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Will new amendments
to the Law on the
Protection of
Competition introduce
European rules of
the game on
Montenegrin markets?

INTERVIEW

Katja Geršak,
senior researcher
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ANALYSES

Possible consequences of
Montenegro's acceptance of the
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agreement for its EU ambitions





ANNIVERSARY

Whoever thought that something important can be changed in a year probably felt disappointed on the 21 May, at the anniversary celebration of the renewal of Montenegrin independence. Montenegro has more or less remained the same – a society where a handful of friends surrounding the re-elected president of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists, **Milo Đukanović** can give or take, managing to transfer everything of any value onto their private funds and companies, a society with dubious privatisation arrangements suspected to be detrimental to the national interests, but a goldmine for some pockets at the very top of the state, a society where free intellectuals and prominent representatives of the civil society are blackmailed when they start to talk too much, a society where garish colours are used to cover up compromising biographies of the heads of the ruling party... All those things which were supposed to be, in addition to a debt repaid to all those who sacrificed their life for the homeland from the Christmas uprising to this date, the greatest benefit of the return of independence. Issues that have been nagging on the youngest state in the world for the last two decades are finally gaining front pages, relieved of the burden of a higher goal: the question of statehood, which for years has served as an alibi for the authorities. We are finally back to the bread and butter issues, whose outcome will determine the future of Montenegro. Only at the end of this will we know whether we are to join modern democratic countries governed by the rule of law, or the so-called "banana" republics of Latin American variety, ruled by a "junta", which has all the power and for whom anything is permitted, which lives by a set of laws different from its citizens. Seen that we should thank civil society and the professional media for ever having reached this stage, the hope that Montenegro can cling to the right path is not only a utopia. For starters, they managed to disappoint the hopes of the close collaborators of warlords to all of a sudden become humanists. **N.R.**

AFTER SAA, MONTENEGRO REACHING OTHER IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS WITH EU

Through SEECP and the Council of Europe to EU?

A year after the referendum on independence, the process of Montenegrin accession to international and regional organisations is nearing its end – On 11 May, Montenegro became the 47th member of the Council of Europe and 11th member of the South East European Cooperation Process.

With a signature by the Montenegrin foreign minister, **Milan Roćen**, of the CoE statute, Montenegro formally joined the oldest and the most numerous pan-European organisation, followed by the rising of the Montenegrin flag and intonation of the national anthem in front of the CoE headquarters in Strasbourg. Montenegro has the right to three places in the CoE Parliament.

Joining CoE, Montenegro has committed itself to its values, standards, and principles, which mainly concern respect for human rights. Secretary General of the CoE Parliament, **Terry Davis**, said that: "Montenegro and CoE are not strangers to each other", expressing his conviction that good relations will continue and that Montenegro as a new member will contribute to strengthening and enhancement of the common values. He urged Montenegro to ratify the European Convention of Human Rights and other documents.

Calling Montenegrin accession "its second greatest international victory, after the victory over Hungary in football", Davis concluded his speech with a paraphrase of the last **Bogart's** sentence from "Casablanca": "I think this will be the continuation of a beautiful friendship".

Montenegro was a CoE member since 3 April 2003 as a part of Serbia and Montenegro, and it submitted its application as an independent state on 6 June 2006.

CoE Parliament set deadlines for Montenegro to sign and ratify a series of CoE conventions, in order to harmonise its regulations with CoE standards in various fields, as well as a number of concrete legal, financial and practical moves it should follow as a new member.

In the presence of the highest EU representatives, SEECP summit of heads of states and governments in Zagreb



unanimously decided that the youngest state in the world should become a member of the South East European Cooperation Process.

SEECP is a regional forum, founded in 1996 in order to foster closer cooperation of the SEE countries. With the accession of Montenegro, represented at the Summit by its Prime Minister **Željko Šturanović**, SEECP also decided to establish a Regional Cooperation Centre (RCC), to replace the EU in overseeing cooperation among the countries of the region.

This practically means that the countries assume all responsibility. With support of EU, the Council will decide on measures to improve political stability of SEE, economic cooperation and fight against organised crime.

As one of the first rewards to follow, President of the European Commission **Jose Manuel Barroso** announced abolition of visas for SEE citizens, marking it as one of the EC priorities, while the president of the European Council, German chancellor **Angela Merkel**, Enlargement Commissioner **Olli Rehn** and the President of the European Parliament **Hans Gert Pottering** emphasised that EU doors will be open for SEE countries.

With a seat in Sarajevo and the first Secretary General, Croatian diplomat **Hido Bišćević**, RCC will succeed Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe until mid-2008, and it is expected to begin its work by February next year.

Except for the countries of the region, SEECP members are also EU members Greece, Bulgaria and Romania, as well as Turkey.

N.R.



photo: VIJESTI

A VIEW FROM EUROPE

Private connections with a modern legal system

by dr Thomas Schmitt

What do we – the European Union and its current German Presidency – expect to achieve in our development cooperation with MNE? The answer to this question is easily given:

We want to see MNE as a democratic, transparent, economically prospering country with stable structures in all respects. We want to see MNE as an integral element of an ever more united Europe. We want MNE's structures to be economically, politically, sociologically and ecologically sustainable. And we want to remove all barriers that still impede the full interaction of society and economy between MNE and the rest of Europe, of course, including Germany.

To modernize a society is always a long-term project. But I would like to say: We are optimistic that MNE will achieve these goals. We are optimistic that MNE will be a success story, eventually.

Our aim is not to be seen as yet another outside invader. We want to assist MNE with modernizing its structures, making them sustainable and integrating them into modern Europe. We believe this is the only way for MNE, as for all other European states, to cope successfully with a modern, globalized world. We believe this brings benefits to all sides. It is as much in MNE's interest as it is in Europe's.

The EU does not simply come to MNE. MNE also wants to come to the EU, because MNE benefits from a closer relationship with and, eventually, joining the EU. MNE wants and needs to receive the professional structures from the EU which it needs to function sustainably and successfully in a modern, globalized world.

The aim is to allow the Montenegrin state and its abstract, legal rules to replace society's old and highly personalized rules. These are no longer relevant under modern European conditions. This is the core area for our assistance to MNE.

Everywhere in the Balkans exists and in transition societies in other parts of the world, there exists a problem of dual structures: There is a visible system that consists of modern laws and institutions. Often this visible system is not yet being taken fully for granted by society. And parallel to this, there is a sometimes dominant hidden system, which is based on traditional, sometimes even perverted and criminalized structures and values.

Our aim is to strengthen the modern, state-centred system and to replace the sometimes outdated values of a tra-

In Montenegro, concepts like godfather-connections-tribe are very important, concepts behind which lurk anachronistic obligations for individual

ditional society. In MNE's case, I would like to remind of the concepts of "kum" – "veze" – "pleme" ("godfather" – "relations" – "tribe") and the anachronistic obligations for the people that often lurk behind those concepts.

We have godfathers, too, in Germany. But our godparents are part of our very private and religious lives. They do not help us to get rich. They do not play a role in politics, and even less so in economics.

Now to the question as to how we want to bring this change about. There are three aims: 1. The creation of the abstract institutional system. 2. The build-up of executive institutional capacities. 3. Working towards true acceptance of the legitimacy of those state institutions and actions within society.

As far as the third aim is concerned,

the MNE public must realize that laws are for the benefit of everyone and should not be sabotaged (for example by trying out a bribe or threatening with superior "veze" ("relations").

People in MNE have to understand: cheating works against society in the long run. This applies to parents of students who try to buy better grades on their children's exams, as much as to the farmers who try to sell bad "kaimak" ("cream cheese") on the market. They, too, have to understand that laws preventing such activities are also in their own long-term interest. The same is true with the obligation to use a seat belt when driving. These are not political issues. Rather, they concern the organization of the state and a modern relationship between state and society. In other words: these are issues about your daily life.

MNE has already done much of its homework at the basic level. The necessary institutions exist, more or less. So does the majority of the laws necessary for the functioning of a modern state. This is why, as outside partners and donors, we no longer want to put our main emphasis on establishing institutions. This task is now up to you, whenever you deem it necessary. On the contrary: we see a certain danger that pre-modern, intransparent and unfair decision-making structures could hide behind existing institutions and laws, if no progress is made on two other levels.

Our main emphasis for our development assistance is increasingly shifting to aims number 2 and 3: to the build-up of adequate administrative and judicial capacities, as well as to the increase of public awareness within society that these structures must be respected, if MNE wants to function as a modern, prosperous and sustainable unit.

The author is ambassador of the Republic of Germany in Montenegro

WILL NEW AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF COMPETITION INTRODUCE EUROPEAN RULES OF THE GAME ON MONTENEGRIN MARKETS?



by Vladan Žugić

In the next few days, Montenegrin MPs are to discuss amendments to the Law on the Protection of Competition, proposing establishment of a special agency which would be in charge of the protection of competition. The dilemma, as always, is whether the law will be effectively implemented. Since it was adopted a year and a half ago, not a single company was prosecuted based on this law. Finally harmonised with all the EU norms, it is now expected to start functioning in practice.

Montenegrin Law on the Protection of Competition was adopted in November 2005, and it came into force on the 1 January 2006. According to this regulation, and contrary to the EU standards, all issues in the realm of competition policy were to be redirected to the former Ministry of Economics, now Ministry of Economic Development.

This legal provision, according to which competition was not to be in charge of an independent body, cost Montenegro four months' delay in the initialling of Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The European Commission demanded that Montenegrin authorities "establish a competent body with full operative independence", as stated in the European Partnership, to

The state attacks (not) the economy of mates

monitor competition policy and "provide the necessary means for its functioning".

Competition policy is among the most important and most successful common policies of EU member states. It is implemented through coordination between EU institutions and national-level legislatures.

Its goals are to ensure the existence of an open market economy ruled by free competition, and to contribute to greater employment and economic growth.

Limits to competition can be created by price-fixing agreements among the market subjects, abuse of a dominant position or through state subventions.

Brussels' administration is particularly attentive to possible breaches of the competition in telecommunications, energy and air transport. EC founding treaties prohibit all agreements among companies that may undermine free trade among the member states and prevent, limit, or distort competition within the Single



Nikola Kaluđerović

Market. The same treaties also forbid abuse of monopoly or dominant position of the market actors. EC competition regulations allow for exceptions only with respect to goods and services of significant public interest.

According to those, and later developed legal norms, European Commission can order an inquiry on behalf of a complaining party or of its own accord, and it also has the powers of sanctioning those subject

RIDICULOUSLY LOW PENALTIES

Damjanović reminds that the proposed amendments will not change the policy of sanctions, which at the moment stipulates "ridiculously low penalties, enough to stimulate intentional violations of the Law".

"Both standards and good practice suggests that financial penalties for violation of free competition should be phrased in percentages of the annual revenues of the perpetrator company, because of the severity of the issue, paralysing normal economic flows. Instead, the fee in Montenegro is set at the level of minimum wages", Damjanović explains.

According to the Law on the Protection of competition, the highest fee for violating competition rules is between 10 and 15 thousand euros.

who happen to violate competition rules. EC sanctions are legally binding.

Montenegrin Law on the Protection of Competition is more or less harmonised with EU regulations,

except for the fact that it delegates responsibility for its implementation to the Ministry of Economics, instead of an independent body.

However, both experts and the opposition object two issues regard-

ing the Law: the fact that the provision of an independent body has not been incorporated in the first version of the law, and thus avoided haggles with Brussels' administration, and the fact that the law has not been implemented in practice, as no economic subject to date suffered any sanctions based on this law.

According to **Nikola Kaluđerović**, advisor in the Montenegrin Business Alliance (MBA), next to the free movement of goods, persons, services and business opportunities, free movement of capital and competition represent a *conditio sine qua non* for every state wishing to attain membership in the EU.

"By concluding the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with EU, Montenegro has clearly chosen its path to EU, accepting all the duties that this demanding road may require. Among such obligation is the guarantee of free competition in Montenegro. In terms of realisation of this basic freedom, the Law on the Protection of Competition is completely in line with EU regulations. As such, it represents a concrete legal act on which MBA had no objections, materially or formally", Kaluđerović said.

However, when it comes to implementation, he pointed at immediate breaches of the provisions of the Law regarding the deadlines for adoption of accessory acts governing the implementation of this law.

"There is also the question of the concrete number of cases where the competent organ found that a certain agreement or contract prevents, limits, or distorts competition, or how many times it actually mandated financial sanctions for acts violating competition provisions. MBA has not heard of a single case of such decision, which suggests two conclusions: either the principle of free competition has been perfectly observed in Montenegro, or the Law

CONCESSIONS FIRST, FAIR CONDITIONS LATER?

According to Damjanović, this half-hearted proposal from the government only confirms that the government does only what the Brussels forces it to do, not what it could and should do.

"An agency for the protection of competition is briefly mentioned in only one article, although comparative legal practice suggests that more than half of the law should focus on the form of establishment, scope of influence, and competences of the independent institution for the protection of competition, precisely because the issue is so complex and because these provisions will be crucial for the implementation of the Law", Damjanović explains.

According to him, if the current amendments to the Law on the Protection of Competition are adopted, the Law will have to be modified again.

"The explanation is quite simple. Someone in the government may have decided to conduct a few more transactions in energy, tourism, finance and resource management, to shelve out a few more concessions, and then we can finally adopt the "real" law to stem such practices. Afterwards, we can even have fair market competition in Montenegro, with economic prices of many goods and services, and the citizens would continue shouldering the burden of this transition "from monopolies to fair competition", Damjanović says.

Kaluđerović expressed the same doubts about the new law:

"The proposed amendments to the Law on the Protection of Competition will result in a few cosmetic changes of the law, and in the establishment of an agency for the protection of competition. The main goal of this body will be to implement competition policies devised by the Ministry of Economic Development. However, this body should be independent from the Ministry, since the Ministry will not have administrative control over the decisions of the Agency. Advocating lower public expenditure, MBA also advocates limitations to the expansion of the state administrative apparatus, and in that respect the position of MBA is quite clear. However, should this agency really fulfil the expectations, contributing to the establishment of a business environment conducive to entrepreneurship, MBA would refrain from any objections, because this would ensure successful implementation of the Law", Kaluđerović said.



Aleksandar Damjanović

on the Protection of Competition has not been fully implemented. Consequently, it appears that except for this law, little has been done to

protect the right to free competition", Kaluđerović said.

Aleksandar Damjanović, official of the SPP, reminds that, at the time

of the adoption of the Law, this party has "warned, and virtually begged" the parliamentary majority of DPS and SDP to change the key provisions of the law which were not in line with European standards.

"This was particularly in regard to the "core" of the Law – establishment of a genuinely independent, especially from the executive powers, agency for the protection of competition, and introduction of high fees sanctioning all forms of monopolistic market behaviour. The then representative of SNP in the Parliament, Momilo Vučić, was told at the time that "there are no precise rules and standards". On behalf of the government, Deputy Minister of Economics, Zoran Perišić, argued that "there are no resources for the establishment of such agency", Damjanović explained. The way this law was implemented, and the way in which the "competent authority", i.e. Ministry of Economics "in the guise of an independent agent fought against monopolies and monopolists" is, according to Damjanović, best illustrated by a statement of the same deputy minister.

On the 6 November 2006, says Damjanović, Perišić told the daily "Vijesti" that the nine-months record of the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Competition in Montenegro consisted of "warnings to the taxi drivers and to the owner of the bus station".

"Any comment would unnecessary, if this were not the paradigm of the Montenegrin economic reality and its quasi-liberal economy, which is in effect an economy of mates and godfathers: where the biggest monopolists are taxi drivers, while market monopolies such as Telecom, Montenegro Airlines, electro-industry and cartels from the financial, construction, import and large-scale retail sector are all "fair players" and promoters of free competition", Damjanović concluded.

THE GOVERNMENT STILL WANTS TO CONTROL EVERYTHING



Changes in the Law on the Protection of Competition contain a detailed division of labour between the ministry and the agency for the protection of competition. According to the current Law, all authority was in the hands of the Ministry of Economic Development. However, the amendments do not have precise references to the way the members of the Agency are to be appointed, nor to the form of organisation and way of functioning of this independent body.

Document justifying the amendments, presented by the Ministry of Economic Development,

ascertains that the EU legal system does not precisely outline the form and functioning of an organisation for the protection of competition: it only requires operative independence, and adequate human and financial resources.

According to the Ministry, both can be provided by a fixed mandate for the head of agency and judicial control over the agency decisions.

According to the same document, different EU countries have different forms of organisation and operative independence of institutions protecting competition.

In some countries (France, Belgium, Great Britain...) the authority over competition is shared among several institutions. Italy, on the other hand, has a highly autonomous institution, while in Slovenia and partially in France, institutions for the protection of competition function as an operatively independent body within the ministry. It follows from the document that the government wants to keep the agency for the protection of competition within the ministry. According to the amendments, Ministry of Economic Development, remains in charge of the competition policy and its implementation, including enactment of various regulations in this area, while the agency monitors competition and analyses the situation in the market.

"Agency takes measures towards market participants and associations of market participants in case of violation of the competition or in order to prevent such violations, remove the already occurred breaches and alleviate detrimental consequences for the participants and consumers", read the amendments. Finally, agency decisions are "final, and cannot be appealed against before administrative courts". The agency has the status of a "legal entity, independent in its work".

According to the amendments, the agency for the protection of competition will be formed within 60 days from the coming into force of this law. The budget for its implementation is estimated at 48.700 euros in 2007 and 80 600 annually for the next two years.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF MONTENEGRO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL "ARTICLE 98" AGREEMENT FOR ITS EU AMBITIONS

Podgorica losing trust?

When European Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn informed Montenegrin prime minister Željko Šturanović that he is expected to introduce prompt measures to prevent ratification of the "Article 98" agreement with the US and to declare it void, he avoided to say what will happen if Podgorica fails to comply. As it will not, which was later on implied by the Deputy PM for European Integrations Prof Dr. Gordana Đurović and the Defence Minister Boro Vučinić, who announced that the government will convince Brussels that such an agreement does not cast a shade of doubt over Montenegrin commitment to membership in the EU.

Seen that one of the EU members, Romania, has also signed the controversial agreement against EU insistence to the contrary, it is not realistic that Montenegro could suffer any sanctions, for instance a temporary suspension of the ratification process of the freshly initialed Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA). It is, however, not unlikely that this process, as well as cooperation with EU and financial assistance could suffer difficulties and delays.

For the time being, it is obvious that Podgorica has overnight acquired a status of an unreliable partner, and that it lost the trust previously built through, according to Đurović, meticulous fulfillment of all commitments promised to Brussels.

This could also be read in Rehn's message to the colleagues from US administration: "We have excellent cooperation with the USA in the West Balkans, in the best spirit of Euro-Atlantic integrations, and I would like our American friends not to lead our candidate countries, or potential candidates, into difficult situations – they know that such agreements are against EU principles and they are not acceptable to candidate countries", said Rehn at the final press conference of the SEE leaders' Summit in Zagreb.



Olli Rehn



Željko Šturanović



Milan Roćen

In other words – Montenegro has an inconsistent foreign policy. Simpler still: it cannot be trusted.

Answering the question whether this agreement will have consequences for Montenegrin Euro-aspirations, Rehn said that he expects candidate and potential candidate countries to avoid such agreements which may cause problems with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"EU is based upon rule of law, respect for human and minority rights and human rights. We acknowledge the importance of UN bodies, primarily the ICC, as well as other international tribunals, such as the Hague Tribunal for former Yugoslavia", warned Rehn.

The controversial agreement with the US, "Article 98", obliges Podgorica to refuse to hand over to the International Criminal Court American citizens prosecuted for war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

The agreement, established between Montenegro and USA through an exchange of diplomatic notes, is contrary to the official standpoint of the EU from September 2002. The "Leading principles" adopted at the Council of Minister at this meeting with regard to agreements with USA exclude the possibility that US citizens be exempted from ICC jurisdiction.

In the last year's reports, EU criticised Albania, Macedonia and BH for signing such agreements with USA, although they do not entail reciprocity.

By having signed 104 such agreements, mostly with the countries of third world, Washington is trying to evade ICC jurisdiction, justifying it by its fear from "politically motivated accusations". According to unofficial lists, only five European

countries signed the agreement, and among the EU members only Romania did. Slovenia refused to sign "Article 98", although the US officials openly blackmailed it in 2003, conditioning its accession to NATO upon the agreement. Slovenia still joined NATO in 2004. Croatia, who also did not sign the agreement, will almost certainly receive an invitation to join NATO next year. The government of Montenegro, finding itself in a crunch between incompatible demands by Brussels and Washington regarding the first Permanent Court of the United Nations for War Crimes, and its declared intention to join both the EU and NATO, decided that in this moment closer cooperation with USA was more important. Announced trainings for Montenegrin officials and soldiers in USA, cooperation between the Montenegrin Army and the national guards of the US state of Maine, technical and financial assistance from USA for fast-track road to NATO were probably the motive behind the decision of Šturanović's cabinet to turn its back on Brussels for the occasion.

The question remains whether anybody bothered to calculate what could be lost on the other side and whether the reform of the army is more important than reform of public administration, raising the level of administrative capacities and removing barriers between Montenegro and the EU members.

The government appears not to think so, since it decided to sign the agreement in secret, exchanging diplomatic notes with USA on 19 April. Nevertheless, Foreign Affairs Minister Milan Roćen failed to hide the even from the public. He succeeded, however, as a head of Montenegrin diplomacy, to worsen Montenegrin position even further in the future communication with Brussels.

N. RUDOVIĆ

KATJA GERŠAK, SENIOR RESEARCHER AT LJUBLJANA BASED INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES (ISS)

You must be dynamic and innovative to enhance your value in the eyes of EU

Given the richness of experience and abundance of collective knowledge regarding EU and NATO accession processes of the newly joined members of the EU, of which Slovenia is merely one, Montenegro needs not embark on an unexplored path, says in the interview for *EIC Bulletin* Katja Geršak, senior researcher at Ljubljana based Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS).

She also announced the intention of ISS to assist Montenegro in realizing its aim to join the Euro-Atlantic structures.

"We look to work with local partners to transfer knowledge and assist with finding and implementing solutions to outstanding challenges the country is facing", Geršak said.

● **Are you satisfied with your recent working visit to Montenegro? What was the aim of the visit and what are the concrete results?**

I am very pleased to say that the visit was successful and following a number of interesting and dynamic discussions, it is our hope that we can expand our cooperation in Montenegro. While presenting a number of our ideas, the goal was primarily to listen and determine the priorities, needs and challenges of the country, with the aim of addressing these through partnerships and projects.

● **How do you see EU perspective in Montenegro and other Balkan countries?**

The integration of the Balkan countries has in the large part been a part of EU's consciousness, hence



photo VIESTI

Katja Geršak

the debate tends to be constructive and carries a degree of certainty of outcome. There are few voices that would disagree with integration of Balkan states and into Euro-Atlantic structures. In that sense the controversy and divisions, which are present in the debate over Turkish membership, is not present. The issue of accession mostly revolves around implementing reforms to fulfill EU requirements and the timeframe within which that will be achieved.

● **How would you estimate the length of this timeframe?**

First of all, I believe that the timeframe is important. EU's preoccupation with internal challenges and elements advocating 'no rush on accession' do not constitute a constructive approach. Even though accession will not occur overnight, the time for reforms is now.

Unfortunately, while initiations and progress in the region are

received favorably, EU's focus on integrating the region is waning. The EU finds itself preoccupied with internal struggles over its structures, constitution and integration, with external factors such as Afghanistan and Iraq, energy security, sustainable development, and social issues to name just a few.

● **So what you are saying is that the countries of South East Europe must arm themselves with patience?**

What I mean is that Montenegro and other aspiring countries in the region must compete to occupy the top spot on EU's ever-growing list of burning issues. Furthermore there is some sense of irritation and at times disappointment of the core EU countries with some newly joined members, where political shifts and public sentiments have brought out a more assertive Euro-skeptic attitude reflected in government's policies. While such perceptions are not pervasive, they

TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CAPACITIES, ATTRACT YOUNG CADRES

● All EC reports emphasise the lack of administrative capacities as one of the main problems of Montenegro. What would you recommend as a solution in this field?

Building administrative capacity will require time, resources and a well-devised plan. Organization itself is very important in fulfilling the administrative and governing roles. Clear rules and procedures are key to well functioning institutions, along with clear allocation of work.

NGOs and other organizations can play a vital role in assisting with development of needed government programs, capacity building as well as provide substantive advice. Enabling such organizations and civil society groups to have institutionalized cooperation in assisting the building of administrative capacity is therefore vital.

Attracting young people and allowing them to contribute substantively through employment and internship programs is vital to development of institutions. Building administrative capacity through involvement of the young population is the most suitable and sustainable policy for the longer-term.

add to the general fatigue and lessen the appetite for another speedy round of enlargement.

As is the case for previous rounds, same arguments and reasoning for enlargement, ranging from security and political to social and economic benefits, still hold true. However, they are less appealing today than a few years back. Listening to the same tune, even if the song is 'a classic', can get tiring. Hence demonstrating that aspiring members are dynamic, innovative and of great value to the EU will set them apart and enhance their value in the eyes of the EU. Montenegro has the advantage of small size, which enables nimbleness and agility in policy and project implementation.

● What can we learn from Slovenia?

Montenegro can learn from every country that has undertaken the process, by examining the parts they have done well and assessing the less successful parts of their accession and transition processes.

I will touch on only two important aspects in Slovenia's integration process, which are the internal political situation and technical

requirements.

EU accession enjoyed a widespread support among the leading political parties, the opposition and the public in Slovenia. This consensus was constantly 'assessed' by the Parliament, which was regularly consulted on each phase of the negotiation and EU's reports regarding Slovenia's progress. The Parliament was also the key in formation and adoption of negotiating positions.

A number of chapters were demanding and required painful adjustments. The pervasive internal social consensus regarding the path to EU ensured that implementation of the particularly difficult reforms was not subjected to domestic political rivalry or manipulation. All the political parties along with Slovenian public were prepared to shoulder part of the burden of the transition, which was also reflected in the high public support for the EU throughout the negotiation process.

A similar domestic political consensus in Montenegro would ease the process of transition.

Slovenia's experience can be particularly useful in assisting

Montenegro with the technical requirements of the accession process through a variety of phases. These can range from providing advice on composing negotiating teams to transferring knowledge and experience on strengths and weaknesses of particular approaches, tactics and negotiating positions.

● How do you see the future of EU, given that its leaders are now struggling to redefine further institutional reorganization, and to agree on the adoption of the first EU Constitution?

Unanimity on a Constitution cannot be expected at the next month's summit. The EU members are not close to reaching a consensus on the main issues, particularly the voting system and where member states should have a right to a veto. These two are shaping up to be the biggest issues in the upcoming summit. It is far more likely that the instead of adopting one constitutional treaty the consensus will take the form of an amendment to current treaties.

The process of internal reform of the EU effects enlargement and will continue to do so. The results of the French and Dutch referendums on the Constitutional Treaty caused the EU to shift to a more restrictive enlargement strategy. Accession is now not solely dependant on meeting the requirements but includes factors outside the control of potential members. The overall cooling of EU public attitudes towards enlargement combined with potential public referendums to approve the new-joining member, will have an affect on enlargement. The EU may be prepared to 'tinker' and make necessary adjustments to let Croatia in, but will likely insist on major revisions to the treaties before embarking on further enlargement.

N. RUDOVIĆ

Frogs and Medals

by Brano Mandić

The state of Montenegro began to lie and to hide the truth. First it signed an agreement without consulting the "sons of its rocks", those taxpayers who reanimated it with their votes exactly a year ago. Then after the referendum, on a quiet May evening, the youngest country in the world takes up the guise of a policeman. With a hat cockily tilted to the side, in front of Vila Gorica, it grins at journalists.

When you find out that the archbishop **Mihailo** is just having a secret rendezvous with the president of the republic, while the uniformed staff of the state residence tries to shoo you away like the last miser and vagabond, and in the meantime the president and the archbishop are probably sneaking out through the backdoor like a pair of lovebirds – it is a good enough reason to decide to trash yourself that night with some high-percentage alcohol. Almost like a husband returning home earlier than intended and finding his wife in the arms of one priestly figure and one kind gentleman.

In case you also happen to be an American citizen sought for rape, torture, manslaughter and burning houses in Iraq, we recommend that you move your drinking feat to Miloer, a nice place with quiet folk and good wines. American heroes should please refrain from visiting the north of the republic, where everything is rife with temptations for the poor carnage veterans to yield to a Rambo syndrome, retreating to Sinjajevina above Mojkovac to plunge into a campaign of mistreating the nation with a new mobile phone and a disposable pre-paid SIM card. The secret White Man's

medicine, a.k.a. special call line, an insurmountable obstacle to the Montenegrin police, is always a powerful weapon in the hands of a skilled operator. All this allegedly passed through the mind of our wise minister Roćen when he signed the article 98, but typical of all great patriots he decided to spare the public unnecessary traumas. Once again we could glimpse palpitations of a sensitive heart behind the tough Dinaric physiognomy and bushy Montenegrin moustaches. Amen.

On the other side, icily concise **Olli Rehn** asks that we cease playing military games with the US. In the style of an experienced cabinet tiger, Roćen signs an agreement with EU armed forces the very next day. The manoeuvre is manifold: if Europe feels it has enough money for repairing its tanks, they are allowed to jolt at will along our widely famous roads. (Little more to be expected from a country where the most famous pop bend bears the name Macadam). That the European army is also allowed to cross our air space in its planes is to be forgiven, as long as they are kind enough to let the Cuban cigar of **Veselin Barović** (an influential, even powerful businessmen) into the flight cabin. Which is not to say that the said man has the last word in this country, because we cannot know something like that as long as the state insists of hiding event he official meetings and agreements, let alone the off stage voices and under breath and moustache rumours. That Barović took his old smoke for a ride in the pilot cabin of Montenegro Airlines at some few thousand feet above the mother Earth, probably in the company of vice-president of the Parliament, Mr **Stijepović**, is just another headline in



Montenegrin newspapers. And a pretty metaphor of the heights where the influential entrepreneurs of DPS-affiliated circles abide. DPS the gorgeous, which, horrifyingly, re-elects its guru unanimously already for the tenth year. In the meantime, the guru asks for a loan and is currently in the business of constructing a university. Tells his citizens to play lotto if they wish to become rich. Jokingly, that is... Travels to Budva to receive a peace prize together with his war companion. As **Đukanović** and **Marović** step up to receive their award, all citizens of Montenegro should hold their wind and stop breathing for some twenty minutes. A massacre of truth is after all akin to a collective suicide.

Warmongers are warmongers, at least in this column. If the public has no guts to burp all over the sashes of the International League of Humanists, to remember blunt kicks of policemen's boots into living flesh and the drunken privates carrying photos of Milo and Momo, if all can be simply repainted by an NGO from Sarajevo – then those salvos tonight have of course nothing to do with fire on the walls of Dubrovnik.

They are echoing from Gorica in this very moment. President has ordered some musketry in honour of the state. It is 20:00h on the 20 May 2007, and one may remember that there were no salvos for **Srdan Vojičić**. Not that this can dispel the



celebratory character of this evening of Montenegrin songs and Slaven Knez-Ović stimmung. In Cetinje, in a choreography a la Lynch, Vujanović speaks about the Mediterranean spirit of Montenegro, while in Plav people earn 150 euros a month. On the eve of anniversary, the Associated press reports: Montenegro is the regional champion of inequality between the rich and poor.

And then we get another distinguished figure in the person and oeuvre of **Zekerijah Smajić** to tell us that Montenegrin newspapers are tabloids. For god's sake, they even forgot to announce on the 9 May that it is the 9 May, Day of Europe. Smajić also objected that no word was passed about a certain **Schuman**, reportedly a man ontologically crucial for the European unification. Shame on Vijesti, who instead of an homage to the great Europeans used their front page to report on organised crime. This from Smajić, who will together with political leaders receive an award in Budva. To pay their respects to the host, another medal for the mayor, **Rajko Kuljača**.

A few medals should also be

given to the MPs of the Serbian List, those brave oppositionists blowing the breeze of the nineties into the sails of the government that created them. Hallucinations about Greater Serbia and another reunification into a great Balkan power are touching, except that they are boring and irresponsible. One would have a hard time deciding whether to become a minister of finance or an advocate of the rights of Serbs in Montenegro. Handling the public money or handling a national trauma, a tough choice between two comfortable vocations. To be a professor, a policemen or a journalist is far less profitable in these transition countries. The only chance left is to cling to some higher goal, be it the foggy vision of the promise of Europe, and then get a loan and buy a new car to annoy the neighbour.

According to the testimony of those blessed with a visa, along some European roads one finds hedges which protect the highway from frogs. If you race at 180 km/h, this tiny animal is enough to flip your car over. This should suggest that Montenegrin progress in the last year (and I believe by that we all under-

stand the stock market), can be interrupted by some trivialities. Special caution is recommended around holidays – we are still a country where hellishly primitive people are easily launched into the highest institutions. It is a system of muddy advisors, quacking, disguised bandits and blackmailers. It would be nice to have more of our young people proving their talents elsewhere, where they will not be subject to brainwashing by folk polkas and heroic tirades. It is an offence to listen about patriotism any more, to summit the souls of great-grand fathers, to push beyond the limits of kitch one simple fact that we are now an independent country. Granted, there was some melodrama while the state was still being born, sweet occasional smear, but it's about time that an honest man laughs at the merchants trading that thing for kidneys. If you wish to know what that thing is, read the last word of the grand novel by Danilo Kiš, *A Tomb* for Boris Davidovič. It is that Kiš's word that we are missing here.

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

50 YEARS AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, EUROPEAN UNION CHOOSES ITS FUTURE



by Ivan Jovetić

From Rome to Berlin, from 1957 to 2007, the idea of European unification continues its relatively successful path. Europe was in need of a period of peace which undoubtedly increases its chances for development and prosperity. This period of prosperity indeed followed, although it might be that prosperity as such was never the primary goal. What is disconcerting is the possibility that the economic goals were and remained only an instrument for the fulfilment of political aims. The case of EFTA testifies to the fact that purely economic reasons for integration bred more success than the political ones – EFTA managed to produce greater wealth for its citizens than either EEC or later the EU.

In line with the eternal primacy of political goals and reasons, even the founding countries were to abandon EFTA and bow to EEC. Whether their reasons were justified or not is today a question for their citizens. Nevertheless, EEC and later EU did create prosperity for their member states, although much less so when compared to EFTA. According to an OECD report, the GDP per capita of

Social model to add gas on fire

Island, Norway, Lichtenstein and Switzerland was always larger than that of EU 15, and much more so than EU 25. With EU 27, it is already beyond comparison. This is precisely the core of the EU problems, the political ones. Expansion of bureaucracy, control and intervention is costly, and it yields no effective results.

Despite of possible comparisons with some other models, it is to be admitted that in the first 50 years the EU fulfilled its goals. Europe probably never had a 50-year long period of a lasting peace. Certainly, only within its "organised" core. Alternatively, one could ascertain that it was the presence of NATO that safeguarded the peace, although even in the "worst" of scenarios the EU can be credited with some achievements in

this field. However, this should by no means imply that the EU accomplished its historical mission and that it should fear some institutional or network catastrophes. Although we should keep an eye on that possibility too, relations among the European states are fairly strong, which should exclude such a scenario.

Nevertheless, the key questions for the future of EU are how to move forward, and what is the purpose of it. London based Economist divides the debate into two camps: existentialists and instrumentalists. The first are returning to the roots and the Europe of a "common good" and war prevention. Their mistake in calling for an ever closer union is that it leads to greater intervention. War prevention, on the other hand, is

LIBERAL MODEL FOR A SMALL, STRONG STATE

Adopting the Irish model will be hard work. EU was created as a protectionist entity, supported by the political traditions of its member states. France and Germany since **Colbert** and **Erhard** opted for an interventionist strategy, contrary to the Great Britain which relied on its liberal roots dating back from **Adam Smith** to **Margaret Thatcher**. The behaviour of the EU has consequences both for its own citizens and for the third countries. The liberal model posits a small, strong state, powerful in a few policies and with a precisely targeted social policy protecting the poor. The requirements would be to complete the construction of the Single Market, to reorient the EU into a free trade area avoiding politics and to allow competition among the member states. This would, however, diminish the power of the administration, and the question is whether Brussels is ready to relinquish these powers. Individualism is the keyword missing from the EU vocabulary – so that I can choose a state based on its competitive policy, as I already chose among different products. Should that happen, it would create the greatest possible advantage for Montenegro in the EU.

already accomplished. The rest are for a "Europe of achievements". Although their goal is right, they may be advocating a too wide spectrum of competences to be transferred to the EU level. At a closer look, they too are returning to the roots – even **Monet** thought that support for the EU will increase through technical cooperation. Certain opinion polls already indicate that ordinary citizens do not feel represented by the EU, which for them has become a jungle of institutions and regulations, while the real aim of the EU should be to liberate the individual.

Which results should the EU fulfil? Many would say the Constitution, enlargement, a bigger budget, new instruments such as the Global Adjustment Fund...I am not so sure about it. The main goal of the EU should be further growth and development, new jobs, new opportunities for profit. Accordingly, I think it is more important to see what will be the content of the new Constitution: greater EU competences, or perhaps returning some into the hands of the member states? Personally, I prefer the latter, which will lead to Hayek's federal Europe with competitive national policies. On the other hand, I believe that the Brussels' bureaucracy will choose the former. Finally, why should they opt for losing a job? The purpose of the EU is to create wealth for its citizens, and therefore for the member states. I believe that the only way to do it is to transform the EU into a genuine free trade zone, allowing the member states to make autonomous contract with third states. The key challenge for the future of EU is to offer an incentive to the citizens of the member states. In the first 50 years, this was peace, and prosperity came along too, but in the future it must be only the prosperity, which is still lacking, while the peace is already there.

Today, the EU is facing a big problem which is in the essence a



Certain opinion polls indicate that ordinary citizens do not feel represented by the EU, which for them has become a jungle of institutions and regulations, while the real aim of the EU should be to liberate the individual

huge mistake. It concerns the choice of an institutional model, or the clash between the liberal and the social model. The main representative of the latter is France, which insisted on the incorporation of the Nordic social model which was supposed to solve its own problems. It is more or less as if you would try to quench the fire by showering it with gasoline. Scandinavian countries have always been a model which one should look up to when creating a welfare state, and the advocates of this model are hoping to achieve the same results by the same means. However, Sweden, for instance, ranked the third richest nation in 1975, whereas today it is in the 14th place and falling. Sweden, Finland and Denmark recorded a 2%, 1.8% and 2.1% growth respectively while the average in OECD was 2.6%. On the other hand, we have another model which one should look up to, the model whose results are evident in Ireland. In 1975, Ireland was the 22nd richest country, representing an economically inactive region. Today it is the fourth richest

country in the world, and growing. Besides, Irish economy in this period recorded annual growth from 6.6% to 10%. With falling economic parameters, Scandinavian countries are showing signs of worsening social standards, which formerly brought them fame. The common perception would have it that such a social model yields results regardless of the weak economic performance, however, experiences are different. Sweden lost in quality of its public services despite of the enormous tax pressure.

The reality is that high taxes (aimed at helping the disadvantaged groups) limit growth and in the long run have a detrimental effect on the public expenditure in absolute terms. Ireland, however, consciously diminished public expenditure by liberalising its fiscal policy. The result was a smaller share of the public services in total expenditures while their growth in absolute terms in Ireland increased almost two and a half times faster than in the rest of Europe. The logic is that smaller public expenditure should go in favour of a larger "economic cake", and the requirements are a liberal fiscal policy and a precisely targeted public expenditure. Even in terms of wages the Scandinavian model does not seem to be performing well. In the last decade of the last century, annual income of the poorest 10% of the population grew eight times faster in Ireland, and six times in Britain than in Sweden. Situation regarding unemployment is ever worse – since 1981, Sweden and Finland failed to create a single new job in the private sector, which is the source of wealth. Ireland, however, increased the employment levels 56%!

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WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NATO AND THE EU'S EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY?



by Emil Kriještorac

What is the relationship between the NATO and the EU and its European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)? The best answer to this complex question was perhaps given by **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**, NATO's secretary general, in a speech at the Berlin conference earlier this year, where he claimed that this relationship resembles a "frozen conflict", marvelling at how little space there was for cooperation.

Everything began in the early 90s as an expression of the EU's wish to transform itself from an economic community into a political union. In the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht the EU set itself two goals, which were later confirmed by the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam: strengthening its socioeconomic cohesion through establishment of the Economic and Monetary Union, leading to the single currency and redefinition of the European identity on the international scene, by introducing Common Foreign and Security Policy aimed at common defence. The Treaty of Amsterdam established the office of the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy. Undoubtedly, despite of all obstacles and the complexity of the Community laws, the EU is heading towards full realisation of these goals.

The move from words to concrete deed happened at the December 1999 European Summit in Helsinki, which adopted a decision on the creation of

Europe wants the last word in its house, without the meddling of USA

joint forces for quick deployment consisting of some 50–60 000 troops. The deadline for implementation of this decision was initially set for 2002, and the EU officials declared that these forces do not represent a "European army", although the entire EU contingent operates under the European Union Military Committee (EUMC). Members of these military formations come from special army units of the EU member states and they remain under the national command until the EU decides to deploy them. The EU Military Committee consists of heads of defence of the member states.

Some analysts place special emphasis on several events marking the beginning of the 90s, which pressured the EU to search for its own path in establishing a common foreign policy, defence and security policy. The first occurred on 4 March 1990, when the military court of North Carolina declared not guilty a corporal whose hunter-bombardier jet cut the line of the ski lift in the Italian Alps, murdering 20 tourists. Italians complained against the court decision. The second incident occurred in Arizona, when the court ordered execution of a German national **Walter LaGrand** by lethal gas, despite of the

THE "BERLIN PLUS" AGREEMENT IS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT

Despite of numerous attempts to bring the two institutions closer, they maintain considerable distance. Why are the relations between the EU and the NATO so problematic? Why are both so reluctant to transform their so often mentioned "strategic partnership" into reality? My answer is clear and unambiguous: the EU–NATO relations have not yet arrived into the 21st century. They are still stuck in the 1990s – declared Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Secretary General of NATO at the Berlin conference on 27 January 2007.

Scheffer reminded that the ESDP began in the 90s, when European security depended solely on the NATO framework.

"West European Union had only limited practical importance. Then EU appeared with its own military ambitions. It meant that another security organisation was to coexist with the NATO in Europe. First we had to find means and ways to avoid duplication of tasks between EU and NATO. Or rather, to put it undiplomatically, to prevent EU and the NATO from undermining each other. This is not exactly a recipe for a love adventure!"

"Berlin plus" was the real answer to this challenge. The agreement gives EU safe access to the NATO resources, especially arms and planning. Therefore the right course was chosen: a smart division of labour, instead of superficial duplication. This is how the "Berlin Plus" became and remained a turning point in the development of our trans-Atlantic community.

Today however, this defensive perspective, elected to avoid duplication, will not suffice any more. Security landscape of the 21st century demands new qualities in the EU–NATO relations. In the light of the challenges in the Balkans, in Afghanistan and elsewhere, it is no longer sufficient to define their relations simply as an issue of clever division...", said Schaffer.

protests by German government. Further disputes arose over the USA refusal to participate in the Kyoto agreement on the limitation of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the Rome Treaty for the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

The attitude of the USA to Europe and its interests is best illustrated by the fact that Clinton administration introduced import tariffs on certain products originating in the EU up to 100%. The EU complained, but particularly interesting were the statements of **William Cohen**, the then US Defence Secretary who opposed every attempt at institutionalisation of a common EU defence policy. His speech before journalists in Turin, on 22 September 1999, contained an urge "not to look at the ESDP as on an autonomous institution and competence, which must instead be brought under the umbrella of NATO".

Events occurring on the territory of former Yugoslavia revealed further cracks in the so far united vision between the "European NATO wing" and the USA, based on diverging interests. Particularly relevant in this context is the refusal of USA to make its GPS system frequencies available to EU for military purposes, which forced the EU to create its own



Events occurring on the territory of former Yugoslavia revealed further cracks in the so far united vision between the "European NATO wing" and the USA, based on diverging interests

satellite navigation system ("Gallileo") but the last drop was the unilateral intervention of USA in Irak and disagreements over the solutions to the Middle East conflicts.

RUSSIANS BROUGHT THEM BACK UNDER THE SAME UMBRELLA

NATO was founded by Washington Agreement from 1949. With the exception of Japan and Australia, its members are all greater industrial and financial powers: USA, Germany, France, UK, Italy and Canada. These six countries with Japan are also the members of G-7, a group which determines the rules of international economy. A study on NATO enlargement from 1995 demands that the new members respect the founding agreement and to "...join their efforts for the collective defence and protection of peace and security". As for the military conditions, they emphasise "...ability to contribute to the collective defence and new missions of the Alliance, to accommodate standardisation, first of all in the realm of military operations, administration and materials, to act according to some 1200 agreements and documents...with a goal of maintaining efficiency of the Alliance by participating in roles, risks, and responsibility".

NATO was functioning smoothly until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the other military alliance gathered around the former USSR, except for a crisis caused by de Gaulle with his announcement of withdrawing the French troops from the NATO in the late 1960s, and Canadian suggestion that they may do the same. The said crisis was soon overcome, primarily as a consequence of the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, which forced the NATO to stick together.

Once the bipolar division of the world disappeared, NATO has encountered repeated difficulties in redefining its purpose. Despite of adopting the new strategic concept of "crisis management" at the November 1990 summit of the NATO Council in Rome, the dilemma was still unresolved. Key elements of the new strategy were "military pressure and action in the interest of greater stability". Many more meetings issued, but the EU remained concerned with its own security policy, which initially met little sympathy on the part of the USA.

The New York Times prompted the tensions when it published leaked excerpts from the 46-pages Pentagon White Book on the eve of Maastricht. The excerpts, which appeared on 8 March 1992, read: "Our primary goal is to prevent the rise of a new rival", adding that "...it is of crucial importance that we preserve the NATO as the main instrument of Western security and defence...We must prevent the appearance of exclusively European security arrangements which would undermine NATO".

The USA later supported European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), but the limits of their respective competencies remained ambiguous. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General, emphasised that "the EU and NATO are not twins" and that "the NATO is not an all-encompassing integration project, it does not integrate, it coordinates, and mainly in the framework centred on the USA, without whom the security of our world would be unimaginable".

The EU, however, cannot dispel the fears of undue US meddling in European business, and it clearly stated its desire and need to "take things into its own hands". Neither the EU-NATO agreement signed in Brussels in early 2003, nor the EU insistence that "NATO remains the main pillar of collective defence" and the subsequent logistic support to EU, involving air transport and exchange of intelligence, did not manage to slow down this new development in the EU.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION STANDPOINT



by mr Tatjana Bošković

Public governance is most commonly viewed as a way for the state to deploy its power in managing economic and social resources. For the efficient functioning of a state, it is necessary to construct adequate rules and institutions defining a predictable, transparent framework for business and investments, in order to stimulate economic growth. The rules are made by those chosen in the elections, they are shaped and applied by the state administrative authorities, while judiciary monitors their implementation.

Good governance is high on the list of priorities of the World Bank, the IMF, UN, OECD as well as European Union, and under their influence it has also acquired a central place in the development programmes of transition countries. Public governance, democratisation and development are equally represented among the general aims of EU, as defined in the Treaties and in the "White Book on Public Governance".

Public governance is the key component of the policies and reforms aimed at poverty reduction, democratisation and global security. Building institutional capacities, especially in the realm of good public governance and rule of law, is one of the six priority areas of the EU development policy.

Public governance is of central importance to the future consolidation of Europe. European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, European Commis-

The road to democratisation and poverty reduction

sion, the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors do not replace national institutions – they cooperate with them and depend on one another. Within this system, national public administrations play an important role, being responsible in the name of their governments for the implementation and monitoring of EU public policies. The EU has a central administration of its own, but lacking external agencies it depends on the national governments to implement its directives and regulations.

Democratic institutions and people's representatives on the national and European level aim to bring Europe closer to its citizens, which is the primary condition for a more effective and relevant realisation of EU policies. European Commission singled out reform of the European public admin-

istration as one of its strategic goals: in 1991, it adopted a "White Book on European Public Governance", positing a more transparent decision-making

Transparency is necessary in order to increase public confidence in the complex EU institutions, which are obliged, together with national administrations, to inform the public of their activities and decisions, using accessible language, easily comprehended by the wider public

process, in order to open the process of decision-making as open as possible to public participation.

EU continuously emphasises the importance of democracy and rule of

EUROPEAN ADMINISTRATIVE SPACE

As a consequence of continuous contacts between members of national administrations and European Commission, as well as of exigencies of development and implementation of Acquis Communautaire under uniform reliability standards across the EU, creation of a European system of administrative law and common basic values and principles of public administration led to some harmonisation among national administration, a phenomenon dubbed European Administrative Space.

European Administrative Space mainly denotes basic institutional arrangements, processes, common administrative standards and values in public administration.

Candidate states must develop their administrations in order to achieve the levels of reliability of the European Administrative Space and an acceptable threshold of common principles, processes and administrative structures. There are minimum quality and reliability standards required from every candidate.

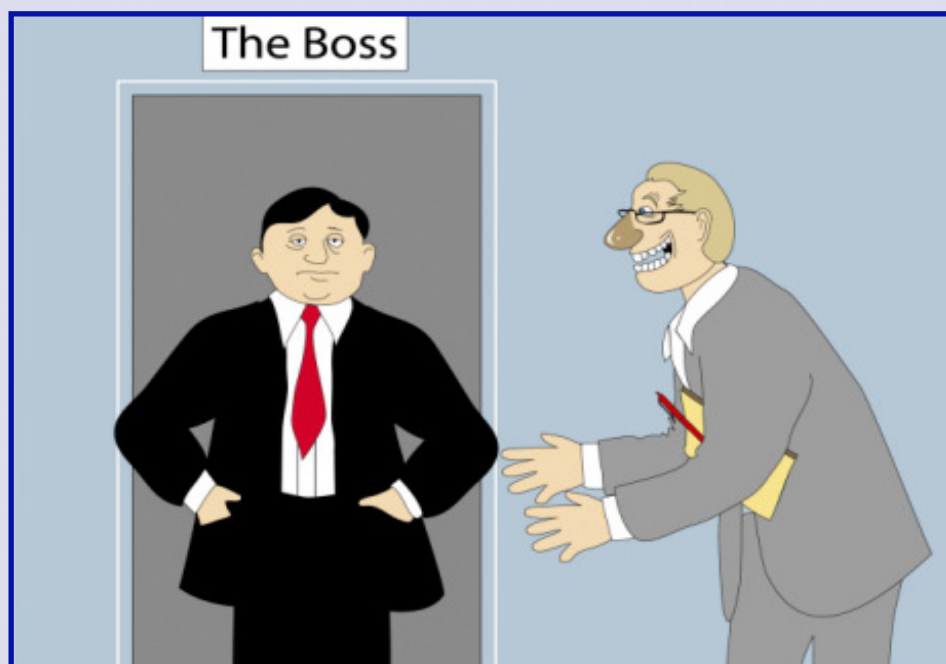
A candidate state should be able to close the gap between the current quality level of its state administration and the level required at the time of its future accession. However, it is not enough that a candidate country should reach the level of the "worst" EU member – comparison is made between the candidate state and average performance of all EU members.

law in the member states, and their implementation on all levels: global, European, national, regional and local. For their consolidation, EU recommends transparency in communication with the public, openness and intensive participation of citizens in the policy-creation, increasing accountability of policy implementers.

Transparency is necessary in order to increase public confidence in the complex EU institutions, which are obliged, together with national administrations, to inform the public of their activities and decisions, using accessible language, easily comprehended by the wider public.

Quality, relevance and effectiveness of EU policies depend on broad public participation throughout the decision-making process, from initiation to implementation. The goal is to increase involvement of the civil society, in order to foster trust in EU institutions.

The role of these institutions in legislation and implementation must become clearer, with every EU institution being responsible for assuring accessibility and accountability of its activities. Policy measures must be effective and timely, and should be based on previous experience, transparent goals and evaluation of future



achievements. Policy measures and their implementation should also be harmonised and understandable. The need to increase coherence with in EU is growing, alongside with the growing number of tasks delegated to its institutions. Successive enlargements also brought an increase in diversity and participation of the regional and local authorities in EU policies. Coherency dictates greater political skill and responsibility of EU institutions, whose task is to ensure a consistent approach

to this complex system.

It is worth remembering that the EU often serves as an incentive to improve the quality of public governance. Growing mistrust of institutions among the citizens, and lack of involvement in political life are not only characteristic of the transition countries – the EU too suffers the same problems, which it tries to counter by making its policies more open to the present and future member states. At the same time, civil society organisations are of growing importance, ensuring that provided services are better adjusted to the needs of citizens.

The European Court of Justice groups all principles relevant to the functioning of public administration into the following six categories: reliability and predictability, openness and transparency, accountability and efficiency and effectiveness. These principles can be found in the administrative laws of every European state. Although the structures of public administration in European countries have a long history, they are continuously adapted to the requirements of modern conditions, including those relating to EU membership.

MONTENEGRO NEEDS A NEW, MODERN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Harmonisation of the national laws with EU regulations is one of the key aims of Montenegro in the EU association process. It includes harmonisation of the national rules and practice with European and international standards. Given that public administration plays an important role in transforming the country into a market economy, Montenegro, as a transition country, has the task to reform its public administration, developing modern foundations in accordance with European and international standards and principles. In Montenegro, this process began with the adoption of the Strategy for Administrative Reform by the Government of Montenegro in 2003. This reform should result in a genuine, not only declarative, depoliticisation and professionalisation of administration through education and strengthened loyalty to the institutions.

A stable, accountable and democratically reliable public administration is a precondition, not only for the success of administrative reforms, but also for the political stability and economic development.

The state is responsible for professional, impartial and efficient state administration which should comply with the rule of law. Furthermore, the state should guarantee the quality of its cadre, as well as a uniform quality standard across the state administration.

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PROF. DR JELICA MINIĆ, SENIOR ADVISOR AT THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS FROM BELGRADE

Make sure to use all your potentials

Montenegro is obviously on the right track, and I would wish you to use in the best manner all your potentials, which every society possesses. There are never too many hands when it comes to supporting the reform process, social transformation and EU accession, says Prof. Dr Jelica Minić, senior advisor at the Belgrade based Institute of Economics. At the round table on Transparency and Participation in European Integration Process in Podgorica, organised on the occasion of 9 May, Day of Europe, Minić said that the process of EU integrations is not an aim in itself.

"It is a necessary effort to channel our internal reform processes, in all the countries of the Western Balkans. Such channelling is necessary to avoid ups and downs which are unfortunately plaguing some of our countries, such as Serbia", Minić explained.

According to her, one positive outcome of the failed referendums in France and Netherlands is the fact that the EU now dedicates more attention to strengthening of democracy, dialogue and debate, which is only good for the growth of transparency and participation of the civil society in the European integrations process.

"In its documents, the EU also insists that civic dialogue should be one of the key mechanisms in the candidate and potential candidate countries, a mechanism through which the EU will attempt to involve wider circles of citizens in those countries aspiring to EU membership. After a short crisis, there is now more space for the civil society in the West Balkan countries to participate in the European integration process", Minić said.

She believes that this would be



NGOs promoted debates on European integrations, and they even supplied expert assistance to the governments at the time when they lacked both a conceptual and organisational capacity for organising important public events and communicating with partners from EU and the region

of great significance for increase transparency and success of the association and accession processes, and that in this sense one can say that civil society in the Western Balkans is playing an important role – its institutions are tightly integrated into various circles promoting integration.

"In Serbia and Montenegro, while they were still one country, NGOs promoted debates on European integrations, and they even supplied expert assistance to the governments at the time when they lacked both a conceptual and organisational capacity for organising important public events and communicating with partners from EU and the region. NGOs even provided

great assistance in proposing and designing regulations, as well as training and education, and their role is therefore very broad and encompassing", emphasised Minić.

She also noted their contribution to the promotion of regional cooperation as one of the key prerequisites of quickening the pace of those countries towards EU.

"NGOs reminded the public, and often the officials as well, that the process of EU integrations will be taking place one sector after another. As for the parliaments, their role is of course very important, but we need to bear in mind that the situation in Montenegro changed significantly. In Serbia, unfortunately, there was no awareness of the importance of European integrations Committees for the rapprochement with EU, and even more so after the accession, when they should be in charge of coordinating the national position within EU institutions", Minić explained.

She reminded that the EU pays a lot of attention to professionalisation of the parliaments, upgrading of their expert services and analytical divisions in order to keep the parliaments informed and ready to act appropriately.

"This will speed up the procedure of improving legislation, monitoring, and not only in terms of legislation, but also concerning financial assistance, budgetary policy... There is a large space for action where actors other than state administration come to the fore. It is best seen on the example of other countries, such as Slovenia, which is said to have had the highest rate of parliament members directly involved in the EU accession process", Minić said.

N.R.



by Aleksandar Saša Zeković

Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe?

European Union? A sui generis creation. The most important, most accomplished and most successful example of inter-state unification. A concept founded upon human cooperation and surmounting the differences. A project for peace, economic and social progress. An open community, too, which, under certain conditions allows access to those who for the time being remain outside its borders.

Due to my current experiences, lately I view European Union mostly as a haven of freedom, respect for human and minority rights: as a space where violating or ignoring one's rights does not amount to a systematic, mentality-based phenomenon acceptable, and to a degree even desirable by the ruling elites.

I want to be a citizen of Europe, because the European Union exists on the principles of freedom, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Countries that wish to join the EU are themselves bound by the principles and norms enshrined by EU. In my opinion, there lies the developmental perspective of Montenegro, because functional acceptance and effective realisation of democracy are preconditions for EU integrations. EU and democracy are closely related, making integration directly conditional upon the process of democratic reforms and democratic stability in the society aspiring to join EU.

Given that Montenegro has, fortunately, embarked on the process of European Integrations, I will dedicate my efforts to the promotion of the importance of political criteria, which I feel have not been sufficiently emphasised so far.

I trust that meeting these political cri-

teria is an opportunity to genuinely embrace common European values and to overcome the heritage of the past. This is of paramount importance for Montenegro, both for the success of overall reforms, and for achieving social and economic progress.

EU membership will mark the beginning of a new, "true" history. The EU accession process is for Montenegro both a chance to overcome its past, and to confront its bad habits in order to forge a new image of the state and its citizens.

European process offers an opportunity to Montenegrin citizens to wake up from their somnambulist submissiveness and to strengthen and express their civic

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capacities – first of all for the sake of protecting and achieving their own goals, which I believe will not run counter to the necessary and inevitable human solidarity and understanding.

This one year since the reestablishment of Montenegrin independence has seen numerous examples testifying to the unwillingness of the representatives of the institutions and the system to communicate to the public the truth about some basic events, further undermining the trust of the public and inspiring doubts about every one of their acts. Equally common are their public appearances suggesting that public officials, in line with some internal agreement or an appropriate strategy of the political elite and power centres, occasionally stage some minor disagreement or a fight, declaring their formal commitment to the rule of law. So

much feigning is supposed to convince the public that democratic processes in Montenegro are becoming ever more intensive and stronger, with institutions struggling to do their work. In effect, what we see is a perfectly coordinated process that will never lead to some more desirable social behaviour and ambience – in other words, it will never cast a shade of doubt on the loyalty to the parallel power centres.

Social and professional responsibility, if it exists at all, is reduced to the minimum. Abuse of official competences, ignoring violations of all possible laws, administrative silence on many occasions, serious problems and obstacles to safeguarding of human and minority rights, nepotism, extra-institutional decision making or at last powerful extra-institutional influences, paint the picture of the post-referendum Montenegro.

Let my emphasis not serve to suggest that things were better before. Just the opposite. However, I personally understood the referendum as a chance to make things better, in every possible aspect.

I would like to be a citizen of Europe because I believe that in the state of Montenegro today key institutions of the system are not functioning. Therefore, I see the process of European integrations as the only possible and remaining power and leverage necessary for the final constitution of a system guaranteeing democracy, rule of law, and human rights.

I have very personal reasons to find it extremely important to live in a stable, organised, functional society, whose institutions continuously and on every occasion demonstrate that they are alive, vivid, strong, responsible and ready to promote the rule of law, offering high levels of protection to individual citizens regardless of their expressed or (intentionally) (un)masked differences.

The author is an independent researcher of human rights' violations. He participated in the 1 generation of the European Integrations School.

TWO WINNERS OF THE LITERARY COMPETITION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS "MONTENEGRO IN EUROPEAN UNION"

On the threshold of Europe



by Predrag Dragović

And there was night... And floods... And Noah... Daybreak and resurrection, fall and rise... There were Illyrs, and the Slavs... Doclea, Zeta, Černojevići... Nemanjići... Austria... Germany... Turkish conquer, brotherly divides...

All misfortunes and bitterness in that one thought and one heart...MONTENEGRO...all the beauties of the sun and water and freedom...in one tough and one heart...MONTENEGRO...

For centuries at the stormy crossroads, on the fault line between the East and the West, Christianity and Islam, from the heart, from the soul, like a Phoenix out of the ashes, every time it rose again and survived – today, erect as never before, with dignity, on the threshold of Europe...at the doorstep...on the top...

The sea and the woods, the rivers and the meadows, the cruelty of the mountains and the whiteness of snow, the beauty of eternal youth and the past and the future...

Europe, this is MONTENEGRO!

The lakes of Finland and the eyes of Durmitor, Norwegian fjords and Boka Kotorska, Cote d'Azur and the Rivijera of Ulcinj, Champs Elyse and the valley of Lim...it is our present, and the future of Europe...

Proud people, honoured guests, full hearts, warm souls, foreigners hosts, diligent and energetic, honourable and honest...PEOPLE...

A tiny country with a soaring spirit, it is too cramped here. We want breadth,

space for these peacetime victories, for the children, for the future...we want to show why we love these rocks, why are we unbreakable, that we can and we want better...to infinity...we have to!

From the Mayday of flowering meadows, courtyards and houses, terraces red with flags of freedom, with a coat of arms flying towards the clear May down, once wrenched away, now back to where we always were, worn in the heart and "hidden" for so long...

Shine, Sun, on the stony cliffs, carry away the warmth of the sea, the falls of Morača and lead the Tara Canyon into the Lake of Scuttari. Thou breeze of European freedom, brush Visitor, Lovćen, Durmitor and Piva...Fuse the smoke from Njeguši with honey, to release the rivers of clear streams and prompt to march crusty rocks, we are offering the hand, the soul and the heart...

We waited for long, sung our praises to you, earned it with our history, proven with patience, and we will make it with desire!

We want to soak Krusi, Grahovsko field, Sutjeska and Mojkovac with sweat, instead of blood and tears. Instead of sabers, cannons and medals, we want to pick up the fruits of our work...instead of meetings, hatred, and divides, religious mongering and mistrust, we want to defend our factories and work...instead of borders, passports and troubles, we want Europe, respect and a handshake, this is why we want you, this is why you need us...

We are tired, worn with waiting, but bright and cheerful because here we stand...since forever...forever...

St. Peter, archbishop Rade, king Nicolas and ancient Bodin, Đurađ, Balša and Krsto Zrnov, Medun and Dečić, Rumija and Orijen, on the famed Obod, written in letter and glory, forever given to us what we now celebrate...Descendants, straighten your chests, into Europe with a head held high...

And there was night...and floods...Noah...Daybreak and resurrection, MONTENEGRO, EUROPE, FOREVER!

The author is a student of S4E grade, Electro-technical school "Vaso Aligrudić" in Podgorica.



by Jelena Šundić

With eyes fixed on tomorrow...

A traveler, visiting Montenegro in the 19th century, wrote: "If you wish to see the most beautiful race of people, on the naked stone, hurry, for you may soon not find them any more".

He wrote it seeing Montenegro "surrounded on all sides", with "horrifying beasts gaping" at it. He feared that beauty would perish for the sake of freedom, for he knew not that the stone can only feed people who are tougher than stone.

It could have only been Montenegro, and only Montenegrins. This is why Montenegro has always been, is, and will be, the brightest star on the wide European sky. It is not like others. Other stretch to the south and to the north, to the east and west, while Montenegro just stands. It stands firmly from the marine depths to the heavenly heights. It sees the sky and the earth embrace. This is why our horizons are bright and wide, this is why only Montenegro has such clear waters... Montenegrin mountains are lookouts whence Njegoš and Marko speak to us wisely.

Our country, of lavishing beauty and undying strength, is a cradle of children scattered around the world. Maybe the traveller thought about it too when he wrote his warning, not knowing that those children always return. And once eternal, wide misty Danube embraced Montenegrin "tear", called it European and forbade the man to spoil its clear waters. This is how we got the Mountain Eyes in Durmitor and Bjelasica, with Europe reflected in their irises. Coastal cities became world cultural heritage, and Europe confessed that Montenegro existed before it, and that now they stand together, by each other's side, with eyes fixed on tomorrow...

The author is a 7th grade student of the primary school "Dušan Bojović" from Župa Nikšića

Letter of a group of Montenegrin intellectuals following the announcement that Mr Milo Đukanović and Mr Svetozar Marović are to receive ILH humanity awards

Dear Mr Havel¹,

We have been informed that you are among the awardees for the prize for humanism of the International League of Humanists (ILH). We count ourselves among the devotees of Your work and engagement, and we know that You truly deserve that award.

However, the International League of Humanists decided to nominate Mr Svetozar Marović for the first "Honorary Ambassador of Peace for South East European Countries", and Mr Milo Đukanović for the "Golden Charter of Peace with a Plaque and a Golden Badge".

Together with you, they will receive those awards on 28 May this year, in Budva.

The awarding for peace and humanism of Mr Đukanović and Mr Marović represents an insult of the victims of war, since they blindly followed the politics of Slobodan Milošević from 1990 to 1997 which resulted with the crimes and hundreds of thousands of dead people and refugees on the territory of former SFRY.

During the wars in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Milo Đukanović was the Prime Minister of Montenegro. In his term of office, Montenegrin citizens took part, with soldiers of Yugoslav People's Army, in aggression on Dubrovnik. Also, the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Montenegro deported refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the army of Radovan Karadžić, who killed most of them. During this time, Bukovica, part of municipality of Pljevlja in Montenegro, was ethnically cleansed from Bosniaks/Muslims.

The authorities headed by Mr Đukanović and Mr Marović continuously persecuted peace-makers and anyone who opposed them. Later on, they distanced themselves from politics of war and conflicts, but surely that can not eliminate their responsibility.

The signators of this letter have been opponents of Slobodan Milošević's war politics from 1990 and they strongly support democratic and European orientation of Montenegro.

The awards to Mr Đukanović and Mr Marović are making senseless the mission of ILH and making more difficult the process of facing with past.

Ms Bakira Hasečić, president of the Association of Women Victims of the War in Bosnia and Herzegovina publicly renounced her own award received earlier by the same ILH. And Dr Milan Popović, professor of the University of Montenegro, an intellectual with a long record of activism for peace and democracy, left the ILH for the same reason.

We urge You also to distance yourself by Your gesture from the awardees who do not deserve this prize.

Respectfully Yours,

Dr Vjera Begović Radović, Law Faculty, University of Montenegro

Željko Ivanović, Director of daily "Vijesti"

Dr Svetozar Jovičević, Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Montenegro

Esad Kočan, Editor in Chief of independent weekly "Monitor"

Veseljko Koprivica, journalist of weekly "Monitor"

Ljubomirka Ljupka Kovačević, peace and women activist

Stevo Muk, Director of the Centre for Development of NGOs (CRNVO)

Snežana Nikčević, journalist of Radio Television Montenegro (RTCG)

Andrej Nikolaidis, Writer

Milika Pavlović, Writer and President of Movement "Public against fascism" from 1993. until 1998.

Dr Miodrag Perović, Founder and Director weekly "Monitor"

Dr Milan Popović, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Montenegro

Aida Petrović, Director of Montenegrin Women Lobby

Milka Tadić Mijović, journalist of weekly "Monitor"

Daliborka Uljarević, Director of the Centre for Civic Education (CGO)

Dr Nebojša Vučinić, Law Faculty, University of Montenegro

Dr Ilija Vujošević, professor of the University of Montenegro

Dragoljub Duško Vuković, Journalist

Aleksandar Saša Zeković, Researcher of Human Rights violation

Podgorica, 18 May, 2007

¹ The letter has been sent to the awardees: Mr Vaclav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic; Mr Kiro Gligorov, former President of the Republic of Macedonia; Mr Milan Kučan, former President of the Republic of Slovenia

INTRODUCING THE EU INSTITUTIONS



Council of Europe

Although this organisation has an international and European character, the Council of Europe does not belong to EU institutions (i.e. it is different from both the European Council and the Council of European Union). Membership in the EU does not formally require a state to be a member of the CoE, nevertheless, all 27 members of the EU are also members of the European Council. Apart from members, these two countries have in common an idea of a united Europe, and the draft EU Constitution emphasises that rights and freedoms from the European Conventions on Human Rights represent an integral part of the highest European legal act (European Constitution, Article 1.9.)

Within the Council of Europe, competences are distributed among six main institutions, among which: CoE Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of European Local and Regional Authorities, Committee of Ministers, Secretary General and the Secretariat, Human Rights Commissioner and European Human Rights Court.

Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress are advisory bodies, whose opinions and recommendations are non-binding. Committee of Ministers decides about the functioning of CoE and about issues concerning all members of the CoE. It consists of ministers of foreign affairs of all member states and their permanent diplomatic representatives in Strasbourg. Secretary General and the Secretariat are responsible for current administrative and financial activities. Human Rights Commissioner has the right to monitor the human rights situation in CoE member states, while the European Human Rights Courts reserves judiciary functions.

The flag of the Council of Europe has a circle of 12 stars on the deep blue background, with a stylised "E" in the middle of the circle, representing its logo.

Vučić ČETKOVIĆ

NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPEAN UNION



European network of the friends of planet Earth is a network gathering more than 30 national organisations and about hundred local groups engaged in the protection and improvement of the quality of environment. European network is a part of the Friends of Earth International, which is a global organisation.

FoE' activities are aimed at:

- promotion of the concept of sustainable development as a developmental paradigm on the national, regional and global levels'
- protection of environment from further devastation and correction of damages made by human activity and their irresponsible attitudes towards their living environment
- preservation of natural, cultural and ethnic diversity of the planet
- raising citizens' participation in the decision-making processes on all levels;
- ensuring political, economic and social justice and equality of access and use of natural resources.

In order to achieve these goals, FoE tries to exert influence on and cooperate with EU institutions responsible for environmental issues and related policies, as well as for social and other issues which have an impact on the environment.

FoE's public influence and its engagement in the protection and promotion of the environment is exercised through numerous awareness raising campaigns, appearances in the media, publications and distribution of promotional material and the like.

The vision of FoE is a planet consisting of societies living in harmonies with the nature, respecting human rights and human dignity.

The network fights in particular all forms of exploitation, forced labour and subordination of other people. In that sense, FoE is a fierce opponent to the concept of liberal capitalism, neo-colonialism and militarism, as well as of the concept of a planet governed by the financial powers of multinational corporations.

For more information on the activities and campaigns of FoE, please visit: www.foeeurope.org

Pripremio: Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ

Council of Europe (fr. Conseil d'Europe) is a regional international organisation of European countries, with a supranational, European character, and with headquarters in Strasbourg.

Council of Europe is the oldest political organisation of the old continent, founded in 1949 by 10 European countries: Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Great Britain.

Today, the Council of Europe has 47 member states. Among the European countries, only Belarus is not a member, and its guest status was recently suspended following reports on human rights violations. USA, Canada, Japan and Mexico have an observer status.

CoE represents democratic voices of over 800 million people from nearly entire Europe.

The goal of the Council of Europe is to attain and promote the basic democratic rights and freedoms in Europe through promotion of democracy, respect of human rights and establishment of the rule of law. Those goals are built into the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms. The system of protection is established through the European Court of Human Rights. In order to fulfil those goals, since 1949 the Council of Europe created more than 200 international agreements on human and social rights, media, freedom of expression, education, culture, cultural identity, cultural diversity, sports, local governance, health, legal, regional and international cooperation.

CDNGO, FOSI ROM AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Public Broadcasting Service RTM must adapt to the European standards

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) and the Foundation Open Society Institute, Representative Office in Montenegro, in cooperation with the Council of Europe organised on the 30 April 2007 a meeting titled "Nominations and Public Aspects of the Council for the PBS RTM". The meeting was attended by representatives of the non-governmental organisations, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Media, Agency for Public Broadcasting, Council of Europe, OSCE, journalists' associations and political parties.

The conclusions of the meetings were that the public service did not live up to the best European practices and standards in this area. It was suggested that problematic articles from the Law on PBS RTM should be precisely defined,

and that general recommendations of the organisers and participants in the meeting contain a sound basis for the amendments of the Law on PBS RTM. The process should be initiated as soon as possible, and it should involve all interested subjects.

The process of drafting and amending the Law should be open to representatives of NGOs, journalists' associations, employers' organisations, Council of PBS RTM, relevant committees of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media and CoE experts.

CDNGO took the responsibility for forwarding a public initiative to all interested subjects, in order to create an adequate framework for the further work and dialogue on the concrete legal mechanisms.

CONTINUATION OF THE JOINT PROJECT BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR AND THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Montenegrin Parliament more active in the process of European integrations

European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM), with support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation continues to implement the project "Parliament for Europe", a special training programme for MPs and professional staff of the Parliament of Montenegro. The programme involves organisation of specialised seminars with renowned lecturers transferring to the Parliament members and administration their knowledge and experience of European integrations, preparing them for an active role in these processes.

After successful implementation of the project "Parliament for Europe 1" during 2006, where the MPs had a chance to learn about the basics of the EU institutions as well as legal and economic processes, the second cycle of the seminar was organised in Petrovac, from 18 to 20 May 2007.

With participation of renowned lecturers (Dr Judy Batt, Dr Gordana Đurović, Dr Rado Genorio, Dr Tanja Mišćević, Dr Miroslav Prokopijević, the participants could learn more about the enlargement process and the current position of Montenegro and other West Balkan countries in this process; about experiences of the Republic of Slovenia on its path to Europe, and about the current activities of the Government of Montenegro in this field.

MPs and other participants also had a chance to get acquainted with the content of legal and institutional harmonisation in the European integration process, as well as on the impact of these processes on economic development in West Balkan countries. The programme will continue in autumn 2007.

Celebrated Day of Europe



9 May, Day of Europe, was celebrated with a series of manifestations organised by European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM), European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) and the City of Podgorica. It involved activities such as "Greetings to Europe" for the youngest, drawing competition "Me and my city in Europe", as well as a football tournament of children's clubs at the sports centre "Morača".

Special attraction was a football game between representatives of the City of Podgorica and the diplomatic corps with

EMiM members, in which "Podgorica" scored a convincing 11:5 victory against "Europe".

There were prizes for the winners of all competitions, handed out at the Republic Square, where another set of cultural and artistic events took place, together with a welcoming speech by organisers. Activists of the recently founded JEF Montenegro also took part in the Day of Europe celebrations in Podgorica. European Movement in Montenegro also organised an even in Budva, in cooperation with the City of Budva.



MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN ADVANCED EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Organized by Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales. It is targeted at students who have completed their undergraduate studies. Its objective is to give students an overarching, encompassing vision of the political, social, economic and cultural problems of today's modern world. With internationally renowned staff from both the Institute and cooperating institutions teaching on four different modules (International Relations, European Integration, Democracy and Society, Federalism), this programme offers a unique and enriching learning atmosphere. It is characterised by challenging discussions, high quality lectures, interactive classes, and role games. A study trip to European and International Organizations completes the programme. The Institute will also help students finding internships in these institutions. The Masters degree will be awarded after the defence of a dissertation of about 100 pages and an oral exam. Students successfully completing the programme will acquire 60 ECTS credits. A limited number of scholarships can be awarded. This programme is partly funded by the European Union. University graduates from all countries and all disciplines are welcome to apply. The deadline for applications is **June 30th, 2007**. Applications and especially requests for financial aid should reach the I.E.H.E.I. as early as possible. The Master has two branches: the trilingual branch and the anglophone branch.

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:

The trilingual branch: Nice–Berlin–Rome

Conditions of admission: Passive knowledge of French, English, and German. Active knowledge in at least one of these languages.

Please contact Mme Dominique Moreno

Tel: +33 4 93 97 93 70

Email: scolarite.iehei@wanadoo.fr or iehei@wanadoo.fr

Site Internet:

www.iehei.org/dheei/fr/presentation.htm

The anglophone branch: Istanbul–Nice–Berlin

Conditions of admission: Good knowledge of English.

Please contact Mlle Mélanie Ho Bao Loc

Tel: +33 4 93 97 93 86,

Email: dheei.istanbul@cife.org

or Mlle Burcu Gorak

Tel: +90 212 3810149

E-mail: bgorak@bahcesehir.edu.tr

Site Internet:

www.iehei.org/dheei/istanbul/presentation.htm

INTERNSHIP (STAGES) IN EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission offers two five-month periods of in-service training (stages) for young university graduates and public service employees. These training periods involve work experience in one of the Commission's departments (Directorates-General or DGs) and run from 1 March and 1 October each year.

About 600 positions are offered twice a year, of which approximately 10% (there is no official quota, this is a rough estimate) go to non-EU nationals. Within the selection of non-EU nationals, nationals from countries in an European integration process are given priority over the rest of the world. Although non-EU applicants are not specifically mentioned on the website, the application procedure is exactly the same as for EU nationals (note: the application deadline is about 6 months prior to the training period). Received applications undergo an initial selection at the "Bureau de Stage" (Internships Office). This first selection is based on the merit of the application, however, short listed candidates also reflect a proportional balance between national populations of the Member States, as well as a quota of non-EU nationals. These pre-selected candidates, of which there are roughly three times as many as there are places, are placed in what is commonly referred to as the "Blue Book". Candidates are informed in writing if/when they reach this stage. Their applications are then sent to the relevant DGs, where the final selection is made. Theoretically the application process consists solely of submitting an application and waiting for

the result. However, in practice, due to strong competition, "lobbying" for the position you want is common. This only takes place after the initial selection of applicants has been completed, i.e. once the "Blue Book" has been compiled. Therefore, if you are informed that you have been put in the "Blue Book" and your application has been sent to the relevant DGs (i.e. the ones specified by you on the application form), it is (informally) recommended that you contact, sooner rather than later, the specific units you are interested in working for. The organigrammes (organisational charts) of each DG are available on the web. From this you can find the contact details of heads of unit, and you can contact them to ask whether that particular unit takes interns (not all of them do). If the answer is positive you should ask, who would be an appropriate person to send a copy of your CV and a motivation letter to. This helps, because as you will see, there is very little room on the application itself to state your experience and interests. Additionally, if you are in Brussels, it is worth trying to arrange an informal meeting with relevant officials, however this is generally not possible for most non-EU and EU candidates alike.

All information and application forms are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/stages/index_en.htm

Important note:

- Because the Commission regularly receives more than 7,000 applications for each in-service training period for the approximately 600 places available, it is important that the applications are filled out correctly and are complete. Any missing documents, such as a copy of university certificate(s), will immediately disqualify the applicant.
- You may write your application in any European Union language, although generally it is a better idea to write it in English or French.
- It is worth noting that application deadlines are at least 6 months in advance of the starting date.
- Most, but not all, candidates receive grants (currently 963 EUR per month).
- Interns with disabilities may receive a supplement to their grant
- There is an upper age limit of 30 years.
- Some Commission departments are in Luxembourg, not Brussels (these details are available on the web too)
- The internship will NOT lead on to any other form of work at the Commission, for a minimum period of a year after the internship has ended, they are very strict about this.

http://ec.europa.eu/stages/information/traineeship_en.htm

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