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FOREWORD

Referendum fever is slowly beginning to shake Montenegro. The rival blocks for the revival of statehood independence and for preserving the State Union are both warming up the engines, and although the full-blown media campaign is only expected to start mid-April, Montenegrin daily life is already being stirred. First there were several individuals cheering for Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) in a meeting in Tuzi, and then the block for preservation of SM Union came out with an unofficial recording showing the alleged activists of Democratic Socialist Party (DPS) negotiating a deal to "buy votes" of the State Union supporters by paying off their accumulated electricity bills. The public is boiling with rumours, and the daily life in Montenegro, as always on the eve of such "faithful" elections, is frozen with expectations of the crucial May 21st, when the citizens are finally going to decide on whether Montenegro is going to proceed independent or depending on Serbia – in every sense of the word. The process of European integrations is also bound to slow down, regardless of the optimistic revision of the Action Plan for implementation of the new European Partnership commitments. On the other hand, in case of the victory of the independence alternative, we could make up for the time we wasted, because such a small system as Montenegro could accomplish its race to reach the standards of developed European countries much faster and much more effectively. In non-official communication, European Commission representatives are also ready to agree with this premise. Should the current state of affairs prevail, the little Montenegro will become a hostage to Serbia's readiness to fulfil its commitments to ICTY, and then perhaps of other nuisances coming from Belgrade, such as the extreme Serbian right winning absolute power, which, according to recent public opinion polls, is by no means impossible. If this were the case, no matter how hard they try composing pretty songs and "by all means" ploughing their way to European contests, Montenegrin representatives will just never make it to the Eurovision. N.R.

WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE GOVERNMENT'S REVISED ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

New regulations by the end of the next year



A total of 105 different regulations is scheduled for implementation by the end of 2007, ranging from Government directives to laws, in order for Montenegro to fulfil all the short-term EU recommendations for harmonising with European standards. This goal has been set in the new Government Action Plan for implementation of the European Partnership. Nearly 75 regulations concern improvement of the economic environment, while the rest regards democracy and the rule of law, seeking to continue with one dynamic development of market economy and strengthening of the institutions.

In accordance with EU requirements, as stated in the European Partnership document, Montenegro has so far adopted a number of laws regarding customs and taxation policy, competition policy, labour and capital market, transport, telecommunications, as well as environmental protection.

Next on the Government and Parliament agenda will be normative improvements in the area of agricultural policy and environmental protection. In addition to this, they have planned new laws on foreigners, asylum seekers, identity documents, Montenegrin citizenship, protection and secrecy of personal data, public procurement, territorial organisation of Montenegro, etc.

The Action Plan, which was made

public last week, envisages also new laws on public funds, media monopoly, protection of minority and ethnic groups rights, gender equality, state property, appraisal of property land measurements and real estate registry, adjustments to Law on arable land, control of state aid, consumer protection, on banks, food safety, return of property rights and reimbursement of religious communities.

European Partnership for Serbia and Montenegro is a recent European Union initiative, presented in the 2003 European Council summit in Thessalonica. This document lists a number of short-term and mid-term priorities to prepare Serbia and Montenegro, together with Kosovo, for further integration with European Union. This list of commitments is a useful instrument for progress measurement. The European Partnership document reflects the current state of preparedness of a given country and it is adjusted to its particular needs. Serbia and Montenegro State Union is expected to respond to this document by drafting its own plans with complete timeframes, defining the ways in which it intends to fulfil these priorities. European Commission is regularly monitoring the progress of European Partnership implementation, mostly through annual reports on Stabilisation and Association Process, but also through various structures established within the framework of this programme.



by dr Judy Batt

The key motor of regional stabilisation and reform in the Western Balkans remains the prospect of EU integration. Despite the onset of a bout of 'enlargement fatigue' among EU member states, all countries of the Western Balkans moved forward towards the EU in the past year. Croatia opened accession negotiations in October 2005, and Macedonia was promoted to EU candidate status in December. Meanwhile, Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina finally opened negotiations for Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs). Albania, after three years of slow progress, accelerated after last summer's general election and concluded its SAA in February 2006.

Nevertheless, a sense of precariousness still lingers over the region. This has much to do with the unresolved 'status questions' – in particular, Kosovo, but also the possible secession of Montenegro from the State Union. These may well be behind us by the end of this year. But even so, the region will need constant, close attention and support from the EU. What is striking about the region is the weakness of the internal drivers of reform, which leaves the impression that if, at any time, the EU turns its attention away, the situa-

Western Balkans lack internal drivers for reform

tion could rapidly deteriorate. Contrast this with Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the 1990s, where the strong motivation to 'return to Europe' provided powerful incentives to undertake reform, overcome old animosities among neighbouring states and peoples, and so force the pace of EU integration.

In the Western Balkans, however, many people still feel 'let down' by the EU in the 1990s. They do not fully trust it today as a partner, and readily interpret its demands as some sort of 'neo-imperialist plot' against them. This is worrying, because it suggests that European Union conditionality will not be accepted (as it was for the most part in CEE) as a useful guide to priorities and sequencing of reforms that just have to be done anyway – not just for the EU, but for the future prosperity of the country in today's highly competitive global environment.

Governments can use EU conditions as means of building consensus and overcoming domestic political resistance to reform, because meeting these conditions opens the way to EU membership. This offers the best chance for small countries to protect their identity and assert their interests on the international stage, because it is a powerful regional club that is based on voluntary consent and the

principle of equality among its members.

Today, the popular mood in the Western Balkans is one of frustration, impatience, disappointment, cynicism and apathy. Can this mood be dispelled? The steps forward along the EU path have provided welcome encouragement to elites, but have not so far had a marked impact on public opinion. Yet polls show that everywhere people are strongly in favour of EU integration, and trust the EU more than their own governments. The EU prospect may be the sole source of hope for the future, but it is not one that people seem to have much confidence in.

This is a challenge that the EU itself needs to face up to. Even if 'enlargement fatigue' has not so far had any practical impact on the Western Balkans, it has sent an unhelpful message. But political leaders in the region must also do their bit. They must avoid the temptation to portray the EU as an opponent and source of awkward and unwelcome interventions. Leaders need to believe – and persuade their people to believe – that the EU and its conditionality are friends, not foes.

The author is a renowned expert for Western Balkans from Paris based European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

WHY JUDICIARY IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF MONTENEGRO'S FAILURE TO FULFIL ONE OF THE KEY COPENHAGEN CRITERIA: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW

There will be no independent judiciary unless politicians withdraw their influence

Eliminating the practice that politicians should appoint judges and improving the judges' financial status are some of the basic measures that must be taken to promote the judiciary to the level of a truly independent branch of government, liberating them from the direct influence of the ruling power structures.

In its reports regarding Montenegro, European Union has sent some clear signals to Podgorica, saying that the state of judiciary is unsatisfactory, so that Montenegrin government will have to resign on its instruments of control over justice-makers if it wishes to accelerate the process of EU association.

Mr. Ratko Vukotić, president of the Supreme Court of Montenegro, agrees with the Brussels' verdict that Montenegrin judiciary, as one of the foundations of the rule of law, is far from being independent. He did not try to conceal his disappointment at the lack of professionalism among certain judges and courts, after his recent inspection and assessment of the situation.

The result of this action was the Parliament decision to dismiss two judges and initiate resignation process of a third, which, after a long period, has left the public wondering whether this episode will continue in "getting rid of all the bad apples" among the judges.

Public opinion polls show that citizens have little trust in the judiciary, aware that legal processes often take years, and so do the appeal procedures before the higher courts.

According to the last CEDEM poll, only 26–29% of the citizens consider the judges to be "very" or "mostly"



Zoran Pažin

unbiased and immune to bribe.

The revised European Partnership

document lists, among the short-term priorities, a recommendation to Serbia and Montenegro: "to continue with decisive reforms of the judiciary, to ensure independence, professionalism and efficacy".

"Particularly important is to re-examine the recruitment and promotion procedures, creating a system based on professional criteria and avoiding political interference, in order to secure a stable position for judges", says the revised Partnership document.

Mr. Stanko Marić, member of the Judicial Council and the president of the Montenegrin Lawyers' Association,

LOBBYING IN THE PARLIAMENT

As a former representative of the Democratic Socialist Party (DPS), Mr. Aleksandar Djuričić, a lawyer, says that based on his experience, he does not agree that judges are obedient and directly related to political parties.

"I would rather see this as a perfectly legal way to lobby. I also know many judges who lobbied equally with the government and the opposition to be elected, which is again absolutely legitimate. For the greatest part, those who gathered the widest support, are indeed the best judges", says Djuričić.

According to him, the problem of independence of judiciary should be considered in the light of the local circumstances.

"What I mean is first of all one sociologically small community with a prominent sense of justice. Other relevant factors would be the systemic and transitional changes in general", says Djuričić.

Stanko Marić says that the Parliament refused more than a quarter of judges recommended by Judicial Council either because of insufficient information in their files, or because of their political affiliation, which resulted in a number of courts being significantly understaffed for a while.

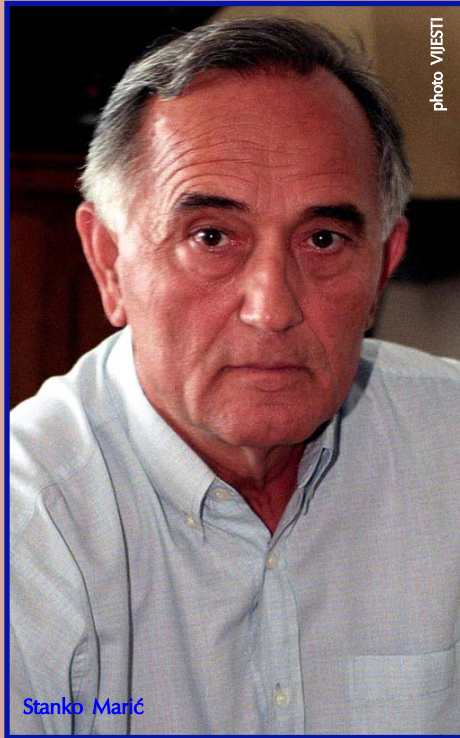
"If one entire parliamentary group refuses a candidate without further justification, it indicates the presence of some political relationship" claims Marić.

His opinion is that parliament members should justify their refusal of some candidates, because the Council is restricted by the opinions the courts give about their judges' professionalism and qualifications.

"They claim all of the candidates are good, and then we find some of them are really bad.

I can imagine what the qualifications of some other judges are, if they do not dare apply for a place in higher courts, considering the working abilities of those that do", says Marić.

PRESIDENTS OF THE COURTS FAILED



Stanko Marić

The overall picture of Montenegrin judiciary would not be all so dark if all the elements of the Law on courts, adopted in early 2002, were actually implemented.

Mr. Stanko Marić emphasises that the real reason for the "problematic" state in some courts is "an irresponsible approach of the presidents of these courts" who neglect their legal responsibilities.

According to him, none of these presidents, for at least the last four years, ever initiated an investigation or a dismissal procedure with respect to the judges, even though there are piles of documents that are never taken out of the drawers.

"In such a situation, it is to expect that judges should be influenced not only by the political, but by all other structures and social groups", says the president of the

Lawyers' Association.

The second "culprit" that, according to Marić, could contribute to judiciary independence is the Ministry of Justice.

"I cannot see how independence of judiciary could be contentious if the Ministry was doing its own job. Legally, it is the body responsible for surveying the courts with respect to their organisational duties, according to their Code of procedure. The Code provides for all details ensuring high quality of judges' work, with respect to deadlines, order of precedence for documents, scheduling hearings and deciding within the legal deadlines. As in the case of the courts' presidents, for all these years the ministry has not passed a single initiative to hold the judges responsible for delays, which is why we have such a state of affairs as described by the president of the High Court", says Marić.

He says that neither the Judicial Council, whose four-year mandate is about to expire in October this year, could initiate the due dismissal procedures for certain judges, because it never received a single work report from any court.

"We did not receive a single work report. This is not strictly a legal obligation, but it is not difficult to conclude that presidents of courts should be reporting to the Council. In other words, except for the Minister of Justice and the president of the court, a proposal for dismissal of a judge can be brought by three members of the Judicial Council. Now, how are they going to be able to do this, if they don't have the information?" says Marić.

argues that judges and presidents of courts should be appointed by some independent body, such as the Judicial Council, "possibly with a final confirmation by the President", instead of being chosen by the Parliament. "This would be the most appropriate solution" says Marić, explaining that such a solution would have to wait for the new Constitution, to be drafted after

the referendum on Montenegrin statehood status.

By the current Constitution, all judges and presidents of courts are appointed by the Parliament, after a recommendation by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council is made up of two representatives of the Law Faculty and two from the Lawyers' Association, while the other six mem-

bers represent the judiciary. President of the High Court is appointed by the President of the Council.

"It would be better if the president of the Council were somebody outside the judiciary structures, and it certainly shouldn't be the head of the judiciary", says Marić.

Mr. Aleksandar Đuričić, a lawyer, agrees that Parliament should not have the last word in the appointment of judges. He suggests that presidents of the courts, including high courts, as well as the State Prosecutor, should be appointed through direct elections, something similar to elections for mayors.

According to Mr. Đuričić, in this way the public would have the chance to choose among honest, dedicated professionals, which would bring back the trust in legal institutions. Mr. Đuričić also noted that such practice is already established in USA, France, and Spain.

However, president of the Basic Court in Podgorica, Mr. Zoran Pažin, expressed his reservations about the opinion prevailing in some professional circles preceding the new draft constitution: that judiciary alone choosing the judges would be the only guarantee of true independence of the courts.

"Some realistic consideration shows that such "ideal" situation is hard to find even in developed western democracies, meaning that it is definitely out of reach for a society in transition, already burdened with all sorts of problems. I'm afraid that such separation of judges into a separate "cast" will not solve our problems, which is why I personally advocate the system of the "balance of powers", accompanied by development of system institutions and the rule of law", said Pažin.

One issue that all the experts agreed on, however, is that the financial standing of the judges in general, as well as their wages (400 euros on average), are extremely poor, and so are their working conditions.

For the courts to pass just verdicts in reasonable time it is necessary to have a special court budget, free of the

dominant influence of the executive powers, which would suffice to adequately cover all the expenses, from judges' salaries, which at this point are unreasonably low, to their needs of housing", says Mr. Stanko Marić.

"It is inappropriate that Government should decide on the housing of the judges, through a procedure that does not offer sufficient information on when and how the houses are being distributed, and who received what... Basically, I don't think we should have a situation where a judge should be living as a tenant with a landlord who is, say, a postman, and who in due time might break some law and come to court before this judge or one of his colleagues", says Marić.

However, he claims that neither Judicial Council nor the presidents of courts have "fought enough" for a court budget that would be suitable for the courts' needs, although the Law on Courts allowed for such provision.

Pažin says that the lack of a broader, more systematic support to judiciary is a sign of immaturity of a society that fails to acknowledge the role and importance of the judiciary in a democratic world, where independent judiciary is the prerequisite for stability, as well as economic, cultural and moral prosperity of a society.

"A flaring example of this approach to judiciary is the continued neglect of the article 1.11 of the Law on Courts, which demands that a special law be passed to define salaries and fringe benefits for judges. It seems that this issue has been completely forgotten. The law on salaries of the Parliament members and civil servants that has been passed recently is an additional act of humiliation for the judges, demonstrating inconsistency and discrimination, seen that the established salaries for High Court judges place them in an inferior position with respect to ministers, and of course, it gets worse for judiciary representatives as you go down the line", says Pažin.

It is necessary to point out, he says, that Constitution explicitly forbids the judges to assume another public

SWISS SALARIES FOR JUSTICE

According to Đuričić, talking about independent judiciary in transitional countries, or even in general, is "naïve".

"Even though the system of power division envisages precedence of the judicial power, in practice the executive power, that is, the government, is the one to direct and control all state affairs. The only experiment I am aware of is Bosnia, where judiciary budget is substituted by the international community and the judges have earnings very similar to those of their colleagues in Switzerland, sometimes up to 2000 euros. The greatest resistance to the establishment of such system came precisely from the Government of Bosnia, because in this way it lost the power of direct control over judiciary. I believe that this system provided for a certain level of independence of the judicial power, although on the other hand it established a different kind of dependence. In any case the level of corruption in the judiciary fell significantly, raising the level of trust in the public", says Đuričić.



Aleksandar Đuričić

photo VIJESTI

function or other profitable activity, so that the state salary is usually their only source of income.

"A logical conclusion would be that judges are a financially vulnerable category. Perhaps the best indicator is the fact that during the nineties, which were the years of overall devastation and decadence in the society as a whole, funds allocated to the judiciary amounted to 2.5 % of the budget. Today it is only 1.7 %. Unless judiciary becomes financially independent through a separate court budget it is going to be difficult to create a better future", says Pažin.

Mr. Đuričić agreed that judges' earnings were extremely low.

Reminding of the new raise in court taxes, which multiplied them since January 1st 2006, Đuričić suggested that directing this new source of income exclusively toward judiciary funds would probably improve the financial standing of both judges and courts.

As a way to improve the working conditions of the courts and therefore the overall independence of the judiciary, Mr. Đuričić suggested that the number of courts be cut down, or that they merge through organisational restructuring.

He gave the examples of the courts in Kolašin and Danilovgrad which could merge with the court in Podgorica, or the courts in Herceg Novi and Kotor, which should become a single court.

"It would be easier to control the system with fewer units" says Đuričić.

Mr. Stanko Marić is certain that European Union will focus on the judiciary and prosecution.

"These institutions must have high level of independence. If we achieve that, then other institutions will by default become more efficient, taking greater care to respect the law", concludes Marić.

Vladan ŽUGIĆ

VALENTINA SETTA, HEAD OF THE ITALIAN CONSULATE IN MONTENEGRO AND A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT WITH THE LONGEST EXPERIENCE IN PODGORICA

Montenegro is taking European Union integration process very seriously



photo VIJESTI

Valentina Setta

European Union association process is anything but simple. For any country "in transition", and no less for Serbia and Montenegro, this process brings great responsibility and many commitments for all government institutions. I believe that Montenegro understood this, and that it is working on EU integrations very seriously, said Ms. Valentina Setta, head of the Italian Consulate in Montenegro and a foreign diplomat with the longest experience in Podgorica, in her interview for EIC Bulletin.

"Of course, the problem of insufficient cooperation with ICTY remains, on the level on the State Union, which is probably going to slow down Stabilisation and Association Agreement negotiations".

● **Which, according to you, are the weakest points for Montenegro in SAA negotiations?**

I believe that those points that EU itself identified in its reports, such as the weak administrative capacity and the lack of cadres are indeed true. In my opinion, this is no great disadvantage if you invest in educating young cadres and if you take seriously the final goal of this process.

As for corruption and the lack of

judicial independence, it is not enough to just change or improve laws. The mentality and the value system must be changed, which is not easily done. Still, I believe that for Montenegro this is not a "mission impossible". I live here and I am very optimistic about your people's potential.

● **You have been in Montenegro for a long time. Do you think our political elites are entirely dedicated to European Union association process?**

I do. Of course, these days referendum and statehood status are topics of the day, but Montenegrin institutions that work on technical issues are very seriously preparing for the next round of negotiations, starting in the beginning of April.

● **Which concrete benefits for the citizens of Montenegro can be expected from association with EU, namely the signing of Stabilisation and Association Agreement?**

First of all, relaxing of the visa regime, market liberalisation that will attract foreign investments, new financial and trade instruments, participation in European Union student exchange programmes...

I think that for the citizens this will be a clear sign of concrete gains from Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

● **According to you, how long will the association process last, before this region joins European Union?**

I cannot say. However, it is not so important whether this will take 6, 7, or 10 years, the important thing is that you keep approaching the European Union standards.

It means preparing to fulfil the conditions to join EU: to have stable, democratic institutions, to respect human rights, to protect minorities, to have a market economy, to create sufficient capacities to adopt and implement the legal codex of European Union.

● **How feasible you think is the EU plan to make Western Balkans a small Euroregion, beginning with the establishment of a free-trade area?**

This plan is soon to appear on EU agenda. I think this is not a bad solution for you and that it could be useful, not only in terms of the market, but also politically. This is also how we began making the European Union, with all the different currencies...

● **Montenegrin high officials claim that Montenegro alone would make it much faster and much more easily up to the point where it could sign Stabilisation and Association Agreement, because it would not have to wait for another state to fulfil its own obligations. What is your opinion?**

EU is looking at this process in the context of the whole region, as you might have noticed with the enlargements so far. For us, it is also important that the Western Balkans join Europe as soon as possible. Accepting the double track approach model was a wise way to overcome this problem and to continue with the process. Perhaps we were wasting our time, but now Montenegro has a chance to show whether it can really proceed faster towards the European standards.

● **What is your comment on the statement by Minister of European Integrations, Ms. Gordana Đurović, that, in case Montenegro proceeds independently towards EU, it will have a much better status – in terms of an easier access to credits and donations, seen its debts are much smaller than those of Serbia, also in terms of a direct access to EU funds, flexible visa regime...?**

I truly respect the achievements that minister Đurović has accomplished so far, also the way she is working right now. As I already said, the EU approach to Western Balkans has a regional character, and I believe the next enlargement wave will encompass the whole region. On the other hand, situation may change. It is not easy to make predictions in these parts... However, she is absolutely right saying that Montenegro has fewer problems than Serbia. This has been already confirmed by IMF.

N.R.

IS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR MONTENEGRO IN THE PROCESS OF HARMONISATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION RULES?

Healthy environment is costly, but there is no other alternative

Unanimous agreement of the high government officials that one of the most difficult tasks for Montenegro in the harmonisation process will be in the area of ecology indicates an extremely low place this issue has occupied so far among the Montenegrin priorities.

Constitutional proclamation of Montenegro as an ecological state is fairly deceptive, even if we turn a blind eye on the steel factory "Boris Kidrič" in Nikšić, aluminium plant "Kombinat Aluminijuma" in Podgorica, thermal power plant "Termoelektrana" in Pljevlja, etc. seen that there is not a single town that has a system of waste water management, and that entire

Montenegro has only one site for sanitary garbage disposal, which too was only built 2 years ago.

Aware that environmental protection constitutes one of the most important policies in European Union and that regulations dedicated to this area, some 200 of them, make up almost one third of *acquis communautaire*, the Parliament of Montenegro adopted few crucial laws, although their implementation is only to begin in 2008. Until then, the goal is to create the right ambiance for their effective implementation and to find funding for this, but also to educate the people about EU regulations.

"There was a bit of resistance and



Nada Mugoša

upheavals because these laws transfer a great deal of responsibility to municipal governments. Our conclusion was that it is necessary to create training programmes during this and the following year, in order to train people to implement these laws. This is quite a difficult and painful process", says Nada Mugoša, deputy Minister for Environment Management and Ecology, who is in charge of environmental protection.

She emphasised the fact that until now there have been several laws adopted on reform monitoring, Law on strategic evaluation, integrated prevention and control of pollution, as well as Law on Waste Management.

"These regulations control the construction process of any object that might appear as hazardous to the environment. Strategic evaluation is applied as prevention, at the planning stage, as soon as the project has been presented. For instance, at the moment we are working on Energy Strategy document and here we apply strategic evaluation with respect to all the possible negative effects on the environment, as well as the recommended safety measures. Our laws have already incorporated all the EU directives on strategic evaluation, information on the state of the environment, public participation in decision-making process regarding the environment, as well as IPPS – this is a

WE MUST NOT RUSH IT

All the polluters will have to finance their own expenses for meeting European environmental standards. They assumed this obligation by signing the privatisation contract, which was explicitly defined in the case of Podgorica aluminium plant and later used as a model for others. We made one framework programme for environmental protection where we did not specify particular measures – we only defined the goal, and it is up to polluters to decide how to meet this goal, and the government must agree with their plans, says Nada Mugoša.

According to her, Montenegrin legislative will be completely harmonised with the European by 2010.

"Field inspection will monitor the progress to ensure all norms of water, air and waste have been harmonised with regulations. We must not forget that, once we have accepted EU conventions and directives, their agencies' secretariats will be controlling our implementation. Penalties are very strict; there is no leeway about it, so it is best to make an analysis of our losses and benefits now. Even though EU gives strong recommendations, it is logical for a state to analyse the situation carefully, without rushing it. Slovenia ratified and adopted some of these regulations, and then implementation showed that penalties are too high and they asked for extensions of deadlines. That is one good example for us not to make similar mistakes", says Ms. Mugoša.

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ECOLOGY IN THE LIBERAL MARKET ECONOMY



Siniša Stevović

Among the enemies of environment, Mr. Siniša Stevović lists the concept of liberal market economy, namely, globalisation and individual interests of big companies who do not care in the least whether we will live healthy or not.

"I believe that our society is mature enough to recognise universal interests, and that we have left behind these fifteen years of abuse, searching, blind bandwagon approach and emotions. When you have a transition like hours which seems to last forever, you see negative tendencies on a daily basis: everyone is trying to push his/her own interest, there are no emotions. We as inhabitants of this land must

find a way to preserve a healthy core for the future. Montenegro still has it, despite all the problems. Sustainable development is the only right way to go for this country. Although we are an "ecological state" only on paper, there is overall consensus among the citizens in support of this project, and greater the unity, greater the chance to solve our problems", says Mr. Stevović.

directive forbidding any new, potentially hazardous activity to take place before it receives a clearance containing evaluation on all aspects of environmental protection and guaranteeing that the production process of this object will not negatively affect the environment", explains Ms. Mugoša, adding that the goods produced in factories in possession of such clearance are not subject to further control.

She also stressed that the laws adopted last year contain all directives regarding waste – communal, industrial, medical...

The government is trying, but the non-governmental sector – whose dedication to environmental protection was confirmed in its efforts to combat the flooding of Tara Canyon, forcing the government to resign on building a hydro-electric plant Buk-Bijela – is still not convinced that the government is ready to truly fight ecological problems in Montenegro.

Siniša Stevović, director of NGO "Most" and one of the authors of the

National Strategy for Sustainable Development, which is still in the preparation stage, says that "status quo" is the best expression to describe the situation. "There are certain positive activities, but they are not of such character and intensity as to solve the problem: campaign "Let it be clean", as well as some of the initial activities removing "wild" buildings from the NP Durmitor are all very small steps, insufficient to show any definite resolution within state administration to wrestle with the problem", says Stevović.

"Within NSSD we are trying to get 20% the land in protected areas, while Slovenia protected 35%. Slovenian "Ekofond" charges 8% of every state privatisation, while in Montenegro we have aggressive privatisation without ecofunds", warns Stevović.

According to him the main environmental problems for Montenegro are the aluminium plant in Podgorica, waste land in Mojkovac, the power plant in Pljevlja, uncontrolled and unlimited exploitation of forests, waste

water management, insufficient care for the sources of drinking water, garbage and medical waste disposal, "wild", unregulated construction, uncontrolled usage of chemicals in agriculture, inadequate legal regulation as well as the lack of implementation...

Nada Mugoša adds to the list Arsenal from Tivat together with the shipyard in Bijela, both polluting the Boka Bay.

"IPPS directive applies to aluminium plant as well as to the power plant and steel factory. All of them must have their clearing licence by 2008, when the law is officially coming into force. If today we decide to build Block 2 of Termoelektrana and finish it by 2009, the law says it cannot start working until it receives that licence. It has to be cleared on all the regulations included in the licensing, because it is a new object. For the already existing plants we are making plans together with entrepreneurs to find some viable solutions for adjusting to EU directives, but by 2015, there will be no compromises", says Ms. Mugoša, judging that aluminium plant and other bigger polluters are probably going to ask for extensions.

"Because we are trying to harmonise with EU, we cannot allow 2015 to be a general deadline. For the aluminium plant we will probably ask to be ready by 2012, Termoelektrana by 2013 and the steel factory by 2010", says Ms. Mugoša.

She announced revision of the Law on Environment from 1996, as well as new laws on the quality of air, water, noise, ionising radiation and eco-funds.

"New regulations, among other, dictate that the state monitors the quality of air by establishing a network of stations across the country, in order to be able to send complete data to the European Agency for Environment, and then to introduce the principle "polluter pays", says Ms. Mugoša.

Once Montenegro ratifies Convention on Climate Change, it will have to reduce its CO₂ emission to an exact level until 2010, and SO₂ emission until 2012. Considering that EU regulations require all the Ministries to take into

account ecological parameters in their policy areas, the circle of those caring for the environment will be expanded, in such a way that Ministry of Economics will be responsible for the power plant emissions.

"They will have to take care of buying and maintaining filters, although that is bound to raise electricity bills. Implementing EU directives is costly, but that is our future", claims Ms. Nada Mugoša.

Mr. Siniša Stevović is confident that "every problem has a solution if we really want to find it".

"Whether these problems were created by our generation or the generation before is of no importance. Our task is to seriously start solving them because one of the basic postulates of sustainable development says that "Every generation must solve its problems and must not leave them for the future generations". This is the basic premise of sustainable development, and it includes one global perspective. To begin with, we should not wait for 2008 to implement the new laws on environment. Instead, we should face these problems now. Continued delays in implementation of the existing law beg the question whether NSSD can be tackled at all in the next two years", says Stevović.

According to him, it would be enough if we managed until 2008 to

"implement parts of the Action plan within NSSD, to compel all the new owners of privatised companies to respect European standards and the new Montenegrin laws, to enforce the principle "polluter pays", to increase penalties for illegal construction in the areas where this phenomenon is threatening to completely devastate the surroundings and ruin life".

"We must turn to "green works": carefully plan development based on sustainability principles, expand protected areas according to IUCN standards, improve educational programmes for the population and introduce a new subject on environment protection in schools, apply laws and repercussions, make information accessible and, of course, assume greater political responsibility. I'm optimistic on each of these issues, because European integration processes are likely to help us improve the situation in these areas. Solving these problems is soon going to become our commitment, whether we like it or not" warns Stevović.

According to Ms. Nada Mugoša, environmental protection is surely not going to be an issue blocking the Association and Stabilisation Agreement with EU. Ms. Mugoša believes that we can easily agree with European Commission representatives about deadlines, for instance timeframes for creating sanitary waste disposal sites or

waste water management mechanisms in each town.

"First we will have to solve urban area problems, because we do not have a waste water management system in any town of the country. In Podgorica it exists, but it doesn't have sufficient capacity, and the only sanitary garbage disposal is in Lovanje, next to Tivat. These are our priorities, and EU is aware of this. They know our problems as well as we do. We will have one garbage disposal for every two or three towns. We already made the strategy for waste disposal and now we are looking for donors to support this project. In every town we must have waste water management systems. It is unacceptable in today's world that sewage water from Nikšić, Danilovgrad and Podgorica should flow through river Zeta to Morača, and then to Skodra lake", says Ms. Mugoša.

She is content with this programme, because up until now the Ministry alone was expected to protect the environment.

"All sectors and policies participate in European integrations, so that Ministry of Economics, after becoming a member of the Energy Community of South East Europe, automatically assumes all responsibilities regarding environment protection with respect to energy plants. Now it is them, not us, taking care of SO₂, CO₂, dust emissions around Termoelektrana, because they know that EU directives demand that they bring these down to a minimum by 2012 or 2017", says Mugoša, reminding that the Government of Montenegro already in 2003 took the initiative of implementing the Basel convention on waste, forbidding import of dangerous wastes: second-hand tyres, refrigerators, TV sets, computers...

"We began implementing all conventions dealing with cross-border transport. We also created an ecological inspections and a system of licences. We decided the best thing was to protect ourselves from the outside first, and then get down to sorting out our own problems gradually, as the capacities allow us", says Ms. Mugoša.

N.R.

IF WE DO NOT PULL OUR ACT TOGETHER, WE ARE GOING TO FAIL THIS EXAM

Montenegro has no time and to space to waste living in these conditions. This is supposed to be one ecological, touristy, maritime and agricultural country and if we do not pull our act together soon, we are going to fail sustainability exam, and we will suffer severe economic damages and become a prototype of a colonial country with no chance to develop, warns Mr. Siniša Stevović. He often mentions the Croatian example as a model for a serious approach to this problem "because they preferred Mediterranean and development of tourism".

"As an example, Zagreb is about to start adopting new rules forbidding air-conditioning to be placed on the facades of the buildings. Soon this regulation will be adopted in Split, Dubrovnik... Here the tendency is just the opposite: there is huge pressure to build more weekend houses in Kotor, Ulcinj, Durmitor, and, of course, they are just crammed with air conditioners and satellite antennae. This is ruining the spirit of the Mediterranean, and we are far from saving energy and promoting architecture that is both beautiful and economic", says Stevović.



by Ferida Mandić

Already in the 14th century, Dante wrote above the entrance to hell: "Abandon all hope, you who enter here". Above the "Gateway to Europe", if there is an entrance at all with a British line of applicants queuing patiently, humbly and orderly, is there perhaps a neon-sign saying *'Don't lose your hope?'*

Looking at the map of the world, I can see myself (my country) on the continent called Europe. Upon the second glance, I still can't see the borderlines separating one side of Europe from the other. Nor do I see that frontier marking the limits of European Union, supra-national organisation, a *sui generis* super-state. It is a fact that a majority (or a minority, or maybe everyone) prefers not to draw this line clearly. Jean Monnet, the founding father of the idea of European Union said that "Europe makes no sense if it doesn't yield one real political authority". However, Europe is not a political concept, which was evident from the failure of European Union Constitution. Those states that invested centuries of effort to maintain their territory and national identity, or even to achieve supremacy over the European land are not ready to resign on their sovereignty and their heritage for the benefit of one new European bureaucratic state. Today all "European nations"

Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe?

declare themselves proudly as being *in the first place* English, French, or Spanish, and *then* European. Bureaucracy is the rule of *bureaucrats*. From the very beginning, this term has always had a negative connotation. However, according to Weber, development of such a system is inevitable in all modern societies, for bureaucracy is the only way to handle the bulk of administrative demands of large social systems. But in this way, we are also creating a *monitoring society*, supervising the lives of individuals. Unfortunately, the worst of all is that throughout the recent history there have never been so many weak leaders at the same time. That is European Union!

I would like to distinguish between these two concepts, which, according to me, are very different: *to be a citizen of European Union* and *to be a citizen of Europe*. Values such as democracy, collective security, right to self-determination have

all reached the European continent in the early XX century, coming with the wave of idealism propagated by the US president at the time, Mr. Woodrow Wilson. These were American criteria, which were lacking in all the previous European ideas, moreover, European politicians had neither theoretical concepts nor institutions to embrace and implement these values. Europe's driving principles have for a long time been the balance of powers and realpolitik. Later on, these were replaced with the new-born Nazism and fascism, conceived "*in the hart of the Christian Europe*" (to quote my professor, Milan Popović).

And yet... Today, this Europe, well aware of its past and often proud of it, is preoccupied with its future. Europe as a synonym for peace, freedom, justice, equality, prosperity... to be a part of Europe in this sense is a real challenge, a desire and a goal of all European states. To enjoy rights and benefits





which in "this" Europe have achieved a high level of development is a dream of every inhabitant of Europe. Today, Europe has endorsed all the right ideas and values and formed the necessary institutions which are implementing them successfully. The priority goal of European Union was an economic community, free trade without customs barriers. Dialogue and understanding made possible free movement of goods, people, services and capital. This, in turn, established high living standards, and, of course, high quality of life, which is the basic requirement for development of an individual. Economic freedoms and fair distribution are inseparable from the basic human freedoms. What Europe has to offer, are equal, or almost equal, chances and opportunities for everyone. Guarantees of freedom, democracy and equality, as well as respect for human and minority rights can be felt all over the place. An ordinary person needs little more but a safe future and an organised community to offer him/her safety. Of course, there are successful mechanisms for sanctioning of those who break and abuse the rules.

These are, and I emphasise that, *general human values* which today should be the reality of a new, civilised world. It is a mistake to categorise them as "someone else's" (European, American...). These are the standards which are naturally high and often unattainable, but once they are established, we encounter social welfare. High standards are the measure of a successful implementation of all or most values. Since the beginning of the world, big and powerful states have always helped out smaller and weaker ones, and today it is no different. Developed European states should help less developed ones, because in today's world of universal interdependence they can only benefit from it. Peace and stability are imperatives of international community. Inter-state cooperation is essential.

European diversity makes European unity! It is diversity of cultures, traditions, languages. Will European Union manage to create one unique *European identity* and *European nation*, based on universal common values, which will become priority for all Europeans? European Union

today more and more resembles an immense soap bubble.

What I want is these standards which we all hope to achieve, the standards that today we call *European*. Coming right after these standards is cooperation and partnership with all developed countries, openness and affirmation on international level. Switzerland, which was always one neutral country, is today a beneficiary of all European Union privileges! Whether that gateway I mentioned at the beginning is going to open, close, or just pry open a notch for us is less important. The priority, I believe, is to attain these high standards: a rich, developed and free state governed by the law, inhabited by happy individuals, in every aspect fit in *European measures*, and fulfilling, or reaching over, all the criteria. To achieve such status that, in the final instance, it will be **Europe calling us, Europe wanting us.**

The author is third-year student at the Law Faculty, Department of Political Sciences in Podgorica. She attended III generation of the European Integration School.

MR. BOJAN ŠARKIĆ, MONTENEGRIN DIPLOMAT AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO TO BRUSSELS

In order to get closer to Europe, we must first learn not to throw garbage out in the street

To reach the European Union standards we must first change our mentality, starting with the most banal things, like learning not to throw garbage in the streets, says **Bojan Šarkić**, Montenegrin diplomat and deputy Chief of Mission of Serbia and Montenegro to Brussels.

"We are now in one transitional phase. Through rapprochement with Europe, we are striving to reach the standards that are already established there, regarding everything from development of a democratic society, to legislature, to internal affairs, agriculture..."

There is daily communication between the government of Montenegro and EU, they monitor our progress, we discuss about it and we keep getting closer to Brussels", says Šarkić.

Reminding that Montenegro is approaching the level of EU standards that will have to be implemented very soon, Šarkić depicts the EU–Montenegro relationship in the following way:

"We are currently working with Pentium 2 software, and we must try to upgrade it to Pentium 4. This is the most difficult task for us, because we must change our attitudes and mentality, and EU is trying to help us out through this process of stabilisation and association.

If we take, for example, ecolog-

ical standards reigning in Europe against our own (although we self-proclaimed our country as an ecological state), we must conclude that, with respect to refuse recycling for instance, we are at the very beginning", says Šarkić, stressing that Europe is moving forward in big steps.

In Belgium, for instance, you have communal service that goes literally from house to house collecting separately plastic, glass, leather, which are all recycled as industrial material.

This is not only means to protect the eco-system, it is also a steady source of economic benefit. In order to reach that phase, we must first change our mentality, starting with the most banal thing: not to throw the garbage out in the streets. (rep.) This is very similar to the mechanism that should be implemented in other areas of our society: judiciary, internal affairs, agriculture..." says Šarkić.

He adds that Montenegrin citizens are sure to feel benefits of association with European Union once Montenegro becomes a safe business environment, and the foreign enterprises start investing here.

"They will realise that their mentality and their way of thinking are very similar to people here, which is a good reason to start investing in



Bojan Šarkić

Montenegro. It means that the only risk they run with their money depends on their own ability to make profit. Otherwise, if they have to deal with problems in financial transactions, legal insecurities, etc. as a part of this environment, we are going to feel repercussions", says Šarkić.

According to him, in the next phase to come, Montenegro will have an easier access to European Union assistance funds.

"It will be easier for the people to travel to other countries – EU member states, and they will be able to study there under the same conditions... These perspectives should motivate young people, first of all. Therefore, we must absolutely press to adjust as soon as possible and change our society, to avoid remaining isolated as if in a concentration camp", added Šarkić.

N.R.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) LEED PROGRAMME



by Emil Kriještorac

OECD is not an elite club

The Local Economic and Employment Development Programme (LEED) is a programme by OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) which was founded in 1960, as an intergovernmental organisation bringing together 30 member states with developed market economies. OECD is made up of a large number of committees and other working groups that pool their experiences to solve common problems, and sometimes they also work as mediators. They all work on harmonising local and international policies, aiming to construct one tight network of international policy practice in today's globalised world. The spirit of this organisation is defined by dialogue and cooperation. Although OECD member countries make up for 2/3 of the total world production of goods and services, this is not an elite club. The only membership criterion is country's dedication to market economy and democratic pluralism. OECD core, initially comprising of European and North American states, has been enlarged over the years to include Japan, Australian, New Zealand, Finland, Mexico, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Korea and Slovakia. On the other hand, there

are many programmes involving Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, as well as Asia and Latin America, which, in due time, may lead to a full membership in OECD. LEED programme is a recent programme, aiming to identify and formulate new ideas for local development and the promotion of social economics. The LEED is run by experts from OECD Territorial Development Service (TDS), however participation in this programme is voluntary and its functioning depends exclusively on the ability of LEED members to attract funding. LEED Management Board is comprised of representatives of 24 OECD member states, European Commission, Inter-American Development Bank, Central European Initiative/European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and World Bank. Member states' governments are trying to use LEED to promote an innovative approach to management policy and to support economic development and employment policy based on three founding principles: **to improve** the quality of state economies, labour market and social policy, all of this on the local level and through continuous monitoring and evaluation of implementation processes; **to promote** exchange of experience and information, sharing innovations in local economics and raising employment, helping to restructure local economies; and finally **to help** member states to create, implement and evaluate local development strategies, enhancing exchange with non-members and representing a crucial link between local and regional institutions, OECD and state administration. OECD and LEED encourage cooperation with several other working groups. Except for OECD, LEED has close contacts with numerous interna-

tional organisations: Council of Europe, with respect to local employment policy management as well as Central and East Europe partnership programmes; EBRD and Central European Initiative regarding entrepreneurship and cooperation among small enterprises; International Labour Office in matters concerning micro-crediting. Finally, LEED has its own partnership club, consisting of a network of all public and private institutions collaborating with the LEED programme and its Managing Board. The Club was founded in 1991, and today it boasts membership of some 100 different organisations from 25 countries. At the moment, the only organisation from Serbia and Montenegro participating in this Partnership is the Serbian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises. This network constitutes a direct link between sub-national governance, non-profit organisations, new and small enterprises and OECD, promoting civil society participation in public political debates. It would be rather beneficial for Montenegro if the local governments, as well as the government Direction for Small and Medium Enterprises and the Employers Association, showed some interest to be involved in this programme, transferring certain positive experiences to Montenegro. This is not only a benefit in terms of acquired expertise, however: joining certain activities and cooperating with other member institutions, Montenegro would have the chance to present its own projects to European Commission, who is actively supporting this programme.

The author attended the 4th generation of the School of European Integrations. He is also an official of the National Party.

INTRODUCING THE EU INSTITUTIONS

Council of European Union



Council of EU building in Brussels

Notwithstanding all efforts to introduce mechanisms of power balance among different bodies of European Union, the Council of European Union, best known as the Council of Ministers, remains the most powerful institution, except for the European Council. The extent of its responsibilities shows that, within European Union, the principle of inter-governmental organisation is still dominant over the principle of supranationality. In the beginning, the Council of Ministers used to be the sole decision-making body, however, every successive treaty brought new limits to its powers, and today the Council shares its functions with European Parliament on one hand, and with European Commission on the other. However, the Council still holds significant powers both in the area of law-making, and as an executive body. Council of Ministers is made up of government ministers of the member states, forming a kind of cabinet of cabinets. Although legally speaking it is a single entity, Council of Ministers does not always assemble the same representatives. Its basic formation gathers Ministers of Foreign Affairs (the so-called General Affairs and External Relations – GAERC), who meet once a month. However, depending on the area of discussion, there are 9 possible formations assembling different types of ministers. The presidency of the Council rotates among the member states every 6 months, in a pre-established order. Currently the President of the Council is Ms. Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria.

Council of Ministers is not responsible to any other body of European Union. Parliament has no power to dismiss the Council, as it can do with the Commission, and the only body of supervision is the European Union Court of Justice, making sure that the Council decisions are in line with the main Treaties of EU. Apart from this, the Council has political responsibility towards European Council.

Except for the ministerial assembly, this institution contains some permanent bodies. Among them is Secretariat, headed by

Secretary General, which is simultaneously a function of High Representative of European Union for Foreign and Security Policy. Currently holding this position is Mr. Javier Solana. Other bodies within the Council are Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU governments (COREPER), made up of member states' ambassadors to European Union. Certain non-controversial decisions can be taken on this level as well, and then receive formal confirmation by the Council. Below COREPER, there are various working groups consisting both of member states' civil servants and experts from the European Commission. Council of EU is based in Brussels.

Council's decisions are made either unanimously or by qualified majority voting, depending on the matter under discussion. Decisions concerning the common market usually require only majority of votes, while those regarding the matters of foreign and security policies, as well as internal affairs need unanimity (such are, for instance, matters of terrorism, taxation, immigration, etc.). The number of votes per member state is roughly set in proportion to its population, the greatest number being 29 and the least 3, which is meant to counter imbalance between big and small countries of EU. Qualified majority requires approval of a majority of states, holding together 2/3 of the votes, where these votes represent 62% of total EU population. In practice, this procedure is fairly complicated, and one of the amendments proposed by the failed EU Constitution was precisely to simplify voting procedure in the Council. Among the official functions of the Council is legislation, which is done in cooperation with European Parliament, through co-decision procedure. Also with the Parliament, Council approves the Budget, and it decides, among other, on matters of common foreign and defence policy, as well as internal affairs, where it coordinates national policies of member states with respect to common threats (e.g. terrorism). Besides, one of the basic functions of the Council is to harmonise common economic policies. Council of European Union can, in the name of EU, sign treaties and contracts with third countries or international organisations.

More information on Council of EU, as well as Council documents and decisions can be found at:

http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/index.htm

Vera ŠĆEPANOVIĆ

NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPEAN UNION



The European Forum for the Arts and Heritage – EFAH is a platform that brings together civil society organizations active in the field of culture. It was founded in 1992 with the aim of strengthening the influence of the cultural sector on EU decision-makers and protecting their common interests. EFAH's members represent over 5,000 organisations from all areas of culture, active both within EU and abroad. EFAH does not represent its individual members, but aims to concentrate needs and information in order to create a stronger advocacy platform for the cultural sector in the EU. One of its main goals is to establish the importance of culture as an integral part of other policy fields.

EFAH aims to maintain continuous dialogue between the cultural sector in Europe and policymakers: to identify the needs of the European artistic community and communicate those needs to European policymakers; to stimulate thought on cultural policy issues in Europe and develop awareness, to build bridges between the European cultural sector and policymakers on various political levels in Europe, thereby contributing to the decision-making process. EFAH monitors European Union legislation and policy in cultural affairs, giving members the information they need to take advantage of funding opportunities and to anticipate trends. Its activities comprise of compiling and circulating information on cultural issues, publishing a bi-monthly newsletter on current affairs in the cultural sector, holding an annual General Assembly and international conferences, as well as separate meetings, providing training and development of cultural organizations, maintaining communication with European Parliament and European Commission, representing the cultural sector in other NGO coalitions, such as act4europe, as well as with international organizations and national governments. In 2005, EFAH launched a campaign 70 Cents for Culture, which aims to increase the funding for European Cultural Programme from 7 to 70 cents per capita per year. EFAH organisation and general logistics are handled by the Co-ordination Office in Brussels.

Website: www.efah.org

Contact e-mail: ilona.kish@efah.org

SUCCESSFULLY CONTINUED EIS FORUM, HOSTING ANN ISABELLE VON LINGEN

How to lobby in EU

After a successful opening of European Integrations School Forum in late February 2006, Centre for Civic Education, Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations and European Movement in Montenegro, supported by Foundation Open Society Institute, Regional Office in Montenegro organised another open lecture on current affairs in European integrations. The guest lecturer at the Forum was **Ann Isabelle von Lingen**, policy advisor at Open Society Institute – Brussels, who gave a short lecture on lobbying in Brussels, as well as on the importance and techniques of lobbying in EU.

Other lecturers on this panel were Daliborka Uljarević, executive director of Centre for Civic Education and Momčilo Radulović, Secretary General of European Movement in Montenegro, both of whom spoke about their experiences in representing Montenegrin non-governmental sector in Brussels.

According to Ann Isabel von Lingen, prior to lobbying it is essential to have a clear definition of the issue at question. Second, you must have a clear goal and message, from the beginning, and they must be supported by clear arguments. Your advocates must have high personal credibility. Finally, she said, it is important to know whom to lobby and how, so you must have all the possible information about the decision-makers, and to approach them already while the process still in the first stage of policy formulation.

She explained that Brussels administration is huge and complex, so that as soon as your problem advances in the policy formulation process, it is nearly impossible to change anything.

"The size of funds available to Montenegro in the coming period will depend of the final EU budget decision for 2007–2013. For Montenegro, as a country in an early stage of association process, there are still very few institutional advocacy channels. Because of this, it is still too early to think about having permanent representatives in Brussels, however, now is the time to develop connections with various organisations that act through networks, often outside European Union, and which are willing and able to offer significant help and support to your national organisations" said von Lingen, giving the example of European Women's Lobby.

Momčilo Radulović stressed that informal contacts can be as important for advocacy as the formal channels, and that having a permanent representative in Brussels and establishing contacts with various organisations can be crucial for promoting interests of an organisation, or even a state. According to him there are three key elements for successful advocacy. First there is timing, getting involved in the policy making process early on, then the strategic context: depicting your goal as strategically important for the whole region, or as solving some common problem. Finally, you should try to build partnerships and coalitions, giving you a wider range of



From European Integration School Forum

influence on decision makers on various levels, but also providing you with a steady influx of timely information regarding political tendencies in EU.

Daliborka Uljarević emphasised that one important element for successful advocacy is other's perception of you.

"This perception, unfortunately, is not only the result of your own work, quality, or experience, but also of the overall opinion about your country. Extreme attitudes are frequent. Some people you will meet know near to nothing about Montenegro, but there are others who, looking at it from the outside, from the vantage point of their professional engagement, are sometimes extremely well informed about our reality and our potentials. Coming from the Balkans, we all carry a "burden" of our recent past, therefore we must invest more effort to assure our contacts of our quality and credibility. We need friends in this process, especially if these friends are in a position to influence the making of the policies", said Uljarević.

Vera ŠČEPANOVIĆ

SEMINAR ON THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF PROPERTY UNDER THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



From the seminar

New knowledge for judges, prosecutors and lawyers

Centre for democracy and human rights (CEDEM), in cooperation with the Council of Europe, AIRE (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe) centre from London and Centre for the Training of Judges of the government of Montenegro organised a seminar for Montenegrin judges, prosecutors and lawyers regarding European Convention on Human Rights. The seminar took place from March 2nd to March 4th in Pržno, Budva.

Seminar topics included various aspects

of the right to peaceful enjoyment of property, as well as the right to housing with respect to both European Convention on Human Rights and the domestic laws and legal practice.

This project is supported by: British Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Council of Europe, European Agency for Reconstruction, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Open Society Institute.

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY BRAVE NEW EUROPE 2006

Ljubljana, July 2 – 15, 2006

Two-week long advanced summer course on European Affairs, organized by Young European Federalists Slovenia in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Association for Political Science Students POLITUSS.

Brave New Europe offers an interactive course on a wide range of topics concerning mainly (but not only) the EU. The summer school is composed of several modules: History, Institutions, Security Issues and External Affairs, Current Political Issues, Law, EU Frontiers, Economics and Youth. Apart from lectures the participants will have the chance to actively debate the issues in workshops, panels and in a simulation game.

Application deadline: May 1, 2006.
For further information, see:
<http://www.bne-isu.org>.

TRAINEESHIPS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Paid traineeships are awarded solely to graduates of universities or equivalent institutions. Their purpose is to enable trainees to supplement the knowledge which they acquired during their studies and to familiarise themselves with the activities of the European Union and, in particular, the European Parliament.

Applicants for Robert Schuman scholarships, general option, must also demonstrate that they have produced a substantial written paper, as part of the requirements for a university degree or for a scientific journal. One of these scholarships, known as the "Chris Piening Fellowship", may be awarded to a candidate whose paper was



concerned particularly with relations between the European Union and the United States.

Applicants for Robert Schuman scholarships, journalism option, must also demonstrate professional experience as evidenced either by works published, or by membership of an association of journalists in a Member State of the European Union, or by the award of a qualification in journalism recognised in the Member States of the European Union or in the applicant countries. Paid traineeships are awarded for a period of five months, and deadline for application is 15 May 2006
www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public/staticDisplay.doc

PHD PROGRAMME ON COMPARATIVE AND EUROPEAN POLITICS, UNIVERSITY OF SIENA, ITALY

The programme provides advanced training in both the theory and the methodology of political science, with a special emphasis on comparative, international, and European politics. The Graduate School is part of the Scuola Superiore Santa Chiara of the University of Siena, a college set up for doctoral students and post-doctoral research fellows

that has been selected as a centre of excellence for post-graduate training by the Italian Ministry of the University. The doctoral degree is released in conjunction with the Universities of Catania and Trento, and in collaboration with the University of Molise. In 2006–2007 Philippe Schmitter (European University Institute) and Michael Lewis-Beck (University of Iowa) will join the faculty as visiting professors. **All applications must be sent by May 31st.** Applicants are encouraged to send an expression of interest by April 20th. Expressions of interest may be sent to circap@unisi.it and must include a CV and an abstract of the research proposal. Enquiries: Filippo Tronconi (tel. + 39 0577 235299; mail: tronconi@unisi.it).
Info: www.gips.unisi.it/gradschool.

MASTER PROGRAMME POLITICS IN EUROPE, UNIVERSITY OF SIENA, ITALY

The courses offered will cover both a comparative politics and a European politics perspective. The first approach focuses on similarities and differences among national political systems, while the second one on European institutions and

decision-making processes. Other activities, such as meetings with national and international officers and policy makers, and visits to EU institutions, are also provided. A number of internships and stages at European and Italian institutions, during and at the end of the teaching programme, will be available. A study visit to the European and international institutions in Brussels is regularly organized at the end of the courses. The programme is entirely offered in English.

Applications should normally be received by July 30th, but applications received after that date may be considered until the end of September if places are still available. The fee is set in € 3.500. Enquiries: Silvana Cabrera (tel. + 39 0577 235299; mail: cabrera@unisi.it). Info: www.gips.unisi.it/gradschool.

REGIONAL AND EURO REGIONAL STRUCTURES EFFICIENCY IN THE AREA OF THE NEW EU BORDER, ROMANIA

6–18 July, 2006

The course aims to present different experiences from different parts of Europe – research in the field of European construction, Romanian–Hungarian cross-border cooperation, and also the media's contribution in building the European identity. This project also aims to build a future formative and research network that could include centres of young researchers specialized in EU neighbourhood policies.

Participation in the summer school

is limited to about 40 persons (graduate and undergraduate students, and young researchers): 20 from Central–Eastern Europe, 15 from the European Community and 5 out of the European area.

Full financial support is available under the sponsorship of European Commission for a limited number of participants. Full scholarship covers transportation to Oradea and the summer course fee. It is not payable in cash and does not cover other expenses. Partial scholarship covers half of the fee.

Webpage: http://iser.rdsor.ro/summer_introduction.htm

"THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN UNION AND TURKEY'S ACCESSION PERSPECTIVES"

18–21 May 2006

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Bogazici University (Istanbul) and Centre for European Studies Student Forum cordially invites you to the fourth European Weekend



School on 18 – 21 May at Bogazici University, Istanbul. EWS is an international certificate program that brings together undergraduate and graduate students from all over Europe; and enables them to exchange opinions with distinguished politicians, bureaucrats, academics, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and leading journalists.

Please visit <http://www.acmof.org/> and apply online by 17 April.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCES FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH 2005–06

Euro Class is a unique education offer for youth interested in studying and experiencing European organisational work and culture, together with youth from all over Europe. You will gain new inspiration and visions for your organisational work and develop useful skills in co-operation with others through shared knowledge and qualified teaching. Euro Class is open to European youth aged 18 – 25 involved in voluntary organisational work. Students must master English at communication level as teaching is performed in English. A number of scholarships are available for students from Eastern and Central Europe.

The application must reach Silkeborg Hojskole before 1 July 2005. Students coming from countries outside the EU must due to visa application apply before 1 June.

For more information, please visit <http://www.euroclass.org/>.

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