



**FOCUS OF
THIS ISSUE**
**Government and
employers on the
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with EU coming
into force on
1 January**

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expert of the
European Institute
in Sofia

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Podgorica and Montenegro
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HOPE

End of 2007. The Government says it was a historical year – Montenegro's achievements with regard to EU accession in 2007 deserve to be included in history textbooks. Indeed, Montenegro entered its first official, contractual relationship with EU on 15 October 2007, after having signed the agreements on visa facilitation and readmission.

All would agree that the signing of Stabilisation and Association Agreement is an exceptional event, opening the EU membership perspective to the smallest and least developed republic of the former SFRY. The government was overjoyed, but the opposition too welcomed the agreement, hoping that the presence of EU in Montenegro will become stronger, that it will help them to "control the government" and indirectly implement some order in Montenegro so it does not become a "Mediterranean Columbia".

Opposition dreams may even come true, seen that the European Commission Delegation promised to bring 40 employees to its Podgorica office in early 2008. Maybe, because everything depends on whether the government will allow any control. By the example of the Strategy for energy development, it seems unlikely. Add the case of the Spatial plan, and you get a complete picture of a government confident of its superior knowledge and skills. What is left for the Brussels representatives to do? Nothing, except to report to their bosses, and their bosses to Olli Rehn and so forth. Then the EU could in turn decide to ignore our prospective membership application.

To conclude: there is hope for Montenegro. The ruling coalition is so untouchable for so long also because of its ability to adapt to new circumstances. Should there be any deeper confrontations with EU institutions, however, it will be cleared the government is ruled from informal seats of power who care little for the future of Montenegro if that would mean lower profits for them. The conclusion still holds. Unmasking the hidden enemy is half the road to victory. N.R.

POLAND, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVENIA, MALTA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA JOINED THE SCHENGEN ZONE

Borders disappeared

After they became EU members in May 2004, Central and East European countries scored another success on the 21 December – they joined the Schengen zone. The borders of Eastern Europe, once guarded by machine guns and barbed wire have now disappeared, with celebrations, fireworks, toasts and music.

The nine countries joined the existing 15 members to create a space the size of one third of the territory of USA, spanning 4000 kilometres of passport-free area from Estonia to Portugal.

Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia joined the Schengen zone. Cyprus, also an EU member since 2004, asked for a year of delay before opening its borders. Romania and Bulgaria have joined the EU this year, but will still have to meet numerous security criteria before joining the Schengen zone.

The enlarged Schengen zone includes 24 countries and some 400 million people. At the moment it covers land and coastal border, and will be extended to airports in March 2008.

Thousands of people from Latvia, Lithuania and Poland went to find work in UK or Ireland, whose labour markets have been long open to workers from the new EU member states. UK and Ireland are not members of the Schengen zone.

Borders disappeared also between the Baltic countries, including the city of Valga-Valka on the Estonian-Latvian border, where the border divided the main street.



At the Slovakian-Austrian border, visitors could get souvenir stamps in their passports.

The decision to enlarge the Schengen zone, named after the Luxembourg village where in 1985 the first agreement was signed on passport-free travel, also sprouted fears of rising crime rates and illegal migration. Although many feel this could be the negative side of Schengen, the worries are offset by hopes of boosting business and tourism.

Border barriers have been ceremonially removed, customs officers abandoned their posts and people were moving freely back and forth across the border that once separated the Soviet block from the West.

German chancellor Angela Merkel, who was herself brought up in the communist East Germany welcomed this historical move that for many signifies the final disappearance of the shadow of "Iron Curtain".

"We are happy to have lived through this truly historical moment" said Merkel at the ceremony in Zittau on the German border with Poland, adding that borders have caused much suffering in the past.

N.R.



by Dr Thomas Schmitt

I am convinced that Montenegro has a very good perspective in terms of its European future. As a matter of fact, in some important areas, things develop much better in Montenegro than in other areas of the Balkans. Yes, Montenegro has to change, if it wants to become a member of the EU and if it wants to compete internationally under conditions of globalization. But the problem of Montenegro is not a person. The problem is not a party. The main problem of Montenegro is: old habits, old networks and still inadequate legal and administrative structures. I am always trying to point to these problems. This is what will have to change if we want to get Montenegro successfully into the EU and into the modern world! And I am optimistic it will change, over time.

After Thessaloniki in 2003, the European Union's policy of Stabilisation and Association has contributed critically to progress achieved throughout the region in promoting stability and in bringing the countries closer to the Union. It now needs to be strengthened and enriched with elements from the enlargement process, so that it can better meet the new challenges, as the countries slowly move from stabilisation and reconstruction to sustainable development, association and integration into European structures.

In her Government declaration on the upcoming German EU Presidency pronounced in Berlin on December 14th 2006, the German Federal Chancellor **Angela Merkel** confirmed German support for the accession perspective of the Western Balkan countries. She expressly mentioned Montenegro. She added:

A VIEW FROM EUROPE

You are slowly getting better

"Nevertheless, even if we believe that this decision is the right one, we know very well that this is a mid-term prospect, and that much preparation will be need it to turn the perspective of EU membership into reality". She also added that she sees a rather rapid accession possibility only for Croatia.

Our concrete Presidency working program for the Western Balkans has meanwhile been implemented completely in the case of Montenegro, although with a certain technical time delay: the conclusion of the SAA, the Visa Facilitation and the Readmission Agreements. Also, the EU Council has adopted a European Partnership with Montenegro on 22 January 2007. It was signed under the German Presidency but negotiations leading to it had been conducted mostly under previous Presidencies, especially the Finnish one. It forms the basis of European financial and structural cooperation with Montenegro, in the form of the famous IPA

To modernize a society is always a long-term project. But we are optimistic that Montenegro will achieve these goals. We are optimistic that Montenegro will be a success story, eventually

(Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance). And it provides for a three-year assistance program of around 33 million euro per year for Montenegro.

Why do we do this? Why all these promises, why all that money? I can, first of all, speak for my country.

My answer is that Germany has a clear regional approach towards the Western Balkan region, from which our specific political approach towards Montenegro is derived. This approach is based on our own value system: our ideas of human rights, pluralism and democracy which we want to see fulfilled everywhere in Europe) and upon our European Integration concept. Article 49 of the EU-Treaty stipulates that every democratic European state has the right to apply for membership of the Union. We apply that approach to our relations with Montenegro.

We will be happy to see Montenegro

as a transparent, economically prospering country, free of endemic corruption, with stable structures in all respects. This includes a pluralistic society, freedom of expression and, of course, the strict rule of law. We want to see Montenegro as an integral element of a democratic, ever more united Europe. We want to see Montenegro's structures economically, politically, sociologically and ecologically sustainable. And we want to remove all barriers that still impede the full interaction of society and economy between Montenegro and the rest of Europe – of course, including Germany.

There is still a lot of structural homework to be done in a country that has regained its independence after an interruption of almost 90 years. We support that in many ways. Bilaterally through organizations like GTZ (Society for Technical Cooperation), KfW (Credit Institution for Reconstruction), HELP, or our political foundations (such as KAS (Konrad Adenauer Foundation) or FES

(Friedrich Ebert Foundation). But there are many other organizations and persons from Germany involved in this.

Multilaterally, we do this through our share in international organizations, where we are one of the largest contributors. In the EU we are certainly by far the largest single one. So, in fact, a lot of the EU money, between a quarter and a third, comes from German taxpayers.

I have already said: it seems to me that there has been definite progress in Montenegro in the recent past. Structures are changing and improving, although, of course, sometimes slowly. To modernize a society is always a long-term project. But we are optimistic that Montenegro will achieve these goals. We are optimistic that Montenegro will be a success story, eventually.

Author is the Ambassador of the Republic of Germany in Montenegro

GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS ON THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EU COMING INTO FORCE ON 1 JANUARY



by Vladan Žugić

On the eve of the beginning of implementation of the Interim Agreement (IA) with EU regarding trade and related issues, Montenegrin employers judge that the Government could have done more in the previous years to stimulate export production and enable them to prepare themselves better for competition with European products.

On the other hand, the Government claims they have had numerous programmes to aid those producers who were interested in implementing new standards and raising the quality of their products – measures necessary to meet the competitive pressures of the European market.

Neither the ones nor the others fear that the opening of the Montenegrin market to EU products could incur long-term increases in the trade deficit, nor do they dare to predict what would be the expected increase in Montenegrin exports to the 27 EU member states.

According to this view, implementation of the IA will attract EU investors, with positive consequences for the overall economic growth. Producers and entrepre-

A challenge and a stimulus for Montenegrin economy

neurs will be able to acquire cheaper raw materials and equipment from EU given the decrease in tariffs, and the consumers will have a wider range of quality and prices to choose from.

The Interim Agreement with EU will come into force on 1 January 2008, and it encompasses all provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement regarding trade, as well as those directly related to the free movement of goods. The agreement will allow

Montenegrin companies to export to the European market free of tariffs or quotas. Truth be told, for those who have met the EU quality standards, such provisions were already in place since the adoption of the Autonomous trade measures by EU in 2000.

On the other hand, the IA stipulates that Montenegro will gradually remove its own tariffs for EU products over a period of five years.

Deputy Minister for economic development, **Ljiljana Filipović** says

UNINFORMED PRODUCERS, TROUBLESOME STANDARDISATION

Asked whether the Government could have done more in the past to make the access to EU markets easier for the Montenegrin products, **Mitrović** warns that the practice has shown that our producers are likely to encounter a series of problems, such as difficult loans for export production, high excises, piles of paperwork, troubles with the payment of claims and other difficulties.

"In that sense, bearing in mind the bilateral free trade agreements signed by Montenegro with other countries of the region, ratification of the CEFTA and the Interim Agreement, it is clear that the current and future exporters will need substantial assistance. This should come both through the lifting of administrative burdens by the relevant institutions as well as through joint efforts at increased competitiveness and improved capacities of companies acting in the foreign markets", Mitrović says.

In addition to information about customs tariffs and necessary documents, another important aspect is the issue of standardisation.

"UPCG believes that the process of institutionalisation of Montenegrin standards, in line with European and international standards, is long due. Let me remind that the Institute for standardisation, founded this year, is still not properly operational. In the meantime, many producers and entrepreneurs in Montenegro have little information about the EU standardisation requirements, such as rules on classification, packaging, labelling etc.", Mitrović says.

UPCG has been working on a booklet containing the regulations on standardisation of food and agricultural products in order to inform Montenegrin producers about such issues and facilitate their implementation in practice.



Ljiljana Filipović

that domestic producers had to meet the same fierce competition even before the IA came into force, and that only those whose quality and productivity satisfied the demanding domestic market could survive.

"Besides, given the implementation of the bilateral free trade agreements with the countries of the region, now CEFTA 2006, 30% of all trade in Montenegro is conducted free of customs and tariffs. A Montenegrin producer cannot be a serious player in a wider market

if he or she is not good enough for the national or regional markets. The Government offered its assistance to the producers who find new standards and rising product quality requirements challenging – e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture helped with the implementation of HASAP standards.

There were also numerous international assistance programmes through CARDS, PSO, or IPA funds", Filipović explains for *EIC Bulletin*.

Director of the Association of Montenegrin Employers (Unija poslodavaca Crne Gore – UPCG) **Predrag Mitrović** says that in the upcoming period Montenegrin producers will have easier access to the EU market through various forms of economic and non-economic stimuli, the lowering of business barriers, standardisation and rapprochement with European business regulations through legal and institutional adjustments.

"This is a long-term process which is anything but easy: it requires harmonisation on various levels, but will certainly contribute to the overall growth and develop-



Predrag Mitrović

ment of Montenegrin companies and their better performance on this market. It is well known that Montenegro is an import-based economy, while our exports are still based on raw materials and semi-manufactured goods, mostly in the metal and wood industry. It is therefore important to strengthen and improve competitiveness of our economy, which means that the Government, its institutions, as well as the private sector, i.e. UPCG as the representative organisation of employers must work together on meeting the challenges of the global markets. The Government ought to foster an environment conducive to learning and innovation, to stimulate creation of linkage and support industries and to encourage the firms to focus on the international market. In that sense, and in the light of the EU Competitiveness declaration from 2004, we must begin with the establishment of a National Council for Competitiveness as soon as possible", Mitrović said.

Filipović and Mitrović do not fear that the implementation of the Interim Agreement could increase the foreign trade deficit of Montenegro which in the first 9 months of this year reached a

EU THE BIGGEST EXPORT MARKET

Filipović explains that EU is the biggest export market for Montenegrin products: aluminium, steel, iron and the related products, fuel, drinks, fruit, wood and wood products.

"The presence of EU market in Montenegrin total exports grew from 53.4% in 2005 to 62% in 2006. The growth of Montenegrin exports, 36% in the same period is the consequence of increased exports to EU countries. This testifies to improved overall economic cooperation with EU countries, as well as to an increase in competitiveness of Montenegrin products in general", Filipović said.

According to Mitrović, Montenegrin export products are mostly aluminium, iron and steel, mineral fuels, oils and its derivatives.

"That makes up 70% of Montenegrin exports, which suggests minimal diversification of Montenegrin export products. On the other hand, we have noted an increase in exports of food and beverages industry, which indicates that we should hope to add health food, wine and fish to tourism as Montenegrin export aces", Mitrović said.

FALLING CUSTOMS TARIFFS

Category I – sensitive industrial products – gradual decrease in customs tariffs over the next three years (marble and decorative marble, wood products, shoes, aluminium products, cooling

devices and some industrial products which are not currently produced in Montenegro but constitute a significant contribution to the budget through customs duties – e.g. cell phones, passenger cars, cooling devices...)

Category II – more sensitive industrial products – gradual decrease in customs tariffs over the next five years (agroindustry, wood processing, leather and shoes, stone products, paper, some aluminium products, textile industry and metalwork).

After signing the SAA	List II	List III
First year	80%	90%
Second year	60%	80%
Third year	40%	70%
Fourth year	20%	60%
Fifth year	0%	50%

Agreement. The list contains some of the basic agricultural products, such as: live animals (cattle, pork and poultry), pork meat and fat, other segments of poultry, whey, eggs, ornamental plants and seedlings of agricultural and forest plants. Vegetables: onion, carrots, legumes, mushrooms; fruit: figs, citrus fruits, blackberries, coffee, wheat flour, processed fruit and vegetables, some alcoholic beverages, tobacco. Processed products: sweets, some non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, beer, tobacco products.

List 3 – more sensitive products – tariff protection will decrease to 50% of the current levels over a period of 5 years and will remain there until Montenegro joins the EU.

The list contains basic agricultural products: lambs, all categories of beef, all categories of lamb and goat meat, poultry, salted and smoked products, milk, sour cream, yoghurt, butter and cheese, honey, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, cucumbers, peppers and spinach, tangerines, grapes, honey and water melons, apples, pears, cherries, sour cherries, apricots, peaches, plums, strawberries, raspberries and kiwi, olive oil and all meat products, as well as processed agricultural products (dairy products and natural and sparkling water).

Wine quota – Montenegro can export free of tariffs up to 16.000 hl per year (current level of exports is 3.000), which is an asymmetric arrangement in Montenegrin favour. Montenegrin team of negotiators managed to agree on a much lower quota for imports from EU-27 (1.500 hl in the first year after signing the SAA, with a yearly increase of 500 hl up to a maximum of 3.500 hl). Montenegrin delegation has the responsibility to submit the Montenegrin proposal for the protected sign of geographic origin and to finalise the proposal of a law on wine (regions, kinds, geographic marks and other important elements for SAA).

Quota for fish – (free access to the EU market) was set at 20 tonnes for the following sub-categories: trout, carp, sea bass and sea perch. The limit for processed or preserved fish products is 200 tonnes for sardines (with 6% tariff) and 200 tonnes for anchovies (12.5% tariff), with a possibility of rising the quota after for years up to 250 and 500 tonnes respectively. For all other fish products there will be a gradual decrease in the customs tariffs over a period of three years down to 70% of MNE.

After signing the SAA	Category I	Category II
First year	80%	85%
Second year	50%	70%
Third year	25%	55%
Fourth year	0%	40%
Fifth year	–	20%

List 2 – sensitive products – products eligible for progressive elimination of tariff protection (20% per annum) over a period of five year from the date of coming into force of Interim

record of billion euros, 68% more than in the same period last year.

Filipović explains that the 2006 trade deficit stems mostly from the import of the construction equipment for infrastructural projects.

"Through the rule of diagonal cumulating, Montenegrin producers will be able to buy raw materials from EU at lower prices without customs tariffs and to place their finished products not only in the EU markets but also in the markets of CEFTA, EFTA and Turkey, free of tariffs, making our production more competitive. As for the supply of finished goods from EU in the domestic market, consumers and the tourist economy will have greater opportunities to choose both the quality and the price of their product. In the short run, trade liberalisation will have negative effects on the budget, but in the long run the growth of economic activity and employment is the final goal of all countries striving to join EU, Montenegro among them", Filipović said.

According to Mitrović, removal of customs tariffs and other barriers in Montenegro should result in greater flows of FDI from EU.

"Interim Agreement is in this case the necessary "positive signal" for the investors and potential partners from EU. We expect the flow of foreign investments and activities to continue, but this will require efforts to improve competitiveness of the local economy. That, in turn, could boost our exports and thus diminish the trade account imbalance. In the long run, Montenegro will have more chances to reduce the current deficit through exports to the EU markets. We must, however, always bear in mind the well-being of the local producers, through implementation of certain stimulatory measures and by offering the necessary training", Mitrović concludes.

JULIANA NIKOLOVA, EXPERT OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE IN SOFIA

Have your own vision of your country's development

There are two ways to negotiate with EU – either you agree with all the proposals and demands that are coming from EC or you check all the proposals and commitments, and fight for something that you think is in national interest, says **Juliana Nikolova**, expert of the European Institute in Sofia. In the interview for *EIC Bulletin*, she explained that Bulgaria chose to explore every possibility, "unlike Romania, who said "yes" to almost all proposals and demands".

"That made out situation much harder. You are in a much better position than we were at that time", Nikolova said.

She reminds that Bulgaria started negotiation for association agreement later than the so called "Visegrad troika", which consisted of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary.

"I remember, in 1992 all EC decisions and recommendations were



Juliana Nikolova

focused on catching up with the "Visegrad troika". That meant for us no less commitment and no fewer obligations than for the Troika, and that was very hard to accomplish"

● In which areas was it most difficult for Bulgaria to adapt to the EU standards, and where was it easier?

"Standards" are – let's say, a very common word, but it actually means nothing. There are regulations, European treaties, case-studies and case-decisions. The hardest for Bulgaria were the areas without the so called "Acquis", without European legislation. The toughest task was to implement the basic principles of democracy – the rule of law, for instance, which means fighting corruption and organized crime that are the major burden on the road to EU. That is why implementing the legislation is not an easy task. It is easier to build structures and educate people than to create institutions needed for the implementation of the "Acquis". The hard work is to establish the basic principles, to ensure that your country will function as an equal member of this community of states.

● Aside for the fight against corruption, what other issues were on the top of the agenda for negotiations?

Bulgaria began negotiations in six areas: science and research, education, statistic, small and medium size enterprises, culture and media and telecommunications. We closed these chapters very quickly, within three to six months. The sector of education was the easiest to negotiate with the Commission. It is clear now, however, that the reforms are most painful in those areas that are without "Acquis", without European requirements. Even today, seven years after the provisional closing of this chapter, Bulgaria is still facing major difficulties – mainly because the government, the politicians, had never really

YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL 2015

● How would you see the European perspective of Montenegro and the West Balkan region?

Good news is that all countries of Western Balkans, including Kosovo, are on the map for future EU enlargement. They will be member states. The only question is – when? The answer to this question is bad news. I think that Bulgaria will support integration of the region within the Union, but all of the member states are not ready yet to accept all of us. Except for Croatia, which is likely to complete the process of negotiations in 2009, and probably become a member in 2010–2011, depending on the ratification procedures, the rest will have to wait at least until 2015. All Western Balkan countries should look for support from Bulgaria, Romania and other new member states, and should include them in their financial perspective for the upcoming period 2015/20.

FINANCING THE EU ENLARGEMENT IN BULGARIA

PRE-ACCESSION

ISPA	7.3 billion euro
SAPARD	3.6 billion euro
PHARE	10.9 billion euro
TOTAL	21.8 billion euro

POST-ACCESSION (AFTER 2004)

Agriculture	12.4 billion euro
Internal policies	4.0 billion euro
Administration	2.1 billion euro
Structural funds	39.6 billion euro
TOTAL	58.1 billion euro

implemented the painful reforms in the educational system. Now we have strike of teachers, primary and secondary school and even preschool teachers, because of lack of reforms mentioned. That's why I couldn't say that there is an easy area. Easy looking areas are probably difficult because they require national policy. It is much easier to follow the European policies, than to create and implement your own.

● What has changed in Bulgaria since it became EU member state?

A lot. The institutions, communication with the Commission, but maybe the most important thing that has changed in Bulgaria since it became EU member state is self-confidence. Self-confidence has very obviously increased among the Bulgarians.

Certainly, the investments in Bulgaria are much larger now than in pre-accession period.

Yet, nowadays the politicians cannot just say: "Let us look at the Commission Progress Report – what do they say about our ruling parties, our capacities..." We now have to assess our targets by our selves and our selves alone.

● You mentioned larger investments in Bulgaria in the post-accession period. What are the other advantages of EU membership?

The main advantage is the guar-

antee of stability in the country as well as the opportunities to develop ourselves with support of a larger community, to enter the biggest internal market in the world and to work together with our partners – to live in a Europe without borders.

● And the disadvantages?

The main disadvantage in my opinion is that the lack of adequate capacities prevents Bulgaria from participating as an equal player in the policy-making process at the European level. It is more of a challenge than a disadvantage, though. We are still building our capacities to participate in the policy making process, not only on the national level but on the European level as well. To cooperate, to make coalitions, to create groups, to lobby for Bulgarian national interests and formulate them in proper way, is a challenge, not only for Bulgaria, but for all the Central and East European countries. Disadvantage is also less sovereignty in making national decisions, less space for freedom which is limited by freedom of the others.

● How did Bulgaria solve the problem of a lack of administrative capacities?

We have not solved it yet. The solving of this problem is based on several legal acts, such as Law on Administration and Law on Civil Servant Status that ought to improve

the status of the civil servants based on career development, merit increase, etc, that could make the civil servant status prestigious so that people who work in the civil service can be proud of themselves.

● Could you find parallels between Bulgaria and Montenegro regarding the process of EU integrations?

There are different kinds of burdens and difficulties, but in a very similar framework. There are many things to be solved, and that is bad news. Good news is that you are on the right track. After the collapse of the communist regime, Bulgarian Socialists Party, former Communist Party, won first post-communist elections in 1990. The second post-communist elections were won by the first democratic government UDF Union of Democratic Forces. The first goal and the first declaration unanimously adopted by the Parliament was the one on Bulgarian NATO integration and on Bulgarian EU integration. All parties, whether on the left or right, maintained complete consensus over these two issues. It was important to have both – NATO integration and European Community integration, because Bulgaria had no democratic tradition and it was important for Bulgaria to fulfil the NATO criteria as a guaranty for democratic development and irreversibility of democratic reforms.

● What are your recommendations for Montenegro?

I think that it will be easier for you because you are small country. Based on my reading of the Commission Reports, you have no major problems with the EU, but still, my advice for you would be: Have your own vision for development of your country. Make the reforms needed not because you want to please the Brussels bureaucracy, but because of yourselves, because the development of your country depends on these reforms.

Paula PETRIČEVIĆ

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN EU AND MONTENEGRO

Seize the agreement as an opportunity for reforms

Stabilisation and Association Agreement is the first, but important step by Montenegro towards accession to the European Union. Montenegrin authorities ought to assess the prospects for accession in a realistic manner, on the basis not merely of the transposition into national law of Community rules and standards.

Such are the recommendations ensuing from a comprehensive Resolution adopted by the European Parliament (EP) upon the proposal by **Marcello Vernola**, member of the EP Committee for Foreign Relations responsible for Montenegro. The



Resolution was adopted on the 13 December, alongside ratification of

the SAA between EU and Montenegro, signed on 15 October.

Resolution emphasised the need to strengthen the role of the Parliament and particularly in its capacity as a scrutinising body, for example in the field of public finance.

"EP urges the Montenegrin Government and Parliament to give practical effect to the objectives listed in Article 80 of the SAA by introducing the laws and regulations required in order to guarantee the full independence and accountability of the judiciary. The new constitutional provisions regarding responsibility for appointing judges reduces Parliament's discretionary powers and increases the autonomy of the judicial self-regulatory body. EP recalls that it is essential that an independent, efficient and corruption-free judiciary be in place to manage the full and irreversible implementation of the rule of law", states the Resolution.

STRENGTHEN THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA

EP highlighted the important role which civil society can play in developing democracy and the rule of law by drawing attention to social problems and to sensitive political issues. In this context, they called for stronger safeguards and better conditions for civil society actors.

EP called on the Government to implement reforms in the media laws, in particular the Law on Media Transparency and Prevention of Media Concentration, in order to allow for greater transparency and prevent media monopolies in both the printed and electronic media.

"EP urges the Parliament to ensure the independence of the Broadcasting Council of the Radio Television Montenegro (RTCG), including genuine representation of all sections of society, thereby facilitating the full transformation of the RTCG into a professional public broadcasting service. EP believes that it is essential to strengthen and maintain independent media with balanced reporting", emphasises the document. It continues to express "strong regrets that there has been no resolution to the case involving the murdered journalist **Duško Jovanović**, who at the time of his murder was in the process of publishing a series of articles on cigarette smuggling and other forms of organised crime in Montenegro".

EP urged the Montenegrin Government to guarantee press freedom and requested an investigation of the aggression suffered in Podgorica on 1 September 2007 by **Željko Ivanović**, editor of the independent daily newspaper 'Vijesti'.

CREATE A TRANSPARENT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

EP notes that Montenegro de facto uses the euro as an official currency and points out that the present use of the euro, decided by the Montenegrin authorities in exceptional circumstances, is entirely distinct from Euro zone membership, warns the document, reminding that in order to join the euro zone all the criteria defined in the Treaty must be fulfilled, including a high degree of sustainable convergence.

"The lack of short- and long-term economic development planning as well as the failure to address Montenegro's sizeable 'shadow economy' can be damaging to the successful implementation of the SAA; calls therefore on the Montenegrin authorities to make a firmer commitment to employment, one of the most severe economic and social problems facing Montenegrin society, and to pursue economic policies to create an openly competitive and transparent business climate", states the Resolution.

EP urged the Montenegrin Government and the judicial authorities to provide all the necessary assistance and cooperation to the Italian judicial authorities as regards the conclusion of the inquiry into organised crime and the smuggling of cigarettes which involves prominent Montenegrin politicians (**Milo Đukanović** i **Miroslav Ivanšević**), in order to enable the issue of an international arrest warrant.

"EP urges the Montenegrin authorities to complete their investigation of **Sreten Glendža**, commander of the Ulcinj police district, and of five other former police officers accused of committing war crimes in 1992", warns the Resolution.

The document emphasises further appeals to the Montenegrin authorities to adopt and implement proactive policies against corruption, with a view to improving the efficiency of public administration, the fight against organised crime and the fight against trafficking in human beings, arms, cigarettes and drugs, since these are preconditions for further integration into the European Union.

"EP calls on the Montenegrin authorities to seize the signing of the agreement as an opportunity to pursue vigorously reforms in areas such as the rule of law, fighting organised crime and corruption, strengthening border controls, and increasing

Montenegro's administrative capacity. EP emphasises the importance of Article 114 of the SAA, which contains a commitment to 'the development of an efficient and accountable public administration in Montenegro', and urges the Government to adopt the provisions required to ensure transparent recruitment and career management within the public administration and to make full use, with the Commission's support, of the Community assistance and twinning instruments for public bodies", states the Resolution.

EP "regrets" the signature of the agreement between the United States and Montenegro, under which the Montenegrins pledge not to hand over US personnel to the International Criminal Court (ICC), in return for which the US will provide military aid to Montenegro (the so-called Article 98 agreement). EP recalled that the EU opposes such accords as they undermine the ICC's authority, and expressed its expectations that Montenegro will take into account the EU stance on this matter and adopt appropriate measures.

EP stressed the capital importance of development of environmentally sustainable tourism for Montenegro's economic future, insisting on the need to adopt a coherent environmental legislative

framework as well as a master plan for coastal protection. EP also urged the Government to make operational the independent bodies responsible for ensuring respect for the delicate ecological balance in coastal areas in particular, but also in the national parks in the interior of the country.

"EP regrets ongoing speculation in property and real estate and its negative impact on the sustainable development of the country, mainly due to weak or insufficient control by state and local authorities. EP urges the Montenegrin Government and Parliament therefore to implement at the earliest opportunity the national law for the protection of the countryside – particularly in coastal areas – and of waters and the marine environment, and to implement the master plans for integrated waste management and the treatment of waste water, focusing in particular on promoting differentiated waste collection in coastal tourist resorts. EP draws attention in particular to the delicate ecological balance in Kotor Bay and the urgent need for concerted action to preserve this exceptionally beautiful natural and architectural heritage", states the document.

EP warned that foreign direct investment in Montenegro is dominated by investment in immovable property and expressed its concern about the "speculation in land and immovable property, which can hardly be curbed and is liable to result in the whole coast's becoming built up".

"EP observes, at the same time, that building inspections play an important part in this and that, in sensitive areas, moratoriums on building should be considered.

"EP is concerned about the lack of transparency and the culture of monopolies within both political and economic structures which are hindering Montenegro's development as a democratic free market society", states the message from Strasbourg.

N.R.–V.Š.

MAY FIRST TENSIONS BETWEEN PODGORICA AND MONTENEGRO UNDERMINE CREDIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

The waning honeymoon

Is the Government of Montenegro still a credible partner? Can we believe its promises of upcoming reforms in line with EU standards in order to make Montenegro eligible for EU membership by 2012? Are they ready to work hard, to be responsible and value suggestions coming from Brussels? Will they be committed to the implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)?

Such questions are triggered by the Government's decision to ignore the warnings of EU representatives to wait for the comments from Brussels before adopting its Strategy for energy development. The Strategy was approved by the Council for sustainable development in mid-December, and was adopted by the Government a few days later. In vain was the insistence of **Clive Rumbold**, the acting head of the European Commission (EC) Delegation in Podgorica to delay the decision and submit an English translation of the Strategy to EC in order to receive an expert opinion on this important strategic document. Rumbold quoted Article 109 of the SAA, signed by Montenegro and EU on the 15 October, explaining that the Government is obliged to share this document with EU before adopting it.

Article 109 of the SAA states that cooperation between EU and Montenegro "can comprise: formulation and planning of the energy policy..."

SAA will come into force in a few years, once it is ratified by the European Parliament and all 27 EU members, but the Parliament of Montenegro has already adopted the document.

Deputy PM for European Integrations, Prof Dr **Gordana Đurović**, was categorical: "There is no need to consider an SAA which has not come into force".

Šturanović's government can be faulted either with too little regard for sustainable development that was allegedly its public credo thus far, or alternatively with hasty, off the cuff decisions

She explains that the Article 109 is not the part of the Interim Agreement which comes into force on 1 January 2008, which contains some 80% of the SAA content and envisages a gradual implementation of a free trade area between EU and Montenegro.

"SAA will take a minimum of another 18 months to come into force, but our praxis so far has been to strengthen our cooperation with EU institutions in this and other policy areas... Montenegro is perfectly ready to cooperate with EC in this area too, as we have done so far", Đurović said.



Deputy PM is right: SAA has not come into force and formally the Government has absolutely no commitment towards Brussels. However, if our Parliament has already ratified

Commission has been already informed of the various stages of the long-term process of the creation of Montenegrin Strategy for energy development.

SAA has not come into force and formally the Government has no commitment towards Brussels. However, as our Parliament has already ratified the SAA, it would mean that the agreement is now de facto a part of our national legislation, and that it was substantially violated less than two months after it has been signed

the SAA, it would mean that the agreement is now de facto a part of our national legislation, and that it was substantially violated less than two months after it has been signed.

So what lies behind this hasty decision of the Government? Perhaps the fact that on 1 January 2008 a law will come into force mandating that no strategic document can be

Đurović also emphasised that she expects EC to show understanding for the Government's decision to adopt the strategy. She received the response a week later, in a somewhat unusual form. The unprecedented refusal of the EU and UN representatives to attend the 21 December meeting of the Council for sustainable development because they once again did not receive the translation of the Spatial plan in advance, and because their suggestions were again ignored, seems to suggest that understanding will not be forthcoming if there is no understanding for their own demands from the other side.

Will the EU be more explicit in "meddling" in the business of Šturanović's cabinet? It remains to be seen, but should be obvious from the reactions of the officials of European Commission, the latter being the de facto government of European Union and thus directly responsible for the relations with the potential candidate countries. Clive Rumbold's protest signals that the honeymoon is over and that from now on the Brussels may expect to see some hard work instead of pretty words.

N.R.

Standard beliefs in three motions

by Brano Mandić

Opening a la Turca: A member of the Brussels' Government, first moustache of the Montenegrin diplomacy (standardly believed to be called **Milan**, surnamed **Roćen**), without a hint of embarrassment, speaks. Before distinguished guests, with a long-necked champagne glass in his right, Roćen is dazzling, reminiscent of a hero from the memorable Turkish love stories.

As a reminder, this was the cinematic sub-genre that helped our housewives weep through the late 80s. Roćen's appearance thus probably throws them into a nostalgic yearning and the days of yore when they dreamed not that their neighbours will suddenly turn into Turks for deportation, the odious minority whose members enjoy burying rifles in meadows.

Wisely, then, in line with his Take-Me-Mustafa image, Roćen chooses a soap for the genre. An equivalent of Shakespeare's "Hellas!" and "aman" in Bosnian love ballads quivers under the charming moustache while he purrs about the unexpected, undeserved (and thus all the more poisonous) arrows from the direction of our European friends. (N.B. the same conceited hair-splitters who are forever banning Turkey from their company, aman!)

Like our housewives could not have known that the Turkish love stories were but a highly stylised introduction to postponed orgasms of endless Latin American series where at least one hero or heroine is, like Roćen, always suffering from amnesia, so the popular minister could not have guessed that the European Parliament would pull out a resolution to teach a lesson to his political **Zeus**.

Roćen is shocked & awed, we see him in front of the cameras catching his breath for the Big Truth. As if peyote was churning in his glass,



and yet with Homeric exaltation, he summons the muse of European Union to his aid. Which is a problem, if the word can be applied to this thoroughbred parlour tabby.

It did force him to leave his behind the scenes-cabinet-upholstered pose and burst at the public.

Tortured by a standard belief.

Europe, says Minister Milan, ought to help him and his fellow foremen, for the people must be saved from the shackles of a standard belief that Montenegro is a hotbed of corruption and organised crime. Those are words powerful and fatal and must be proven, as Roćen knows well, so he chooses the only logical solution: It is the fault of Belgrade and of the late **Milošević** who threw the evil seed that bred anti-European pests in Montenegro.

Hannes' gambit

European MPs came to defend their resolution in the middle of Podgorica but contrary to the standard

customs they did not pay a visit to the Big Boss. To make the diplomatic gaff a scandal, they also spoke about him. Outrageous. One member, goes by the conspiratory, populist surname **Swoboda** (named **Hannes**) at an event in the Rotten West known as panel discussion gave flatly his own opinion regarding the presidential elections and the president of DPS. The comedy was then transferred to the Parliament where Swoboda could not find **Duke**, even if he wanted to personally advise him on emergency brake ahead of elections. The media was up in the arms by then, ready for any outrage just to cook up an affair and slander about. Shameless people.

The counterattack of the empire was quick enough, for the Leader spoke from the mythical place, at the foot of Lovćen, from the riverbed of the beatified **Ivan Crnojević** and quite logically, in the Christian spirit, offered fritters to the distinguished guest. Tall as he is, before a sheaf of microphones, Duke folded his arms and



sharply told that some "comrade Hannes" to come by for fritters or get lost.

Wisely, for the word of a poor European MPs is worth as much as of our own here. European policy takes as much stock of the EMPs as the Montenegrin tycoons of the local ones. Their resolution can at most be a "patrol ahead of patrols...", to use the Četnik metaphor, and the real reproaches & recommendations from Brussels are yet to come.

Which is no secret for Duke, the master of mentalities, so he can afford a rowdy rap on the knuckles of some dude with glasses and a colourful shawl, who is so minor that he let a woman lead his delegation, and then allows himself wisecracks about Italian investigations...

All the primping and foxing in front of the cameras with Ministers taking pictures with their European friends are now past, the Razor is riding again, this time unfortunately challenged by such unworthy opponent whom he can tell off in passing, in between two bites from the opening of some Cetinje motel. We shall not go into Europe on our knees, thunders the master of transition to the voting congregation choosing unmistakably the moment: when the public is thoroughly fed up with integrations and the fatally boring TV news.

A propos, the media will not sit

with their hands in their pockets, so they launch a certain Mr **Roman Jakič** to ease their minds over the disastrous Resolution, an alleged member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Google Jakič instead of **Brčić** and you will find that Mr Roman has long abandoned European politics and works for the city government of Ljubljana. Without a fault of his own, a municipal civil servant of a friendly neighbouring country under a false title strikes a counter-attack in the prime time, which RTCG2, always intent on investigative approach, duly providing him with 3 minutes in the evening news to explain everything.

The public was united: Europe has come again to sell us its brains like in the nineties, to force its own standard beliefs down our throats. Ambassadors are meddling and scheming around the country, blabbering about spider nets of corruption, as if we did not know that the whole story of cigarette smuggling was a product of the dark Belgrade kitchens.

There were no urban killers strolling down the city wrapped in golden chains with Kalashnikovs over their shanks, there were no Italian tourists cautiously gathering at one minute's walk from the main police station, no speed boats, nobody died on the streets under Rumija...in a word, Montenegro stood like a torch of freedom warding off the Balkan

darkness, as a role model proving that pensions can be paid regularly, alongside Ukrainian powder milk.

It is a wonder that the International League of Humanists has remained silent, or that the agile **Charles Mersienka** failed to address a brusque demarche to the European parliament, postmark Alabama.

Sicilian closure

In the end, let us return to Mr Ročen who half a year ago cheered the Montenegrin prosecution: show that weakling of **Giuseppe Chelsi** how to do the job! Although still recovering from the sudden loss of **Vesna Medenica**, the prosecution could easily untie the knot, being independent and free of political influence. Police too. This is how the terrible news could go:

"In a spectacular action, Montenegrin police arrested yesterday the president of the Democratic Party of Socialists **Milo Đukanović** based on a warrant accusing him of mafia activities and organised crime. Đukanović was arrested in the cafe Gland in Podgorica, while he was drinking his tea and resting from politics. The official communication from the Police directory states that during the arrest Đukanović shouted "let me go, mercenaries", but he did not resist nor did he cite his immunity as an MP.

Montenegrin police is familiar with Đukanović from before, as a person whose portrait was exhibited in various public institutions, such as the canteen of the Police High School in Danilovgrad. Eyewitnesses claim that one policeman grew nauseated during the action, the explanation being a typical Pavlov reflex of a sudden feeling of hunger caused by the memories of the abundant high-school meals brought to him by the image of the suspect. The Gland staff immediately came to the rescue of the helpless youth. Having eaten two fritters, he felt a little better.

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

REGARDING PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, MONTENEGRO LAGS FAR BEHIND THE EU STANDARDS AND OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION



by Emil Kriještorac

While considerations of the issues relevant for the persons with special needs feature in all important areas in the domain of European policies, such persons in Montenegro lack the adequate legal protection. In terms of legislative solutions, Montenegro is lagging behind all the former Yugoslav republics, as well as Albania. All these countries have already adopted laws on professional rehabilitation and employment of the persons with special needs, Macedonia in particular, whose law, adopted 13 years ago is an encouraging example of good practice. It is estimated that Montenegro has up to 60.000 persons with various special needs.

The basic act governing the treatment of the persons with special needs in EU is the European Social Charter, guaranteeing their rights to independence, social integration and participation in the community. In the EU, the European Commission is most active in this area, through the activities of most of its directorates, directly or indirectly. Employment and social affairs, education, human rights, public procurement, transport, tourism are only some of the related areas. The

Equal opportunities hidden in the Government's drawers

key Directorate General (DG) indirectly involved in the affairs relevant for the persons with special needs is the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. This DG was the most active in the drafting of the Strategy and Action Plan for the persons with special needs. EC also founded a high level Group for persons with special needs consisting of experts from various member states.

The main task of the Group is to monitor and control member states' policies and priorities which have an impact on the persons with special needs; they collect information and experience and provide counselling services to the Commission and all relevant users on the European continent. The

Group focuses on the Resolution adopted in 1996 by the Council of Europe.

One of the key EU policies regarding the persons with special needs is the employment policies, created through the European Employment Strategy, whose starting point is the new attitude towards employment, as defined by the Treaty of Amsterdam (2001/C 80/10). The focus is especially on the anti-discrimination policies in the labour market, in the workplace and in training. Especially important in this context are the two anti-discrimination directives adopted by the European Council: Directive 2000/43/EC regarding employment, training, education, social security, health protection, housing, access

A valuable move is the Government's Strategy for integration of the persons with special needs in Montenegro, which came into force on the 30 November 2007 – provided that the document is ever implemented

A SPECIAL LOBBY GROUP IN EP

European parliament is especially active in this area, and many committees are working on issues related to the persons with special needs. There is also an Intergroup of MPs for the persons with special needs, established in the 1980 as an all-party group with no formal competences but the fact that it involves 40 MPs makes it a relevant player in every decision which regards persons with special needs. Among the successful activities of the group were various amendments on EU laws, which strengthen the accessibility criteria in various areas. They also contributed to the creation of various EU directive, e.g. directive on busses and other means of transport, public procurement, telecommunications... Interestingly, the Parliament of Macedonia has a similar group, under the name of Inter-party lobby group for human rights of the persons with special needs (IPPLG), which is operational since 19 May 2003.

to services, goods and property, and Directive 2000/78/EC defining direct and indirect discrimination in the context of employment, professional orientation and rehabilitation. These two directives are of undeniable importance for the improvement of the quality of protection against discrimination in all EU countries. The very directives mandated certain changes in the legislative systems of EU member states, even in those countries whose legislation already included anti-discrimination provisions.

Focusing on the relative position of this segment of the population and their inclusion in all social spheres, according to the millennium development goals, aware of the fact that persons with special needs constitute 10% of the poor, EU is consistent in implementing its Strategy and Action plan for the persons with special needs. Also important in this context is the decision of the European Union to declare 2003 the year of persons with special needs, which had "revolutionary" effects in this area.

On its road to European integrations, Montenegro should not wait for a warning to implement the standards regarding the persons with special needs, which have been clearly established by European policies. Instead, we should initiate on our own a more



no access facilities for the persons with special needs. The current Montenegrin legislative contains only one *lex specialis*, the law on education of the children with special needs. The existing Council for the care of persons with special needs consisting of the representatives of the government and the civil sector should not remain just a good intention – it ought to take up the initiative in drafting new regulations regarding the development and improvement of the rights of the persons with special needs. A valuable step in this direction is the Government Strategy for integration of the persons with special needs in Montenegro, which came into force on the 30 November 2007 – provided that the document is really implemented, for the quality of the

a Declaration on the rights of persons with special needs, hoping to establish clear guidelines on the duties and responsibilities of all public institutions towards the persons with special needs. The document was drafted by a Working group formed by the Executive board of the People's Party, which already drafted one model Law against discrimination of persons with special needs.

As usual, 3 December, the Day of Persons with special needs, was another attempt of numerous organisations in Montenegro to draw attention to this problem. During the visit to the President of Montenegro, it was emphasised that "persons with special needs in Montenegro do not enjoy right to adequate social protection, social security, work, freedom in choosing profession, just working conditions and adequate compensation, insurance in the case of unemployment, old age and lack of adequate living conditions..." They emphasised that there is no equal treatment with respect to participation in the cultural, scientific, educational, political and other forms of social life".

There are some 600 million persons with special needs worldwide, which led the UN General Assembly to adopt Standard rules for equalisation of opportunities for the persons with special needs. Although the Rules are not legally binding, more than 50 countries have already incorporated them in their national legislation. The first legally binding agreement regarding the persons with special needs adopted under the auspices of UN is the International convention on the rights of persons with special needs, adopted in December 2006.

The author is participant of IV generation of the European Integrations School. He is a high official of the People's Party

There are some 600 million persons with special needs worldwide, which led the UN General Assembly to adopt Standard rules for equalisation of opportunities for the persons with special needs

quality approach and treatment of the persons with special needs – not through declaratory and rhetorical support, but through concrete action and legislative changes.

This would entail numerous changes of the existing legislative acts, one of which is the law on construction: In Podgorica alone, 97% of the recent buildings have

document as such is undisputed.

It sounds incredible that for more than three years already, the prepared draft law on the protection of persons with special needs has been on a shuttle between the Government and the Parliament of Montenegro and has not yet reached the agenda. In the meantime, SPP presented its own draft of

CLIVE RUMBOLD, THE ACTING HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) DELEGATION IN PODGORICA

People have to understand what is really going on

The pre-accession process is very important and both Montenegro and EU have a great deal of responsibility in communicating this process to the national public. Many people will need assistance to understand what is really going on – what commitments did their country take up, what is necessary to fulfil them and what the whole process looks like, says **Clive Rumbold**, the acting Head of the European Commission (EC) in Podgorica.

Rumbold came to Montenegro two months ago. Prior to that, he was serving in the EC headquarters in Brussels, working on the accession processes of Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania. At the moment, Rumbold is a *chargé d'affaires* until the permanent head of EC Delegation to Montenegro is appointed in spring 2008.

Rumbold warns that Montenegro's key responsibility now is to fulfil the SAA and Interim Agreement commitments and to establish a credible monitoring mechanism for their implementation.

"In order to make further progress towards EU, you must show concrete results. The speed of your progress towards EU will depend on the pace of reforms on the ground. Everything begins here", Rumbold explained.

He emphasised that Montenegro has signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), which is a bold political and legal commitment to fight organised crime and corruption and strengthen the rule of law.

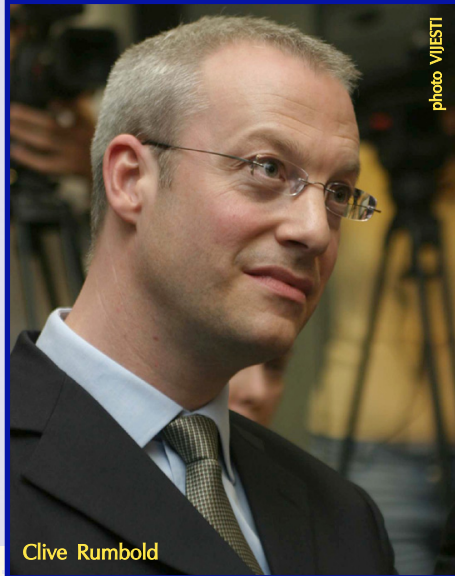
"This is a clear statement of political will...Montenegro needs a strong system to protect it against corruption", Rumbold

Montenegro is currently experiencing an economic boom, which is a good start. The challenge is, however, to maintain these high levels of economic growth. It will not happen automatically

said.

He adds that European Commission Delegation in Podgorica is an ally of Montenegro.

"We are leading an open dialogue with the authorities, opposition, civil society...all partners are welcome. We will



keep in contact with all of them, but all actors in Montenegro ought to work together in order to reach agreements on important decisions. Both the Government and the opposition should work together,

In order to make further progress towards EU, you must show concrete results. The speed of your progress towards EU will depend on the pace of reforms on the ground. Everything begins here

in the interest of the nation, to bring the country forward", Rumbold said.

Answering the question on the differences between SAA negotiations and EU membership negotiations, as in the case of Croatia at this very moment, he explains that the key difference is in the comprehensiveness of negotiations.

"SAA is an agreement on association, not membership. SAA enables free trade and obliges Montenegro to implement legal harmonisation of its legislation with

EU regulations in some key areas", Rumbold explains, adding that in the case of membership negotiations all chapters of *Acquis communautaire* are on table.

"Montenegro has recently ratified a package of agreements (SAA, Interim Agreement and Agreements on visa faci-

tation and readmission). This is a firm framework for further progress towards EU, but your problem is the general lack of capacities – legal, administrative and political capacities. By signing the SAA, the state has made a commitment to reform itself in many areas, and that requires decisions and laws – which in their turn need capacities for implementation", Rumbold explained.

According to him, in addition to the need to strengthen institutions, the priority challenge for Montenegro is to foster the rule of law.

"We are speaking about legal reforms, fight against corruption and observance of laws. Montenegro is currently experiencing an economic boom, which is a good start. The challenge is, however, to maintain these high levels of economic growth. It will not happen automatically", Rumbold said.

The acting head of EC Delegation emphasises that the purpose of free trade,

which will start coming into force on 1 January 2008 as a part of the Interim Agreement is to bring benefits to both sides and foster mutual economic growth. "It is an opportunity for the Montenegrin economy. There are always things that can be improved in order to make it more competitive. Transparency is the key word, as well as simplifying the process of granting licences for business. In order to capitalise on the advantages of SAA, you should also strengthen the trade concessions. All that requires adequate legislation and administrative capacities of those who work on the implementation of standards and product control, including phytosanitary conditions of animal products and food. Trade between EU and Montenegro is opening up, but more progress is needed in order to diversify Montenegrin products and make them more competitive, Rumbold emphasised.

N.R.

ON THE EVE OF SLOVENIAN EU PRESIDENCY, THE STAGE ERUPTS IN CLASHES OVER THE FUTURE ENLARGEMENT PLANS

Slovenia challenges the French

At a recent meeting in Brussels, **Igor Senčar**, Slovenian ambassador to the EU, said that talks paving the way for the EU to further expand beyond its current 27 members would be one of the priorities of its upcoming presidency.

The policy flies in the face of the vision of Europe's future favoured by French president **Nicolas Sarkozy**. He has cautioned against further enlargement, particularly the moves to include Turkey in the EU.

But Senčar, outlining Slovenia's presidency priorities to a 450-strong audience, said he hopes accession negotiations with both Turkey and Croatia can be advanced in the six months of its term at the head of the EU.

"The EU's borders should remain open and we strongly support further EU enlargement. During our presidency, we expect to press ahead with some of the remaining accessions chapters", Senčar said.

One European parliamentary insider, who attended the briefing, said, "This policy puts the country which will take charge of the EU for the next six months on a direct collision course with one of the



Ljubljana

2008. Turning to other priorities, Senčar said Slovenia will be looking to member states to approve the commission's upcoming legisla-

The EU's borders must remain open: Slovenia strongly supports further EU enlargement. During our presidency, we expect to press ahead in closing the remaining accessions chapters with the present candidates", said Slovenian ambassador in Brussels

tive package on measures needed to tackle climate change.

"Our presidency will have special focus on this issue and, after

political guidance by endorsing the proposals – and set a timeline for their adoption. This will give a clear signal to industry and consumers", he explained

Other issues on which Slovenia will concentrate include full liberalisation of the energy markets and pushing for stability in the west Balkans which he described as an "unfinished story."

"The most pressing issue is security in Kosovo but we also should not let Serbia slide into the past," said Senčar, who is experienced in EU affairs and has been Slovenia's ambassador to the EU since August 2005.

"Stability in the region is of interest to us all and it is important the EU takes a lead", emphasised Senčar.

According to him, the renewed Lisbon agenda for jobs and growth

and intercultural dialogue are other priorities.

Slovenia is the first of the new member states which joined the EU in 2004 to assume the presidency. Assuming the reform treaty is ratified, it will also be one of the last of the six-month rotating presidencies.

bloc's most important players."

Slovenia takes over the presidency from Portugal on 1 January

next month's Bali conference on climate change, I hope the European council will give strong,

V. ŠČEPANOVIĆ
N. RUDOVIĆ



by Bisera Turković

This is Balkans. Bajaga said so long time ago. This short and simple sentence says so much, and everything it denotes is bathed in negative light. Balkans – that always meant something savage, barbarian, uncivilised. We ourselves would say to each other "you are such a Balkan person", meaning offence, and we divide the people into Balkanoids and those with a "European outlook". When you say that you come from the Balkans in the West, they hear a terrorist, and you soon find yourself in need of explaining that the wars are now really over. Although I am not so sure that they are. Now we wage different wars, without weapons, we fight with our words, we raise our voices – we even try to wield the law as a weapon, but this "rifle" often remains silent.

On the other hand, if you ever in the West, in Europe or the US, tell an ordinary person that you come from Montenegro, they will give you a blank look, probably wondering whether Montenegro is an African tribe or a mountain in Siberia. That is, if we assume that the person is really a foreigner and not one of our own, who ran away from home long time ago. Whichever of the two associations may be their first choice, we earned it.

Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe?

But why would I want to be a citizen of Europe? Because I have dreams! Because I have goals, unfulfilled desires, and a will to fulfil them! But I fear this is not enough, because I lack the means. How to make your dreams come true in a society where dreams mean nothing, and the material possessions everything. We have lost much in the last 20–30 years, and worse yet – we have lost the moral values. Our society is in a state of moral degradation, the values are ever less important, and morality has become a fuzzy notion. Sometimes it seems as if our children were studying Machiavelli at school, as if their parents would be reading it to them as a bed time story. As if they knew, right from their early youth, that ends justify all

work even harder in order to survive the next one. To have my friends from Spain, Germany, Portugal who studied with me come to visit me during the summer, to see the beauties of Montenegro – a friendship free of all barriers. I want to be able to travel, to see all the famous places around Europe, to return to my roots. To be in London today, in Paris tomorrow and the day after in Madrid, not to be asked to take my shoes off at every border crossing and be searched until I feel like a Taliban on JFK.

I look forward to joining the EU, because I want to try my high school French in France. To ask a charming French guy where to find the beginning of the queue for the Louvres, or the Notre-Dames, or the Church of

Some would say: "Look at Norway, or Switzerland, or Iceland, they did not want to be in the EU, we do not have to either!". And I say we do have to, even if we were to discover tomorrow a bottomless oil well in the Adriatic, we would still need the European Union. Why? To re-educate us!

means. This is only natural in an oligarchic society where a huge majority can barely make ends meet. This moral corruption breeds all other problems, in the guise of corruption, tolerance to crime and violation of human rights.

Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe? Because I want Europe on my palm, the world on my palm. Because I want to study at prestigious European universities, to research in the famous European centres, and, why not, to have a decent reward for my work. To be able to, like my peers in Europe, reward myself for a year of hard work by travelling in Europe and around the world, not to

the Sacred Heart and laugh at myself when I realise that I cannot make the head or tail of his answer after 10 years of studying French, for he speaks at a hundred miles per hour. I would like to ask one painter at the walkway by the Seine to make me a portrait with the Tour Eiffel in the background. I recently saw the "View from the Eiffel Tower", a film by our young director Nikola Vukčević, which is a faithful portrait of the decadence of our society and of a young man's dreams of a better future. And I was angered at the thought of all those young people from our countries who have dreamed of a view from the Eiffel

Tower and were never able to experience it.

London is another of my dreams, a collage of illustrations from magazines and TV pictures. One day I would like to feel that cold British spirit, and to walk by the Buckingham palace with an umbrella in my hand. To sail down the Thames under the bridges of London, to pat the serious, reserved Brit on my side, and smile at his confusion when I tell him: "You know, in Montenegro our rivers are green". Even if they are not green then, which is not to be ruled out, given the circumstances. And he may even know when Montenegro is.

All the young people of Montenegro should have such opportunities, equal for all, to live in a country where success depends only on personal qualities, not on your ancestors all the way down the male line. The young are not the only ones who can enjoy the advantages of Europeanisation. The elderly could also enjoy their old age in dignity, after a lifetime of hard work, and like their European counterparts (whom you recognise in Budva by their cheese-white shins) visit all the places that they missed in their youth.

Some would say: "Look at Norway, or Switzerland, or Iceland, they did not want to be in the EU, we do not have to either!". And I say we do have to, even if we were to discover tomorrow a bottomless oil well in the Adriatic, we would still need the European Union. Why? To re-educate us! To make all this come true, we will have to recognise all our shortcomings, and to admit them. All criticism should be taken just like that, not like a personal attack, an attack on the state and the authorities, or a world conspiracy by the CIA and local mercenaries.

Things should change because we are aware that they are not going well, not because somebody in Brussels asked us to change them. And the awareness is the most difficult to change. In order to join EU, we ought to destroy our traditionalist



institutions, patriarchal understandings and behaviours. We should teach people to work in science, research, culture, sports, and leave the daily politics to those whose job it is and who can be held accountable for it.

Montenegro is small, and if this is considered to be an advantage in the integration process, it is also a disadvantage. A disadvantage because the country is not managed as a

about it".

I am not idealising the European Union, far from that, nor do I say that it will solve all of our problems forever, because there are problems in the European Union too. Somehow, though, I believe it is easier to fight those problems together with another 500 million of people, instead of struggling with a handful of like-minded people in an environment where your voice disappears

I want the people in Montenegro to forget about their loyalty to this or that party, and to remove from office those who are not doing their job well. To value the results, not personalities. To be free to criticise the problems, to be able to go to these same institutions that were the targets of their constructive criticism and ask for a job, without fears of failure

household. I want the people in Montenegro to forget about their loyalty to this or that party, and to remove from office those who are not doing their job well. To value the results, not personalities. To be free to criticise the problems, to be able to go to these same institutions that were the targets of their constructive criticism and ask for a job, without fears of failure. I want the citizens of my Montenegro to walk peacefully out into the streets when the price of electricity raises for 1%, to show that this cannot pass, instead of shrugging their shoulders when the bills jump 20%, saying: "I cannot do anything

like in a vacuum.

One citizen of Europe told us: "You are already simulating European processes!". And I say: it is not only the case with our institutions, but also for the rest of us. We are European and we have something "European" deep inside us, all we need is a little practice. Let us start thinking European, behaving European, and we will soon become citizens of Europe!

Author is the participant of the VI generation of the European Integration School and a student of the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies in Podgorica

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORM: COMMISSION EYES SUBSIDY CUTS FOR BIG FARMS

An end to waste and overproduction

European Commission has presented a series of reform recommendations designed to modernise the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). A tighter subsidy regime and a greater shift of funds from direct payments to rural development support are among the proposals on the table.

What is the core of CAP, which was launched already in 1957 upon insistence of France? In short, if the price of agricultural products in the EU drops below a certain minimum, the EU would step in to buy as much of the surplus as is necessary to push the prices up. Keeping the prices always above the world market prices, Europe constantly had its agricultural prices above the prices in the rest of the world for the same good, which was necessary to maintain productivity in many agricultural sectors with high production costs.

High prices in the EU are, however, problematic for the export-minded farmers, with the consequence that Brussels agrees to replace the difference to individual producers between the world market price of the good and the price of it in the EU. The EU being a massive buyer of agricultural products, it had to preserve all these products until it manages to return them on the market. At the peak of this policy, the EU spent 17% of the CAP budget on the reserves of its famous "hills" of butter and "lakes" of milk and wine.

The last round of CAP reform efforts was launched in 2003 and featured a 'decoupling' of agricultural production from subsidy payments in order to prevent over-production and waste.

The new system involves a Single Payment Scheme (SPS), in which subsidies are allocated according to indi-



cators such as land size rather than production volume. Cross-compliance measures, whereby farmers are required to meet certain environmental, food safety and animal welfare

Fischer Boel, EU commissioner for agriculture and rural development.

The proposals are non-legislative, but set the stage for discussion and deliberation in advance of formal leg-

High prices in the EU are, however, problematic for the export-minded farmers, with the consequence that Brussels agrees to replace the difference to individual producers between the world market price of the good and the price of it in the EU

standards, were also introduced as a pre-condition for receiving payments under the SPS.

In addition to cuts in intervention prices for several sectors, the reforms also featured a shift or so-called 'modulation' in monies from the first "pillar" of the CAP (direct aids and market support) to its "second pillar", rural development. This measure was presented as an instrument to "green" the CAP, which accounts for over 40% of the EU budget.

The EC's long-awaited reform plans for the CAP, also known as the 'health check', were presented in Brussels on 20 November by **Mariann**

islative proposals expected in the spring of 2008.

Dubbed a "blueprint for streamlining and further modernising" the CAP, the health check builds on the 2003 round of reforms by proposing an extension of de-coupling requirements to virtually all agricultural sectors.

Farmers with sizeable land holdings who receive large payouts would also face significant subsidy cuts under the plans: 10% cuts for payments above € 100,000; 25% cuts for payments above € 200,000; 45% cuts for payments above € 300,000.

Landowners in Germany, the UK and the Czech Republic would be par-

HEALTHY FOOD AND PRETTY LANDSCAPES

How can we make market support instruments still more relevant in a European Union of 27 Member States and a world that is more and more globalised?

I believe the CAP is basically in good shape, but let's remember that we expect the CAP to work very hard for the good of the European Union, in so many ways.

A safe food supply; a beautiful countryside; a competitive farming sector; lively rural communities: you will find all of these things in the CAP's job description.

The CAP will continue to work hard to help give us these things. But it must also work as effectively as possible – and sometimes sharpen up its methods, said Mariann Fischer Boel at the presentation of the "health check" in the European Parliament.

ticularly affected by the plans. France's large agricultural sector will also be significantly affected by the plans, but French President **Nicolas Sarkozy** recently announced his commitment to reforming the sector.

Under the current system, farmers or landowners engaged in agricultural activity who own more than 0.3 hectares are eligible for CAP subsidies. The Commission wants to raise the thresholds – potentially to above one hectare – in order to reduce the risk of fraud by 'pseudo farmers'.

"If you keep one goat in your backyard you are not a real farmer," Fischer Boel told journalists in Brussels on 20 November.

More extensive modulation also features in the plans: by 2015, the Commission wants to gradually shift 13% of direct aid to the Rural Development Fund, up from its current level of 5%.

Water management plans and other climate change-related measures should be added to cross-compliance requirements as part of the health check, which calls for an end to 'set-asides', meaning land which farmers are required to leave fallow in order to protect natural environments and species.

Currently, 10% of EU agricultural land must be set aside. The

Commission wants to abolish set-asides entirely for a period of one year, to let farmers grow more cereal in response to increased demand and rising food prices.

But the EU executive remains vague about environmental safeguard

Landowners in Germany, the UK and the Czech Republic would be particularly affected by the plans. France's large agricultural sector will also be significantly affected by the plans, but French President Nicolas Sarkozy recently announced his commitment to reforming the sector

alternatives to the set-asides, and is looking for input during the upcoming discussions.

One possibility, according to the EC's agriculture spokesperson **Michael Mann**, would be to use the increasing amount of funds modulated from the direct payments towards environmental purposes. Another possibility is a voluntary scheme whereby farmers would protect land next to key waterways, Mann suggested.

The CAP budget for the period beyond 2012 will be discussed in 2008–2009, but the health check "in no way" prejudices the outcome of the budget talks, according to the Commission.

The EC hopes the health check reforms, which would apply to the period 2009–2012 and pave the way

for further reforms in the post-2012 period, will be adopted by the Agriculture Council under the French EU Presidency before the end of 2008.

Most MEPs in Parliament's Agriculture Committee "broadly welcomed" the plans but warned against budget cuts.

MEP **Lutz Goepel**, agriculture spokesman for the EPP-ED group, recommends a "progressive modulation" (reduction) of direct payments of one percent from € 10,000 up to a maximum of four percent for payments from € 300,000.

Socialist MEP **Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos** said his group is for "a greener and more competitive European agriculture, one which is open to the world but regulated, with strong social, environmental and food safety rules, one which shows solidarity with developing countries and can take up the challenge of biofuels".

COPA–COGECA, Brussel's largest agricultural lobby, welcomed the Commission's intention to simplify

CAP-related bureaucracy but is "very concerned about any further cuts in farmers' direct payments", and is calling for "a period of stability" rather than further CAP reforms in order to adjust to increasing volatility on world food markets, the organisation said in a press statement.

The European Environment Bureau (EEB), however, argued that the Commission is maintaining the status quo and criticised it for not tabling a more ambitious reform proposal that includes "an evaluation of the effectiveness of the cross-compliance system for protecting the environment, rather than focussing only on simplifying the system".

**N. RUDOVIĆ
V. ŠČEPANOVIĆ**

A GUIDE TO WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS FREQUENTLY USED BY THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PROFESSIONALLY DEALING WITH EU INTEGRATION



Eurojargon

People within the EU institutions and in the media dealing with EU affairs often use 'eurojargon' words and expressions that they alone understand. Eurojargon can be very confusing to the general public, which is the reason we decided to introduce those terms for the benefit of those who are new yet entirely comfortable with the field of EU integrations.

Convention: This term has various meanings, including (in the EU context) a group of people representing the EU institutions, the national governments and parliaments, who come together to draw up an important document. Conventions of this sort met to draw up the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the draft EU Constitution.

Convention on the Future of Europe: European Convention (also known as the Convention on the Future of Europe) met in December 2001. It gathered 105 representatives of the EU member states and candidate countries, their parliaments, European parliament, and European Commission. The convention was chaired by the then French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The task of the convention was to prepare a new Treaty to introduce new, clearer rules for the managing European Union after the enlargement. The Convention completed its work on proposals for a fundamental reform of the Union on 10 July 2003.

Copenhagen criteria: In June 1993, EU leaders meeting in Copenhagen set three criteria that any candidate country must meet before it can join the European Union. First, it must have sta-

ble institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for minorities. Second, it must have a functioning market economy. Third, it must take on board all the *acquis* and support the various aims of the European Union. In addition, it must have a public administration capable of applying and managing EU laws in practice. The EU reserves the right to decide when a candidate country has met these criteria and when the EU is ready to accept the new member.

Council: There are three different European bodies with the word 'council' in their names:

The European Council: This is the meeting of Heads of State and Government (i.e. presidents and/or prime ministers) of all the EU countries, plus the President of the European Commission. The European Council meets, in principle, four times a year to agree overall EU policy and to review progress. It is the highest-level policy-making body in the European Union, which is why its meetings are often called "summits".

Council of the European Union: Formerly known as the Council of Ministers, this institution consists of government ministers from all the EU countries. The Council meets regularly to take detailed decisions and to pass EU laws.

Council of Europe: This is not an EU institution. It is an intergovernmental organisation based in Strasbourg, which aims (amongst other things) to protect human rights, to promote Europe's cultural diversity and to combat social problems such as xenophobia and intolerance. The Council of Europe was set up in 1949 and one of its early achievements was to draw up the European Convention on Human Rights. To enable citizens to exercise their rights under that Convention it set up the European Court of Human Rights.

NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPEAN UNION



CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES (CEPS)

CEPS is founded in Brussels in 1983 and today represents one of the most experienced and authoritative think tanks operating in the EU.

CEPS serves as a forum for debate and finding solutions concerning various issues of the EU functioning. This organization is distinguished from the others for its strong in-house research capacity, complemented by an extensive network of partner institutes in Europe and throughout the world whose experts CEPS engages in drafting its research and analyses.

CEPS' funding is obtained from a variety of sources, where the membership fees represent significant contribution, then foundation grants, private sector financing, publication sales, but also project financing by the European Commission and European Parliament. In that manner, the organization enabled the position of the objective monitor and researcher of the political reality and processes within the EU.

CEPS's goals are:

- To carry out state-of-the-art policy research leading to solutions to the challenges facing Europe today,
- To achieve high standards of academic excellence and maintain unqualified independence,
- To provide a forum for discussion among all stakeholders in the European policy process,
- To build collaborative networks of researchers, policy-makers and business representatives across the whole of Europe,
- To disseminate our findings and views through a regular flow of publications and public events.

In the context of its research programmes and networks, CEPS organises a variety of activities, including debates with policy makers at the local, national and European level, academics, corporate executives, NGOs and the media.

The research fields of CEPS are energy, climate change, economy, EU neighbourhood policy, financial markets and institutions, foreign and security policy, justice and home affairs, etc. The organisational structure includes several task forces, each one of them working on specific issues / EU policy.

Within task forces, analysing different issues concerning EU policies senior officials of the EU institutions are jointly engaged with the representatives of the civil society and CEPS experts. These task groups are gathering usually four times per year to talk about one of the political and financial issues. The result of these talks, in other words the result of the task forces work are reports with conclusions that CEPS sends to the decision makers in the European Commission, Council of EU and European Parliament. The experience has proved that these reports are very influential and that opinions of the CEPS task forces were in several occasions accepted and influenced the nature of the political decisions within EU institutions which makes this organisation as one of the most influential pressure groups at the level of the EU.

More detail information on the organisation could be found at the official web site: www.ceps.eu.

Prepared by: Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH MEPS

Putting it straight

In the framework of the Forum of European Integration Schools, CCE, CDNGO and EMiM with the support of FOSI ROM, and in cooperation with the Faculty of Political Science organised on 19/12 a panel discussion titled "European Parliament and its role in the European enlargement process".

Among the speakers were **Doris Pack**, MEP and the head of the Delegation for South East Europe and MEPs **Hannes Swoboda**, **Ryszard Czarnecki** and **Jas Gawronski**.

The panel was organised only a few days after the EP adopted a Resolution on Montenegro, which attracted major attention and sparked divisions in Montenegro, and the discussion focused on this document and the current situation in Montenegro.

"We are no diplomats, we are elected representatives and we try to call things by their proper names. This does not mean that we always have all information and sometimes we can be misunder-

stood, but we always have good intentions. EP is on the side of your country", Pack said, adding that the key priority in Montenegro is to implement regulations.

Her comment on the Resolution was that it is "better to name things as they are than to turn a blind eye" and that the document "shows one Montenegro which has huge problems. All we did is calling them by their right names".

"In all our talks I heard that the politicians are generally happy that the Resolution was adopted, with the exception of several points. I think we can all live with that. You have a chance to show us next year that things are not like that...We hope you will take the Resolution seriously and that politicians will do everything possible to make things better", Pack said, explaining that the EU is a "club with its own rules which are known to all and all must follow them".

Much attention was dedicated to the continued omission of the Montenegrin Parliament to appoint civil society representatives to the RTCG Council in spite of EP recommendations.

Diplomas for participants of Human and Minority Rights

IV generation of Human and Minority Rights School, organised by CCE with support of the Dutch Royal Embassy successfully completed the programme. Graduation ceremony was conducted on 17/12/2007.

Participants were addressed by the ambassador of the kingdom of Netherlands, H.E. **Ronald J.P.M. van Dartel**, president of the Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro **Koča Pavlović** and the executive director of CCE, **Daliborka Uljarević**.

Ambassador van Dartel emphasised his belief that such programmes are welcome in every society and expressed his hopes that the participants will be able to use the acquired knowledge in their future life and work.

Mr Pavlović stressed the importance of NGOs in the improvement of human rights in Montenegro, especially their educational programmes.

Ms Uljarević congratulated the participants and explained that through education on human rights

Montenegro will gain active citizens and a powerful impetus for the implementation of European standards.

25 participants from various social sectors successfully completed the programme.

The programme, lasting several months, introduced the participants to the basic concepts, culture and principle of human rights, analysed international documents in the area of human rights, standards and recommendations of international organisations, presented mechanisms and instruments for the protection of human rights, such as the European Court for Human Rights and the UN bodies and gave an overview of human rights in Montenegro today.

Among the lecturers were academics and professors of the Montenegrin and other universities, as well as lawyers, judges, researchers, MPs, representatives of political and non-governmental organisations and institutions dealing with human rights in Montenegro.

FORUM OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION SCHOOLS

How to win or lose in the EU

On 28/11/2007, the Forum of European Integration Schools hosted a lecture by H.E. **Gabriele Meucci**, ambassador of the Republic of Italy in Montenegro. The lecture was titled "Sovereignty and integration in European Union".

Ambassador Meucci through reminding on the origins of EU focused on the common European policies and the inevitability of the European integration process. Emphasising that the whole project is an expression of "exceptional political maturity, ability to metabolise the past and to project the future" he spoke about the challenges facing the current and future member states in terms of transferring their sovereignty to EU.

Meucci reflected on position of Montenegro with respect to the deep transformations in the European economic policy emphasising that this country ought to walk the entire road of adjustments and gradual loss of economic sovereignty in a few years, a process that in Europe took five decades. This is only possible if Montenegro believes that the political goals are the right ones and maintains the support of public opinion.

Otherwise, the question arises whether Montenegro can afford not to join the EU – can it pay the same price the Switzerland is paying to provide its citizens with the same rights as in the EU.

Future of the EU and Western Balkans

At the panel discussion on "EU after Lisbon and perspectives of Western Balkans" held on 11/12/2007, the guests of the Forum of European Integration School were H.E. **Thomas Schmitt**, Ambassador of the Republic of Germany in Montenegro, Mr **Miodrag Lekić**, professor at the University in Rome and former Foreign Affairs Minister of Montenegro and H.E. **Petar Turčinović**, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Montenegro.

Ambassador Schmitt spoke about the results of the German presidency in preparation of the Lisbon

Treaty, but also about the path that Montenegro passed in that period. Mr Lekić focused on the context in which Lisbon Treaty has been developed and its most important parts, stating that the particular context is not favourable from the enlargement standpoint and consequently for Montenegro as well, which requires additional patience, work and competent negotiators. Ambassador Turčinović especially reflected on the regional aspect of these processes stressing the importance of the education in European integrations.

COOPERATION
BETWEEN GOVERNMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETYStrategy for Civic
Education

Strategy for Civic Education 2007 – 2010 was presented at a conference on 14/12/2007 in Podgorica.

The document was authored by a team of experts from the Educational Bureau in cooperation with Centre for Civic Education, OSCE mission in Montenegro, FOSI ROM and UNICEF. The conference gathered different interested parties, stakeholders, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps and donor community active in this area.

The final version of the Strategy is the fruit of many months of work which involved consultations with CE teachers and professors, managements of the schools in which this subject is introduced, as well as representatives of the relevant NGOs and the University of Montenegro. In this way, all the stakeholders had a direct contribution in formulating the goals of the Strategy, their feasibility and scope.

The Strategy aims to contribute to the quality of Civic Education teaching in all relevant aspects of this issue (the status of the subject, teaching and methods, teachers' training, monitoring, improvement and control of the quality, use of additional resources) and is one element of the overall reform of education in Montenegro.

FES AND CCE CONTINUE
SUCCESSFUL COOPERATIONEducation for
democratic
citizenship

Participants of the IX and X generation of Democracy School, organised by CCE with support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung graduated on 20/12/2007 in Podgorica.

Speakers at the ceremony were Dr **Radovan Radonjić**, main lecturer at the School, **Ivana Račić**, programme coordinator in regional FES Office and **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE.

The goal of the school is to educate and inform the participants about democracy, its values and modes of organisation and contribute to the general increase in the level of democratic culture in Montenegro.

During the last few months, the programme was attended and successfully completed by 45 participants, mostly NGO and political party activists, journalists, representatives of the government ministries and local administrations, students and others. At the School, they had an opportunity to attend lectures by renowned national and international lecturers, professors of the Montenegrin and Belgrade universities, NGO representatives and journalists.

Organisers announced continuation of the programme in 2008.



TRAINING ON EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

The Austrian National Agency "Youth in Action" in cooperation with the Balkan Children Youth Foundation (BCYF) is organizing a training course on "European Citizenship" in the framework of YIA-TCP.

Dates: 28 February 2008 – 5 March 2008

Place: Ohrid, FYROMacedonia

The training course is open for youth workers from YIA programme countries and from the SEE region (Albania, BiH, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia including UNMIK Kosovo).

Objectives of the training course:

- Understanding civic competence in the framework of the Key Competencies (footnote: as suggested by EC in the context of LLL)
- Exploring the meaning of the terms Identity, values and citizenship on personal level and understanding of these terms in European context.
- To illustrate the connection between European Citizenship, Human Rights, Democracy and the rule of law.
- Defining and carve the European dimension in a youth project

For applicants from SEE:

Travel and Accommodation costs for selected participants from SEE are covered 100% by the Austrian National Agency "YiA". Youth workers, who are interested to participate in this training course should send back the filled in application form at the latest 1 February 2008 to following e-mail address: tc.citizenship@gmail.com

For applicants from programme countries: Applicants from YiA-programme countries should contact their National Agency if they would support their participation and would cover their travel costs. (A list of all NAs in Europe can be found at

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/contact_en.html

Accommodation costs will be covered for selected participants by the Austrian NA.

Contact Person NA Austria: Marco Frimberger
marco.frimberger@iz.or.at Tel: +43 1 5867544-38

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, FLORENCE, ITALY

Scholarship / Financial aid: 5 grants of 5000 Euros available

Date: academic year 2008–2009

Deadline: 31 January 2008

Grants are offered in the following programmes:

- Economics
- History and Civilization
- Law
- Political and Social Sciences

Each of the four departments offers a doctoral programme.

There is a one-year Master's (LL.M) programme in the Department of Law only.

The annual deadline for submitting applications to any of the above programmes is 31 January.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' awards:

- For nationals of Croatia, the Russian Federation and CIS;
- For nationals of Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories;
- For nationals of Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro.
- For nationals of Turkey.

Candidates for these grants must apply to one of the four EUI departments by 31 January, by filling in the standard EUI application form.

NB: These grants are available also for LLM candidates.

Further information at the official website:
<http://www.eui.eu/>

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Scholarship / Financial aid: Financial support available

Date: twelve month and a six month attachment beginning in September 2008.

Deadline: January 15th 2008

Open to: PhD students

Marie Curie SocAnth International PhD Programme promoting Anthropology in Central and Eastern Europe

Marie Curie SocAnth is an EU funded training

programme now in its second year aiming to promote the development of anthropological research and teaching in Central, Eastern and South-eastern Europe.

SocAnth will be offering approximately 14 short term visits to the network to PhD students from or working in our target region for the next academic year, beginning in September 2008. This includes one twelve month and a six month attachment to any non-residents of Romania who wish, while based at Babes Bolyai University, to research or write about Romania or Moldova.

The 'SocAnth' network comprises: University College London (UCL) and Goldsmith's College, Britain (GSM); Central European University, Hungary (CEU); Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany (MPISA) and Babes-Bolyai University, Romania (BBU).

The deadline for next year's applications will be **January 15th 2008**.

Further information at the official website:
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk>

EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Scholarship / Financial aid: based on demonstrated financial need

Date: academic year 2007–08

Deadline: 15 February 2007 and 30 April 2007

Open to: students with a special interest in philosophy, history, literature, political theory and the visual arts

The European College of Liberal Arts (ECLA) offers a one-year undergraduate program in the humanities. The academic year runs for nine months from early October to late June and is divided into three ten-week terms: Autumn, Winter and Spring.

The comprehensive fee of 15.000 EUR covers tuition, accommodation and full board, the study trip, public transportation in Berlin, emergency health insurance coverage, books (on loan) and Internet access.

ECLA has a need-based financial aid policy and is committed to giving all applicants who qualify for admission a chance to enroll, regardless of their financial means. Financial aid packages vary in amount and are based on applicants' demonstrated need.

There are two application deadlines: **February 15th 2007** and **April 30th 2007**.

For further information contact the Admissions Office at admissions@ecla.de For information about financial aid contact the Financial Aid Office at finaid@ecla.de.

Applications for the academic year 2007–08 are now being accepted.

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