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DEFERRAL

In EU lingo, the word "Euroscepticism" has stuck to Britain, "no" to the European Constitution to France and Netherlands, corruption to Bulgaria, whereas Montenegro seems to wear the badge "deferral". First we postponed the signature of Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) until they translate it to all EU languages, then the National Programme for Integration (NPI) took a few months longer than planned, next the opposition delayed the creation of the National Council for European Integrations (NCEI) because of internal skirmishes, and the European Commission (EC) opened its permanent office in Podgorica, naturally, after months of delay...

Not to long ago Montenegrin officials confirmed that the membership application is being deferred because of EU's internal problems.

Good that they didn't add that the move was wise, for otherwise the EU could accuse Podgorica for the failure of Irish referendum!?

The government dared to mention EU's internal problems which are, as we know, as old as the Union itself, only once the EC delegation to Podgorica departed. Since the Brussels' representatives didn't bother too much explaining it to us either, several open questions remain: Was **Gordana Đurović** too hasty when she announced application by late April? Was late April chosen because of the campaign for presidential elections? Or were there other short-term calculations involved?

In autumn next year Montenegro will have parliamentary elections. There is only a theoretical possibility that we may become a candidate country by then, if only because of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament. Montenegrin decision-makers know very well that the campaign could suffer if the people start wondering why the EU refuses us this distinguished title. It may be better to let the application collect some dust in Gordana Đurović's desk.

Not to long ago the EC presented the Government with a "Roadmap" stipulating conditions for liberalisation of the visa regime. The Government has been quick to shower us with optimistic promises of fulfilling all conditions by the end of this or the beginning of next year.

V.Ž.

Montenegro deferred application for EU membership (27 May) – Deputy Prime Minister **Gordana Đurović** announced that Montenegro has deferred its application for membership in the European Union (EU) until autumn. Montenegrin officials explained that they were warned to proceed cautiously in the light of EU's internal problems.



From the opening of EC office

Montenegro gets the "Roadmap" (28 May) – Representative of the European Commission (EC) **Pierre Mirel** handed the "Roadmap" document for liberalisation of the visa regime between EU and Montenegro to the Foreign Affairs minister of Montenegro **Milan Roćen**. The document sets out the conditions to be fulfilled by Montenegro before the visa requirement can be abolished. Minister of Home Affairs and Public Administration **Jusuf Kalamperović** reiterated his hopes that Montenegro could be put on the white Schengen list by the end of this or beginning of next year.

Bulgaria ratified SAA (30 May) – Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria ratified the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Montenegro and EU. Bulgaria is the fourth out of 27 EU member to ratify the agreement. The first three were Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia.

Government adopts National Programme for Integration (5 June) – the document contains a set of Montenegro's commitments towards EU for the next five years, and a detailed plan of activities to be undertaken by the government in order to prepare Montenegro to exercise responsibilities of a full EU member by the end of 2012.

Austria ratified SAA (5 June) – Austrian President **Heinz Fischer** signed the SAA between Montenegro and EU after it has been ratified by both houses of the Austrian Parliament.

Delegation of European Commission opens its office in Podgorica (7 June) –

High EU representative **Michael Leigh** and Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović** opened the permanent headquarters of the Delegation of European Commission in Podgorica, which is located in the city centre, on the bank of Ribnica.

Referendum in Ireland fails (12 June) – at the referendum in Ireland 53.4% of the voters voted against the Lisbon Treaty, throwing EU back into a state of crisis and sparking off speculations about the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Ireland is the only member to ratify the Treaty at a nationwide referendum. The Lisbon Treaty was so far ratified by 18 members.

European Council demand successful implementation of SAA (20 June) – "European Council is aware of Montenegro's progress and encourages this country to focus in the future on strengthening administrative capacities, fighting organised crime and corruption consolidate institutions", state the conclusions from the Council meeting in Brussels. "In order to reach the next phase in their relations with EU, Albania and Montenegro ought to supply conclusive evidence about the successful implementation of SAA", the Council concludes.

Solana speaks to Đukanović (22 June) – after talking to the High Representative of EU **Javier Solana**, Montenegrin Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović** said that Podgorica is getting ready to fulfil the requirements of the "Roadmap" and apply for the EU membership candidate status by the end of this year.



by Graham Avery

A VIEW FROM EUROPE

Europe and the Balkans: What's to be done?

The EU must show that it can act decisively and effectively in the Western Balkans as the progress the bloc makes in the region tests its credibility on the international scene.

Throughout history, the Balkan region has been a meeting point of

international community have sought to contain risks of further conflict through imposed reforms and more or less direct rule in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. What is needed now is a clearer 'exit strategy' from protectorate status, so the countries concerned can

benchmarks. The EU should also communicate directly with peoples and societies, bypassing state and political structures if necessary.

Countries in the region which have not yet done so should start preparing to apply for EU membership sooner rather later. EU should follow this with a rapid start to the 'screening' process, in which national officials and European Commission experts examine the EU's rules and policies. Past experience has shown that this is a highly effective learning process which motivates national administrations.

Before signing the next Treaty of Accession (probably with Croatia), the EU should define a general framework for the institutional changes required to admit all the Balkan countries, deciding on the number of votes in the Council, seats in the European Parliament, etc. This would confirm the prospect of membership and make it more visible.

Progress in the Balkans is a test of

Progress in the Balkans is a test of the EU's credibility on the international scene. With the present confusion over the fate of the Lisbon Treaty, the Union needs to show that it can act decisively and effectively on one of its priority policies. If the EU cannot succeed in the Balkans, in its own backyard, how can it expect to be taken seriously by other international actors?

cultures: between Western and Eastern Roman Empire, between Orthodox and Catholic churches and between Islam and Christianity. It has been a destination for invaders and conquerors: Slavs, Turks, Austrians and many others. This legacy of intercultural conflict and external domination poses a huge challenge for the EU. Can its much-vaunted 'transformative power' bring peace, prosperity and stability to the Balkans?

In 2003, the countries of the Western Balkans received the promise of EU membership. Surrounded by other EU members – a kind of 'enclave' within the enlarged Union – these countries effectively constitute the EU's 'next frontier'.

But can the leverage of future membership, which worked so well in Central and Eastern Europe, be equally effective in the Balkans? Why are political leaders reluctant to make necessary reforms, despite their European rhetoric? What if democratically elected parties lose confidence in the 'European project'? And should the EU follow a 'protectorate' or 'enlargement' model?

Since the wars that followed Yugoslavia's break-up, the EU and the

pursue an 'entry strategy' towards the EU.

Serbia could make rapid progress towards membership. But the Kosovo experience has created a perception among some Serbians that the 'European perspective' conflicts with their national interest. To outsiders, it seems unrealistic for Serbia to hope for a satisfactory future outside the EU, but

The EU should also communicate directly with peoples and societies, bypassing state and political structures if necessary

it may take time for its people to make up their own minds.

In the meantime, the EU should be patient with Belgrade while maintaining a principled approach: applying the same criteria as to the other Balkan countries, not making unjustified concessions. It should also avoid one country's problems delaying others on their path to EU membership.

Incentives should be targeted better and offered sooner. Travel is important for the younger generation and the business community, making visa liberalisation a key 'carrot' for Balkan citizens. Visa restrictions should therefore be lifted once a country meets the

the EU's credibility on the international scene. With the present confusion over the fate of the Lisbon Treaty, the Union needs to show that it can act decisively and effectively on one of its priority policies. If the EU cannot succeed in the Balkans, in its own backyard, how can it expect to be taken seriously by other international actors?

Graham Avery chaired a European Policy Centre Task Force which has produced a Working Paper entitled "The Balkans in Europe: containment or transformation? Twelve ideas for action". This article reflects the publication's main conclusions

CHALLENGES FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS



by Danilo Mihajlović

The decision to form the National Council for European Integrations (Nacionalni savjet za evropske integracije – NSEI) was adopted in the half-empty hall of the Parliament of Montenegro, as the last item on the agenda and in absence of most representatives of the opposition.

Four months later, the opposition is still missing, and has also failed to supply a complete list of candidates for membership in the Council.

In the meantime, the public had a great time watching the bickering between fractions of the opposition around the future presidency of the said Council. But in spite of their differences, the oppo-

Anti-European lobby on the rise

sition agrees on one thing: the Government is staffed by anti-Europeans.

The two candidates clinched for NSEI presidency, **Srdan Milić** and **Nebojša Medojević** agree. They warned against the strength of the anti-European lobby in Montenegro and announced a long, difficult battle against it.

They differ, however, in their prognoses on the real ability of the Council to bring Montenegro closer to European Union. Milić, head of the Socialist People's Party (SNP) believes that the Council will be the right place to demonstrate real capabilities of each of its members, while Medojević, leader of the Movement for Changes (PzP), judges that the success of the Council will again depend on the

good will of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS).

Still, both promise to do everything they can to "shorten" Montenegro's journey towards the club of the 27.

"The basic framework of the NSEI, which is emerging from the suggestions of various people from the political and public life, gives substance to our hopes that the Council may become an important factor on Montenegro's path to Europe", said Milić for the *European Pulse*.

He derives his optimism from the critical mass of citizens who really want a fundamental change of the system of values, but also from the "individuals within the system who are ready to change things".

"I know that there are people in the system who need to feel that they have the necessary support if they are to launch themselves against those who are pulling Montenegro back. We do not know yet how strong is the anti-European lobby, because we have not faced them yet. The chance to do so is precisely the NSEI. This is not about ousting DPS or the Social-democratic Party (SDP) from power, this is about changing the system of values. We do not need cosmetic touches. The Council will show who can and is able to work, and who is ready to work in the interest of all citizens", Milić said, adding that the public will be in for a surprise with some names that feature in the "anti-European lobby".

He urged public administration

SPARKS IN CROATIA

Montenegrin NSEI was formed in the image of the Croatian National Committee for the monitoring of negotiations with EU, established in 2004.

During the last round of elections for the president of the Croatian Council the debate was equally heated. President of the strongest opposition party, Social-democratic Party (SDP) **Zoran Milanović** lost the race with his colleague from the opposition Croatian People's Party **Vesna Pusić**.

National Committee for monitoring Croatian negotiations with EU is a special working body of the Croatian Sabor whose task is to monitor and evaluate the progress of negotiations, form opinions and guidelines on behalf of the Sabor about the draft negotiation positions, discusses information on negotiations, discusses and forms opinions on the issues to be discussed during negotiations, discusses and evaluates the performance of the members of the negotiating team, and occasionally issues suggestions on harmonization of the Croatian legislation with EU.

President of the National Committee holds regular consultations and exchanges information with the President of Croatia, Prime Minister and the President of the Sabor, as well as the head of the Croatian mission to Brussels and the head of the negotiating team.

The Committee consists of MPs, representatives of the Croatian President, Croatian Academy of Science, Employers' Association and trade unions.



to take seriously the initiative of the French president Nicolas **Sarkozy** to for a Mediterranean union.

"I believe we should use this summer period to support and work on this initiative. We could strengthen the position of Montenegro through such initiatives for regional cooperation", said the leader of SNP.

Milić adds that the EU story in Montenegro could profit immensely from a joint session organised by the head of the foreign relations committee **Miodrag Vuković**, for MPs and the President of the country, where they would invite foreign affairs minister **Milan Roćen** to present national positions before he defends them at the meeting with EU leaders in France this June.

Medojević emphasised that the first real task of the Council will be to convince the citizens that the fate and the future of Montenegro is more important than the "short-term interests of a handful of corrupt criminals".

In the interview for the *European Pulse* he claims that the effect of NSEI will mostly depend on the good will of the ruling

majority and representatives of institutions "which are controlled by

DPS, and will be sitting on the Council".

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

According to the Parliament decision, the Council consists of a president and his deputy to be elected from the ranks of the opposition and the government, respectively, six members from among the MPs of the opposition, president and deputy president of the Foreign Relations Committee, presidents of all permanent committees of the Parliament, one member appointed by the President of Montenegro, one by University, Montenegrin Academy of Arts and Sciences (CANU), Judicial and Prosecutors' Councils, two members appointed by NGOs working in the field of European integrations and implementation of SAA and two by the Social Council.

So far the members of the NSEI are president and deputy president of the Foreign Relations Committee **Miodrag Vuković** and **Branko Radulović**, presidents of the parliamentary committees for constitutional issues **Miodrag Ilićević**, for political system **Džavid Šabović**, security and defence **Dragan Kujović**, human rights **Koča Pavlović**, gender equality **Ljubica-Beba Džaković**, tourism **Božidar Vuksanović**, science and education **Niko Martinović**, health **Hajran Kalač**, and president of the Administrative Committee **Radivoje Nikčević**. President of Montenegro has appointed **Ivan Leković**, CANU **Momir Đurović**, Judicial Council **Vesna Medenica**, and Prosecutors' Council **Ranka Čarapić**.

MPs of the ruling coalition will be deciding about on the president, but also on the candidates from the NGO sector and University.

University of Montenegro nominated **Srđan Darmanović**, and the Faculty for Administrative and European Studies **Sonja Bjeletić**.

Most candidates come from the non-governmental organisations: **Momčilo Radulović**, **Boris Raonić**, **Tijana Marković**, **Kerim Međedović** and **Mihailo Marković**.

SNP's candidate for NSEI is **Predrag Bulatović**, People's Party's **Predrag Popović** and PzP **Srđa Brajović**.

Bosniak's Party submitted a proposal to the Administrative Council to nominate **Hazbija Kalač** as a representative of this body. Serbian People's Party has still not submitted its proposal, and the SNP and PzP have recently agreed that another place should be given to the Democratic Council in Montenegro.

LEAVE YOUR PARTY MANTLE AT THE ENTRANCE

Secretary General of the European Movement in Montenegro **Momčilo Radulović** said that NSEI will not be able to function properly if the political representatives do not "leave their party mantles at the door".

"The Council is the best place to forge consensus around European integrations as well as other important processes. Its success depends on the political representatives. In order to work well, it needs a full consensus within the opposition and between opposition and the government", Radulović said for the *European Pulse*.

Asked about his own role should he be appointed to the Council, Radulović said that he will focus on promoting the activities of NGOs who are working on European integrations.

"These organisations have contributed a lot to the image of Montenegro in European structures. I will also do my best to support the consensus between opposition and the government in the Council. I will work hard on demonstrating the need for a powerful communication and action system to bring together into a coherent whole all segments of the society. I will try to put all my international contacts in service of the Council", Radulović said.



Momčilo Radulović

"As the president of the Council, I will certainly make even greater efforts to support pro-European forces in the Montenegrin Government and to fight against the anti-European lobby. That means that the first task of the Council, at this stage of accession, will be to promote clearly expressed political will of Montenegro to become a member of EU", Medojević said.

He believes that the Council will be able to forge consensus in Montenegro regarding the measures and policies to be implemented in order to speed up Montenegrin

accession process.

"This will not be easy. The anti-European lobby has connections to the very top of the Montenegrin Government and tentacles in every corrupt pocket of the system that is linked to organised crime. They will do everything to prevent the necessary reforms", he said.

PzP has recently urged the government to abstain from voting for the president of NSEI. SDP has in principle accepted the proposal, but has also warned that they will not wait for the opposition candidates forever.

Medojević said that for him the place is not a matter of marketing, but a very risky position.

He repeated that he doesn't understand Milić's insistence to be the president when "I am backed up by two thirds of the opposition".

"As for me, this is no political marketing, but a very risky political undertaking. I know that certain criminal circles will do everything to make sure that Montenegro does not make any progress in this phase of accession. This is going to be a hard political struggle and I believe that **(Milo) Đukanović** himself will face severe resistance and threats if he decides to start cleansing Montenegro from crime. The place of president of NSEI is not political marketing – at the moment, it is the most responsible and most dangerous place in our political life", Medojević said.

He promised that as president of the Council he would finally "clear up" the issue of whether the Government wants European integrations, what is to be done and what can be done.

"If the Government cannot do it, we will have to conclude that in Montenegro a handful of people from the underground is stronger than the Government itself and that we will have to wait for the international community to pressure us into reforms", he said.

DPS said that they have not decided yet on voting for NSEI members without the opposition candidates, and that the chances are "half-half".

The NSEI is envisaged as an advisory body that will contribute to better coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) and of Montenegro's accession negotiations with EU.

IS MONTENEGRIN JUDICIARY ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY?



by Neđeljko Rudović

Loose screws in the system?!

This June has seen an interesting sequence of events: first **Michael Leigh**, the official from the European Commission in Podgorica warned Montenegrin politicians that judiciary is the sore spot of this potential candidate for EU membership. Three days later, Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović** announced the advent of the first verdicts on charges for corruption, and ten days later one of the controversial judges of the High Court in Podgorica Radovan Mandić resigned. Allegedly, after he realised that the president of the Supreme Court **Vesna Medenica** was planning to suggest his dismissal.

At the first sight, these are good news for Montenegro, often described in the West as a "tiny criminal state" where corruption is "a normal part of the everyday life". If you look deeper, however, it becomes painfully obvious that Montenegro is far from the state of the rule of law, with facade institu-

Is there a division of powers in Montenegro? Formally, yes. Practically, every piece of evidence inevitably leads us to conclude that every strand of power can be traced back to the single, most powerful source – the Prime Minister

tions subordinated to a single centre of power ruled by the almighty PM. It all suggests that Montenegro will have a hard time breaking away from its state of a "captive society".

For instance, how can the prime minister know that "verdicts in corruption cases are soon to follow"? Because he was told so by the president of the Supreme Court! Đukanović does not hide that he broadcasted such an important piece of news at his press conference immediately after it was passed on to him by Medenica.

As if it were perfectly natural that the head of the highest judicial institution should report to the prime minister about his or her next intentions.

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tenegro? Formally, yes. Practically, every piece of evidence inevitably leads us to conclude that every strand of power can be traced back to the single, most powerful source – the Prime Minister.

Because in Montenegro of the 21 century it is still impossible to become president of the Supreme Court unless you are a loyal ally of the party in power. It is even justified by the electoral procedure – the president is appointed by a parliamentary majority. Afterwards, this president of the

Elsewhere it may not be perfect, but the problem with Montenegro is that the most important functions depend on the Prime Minister in various ways – because he has a say, because they admire him or fear him

Supreme Court will also head the Judiciary Council and have the last word in appointing or dismissing other judges. It is true that in some western democracies President is the decisive factor in deciding the appointments to the Supreme Court. It is also true, however, that these judges often called to court people who were close to the President. In Montenegro it has never hap-

pened.

Those in power are always reluctant to relinquish a part of that power. In Montenegro, this is also illustrated by the fact that the Government's housing commission has the right to decide on allocating apartments to the judges. And if we know that the judges have miserable wages, also prescribed by the government, and also have to worry about solving these basic existential questions, can we expect them to judge fairly and impartially?

Here we are back to the basic precondition to the rule of law and impartial institutions – political will. Are the Montenegrin leaders at all eager to transform this recently resurrected independent state into a modern society of citizens ruled by law?

Some of the Montenegrin public is either indifferent to such questions or has been long convinced that there is no hope. Some of those who support the government might believe in their good intentions, but they also may be led to the ballot box by entirely different considerations.

If you ask the Prime Minister, the situation is crystal clear: "There are still certain shortcomings, but these are consequence of the unpreparedness of the public, institutions and officials to confront the novelties.

This is not an excuse, of course...but there is no such thing as perfect countries or legal systems".

Elsewhere it may not be perfect, but in Montenegro the problem is that most important functions depend on the Prime Minister in various ways – because he has a say, because they admire him or fear him. This may be the reason why the police, prosecutors and judges are reluctant to approach the people who are close to Đukanović, in spite of the charges. The system is running because it is controlled by a single individual. The question is what will happen once he is no more willing or able to run it. Can such system prevail without major disruptions and inter-clan showdowns?

Some Montenegrin intellectuals offer the following explanation: at this level of development of the Montenegrin society, it could be best for all of us if the country was simply turned into an "enlightened dictatorship", where Đukanović could right the wrongs and introduce the rule of law by decree. According to them, no one else has the same charisma and power of influence to pull a similar feat.

Who knows, maybe the PM would be willing to make this sacrifice for his country. For now, it is all a shadow play, although some will still hope that the screws gone loose will be replaced in the system.

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION OF JOURNALISTS PROF DR STJEPAN MALOVIĆ

Our media are lagging behind European standards, even if their owners come from the heart of EU



Director of the International Centre for Education of Journalists (ICEJ) Prof Dr **Stjepan Malović** says that the state must create an environment where the role of journalists and the media would be clearly defined, and where "manipulations will become exceptions, not the rule of the game".

Malović, who teaches journalism at the University of Dubrovnik and at the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica, warns in the interview for European Pulse that the cannot give a comprehensive evaluation of the media in Montenegro since he only has partial impressions of it.

"Nevertheless, during my short visits to Podgorica I have noted discontent among the journalists and the desire to gain more independence and freedom, with less influence from the owners and various other power centres who are seeking to manipulate the media, and not only in Montenegro", says Malović, who used to teach at various universities abroad, including Zagreb and Vienna.

Asked about the ways to enhance professionalism in the Montenegrin media, Malović says that "there is no standards recipe, neither for Montenegro nor for Croatia or other transition countries

whose media are trying to strengthen their role in the public life".

"Professionalism depends on the journalists' education, but also on environment in which they work. It is not enough if the journalists want to be more professional. The state must create an environment where the role of the journalists would be clearly defined and manipulations would become exceptions, not a rule.

● **What are the European standards in journalism?**

European Standards are also the international standards of journalism approximating the model of Western

One would expect that our media, whose owners are located in the hearth of Europe would implement the best standards. Instead, they are forcing us towards the lowest of sensationalist reporting. Can we still hope that in the EU it will be better? If you see what the WAZ, Stirya, Murdoch, RTL and other corporations are doing, one could almost wish for the good old party committees and agitprop to return. However, this is just a phase that we need to overcome. We cannot allow these corporations to act as if they were in the Wild West. Local regulations must control the market outbursts, prevent media concentration and protect journalists' independence

journalism – respect for the freedom of journalism, independence of journalists and editorial policy, and respect for the fundamental reporting standards: truth, accuracy, honesty, balanced reporting and impartiality.

EU does not have a checklist for correct behaviour. There are com-

mon policies regarding audiovisual media, advertisement, the extent to which owners can interfere in the editorial policy, respect for the minorities, interculturalism etc.

● **Are there media in the Western Balkans that could be singled out as examples of professional journalism in the area of European integrations?**

We are lagging behind those standards or we follow them only superficially, even if the owners of our media are major European corporations.

As for European integrations, there are always particular interests

and points of view which leave their mark also on the local media.

● **To what extent is media concentration a limiting factor for democratisation and successful integrations?**

Concentration of media ownership is a world-wide phenomenon.

We are not an exception – it is simply our turn to be bought up by major corporations. Corporate journalism has a drastic influence on media and journalists. It completely transforms our understanding of the word, even our ideals. Everything is subordinated to the profit imperative, even if the managers try to deny it. Correspondents are fired, the number of journalists cut down, all that matters is what attracts the audience. Quality journalism is everywhere on the defensive, not only in our region. If *Le Monde* is struggling, what are the hopes *Pobjeda* or *Vjesnik*?

It is paradoxical that the owners of the media are located in the very heart of EU. One would expect that they would implement the best standards. Instead, however, they are forcing us towards the lowest possible standards of sensationalist reporting. Can we still hope that in the EU it will be better? If you see what the WAZ, Stirya, Murdoch, RTL and other corporations are doing, one could almost wish for the good old party committees and agitprop to return. However, this is just a phase that we need to overcome. We cannot allow these corporations to act as if they were in the Wild West. Local regulations must control the market outbursts, prevent media concentration and protect journalists' independence.

Two thirds of the Croatian citizens, as well as EU citizens, are unhappy with the media reporting on EU. No wonder that in Croatia we have Euroscepticism growing before we have even taken the key decisions on accession. The EU usually features in the columns on foreign affairs or in specialised publications, and is still absent from most daily news. This will only change if the journalists are taught about the EU and its relevance for our future

● **What are the key problems and shortcomings of the West Balkan media with regard to reporting on European integrations?**

I have a feeling that in these parts European integration is still looked upon as a swindle of sorts. We will do whatever you asked, just leave us alone, we know best what to do. As if the commitments were not real and as if our future did not depend on it. Just ask random people on the street about how they imagine their life once we join the EU. Will their salary be bigger, their workload smaller? Do they know where to find a job and under what conditions, what the prices will be, will there be any limitations, will they be able to find a job in Berlin...

Our media are not keen on dealing with these everyday issues of EU integrations, they are content to follow the actions of ours and European diplomats, record their travels from one meeting to another, report from press conferences and announcements... This is all far from an ordinary citizen, we do not trust the political games too much, we

recognise the empty speeches and unrealistic promises.

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This will only change if the journalists are taught about the EU and its relevance for our future.

● **Journalists in Montenegro are usually faced with the problem of not having the opponent. The government, all major parties, as well as the NGO sector and the intellectuals are all emphasising the advantages of joining EU, as if there were no costs involved. Objective reporting then turns into sheer propaganda. Can that be avoided?**

Unfortunately, this is the case with all countries in their pre-accession or accession phase. No party that was openly opposing EU could pass the electoral threshold. Nobody is that stupid any more. However, if we breach some cracks in this seemingly united front, the differences are still large.

The main question for the journalists is whether we want to join EU because of ourselves or because we obey some general political line. If the answer is "for ourselves", then we have a lot of questions to ask, and the "opponents" will soon start appearing.

PUBLIC SERVICE IS BOUND TO CHANGE

● **European Commission and most international organisations claim that the public service in Montenegro is dominated by the ruling structures. What is the best model for an independent public service?**

Public service belongs to the public, not to the ruling party. However, in all transition countries the public is still weak and the party in power is strong, and the public service is easily swayed. That can only be changed gradually, by strengthening the public, civil society, encouraging intellectuals to fight for their ideas and promoting democratisation in order to strengthen independence of journalists.

V. ŽUGIĆ

EU fishing the ball out of the net

by Brano Mandić

Think global

European championship in football is a definite victory of the visual and of television as a higher reality which enables us to see whatever the thousands of fanatics on the pitch cannot see. Thousands of cameras are catching the tiniest details, pop-art like reports scanning the medley of the fan carnival for borderline cases, melodrama, tragedy, close-ups, all that in order to convince a handful of housewives in Scheveningen or Kolašin that something worthwhile is going on around the ball.

This is how we get all the way to the quarterfinals without the camera once having zoomed in on the European Union flag, an evidently superfluous detail in the agon-national trance of the best and their loyal tifosi.

The disaster of the Irish referendum in the midst of the football championship can also be seen as a revenge of the proud islanders for their crew's failure to get into the play-off. No kidding, the Lisbon Treaty, like any compromise, is not meant to set the blood boiling. As a child of an earlier political defeat, an ad hoc solution, a plan B, it is a document without political and erotic charge, without appeal for the masses who are craving the big



only postulate of the European Dream is the consequence of a tired, cheated Left taking over the liberal vocabulary out of necessity, when its own political and philosophical foundations from the

on such a political fairytale which is so abstract to have managed to cramp Sofia and Paris under the same flag. Besides, media reports on earthquakes in China or electoral prospects of an

This is how we get all the way to the quarterfinals without the camera once having zoomed in on the European Union flag, an evidently superfluous detail in the agon-national trance of the best and their loyal tifosi. The disaster of the Irish referendum in the midst of the football championship can also be seen as a revenge of the proud islanders for their crew's failure to get into the play-off

seventies began to crumble around the globe.

It is well known that Europe stuck together whenever the old continent

Afro-American candidate whip up the atmosphere of "last times", premonitions of disasters to come and revolutions of the magnitude of the 11 September. In this cultural and media balloon where everybody is awaiting economic crash of the only superpower, the evolutionary and dogmatic brick-by-brick idea of administrative reforms has the same attraction of a seminar on animal rights held on a sandy beach facing tsunami.

There are no Eurosceptics in Montenegro today, since all the government did until consists of handling paper and stamps. The moment somebody decides to open the thick volumes and spell out the shocking reality of regulations, the wise politicians always intent on status quo will dive into their savings to invest in the non-governmental sector and civic society

narrative of the promised road.

The concept of European Union is not managing to break free out of hands of political engineering, perhaps precisely because it is advocating democracy in its withered phase of liberalism. If we are to trust Žižek, the bloodlessness of multiculturalism as the

had to fight national secessionism, in the last century that of Germany. Today we ought to defend ourselves against secessionism of one giant administration and its army of translators paid from the national coffers. The Right is on the rise, perhaps because it takes little talent to mount a sensible attack

Act local

There are no Eurosceptics in Montenegro today, since all the government did until consists of handling paper and stamps. The moment somebody decides to open the thick volumes and spell out the shocking real-



ity of regulations, the wise politicians always intent on status quo will dive into their savings to invest in the non-governmental sector and civic society. I bet you in five years we will have NGOs mushrooming overnight with the prime objective of advocating a bilateral relationship with EU and caution vis-à-vis its dangers to the painstakingly won independence of our proud land.

Many factors will swell the sails of these clever foxes, the key one being that EU integrations are in effect an awfully boring topic. To a simple tune of "how can Serbia get there ahead of us" you can spin quite a few Eurosceptics, their number proportional to the power of the piper.

And Serbia can get ahead of us because it was told that all it needs for a candidate status is a pro-European government.

In the meantime, we had **Teresa Sobieski** who told us that we made no progress except on paper. Diplomatic, polite, Brussels' criticism is measured to make the public understand that EU is a partner, not a bully or a grocer. Used to raps on the knuckles, Montenegrins read Brussels' moderate conclusions as laudations, with the assistance of the national brainwash service, which employs ten thousand (!) euros per day in order to gear its sophisticated machinery to transmit Parliament's ses-

sions. For ten thousand euros a day one could comfortably shoot the Lord of the Rings in half a year. If the producers only knew, they would have

Since the diplomatic corps settled in Podgorica the parties have become more polished and the politicians' wives stocked up on a few impressive evening outfits. And DPS organized its cocktail in the Government's building, allotted to DPS by an impartial verdict. The entrance to the Government building was blocked by black limousines with dark windows (which is against the Acquis)

spared the trip to New Zealand and made the deal instead with Mr **Miljanić**. Needless to say, that would also be good advertisement for Montenegro as tourist destination.

Luminous anniversary

I was just asked to say a few words for one TV station about the Democratic Party of Socialists regarding the anniversary of this fabulous party. One feels like giving up on journalism when asked to repeat the same story again and again. And what better way of leaving our distinguished professor then becoming a PR for the Government, firm, enterprise...a place in DPS is a little harder, with Mr **Kovačević** doing a marvelous job.

As PR, you will travel around by plane and eat at cocktail parties. You know the snacks that you can't tell whether they're sweet or salty unless you try the. Is cheese fondue pudding,

pomodorino a cherry or something worse. It's a treat turning up for such occasions with a dictaphone, to make it clear to everyone that your presence is due to editor's orders, not to His Excellency's invitation. Since the diplomatic corps settled in Podgorica the parties have become more polished and the politicians' wives stocked up on a few impressive evening outfits. And DPS organized its cocktail in the Government's building, allotted to DPS by an impartial verdict. The entrance to the Government building was blocked by black limousines with dark windows (which is against the Acquis).

They were one red carpet short of making the place look like the Cannes. The officials exchanged accomplices' grins. The mayor of Cetinje is called Milo and is giving three kisses to the director of cultural centre Bar. Passing next to them, I was winked at by the minister of tourism! You could tell that

these people were content and grateful to the providence for giving them this lofty role in a society stratified according to the laws of Pharaohs.

The warmongering party had a bath. I would like to know whether they used the chance to chat about the old days and the beginnings. Did they retell the stories of the days when we had fun bombing and deporting. Do you remember? Of course I do...

The voters remember too, but what with humans being essentially selfish beings, there is no reason to turn these past political abuses into today's political reprisal. This is why the advocates of lustration ought to accept their dispensable role in a society that has already chosen the leader and his will as the only way to go. Happy birthday, no exit for now.

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

WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE ROADMAP FOR MONTENEGRO?

To EU without visas when the Government starts fighting crime and corruption

Montenegro ought to ensure efficient implementation of the anti-money-laundering legislation and the proper monitoring of all financial transactions, including in relation to real estate and inward investment. It should also strengthen the anti-money laundering directorate and implement relevant legislation on confiscation of assets of criminals, if it wishes its citizens to be able to travel to European Union without visas.

These are the conclusions of the "Roadmap", a document prepared by

to fulfil – issuing biometric documents, implementing readmission agreements etc. – but the real challenges appear under the heading of public order and security, which focuses on money laundering, crime and corruption.

This chapter warns that Montenegro ought to ensure efficient implementation of the action plan of the strategy to fight corruption and organised crime (in particular cross-border aspects) notably by strengthening the relevant law enforcement authorities with sufficient human and

and implement a national drug strategy and national drug action plan; make the information on drug seizures and persons involved accessible at border crossing points; further develop cooperation and information exchange with relevant international bodies in the drug field.

"Montenegro should adopt and implement legislation on preventing and fighting corruption in line with the Action Plan on the light against corruption. It should also implement relevant UN and Council of Europe conventions, as well as GRECO recommendations and other international standards in the areas listed above and on fight against terrorism", states the document.

With regard to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, Montenegro should implement international conventions concerning judicial cooperation in criminal matters (in particular Council of Europe Conventions), and take measures aimed at improving the efficiency of judicial co-operation in criminal matters of judges and prose-

Montenegro ought to ensure efficient implementation of the anti-money-laundering legislation and the proper monitoring of all financial transactions, including in relation to real estate and inward investment

European Commission which stipulates the conditions to be fulfilled in order to abolish visa requirements between Montenegro and EU.

European Commission prepared such roadmaps for all West Balkan countries. Director of the EC Enlargement Directorate **Pierre Mirel** handed the Montenegrin Roadmap to the Foreign Affairs minister **Milan Roćen** in late April.

There will be no negotiations on these conditions between the national governments and Brussels – European Commission will simply decide if and when the countries have fulfilled all the requirements.

The document consists of four chapters: security of passports/travel documents and other IDs, illegal migration, public order and security, and external relations and fundamental rights.

The requirements from the first two chapters should be relatively easy

financial resources.

"Montenegro should implement the national anti-trafficking strategy and allocate sufficient human and financial resources to its implementation" states the Roadmap.

Further, Montenegro should adopt

BE GENTLE TO MINORITIES

Montenegro should guarantee investigation of all ethnically motivated incidents by law enforcement officers in the area of freedom of movement, states the External Relations and Fundamental Rights section of the Roadmap.

In relation to the protection of minorities, the document emphasises the need to adopt and enforce legislation to ensure effective protection against discrimination and specify conditions and circumstances for acquisition of Montenegrin citizenship.

It is of paramount importance to ensure that constitutional provisions on protection of minorities are observed, and implement relevant policies regarding minorities, especially Roma.

"Montenegro should ensure access to travel and identify documents for all Montenegrin citizens including women, children, people with disabilities, people belonging to minorities ... It should also ensure full and effective access to identity documents for IDPs and refugees", states the document.

cutors with the EU Member States and with countries in the region. It should also develop working relations with Eurojust.

The same chapter of the Roadmap considers the question of law enforcement. Montenegro is expected to take necessary steps to ensure efficiency of law enforcement co-operation among relevant national agencies – especially border guards, police, customs officers – as well as cooperation with the judicial authorities.

Montenegro should contribute to the regional law enforcement co-operation and implement bilateral and multilateral operational cooperation agreements, including by timely exchange of relevant information with competent law enforcement authorities of EU Member States.

"Montenegro should improve the operational and special investigative capacity of law enforcement services to tackle more efficiently cross-border crime. It should also take the necessary steps to prepare for the conclusion of an operational cooperation agreement with Europol with special emphasis on data protection" states the Public Order and Security chapter.

In the matters of data protection, the condition for abolishment of visa requirement is to sign, ratify and implement relevant international conventions, such as the Additional protocol of the Council of Europe



Pierre Mirel and Milan Roćen

Montenegro should ensure expulsion of illegal residents from its territory. It should also define and apply methodology for improving the capacity to investigate cases of organised facilitated illegal migration, states the Roadmap

Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data.

The second chapter of the Roadmap is dedicated to migration management. According to this section, Montenegro should ensure effective expulsion of illegally residing third country nationals from its territory.

"Montenegro should define and apply methodology for inland detec-

tion and take measures improving the capacity to investigate cases of organised facilitated illegal migration", states the Roadmap.

Another condition or lifting visa obligation is to take measures to ensure the reintegration of returnees, including sustainable financial and social support.

"Montenegro should adopt and implement a law on foreigners governing the admission and stay of third country nationals, defining their rights and obligations (including family members of third) and implement the law on registers of permanent and temporary residence", states the Roadmap.

With regard to document security, Montenegro is expected to introduce machine readable biometric travel documents in compliance with ICAO and EC standards and gradually introduce biometric data, including photo and fingerprints. These last conditions have been largely fulfilled.

V. ŽUGIĆ
V. ŠĆEPANOVIĆ

DANGERS OF REFUSED VISA APPLICATIONS

Based on the achievements by Montenegro of the implementation of the requirements set up in the roadmap, the Commission will assess the situation, taking into account inter alia criteria, the visa refusal rate for Montenegrin applicants and the refusal rate of entry into the common Schengen area for Montenegrin nationals. In this context, the decreasing trend of the refusal rate, which should progress towards 3 % for visas and 1000 persons per year refused for entry into the common Schengen area, will be used as an indicative reference, warn the final remarks of the Roadmap.

In case of substantial change of the current situation, the Commission can still propose a review and re-adaptation of the roadmap.

EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THE NEW LAW WILL DISTANCE MONTENEGRO FROM EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING STANDARDS

Have you heard about Eurocodes?

by Dejan Peruničić

Parliamentary committee for constitutional issues approved early this month of the draft Law for spatial planning and construction. The accompanying justification claims the law has been written "in the spirit of fulfilling Montenegro's commitments to European integrations" and that it allows for "application of standards and norms of European Union in the area of construction".

The experts, however, consider the text to be deeply flawed and far removed from any EU standards. One example is that the law never mentions Eurocodes in construction, a set of standards to become obligatory for all member states and future member states by 2010.

Add to that decades of wild construction, legal violations and "standards" based on first come first grab principle, and one wonders whether even the best regulations could do anything to improve the situation.

"EU standards in this area are construction Eurocodes, which are to come into force in 2010, but I never heard a single decision maker mention them. The law currently in preparation can at best be called controversial" says Prof Dr Božidar Pavi-

ćević from the Faculty of Civil Engineering.

Together with his colleague Dr Radomir Zejak he participated in a European Commission meeting this February dedicated to the issue of Eurocodes. Unlike all other countries concerned, Montenegro did not have a single official representative there.

Pavićević believes that Montenegro is making an enormous and potentially costly mistake.

"The Eurocodes ought to be adopted first, and the laws adapted to them. When the Eurocodes come into force, this entire body of regulations will



have to be revised, making the law controversial and utterly counterproductive", says Pavi-

WHAT ARE EUROCODES

Eurocodes are a set of ten European Standards that contain common structural rules for the design of buildings and civil engineering structures. Eurocodes are applicable to whole structures and to individual elements of structures and cater for the use of all the major construction materials.

The main Eurocodes are:

Basis of structural design, Actions on structures, Design of concrete structures, Design of steel structures, Design of composite steel and concrete structures, Design of timber structures, Design of masonry structures, Geotechnical design, Design of structures for earthquake resistance, Design of aluminium structures.

Every Eurocode must be adopted as identical national standard by the national standardisation agencies. They may be used parallel to the national standards until the mid-2010, which is the last deadline for abolishing national codes.

"In order to achieve adequate implementation of Eurocodes, EU member states, national agencies for standardisation, construction and industry as well as all professionals in building and construction must be ready to emulate the standards. This is a huge task and I cannot understand the decision to adopt such a law in a rush.

ćević.

He explains that the law makers ought to focus more on diminishing the risk from earthquakes and planning.

"Unfortunately, there is no consensus around the lowering of the risk of earthquakes, neither in the law nor in practice, and the whole area is treated very partially. Turkey will soon make a motion to revive the Committee of the Balkan states for the fight against the consequences of earthquakes, which was initiated after the 1979 earthquake and died out in the

1990s. In spite of the good foundations from this period, since 1989 planning has been all but abandoned.

This, according to him, happened because nobody bothered to keep the plans under control.

"At first there were sporadic cases of wild construction, individuals putting together a house or a shack here and there, until we came to the phase where this aspect of planning is almost considered an obstacle to development and a hurdle for big capital investments. The next

step is to consider all administrative regulations an obstacle to business, and to "conclude" that planning itself is a problem for business", Pavićević warns.

He emphasises that the new law at the same time abolishes the law on spatial planning, law on the construction sites and inspections and the law on construction which are all fused within this new legal act.

"Planning is not even in the title any more. The very concept of planning is abolished and said to be an obstacle to investments, that one ought to simply monitor the way the space is used and the investors will know how to make the best use of it", Pavićević said.

In the ministry for economic development nobody was willing to talk about the construction standards in Montenegro, and the only explanation we got was that one ought to await the definite test of the law.

The justification of the new law states that the law is being adopted in order to minimise risks and damages that can ensue for people and goods in extraordinary situations, that the draft "proposes solutions for an environment of more effective investments, fosters professionalism in all stages of construction etc.". It also emphasises greater control and responsibility for all participants in the construction process, ensures simplified procedures in adopting regulatory acts etc.

The author is a journalist in the daily "Vijesti" and associate of the European Reporter

On average, one needs about 14 months to collect all necessary documents for construction. Even the minimum time required comes up to 8 months, warns the analysis of the Chamber of Commerce

CONSTRUCTION 10% OF MONTENEGRIN ECONOMY

The chamber of commerce conducted an analysis of regulations in construction, building materials industry and communal works ahead of the adoption of the Law. The document states that, with globalisation and liberalisation of capital flows, Montenegro has become "subject of great interest by foreign investors for real estate, and a prime tourist destination", which all resulted in an enormous construction boom in the coastal areas and in Podgorica.

"Revenues from real estate are the single most important element of foreign direct investments. In 2006, FDI in real estate has amounted to 338 million euros, and in 2007 514 million euros. We expect this trend to continue. The consequences are a dynamic growth in construction industry. In the last five years the average growth rate in construction was an incredible 44% annually. Only in 2006 the growth rate was 179% year on year. At the moment, building and construction amount to 10% of the entire Montenegrin economy", states the document.

The analysis states that "buying interest" in decisions on urban planning and construction often gives rise to corruption.

"The key problem of our regulations at the moment is the time required to collect all documents and licences. On average, the whole process takes about 430 days, or 14 months. The minimum time reported is not much better, with 235 days, or almost eight months, necessary to collect the documents", states the Analysis.

Larger and more complex constructions take from 18 to 28 months to be completed, which means that the paperwork alone can be anywhere from 50 to 80% of building time.

Europe rooting for Obama

London Daily Telegraph reports the results of a poll conducted in five European countries, which show that **Barack Obama's** victory at the US presidential elections would improve the image of USA in Europe.

According to the poll, 52% of the respondents in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia would support Obama against only 15% for **McCain**. According to the Daily Telegraph, **Bush's** policies have created "prominently anti-American atmosphere" in all five countries under survey.

Should Obama become the president, one can expect America to become a "good guy" again, at least in the eyes of



Europeans, and to conquer their hearths and minds once again, says Daily Telegraph.

Against warnings in automobile advertisements

Media concerns in the EU have protested against the upcoming regulation that requires them to accompany advertisements of automobiles with a "health warning" similar to those found on cigarette packs.

Media owners are worried that the European Commissioner for Environment **Stavros Dimas** could suggest that all advertisements in the press, and possibly on TV and radio will have to include "health warnings" about CO₂ emissions.

Media industry is concerned that in the context of revision of the 1999 directive which requires automobile advertisements to contain information about fuel

consumption and CO₂ emissions EC could adopt the proposal of the British MP in EP, **Chris Davis**.

He proposed that automobile companies should dedicate 20% of their advertisements to warnings about environmental protection.

Brussels decided to strengthen regulations as it could not force the producers to obey the 1999 EC directive which requires them to emphasise certain information in the advertisement, which must be "easily readable and equally highlighted as the main part of the add". More often than not, if at all present this information was barely noticeable.

Swedes best paid, Spanish women champions of longevity

According to the 2008 Eurostat statistics yearbook, an average EU citizen owns the house he or she lives in, has internet access at home and has seen the price of electricity rise for about 13.5% in the last three years. He or she works for 20.35

euros per hour and can take 4.7 nights off for holidays. Lithuania and Estonia have most privately owned houses (88%), whereas Germany has the least (44%). Best hourly wages are found in Sweden (32.16 euros) and the worst in Bulgaria (1.65 euros). Internet access from home is most widespread in the Netherlands.

EU unemployment rate is 7.1%. Slovakia has the highest unemployment rate (11.1%) while Denmark has the lowest (3.8%).

Women live longer in Spain and France – 84.4 years on average, and have the lowest life expectancy in Romania, with 76.2 years. For men, the highest life expectancy is in Cyprus (78.8 years), and the lowest in Lithuania (65.3).

Bosnians want EU

The last public opinion poll conducted in BiH shows that 85% of the citizens want to join the European Union. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) was most enthusiastically supported in Bosnia (89%), Croatia (86%) and Serbia (82%). BiH signed its SAA with EU in mid-June.

Dirty Romanian beaches

Dirty beaches in the EU are found in Romania, followed by Slovenians, says expert report on the matter which has surveyed 14,552 seaside beaches in EU countries.

95% of the beaches overall comply with health and safety standards. In Romania, however, the rate of compliance is 28.6%, and in Slovenia 68.4% of the beaches.

The "cleanest" are Latvia, Finland and Netherlands, where all beaches fulfil the required standards.

Germany the export champion

Members of the Eurozone had a trade surplus this April with the rest of the world of 2.3 billion euros, while in the same period EU overall recorded a trade deficit of 15.4 billion, reports the Eurostat.

Germany had the biggest surplus in the first quarter of 50.4 billion euros, while UK has the biggest deficit of 34 billion.

The biggest trading partners for EU in the first quarter were Russia and Brazil. In the same period the exchange with Japan slowed down while the exports to US grew and the deficit with China decreased.



Polish troubles with strawberries

One third of the yield of strawberries will be left lying in the fields this year in Poland, which is among the world leaders in strawberry exports. The reason is the lack of labour force, which is plaguing the whole country, especially in agriculture. The owners have increased the wages which are now 4.4 euros per hour, but the seasonal workers prefer to work in the old EU member states, even if the wages are not much higher.

The producers are complaining about the government's policy which forbids free contracting of workers from the outside of EU.

Ministry of labour recently forbade the entry of workers from other continents, primarily from Asia. Workers from the neighbouring countries – Belorussia, Ukraine and Russia are eligible for a three-month visa for seasonal work, but the employers are complaining about the slow, over-bureaucratised visa procedures.



by Slobodan Radović

WHY DO I WANT TO BE A CITIZEN OF EUROPE?

It is human nature to always strive for bigger and better

Dear Reader, do you always ask yourself why you want something? Did you ever ask yourself why you want a happy family? Or to be free? I believe nobody asks such questions. It is human nature to have wishes. To always strive for bigger and for better. Why ask then, "Why do I want to be a citizen of Europe?" Should we question the reasons behind every desire?

Is my wish to be a citizen of Europe so strange and unusual that I ought to be explaining it to someone? I believe not. I trust no other desire is so natural as to belong to the people who live around us, with whom we share the same planet, the same air. Nothing more natural than the need to unite, live together. But more important than the wish is how to make it come true. I will not dwell on the source of my desires, I will rather talk about what I believe we should do in order to become citizens of Europe.

What does it mean to be a citizen of Europe? Will I be a European citizen the moment my country joins the EU? I think not.

To be a citizen of Europe means I will not fret seeing an Englishman build a hotel in Ulcinj, I will not protest against donating my kidney to somebody in Estonia. I will not expect the Government to subsidise my company instead of facing the foreign competition on my own on the free market. It means to accept the fact that the nationals have a right to spend their hard earned money wherever they want, instead of being forced to buy "national". To be a citizen of Europe means to think like a citizen of Europe instead of thinking like a native of the Balkans. In short: it means we all need a collective

blood transfusion to exchange our stale, ancient Balkan blood for fresh, European one.

Who will make us citizens of Europe? Our politicians, lawyers, economists? Officials who put their valuable signatures on the association (and stabilisation) documents? Absolutely not. European Union is made of its citizens, not of institutions. Institutions exist because of the citizens. Socrates said that every true realisation comes from inside. We need this realisation, this enlightenment in order to

The most important part of our ethnogenesis is the transition of the mind. Our mind ought to evolve from the conservative-traditional into modern-European frame as quickly as possible

become citizens of Europe. The most important part of our ethnogenesis is the transition of the mind. Our mind ought to evolve from the conservative-traditional into modern-European frame as quickly as possible. To be a citizen of Europe means to establish a relation with Europe, with its citizens. Any kind of relation between two parties requires two elements: taking and giving. We cannot be citizens of Europe and expect Europe to give us something without giving something back. As citizens of Europe we will have to contribute to Europe's development as much as those who have joined earlier.

In between writing these passages I walked out on the balcony and cast a glance towards the West. I was impressed by the colours on the horizon, and by their incredible range. At a closer look, none of these colours is special in itself, they are simple colours. It is only when they come together that they can take your breath away. The life is similar. We all have

good and bad sides, but as citizens of a society which strives to socialise and become a part of modern civilisation, we ought to work together, in a synergy. All the shortcomings should be overcome and become negligible before our common vision: development of our society and rapprochement with the contemporary European culture. We have little chance of joining EU if our colours are to spoil their perfect mix on the horizon.

In order to become citizens of Europe, we have to work hard on

changing our mentality and our culture. I will return to one of my first sentences: it is in the human nature to have desires, to always strive for bigger and better. Indeed, this is nature. And what stands against the nature? In our case, culture, provincialism endlessly injected into our brain cells for generations. An environment unused to changes and adaptations. Or used to them in the sense that others ought to adapt to your ways, not the other way around. What will be stronger in this case, nature or culture? What is more important: the ancient drives or those acquired by training? I really wish that the former will be stronger. And I have all the right to wish, don't I? And I hope I don't have to explain why I want it...

The author is a student at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro and president of the NGO Centre for Career Development. He attended VI generation of the European Integrations School

IRISH "NO" TO THE LISBON TREATY THROWS EUROPEAN UNION INTO A STATE OF CONFUSION

European wheels getting stuck again

The Irish 'no' vote on the Lisbon Treaty has again thrown the Union into a state of confusion, with leaders voicing contradictory and sometimes strange ideas. Some consider the treaty to be dead while others would prefer ratification to continue as planned in the hope that a solution will be also found for Ireland.

Still others suggested that further enlargement will be impossible until the solution is found for the staggering treaty, setting off alarm bells for the pro-European forces in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Analysts agree that, if the EU fails to find a quick way out of the crisis, it is likely to be weakened internationally, notably in its dealings with powers such as Russia and Iran.

One of the aims of the Lisbon Treaty was to achieve greater unity and effectiveness in foreign policy, and to address the block's capacity to handle further enlargements.

The Treaty of Lisbon was officially signed by EU heads of state and government at a summit in the Portuguese capital on 13 December 2007.

It aims to streamline decision-making in the enlarged EU by introducing voting reforms in the Council, reducing the size of the Commission and strengthening the role of national parliaments. It also creates the new posts of Council President and High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy.

In order to enter into force, the Treaty must be ratified by all 27 member states. By the time of the Irish referendum 18 countries had

already ratified the Treaty and it was expected that ratification will be completed by the end of 2008.

A total of 53.4% of Irish voters rejected the Lisbon Treaty, with just 46.6% voting in its favour at a 53.1% electoral turnout. That basically means that the Treaty was rejected by 0.175% of EU's population, throwing the Union into an existential crisis.

Ireland was the only EU country to require ratification of the Lisbon Treaty through a nationwide referendum. This is due to a 1987 ruling by its Supreme Court which stipulates that significant changes to the European Union treaties require an amendment to the Irish Constitution, which is always done by means of a referendum.



In all other EU members, national parliaments are dealing with ratification.

Ireland had already rejected an earlier attempt to adapt the European institutions when its voters rejected the Nice Treaty in a 2001 referen-

IRISH FEARS OR INGRATITUDE

Ireland has gained a lot from its EU membership. When Ireland joined the EU in 1973, it was the poorest country in the Community of Nine. But the country soon became a model of success: in 1987 Irish GDP stood at just 69% of the Community average. Today, its GDP runs at 146% of the EU average. However there are signs that the economic boom is coming to an end. The close connections of the country with the battered US economy have led the country from one crisis to another. Voters' discontent expressed at this referendum is partly a consequence of economic uncertainty.

Furthermore, there is a fear from reform and harmonisation within EU especially as regards tax policy. Concerns have been voiced that such measures will threaten Ireland's low corporate rate (12.5%), which is considered a key factor in the country's economic success.

Irish Commissioner **Charlie McCreev** stressed that the vote should not be interpreted as a sign of Irish ingratitude but as a vote against "a myriad of other issues," including rising food and oil prices, an economic downturn and rising unemployment.

"There will be those who will think we have forgotten all the benefits Ireland has obtained from its membership of the EU, but that would be a wrong interpretation. I have no doubt that the vast majority of Irish people want to be fully engaged participants in the European Union," he said.

dum. The solution was then found in a repeated referendum 16 months later, this time successfully.

One of the most radical responses to the Irish "no" is that Ireland should simply leave the EU. The Romanian opposition Social Democrats proposed that Ireland should hold a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, except that this time the 'no' vote would be tied to the country's exclusion from the Union. A little less radical is the idea of setting up "a specific type of co-operation" with Ireland, which would allow the rest of Europe to move on.

European Commission President **Jose Manuel Barroso** said it was "clear" that the result should not be seen as a vote against the EU, adding that he expects Ireland to continue to play its part within the EU. He dismissed calls from some quarters to



isolate Ireland, stressing: "The voice of the Irish does not matter less than the German or the French."

European Parliament President **Hans-Gert Pottering** stated that the results of the Irish referendum confront the EU "with one of the most difficult challenges in its history".

He called upon the Irish Government to submit proposals "as to how we can jointly progress beyond this difficult phase in European politics", so that the Treaty can enter into force before the June 2009 European elections.

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs **Micheal Martin** blamed a lack of information for the result, saying that the 'no' vote demonstrated a persistent "disconnection between Europe and its people".

Just like the UK, Denmark and Sweden, Ireland has already negotiated opt-outs in certain sensitive policy areas, including from the Schengen agreement on passport-free travel. And, with regard to the Lisbon Treaty, it had already negotiated a future opt-out from any decisions in the sector of Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters taken by qualified majority voting rather than unanimity.

Europe will not suddenly collapse, but the question is whether the European political class will understand the citizens' message or make the situation even more difficult ahead of European elections in mid-2009.

Leaving Ireland behind sounds easy enough, but also dangerous: it could be the makings of an "a la carte" Europe.

SARKOZY THREATENS THE CZECHS

French president **Nicolas Sarkozy**, whose country will take over the EU presidency on 1 July and the German chancellor **Angela Merkel** insisted that without the Lisbon Treaty there will be no further enlargement, but the motion was resisted by the Slovenian prime minister **Janez Janša**, Polish prime minister **Donald Tusk**, Austrian Foreign Minister **Ursula Plasnik** and others.

"No Treaty, no enlargement", Sarkozy said after the first day of the summit of EU leaders last week in Brussels.

However, analysts claim that Sarkozy, who wishes to strengthen the position of France during its presidency, was simply trying to put extra pressure on Czech Republic, which may be the next problematic member.

"Ireland is a problem. But if we have another one like that, or two, the solution will be near to impossible to find", Sarkozy warned.

The Czech Constitutional Court is analysing the treaty and the possibilities of ratifying the Treaty at a nation-wide referendum instead of in the parliament. The eurosceptic, right-wing, neo-liberal party of Czech President **Vaclav Klaus** and Prime Minister **Mirek Topolánek** seems concerned that the Czech EU Presidency, starting on 1 January 2009, will be overshadowed by the future permanent EU Council President.

It will now be mainly in the hands of the incoming French Presidency to lead the search for a way out. Ironically, it was France that threw the EU into a similar state of chaos when its own citizens rejected the now-defunct Constitution in 2005.

The intention of the French appears to be to ensure that ratification continues. In the meantime, a re-run of the referendum could take place, as happened after the Irish first rejected the EU's Nice Treaty. Other, more original solutions could emerge, like introducing new opt-outs to keep the Irish electorate happy, or changing key provisions of the Treaty.

V. ŽUGIĆ
V. ŠČEPANOVIĆ

INFLATION HITS RECORD HIGH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Sky-high prices for oil, milk and eggs

Latest Eurostat figures show that the annual inflation rate hit a record high in May 2008 for both the Eurozone and the whole EU 27. The main causes are soaring energy and food prices.

"The inflation figure was 3.7% in the euro area and 3.9% in the EU as a whole," said the Commission's spokesperson for Economic and Monetary Affairs, Amelia Torres, adding that the inflationary trend seems posed to continue.

According to Eurostat, the main factor for inflation is increasing energy prices. Compared with May 2007, fuel for transport was 14% more expensive. Another major factor was the increase in food prices, in particular milk, eggs and cheese, the prices of which increased some 14% in the last 14 months, said Torres.

She said these were not good figures and that EU needed to "remain extremely careful in order to avoid a wage and inflation spiral".

The lowest annual rates are observed in the Netherlands (2.1%), Portugal (2.8%) and Germany (3.1%), and the highest in Latvia (17.7%), Bulgaria (14.0%) and Lithuania (12.3%). Compared with April 2007, annual inflation rose in 21 member states, rem-

ained stable in three (Slovenia, Poland, Malta) and fell in two (Estonia, Romania).

Currently, none meet the EU-wide target of maintaining inflation below 2%.

Meanwhile, angry farmers, fishermen and truck drivers are protesting throughout Europe, arguing the rising fuel prices are more they can bear while petrol companies skim additional profits.

On 16 June, the International Road Transport Union (IRU) called for governments to cut excessive fuel taxation, arguing they are simply using it "as a source of easy revenue for the state" and that without it the oil price would be cheaper. "There is no excuse for maintaining excessively high fuel taxes that artificially distort the price paid at the pump, just at a



ANNUAL INFLATION RATES PER PRODUCT

Fuels for transport	15.2%
Heating oil	47.5%
Milk, cheese and eggs	13.6%
Bread and cereals	9.6%
Gas	9.2%
Fruit	7.4%
Audio-visual equipment	-10.4%
IT equipment	-14.3%
Rents	1.9%
Garments	0.6%
Telecommunications	-1.9%
Cars	-0.3%

time when our economies need help most," stated IRU.

After fishermen in early June, truck drivers and farmers organised their own protests on 18 June, ahead of the EU Summit which is set to discuss the rising commodity prices.

The EU's hands are tied, unfortunately, because the prices are largely driven by increased demand and speculation taking place outside its borders. The potential for macroeconomic measures is also limited, because the record inflation limits the European Central Bank's leeway for any potential rate cuts.

V.Š.-V.Ž.

ANNUAL INFLATION IN MAY 2008

EURO AREA

NL	PT	DE	IE	FR	IT	AT	MT	FI	CY	ES	LU	EL	BE	SL
2.1	2.8	3.1	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.1	6.2

OTHER EU MEMBER STATES

UK	DK	SE	EU	SK	PL	CZ	HU	RO	EE	LT	BG
3.0	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.3	6.8	6.9	8.5	11.4	12.3	14.0

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



Eurojargon

decisions are taken by the Council alone.

- The third pillar is 'police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters', where, once again, the Council takes the decisions.

Within the first pillar, the Council normally takes decisions by 'qualified majority' vote. In the other pillars, the Council decision has to be unanimous: it can therefore be blocked by the veto of any one country.

Qualified majority voting: On most issues, the Council of the European Union takes its decisions by voting. Each country can cast a certain number of votes, roughly in proportion to the size of its population. The number of votes per country is as follows:

France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom	29
Poland and Spain	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary and Portugal	12
Austria, Bulgaria and Sweden	10
Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania and Slovakia	7
Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg and Slovenia	4
Malta	3

A qualified majority is reached: if a majority of member states (in some cases a two-thirds majority) approve; if a minimum of 255 votes is cast in favour – which is 73.9% of the total. In addition, a member state may ask for confirmation that the votes in favour represent at least 62% of the total population of the EU.

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.

Open method of coordination: In many policy areas (for example education and training, pensions and health care, immigration and asylum), EU governments set their own national policies rather than having an EU-wide policy laid down in law. However, it makes sense for governments to share information, adopt best practice and bring their national policies into line. This way of learning from one another is called the 'open method of coordination'.

Pillars of the EU: The European Union takes decisions in three separate 'domains' (policy areas), also known as the three 'pillars' of the EU.

- The first pillar is the 'Community domain', covering most of the common policies, where decisions are taken by the 'Community method', involving the Commission, Parliament and the Council.
- The second pillar is the common foreign and security policy, where

NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPEAN UNION



FEDERATION OF YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS

Federation of the Young European Greens was founded in 1988 in Belgium, with the purpose of bringing together young environmental and Green political groups from all over Europe to encourage both mutual understanding and mutual action to promote a greener Europe.

FYEG started off modestly with just a few Member Organisations (MOs), and has since grown to 33 members from both Eastern and Western Europe. These organisations are either the youth wings of Green Parties or environmental non-governmental youth organisations (youth NGOs).

The basis of the activities of FYEG is its political work in a European political space. This is not limited to lobbying inside the European Parliament. The FYEG is also involved on a street level, running practical campaigns that it carries out through its member organisations.

Once every year FYEG hosts a General Assembly where the MOs, through their delegates, decide on future policy and strategy.

FYEG strives to promote its values of environmental protection and social justice through numerous seminars, study sessions, camps, political debates, training sessions and so on. FYEG also organises campaigns to raise awareness about essential environmental problems. The most recent one has been the Tell Me What I Eat-campaign on organic and genetically modified food.

FYEG publishes the Ecosprinter, a newsletter which publicises a young Green point of view and informs our activists of past and upcoming events.

FYEG has excellent cooperation with the Green Group in the European Parliament, and keeps close contact with a wide network of NGOs and other institutions.

During the past few years, an FYEG priority has been to expand its network in Central and Eastern Europe. This is reflected in the recent full membership of organisations from Serbia, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

More about FYEG can be found at:
www.fyeg.org

Prepared by: Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ

Lessons in Democracy



On 22 June 2008 in Podgorica 25 successful participants of the eleventh generation of Democracy School received their diplomas. The participants were mostly NGO activists, members of political parties, journalists, civil servants in local and central administrations and students of the University of Montenegro. Dr **Radovan Radonjić**, director of the School and **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE greeted the participants and presented them with diplomas.

The programme lasted four months and featured numerous lectures by renowned national and international experts, professors of the University of Belgrade and University of Montenegro, representatives of the NGO sector and journalists.

Democracy School is the oldest programme of the Centre for Civic Education, and has been supported since the very beginning by Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The next, 12th generation of the school is planned for autumn 2008.

Balkan in the Future of Europe

How to bring the Balkan closer to European Union? How to ensure broader and stronger support for European integrations in our societies? How to make these processes clearer and more visible in the public life of the region, and more accessible to its citizens?

International panel discussion "Balkan in the Future of Europe" organised by European Fund for the Balkans on 18 June 2008 in Sarajevo sought to give some answers to these questions.

The discussion started off somewhat unusually: with a performance by the Damir Imamović Trio. The participants were then welcomed by **Gerrit**

Rauws, president of the managing board of EFB and the floor was opened by EU representative **Miroslav Lajčak**. Nick Gowing, well known BBC journalist moderated this dynamic session, with contributions by renowned participants from EU and the Region, members of the International Balkan Commission: **Guliano Amato**, member of the Italian Senate, former prime minister of Italy and minister of home affairs; **Goran Svilanović**, former foreign affairs minister of Serbia and Montenegro and official in the Stability Pact for SEE; **Zlatko Lagumdžija**, president of the Social-democratic party of BiH, former prime minister and foreign

American students in Montenegro

SIT Study Abroad is an experimental programme for undergraduates taking place across 50 countries of the world. The programme dates back to 1932 and has a specific way of teaching: students live for a short while in the region which is the subject of their study, living with local families and gaining first-hand experience about the ways of life, problems and challenges in the community they inhabit.

As a part of this programme, a group of students visited Montenegro for the first time, and spent five days from 10 to 15 June in Perast and Podgorica in the framework of their programme "State building and human rights in the Southern Balkans", led by their teacher and academic director of "SIT Study Abroad" **Kumjana Novakova**.

In Podgorica, the students attended lectures and presentations co-organised by Centre for Civic Education: speakers were **Nejra Nuna Čengić**, **Jelena Džankić**, **Milan Popović**, **Tea Gorjanc Prelević**, **Paula Petričević**, **Daliborka Uljarević** and **Zlatko Vujović**. They also visited the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms where they were met by the president of the committee **Koča Pavlović**.

affairs minister of BiH; as well as young leaders of the Western Balkans: **Sandra Benčić** from Croatia; **Jovana Stanišljević**, Serbia; **Ermira Mehmeti**, Macedonia; and **Gent Puto**, Albania.

Montenegro had no official delegates at the event, however, its representatives from the NGO session: European Movement in Montenegro, Institute Alternativa and Centre for Civic Education participated in the discussion. Thanks to the energetic Nick Gowing the audience also had ample opportunity to contribute to the debate, turning it into an unusually interactive and exciting event.

Communicating Europe and with Europe



On 18 June 2008 in Podgorica Centre for Civic Education (CCE) presented its project "Communicating EU in Montenegro and Montenegro in EU", conducted with support of the Foreign Office, in cooperation with the Secretariat for European Integrations of the Government of Montenegro.

The project is directly related to the need to present European integrations process to the citizens of Montenegro in a more intensive and more accessible manner, and to expand Montenegro's lobbying activities in EU.

Speakers at the ceremony were **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE, **Kevin Lyine**, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Montenegro and **Ana Vukadinović**, secretary of the Secretariat for European Integrations (SEI).

Uljarević explained that the project's

rationale was to provide precise, focused education on European integrations for civil servants working in this area, as well as training on communicating European affairs in Montenegro and lobbying for further support to the European integration process in Montenegro using examples of best practice from EU.

British ambassador emphasised the challenges to Montenegro on its road to EU. In this context, he said, such projects are very helpful in enhancing understanding and communication of EU standards, especially when they are conducted jointly by the Government and the non-governmental sector.

Vukadinović recalled the Memorandum on cooperation between SEI and a number of NGOs and welcomed the project as the first step through which this agreement will come true. She announced that SEI will actively participate in the implementation of the project, which contributes to fostering support for the EU accession process.

"Communicating European Union in Montenegro and communicating Montenegro in EU" will last seven months, and is supported by the British Embassy through a fund managed by the Foreign Office.

MMF alumni for the first time in Montenegro

From 13 to 18 June 2008 American Alumni of the Marshall Memorial Programme visited Montenegro. The programme exists for 26 years within the German Marshall Fund and enables young leaders from the USA and Europe to explore societies, institutions and people on the other side of the Atlantic.

A few years ago the programme was opened for the West Balkan countries and their alumni had visited Montenegro for the first time. They were hosted by the Centre for Civic Education whose executive director **Daliborka Uljarević** is the only Montenegrin alumni of the European MMF programme.

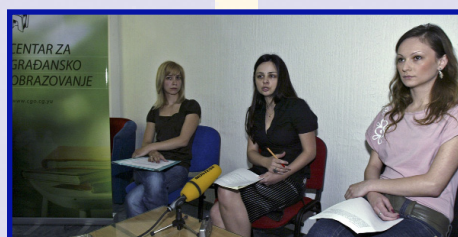
On this occasion, US alumni and the GMF Paris Office coordinator could get to know the ample natural potential of Montenegro, its tourist and cultural capacities, as well as the social ambience and political situation. They also met several representatives of the civil society, business community, institutions and political parties, and were also received by the President of Montenegro **Filip Vujanović**.

Monitoring implementation of visa facilitation agreement

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) presented its new project "Does it really matter? Visa facilitation in Western Balkans: Monitoring of new agreements". The project is implemented by partner organizations European Movement in Albania, Vesta Association from BiH, Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation from Macedonia, Civic Pact for South Eastern Europe from Serbia and CCE from Montenegro, coordinated by the Brussels NGO ECAS. Project presentation and promotion of the newly established SOS line took place on 10 June 2008 in Podgorica.

Hotline (SOS) was simultaneously presented in Tirana, Sarajevo, Skopje, Podgorica and Belgrade at parallel press conferences starting at noon, and will be open until September 2008.

At the moment, nobody knows if the



visa facilitation agreements are really being implemented. The Hotline will assist evaluation of project implementation and assess to what extent they correspond to the needs of different categories of citizens.

For the first time, civil society organisations from 5 West Balkan countries are working on a joint project to ensure adequate impact of the visa facilitation agreement and campaigning for the abolishment of visa requirements.

Marina Mugoša, PR and coordinator in CCE, **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive

director of CCE and **Dijana Kažić**, CCE activist spoke at the conference, explaining the twofold benefits of the new service. Firstly, the citizens will have a chance to learn about their rights regarding the visa facilitation agreement. Secondly, the citizens have an opportunity to have their voice heard and to share their good or bad experiences in applying for visas. CCE is expecting to receive information that would make it clearer whether the visa facilitation agreements have become at all operation and whether they are implemented properly.

Numbers of the hotline service are: 081 665 327 and 067 289 336. The service is open every day from 10h to 14h. A section of the CCE website www.cgo-cce.org is dedicated to this question, and further information can be found on the joint project site www.needvisa.net.

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:

NEWTON INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

A new multi-million pound initiative to fund research collaborations and improve links between UK and overseas researchers was launched by the Science Minister Ian Pearson on 4 June. The Newton International Fellowships will be overseen by the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society and aim to attract the most promising post-doctoral researchers working overseas in the fields of humanities, engineering, natural and social sciences.

The Fellowships will offer researchers funding to work for two years with a UK research institution, thus establishing long term international collaborations. The funding will be distributed in the form of 50 research fellowships, awarded annually, each providing support of up to 100,000 GBP for a two year placement.

Robin Jackson, the British Academy's Chief Executive and Secretary said:

"The Academy has for many years supported international collaboration and academic exchange across the humanities and social sciences. The Newton International Fellowships will introduce a new dimension, enabling us to offer highly attractive awards to the best overseas postdoctoral researchers, which will strengthen international scholarly links."

More details will be available from the Newton International Fellowships website: <http://www.newtonfellowships.org/>. The closing date for the first round is 4th August 2008. There will be a second round in autumn 2008. There will then be an annual round from spring 2010. Deadlines to be confirmed.



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ECML, GRAZ, AUSTRIA

Scholarship / Financial aid: allowance of approximately 686 Euros per month

Date: 6 months – January–June 2009

Deadline: 30 September 2008

Open to: recent graduates

The ECML offers traineeships for recent graduates with an excellent command of at least English and/or French.

Traineeships last 6 months (January to June or July to December) and candidates must apply for one of the three areas of the Centre's work: its programme activities, its information and documentation services or its website.

The Centre also offers traineeships in its administration once a year from

September to February.

The trainees selected receive a formal letter of acceptance from the ECML informing them of the duration and the conditions of the traineeship. For nationalities requiring a visa to enter Austria this letter should also be sufficient to meet these requirements. If any problems do occur with the issuing of a visa the ECML can intervene on behalf of the trainee directly with the respective Austrian Embassy.

As of 1 January 2006 trainees coming from outside the countries of the European Union will need to apply for a residence permit (Aufenthaltsbewilligung) at the respective Austrian embassy. If a trainee is planning to stay longer than 6 months (ie beyond the duration of the ECML traineeship) the permit can only be obtained through the Styrian Government upon arrival in Graz. In both cases the residence purpose corresponds to a special case of employment which is exempt from the law on employment of foreigners (para 62 NAG in connection with para 1 (2) lit c AusBG). The ECML will assist you in the application procedure.

After arrival and taking up residence in Graz it is necessary to 'declare' the length of stay in Austria with the local police station. This is done by completing a 'Meldezettel' – which trainees will receive from the Centre and which should also be signed by the warden of the residence where they are staying.

Michael Armstrong

Administrator

E-mail: michael.armstrong@ecml.at

Allowance

Trainees receive an allowance from the Centre of approximately 686 Euros per month. A contribution of a maximum of 230 Euros is made towards travel costs from the trainee's home country to and from Graz.

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