taught in three languages (English, French and German).

The Anglophone branch includes trimesters in Istanbul, Nice and Berlin supplemented by a study trip to European and international organisations in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Subject areas are: International Relations, European Integration, Democracy and Society, Federalism.

Scholarships can be granted by different organisations depending on the nationality of the applicant. The organisations have to be contacted directly. Furthermore, the French Government, I.E.H.E.I. and the CIFE can offer scholarships, for more information please visit www.iehei.org/dheel/en/bourses.htm
Deadline for applications is the June 30th!!!

MASTER PROGRAMME IN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND REGIONALISM

by University of Graz (Austria) and implemented in cooperation with European Academy of Bolzano (Italy) and European Institute of Public Administration (Luxembourg and Barcelona).

The CORE TOPICS are:

- Module I: European Integration (2 residential weeks in September 2007, (Bolzano, Italy)
- Module II: EU Law (2 residential weeks in November 2007, Luxembourg)
- Module III: Federalism and Regionalism (2 residential weeks in January 2008, Graz, Austria)
- Module IV: Regional and Social Cohesion (2 residential weeks in April 2008, Barcelona, Spain)

– Module V: Minorities and Diversity (2 residential weeks in June 2008, Bolzano, Italy)

Successful participants of the Master Programme will be awarded by the University of Graz the academic degree of a "Master of European Studies" (M.E.S.). Target groups are:

- Civil servants from local, regional or national administrations who are dealing with EU affairs and therefore require both theoretical and practical training in EU and regional issues;
- Lawyers, economists, social scientists and others in the employment of non-governmental organisations wishing to enhance inter-disciplinary skills and to specialise on different aspects of European integration, regionalism and diversity;
- Graduate students wishing to acquire a more in-depth understanding of EU and regional issues, beneficial for a future career in the academia or even practice-orientated work.

The deadline for application for the academic year 2007/2008 is 1 June 2007. The first module of the academic year 2007 2008 will start on 3 September 2007.

Further information about the Programme as well as the application forms can be found at www.eurac.edu/meir

MA IN ADVANCED EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Anglophone Branch: Istanbul-Nice-Berlin

Application for Scholarships in Master in Advanced European and International Studies (M.A.E.I.S.) at Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales (Nice/France) is open!

The Master Programme offers the unique opportunity to learn Europe "in Europe" and develop perspectives for Europe's future. The programme includes semesters in Istanbul, Nice and Berlin and guarantees an international education with an excellent academic staff and environment.

A limited number of full and partial scholarships is available for qualified candidates.

Location: Istanbul, Nice, Berlin

Duration: 9 months (From October to July)

Deadline for scholarship applications for the M.A.E.I.S.: The deadline for scholarship applications is April 16th, 2007

Deadline for Master Applications: The deadline for applications is on July 31st, 2007.

Subject Areas: International Relations, European Integration, Democracy and Society, Federalism.

For more information, you are welcome to consult our web site at: www.iehei.org/dheel/istanbul

Please address further requests to:

dheel.istanbul@cife.org

EIC Bulletin is electronic magazine established within EIC programme, with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

The publisher is Centre for Civic Education.

EIC Bulletin is registered with the Ministry for Culture and Media as item No. 578

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EIC Bulletin can be downloaded at the www.cgo.cg.yu