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To what extent is the right to protection of intellectual property practiced in Montenegro

INTERVIEW

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Bulgaria
Snežana Najdenova

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POLEMIC

Although envisaged as an advisory body (its decisions are not binding like in the case of Croatia), establishment of the National Council for European Integrations (NCEI) seemed like a good idea.

However, both the government and the opposition once again joined their forces to destroy its credibility from the very beginning. The latter by bickering around the nominations of the president and vice president long before the Council was even established, and the former by appointing a rather unexpected NGO representative, with a bizarre explanation that the support of the "First Scythe of Montenegro", "Association of Fruit Growers of Berane" and another 47 obscure NGOs convinced them to give their votes to **Tijana Marković**.

Marković never responded to the numerous accusations, acting as if she trusted to be defended by the guru in the guise of a representative of the executive who only speaks up when cornered by the media and the civil sector.

The only good thing coming out of the establishment of this Council, thus, is the dialogue that opened within the civil sector, although one could have hoped it to be a little more sophisticated.

Dialogue and openness are among the basic values of the Community. Which the controversial citizen of Budva **Ivan Delić** neither knows nor cares about, speaking up for the nth time this month to deny the alleged attempt on his life.

Few months ago, **Safet Kalić**, known to the media for his suspected relations to the Zemun clan, also engaged in a polemic with the Movement for Changes. And while more and more voices within and without Montenegro warn against abnormalities of the Montenegrin society such as corruption, devastation of land and environment etc, our intellectual elite, if one can call it that, remains silent.

With the exception of few individuals, the rest seem to believe, holding on to their comfortable lodgings, memberships various Managing Boards and sporadic engagements with some large projects, that an occasional public polemic would only cause them headaches. How European.

V.Ž.

Referendum for all except Croatia (28 July) – The latest constitutional amendments in France maintain the option of calling a referendum for the ratification of pre-accession agreement for all countries that may join European Union in the future, except for Croatia. A new constitutional provision mandates that the President should call a referendum for all future enlargements, unless a three-fifths majority in both houses of the Parliament decides in favour of ratification by the National Assembly and the Senate.

Government adopts the first Report on the implementation of NPI (31 July) – Deputy prime minister for European Integrations **Gordana Đurović** said that according to the first Report on implementation of the National Programme for Integrations (NPI) of Montenegro into EU the Government has succeeded in fulfilling 86% of the commitments projected for this period.



photo VIJESTI

Gordana Đurović

Parliament elects National Council for European Integrations (1 August) – The foundational act envisages establishment of a National Council for European Integrations (NCEI), an advisory body that will contribute to better coordination and monitoring of implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and supervision of accession negotiations between Montenegro and EU. Parliamentary representatives of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) elected the leader of the Socialist People's Party **Srdan Milić** to head the Council.

NGO protest against the appointments to NCEI (1 August) – Representatives of eight NGOs who signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of European Integrations with Secretariat of European Integrations (SEI) sent a complaint to the European Commission Delegation in Podgorica and EC representatives in Brussels to protest against the appointments to the National Council for European Integrations (NCEI) from the ranks of the civil sector. They said that the ruling coalition decided to ignore all relevant NGO representative and appointed instead those (**Tijana Marković** and **Boris Raonić**) whom they believe to be loyal to the ruling parties. The same group of NGOs sent a protest letter to the deputy prime minister Gordana Đurović and the head of SEI **Ana Vukadinović**. Secretariat warned that the Government has no right to nominate candidates to NCEI, Raonić denied all accusations while Marković chose to remain silent.

Stratfor: Montenegro the eternal candidate for EU (8 August) – "In spite of the announced rapprochement with EU, Montenegro will most probably seek its own road in becoming the preferred destination for the super-rich Europeans" is the prognosis of the US analyst "Stratfor". In an analysis dedicated to Montenegro and republished by "Vijesti", "Stratfor" speculates that Montenegro could give up on the EU membership and remain an "eternal candidate", as EU membership would only deprive it of the money inflow from those who wish to see Montenegro as a new off-shore destination.

Government denies "Stratfor's" prognoses (11 August) – Gordana Đurović reminded of the signing of Stabilisation and Association Agreement with EU, successful implementation of the Interim Agreement, adoption of NPI and dynamic harmonisation of Montenegrin legislation, institutions and procedures with EU rules and standards, saying that these facts represent a "self-evident" refutation of Stratfor's speculations.

TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AN IMPORTANT PART OF EU INTEGRATIONS, PRACTICED IN MONTENEGRO?

Lack of awareness, excess of counterfeits



Information that the renowned companies "Puma" and "IKEA" demanded that



by Marija Mirjačić

the retailers in Montenegro stop using their names reopened the question of the observance and protection of intellectual property rights in Montenegro.

As the country becomes more integrated in the channels of world trade, this issue will become ever more acute and feature as a precondition for integration into European Union (EU) and international community in general. Adequate protection of "ideas" can also bring millions of euros to single entrepreneurs.

Innovation has become one of the most important prerequisites for sustainable development of enterprises and economic pros-

perity of the society overall. The companies must constantly reinvent and improve their products and services if they wish to maintain or expand their market shares and to remain competitive. Firms often invest huge amounts in research and development, and especially in advertisement and marketing of their products and services. These investments are, however, not likely if the companies cannot ensure sufficient returns to recuperate their costs. Adequate and efficient protection of intellectual property is thus a powerful incentive for innovative enterprises to invest and contribute to economic development.

Montenegrin companies, aside of several stronger brands such as

The newly founded Bureau for the protection of intellectual property received around 800 applications for the protection of intellectual property, most of which have been submitted by foreign firms

"Plantaže" or "Trebjesa" brewery are not sufficiently aware of the numerous advantages provided by the protection of intellectual



photo VIJESTI

Branko Žugić

property. This is well demonstrated by the fact that out of 800 applications submitted to the

Bureau for the protection of intellectual property a great majority has been submitted by foreign firms.

Branko Žugić, Director of the Bureau which came into being only two months ago expects the interest of domestic producers for the protection of intellectual property to intensify in the upcoming months.

"The awareness of the importance of intellectual property in Montenegro is insufficiently developed, which is why we have so few applications. Stronger brands have solved this issue before, while we were still in the federa-

PROTECTED FOR 20 TO 100 EUROS

The procedure for protecting rights to industrial property and rights of authorship are different. Industrial property is protected via administrative procedure for recognition and registration and the responsible office is the Bureau for intellectual property. Protection of patents and seals is issued for 10 years, design for 25, and the seal of geographic origin for an unlimited period. Authorship rights do not require an administrative procedure, since they are automatically protected through publishing, and the Bureau is merely responsible for their registration. The protection lasts 70 from the passing away of the author, i.e. the right is transferred to heirs.

Average cost of administrative tax for establishing the right to intellectual property at the Bureau ranges from 20 to 100 euros.



tion, and the new enterprises are sure to become more sensitive to

Branko Žugić expects the interest of domestic producers for the protection of intellectual property to intensify in the upcoming months

the question of intellectual property, which is very important for their economic progress if they wish to promote their products and offer recognisable services. This is of greatest importance for export-oriented firms. It is in their interest to be protected in all markets where they offer their products, foreign or domestic. This protects them from other producers who could endanger their hard-won position", Žugić said.

Domestic producers should follow the example of bigger producers and investors who are aware of the importance of the protection of intellectual property, and are not ready to bring their capital, technology or brands into the markets where their products could be abused.

"International companies with world brands, such as "Nike" or "Levi Strauss" invest significant amounts and use special methods to protect themselves from coun-

terfeits. These methods range from production strategies to distribu-

tion strategies. Protection is of paramount importance if we know

that today technologies have advanced so much that anything can be reproduced", Žugić said.

Protection of the right to intellectual property includes industrial property and rights of authors, and in the context of industrial property patents, seals, industrial design, geographic origin and topography of integrated circuits. For entrepreneurs, it is a precondition for improvement and sales of goods and services, and ensures their financial capabilities and position in the market, and the licence can also be used to secure business loans from banks...

"When we signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) we promised to bring the protection of intellectual property up to the EU levels in the next five years. The next step is to adopt the Strategy for the protection of intellectual property,

THE BRIGHT EXAMPLE OF PLANTAŽE

Director of the quality control sector of "Plantaže", **Vukoman Vuković** says for the European Pulse that in order to protect quality and visibility of their products that company has applied for the protection on the basis of geographic origin in the former Federal Bureau for Intellectual Property, while the two autochthonous products – Montenegrin "Vranac" and "Krstac" have also been protected by the World Organisation for Intellectual Property based on Lisbon agreement.

"Our labels, as well as the logo of the company, are protected under the Law on Seals. We plan to continue this practice and protect our products in all markets where they are present", Vuković said.

Protection of labels and geographic origin, according to him, allows these products to be recognised as original compared to similar products from the region.

"In this way we protect both our products and the consumers. Lately, apart from the attempts to smuggle products, there have been producers from Serbia and Montenegro whose products have labels, font and seals that are similar to the labels "13 jul Plantaže". This misleads the consumers, and we suggested that such products should be withdrawn from the market. So far we have been successful in it, but in case such practices continue we will be forced to bring up charges against them.

Vuković recommends to all Montenegrin producers to protect their products based on seal and geographic origin.

"This is now much easier, since Montenegro has its own Bureau for Intellectual Property", Vuković said.

action plans, and implement numerous of directives and conventions, some originating in the EU and some from the World Trade Organisations (WTO). In this process state institutions, but also enterprises themselves have an important role to play. They can use their organisations to educate their membership and warn them about the importance of this issue. They must know that if they do not protect their brand they will lose prestige and market – possibilities for counterfeiting are greater, consumers will be cheated... Employees of the Bureau and all those involved in the protection system



must go through educational millions of euros in fines. We have trainings. Infringement of the seen very few such court cases,

By signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with EU, Montenegro promised to bring the protection of intellectual property up to the EU levels in the next five years. The next step is to adopt the Strategy for the protection of intellectual property, action plans, and to implement numerous of directives and conventions, some coming from the EU and some from the World Trade Organisations (WTO)

intellectual property rights is considered a crime and can entail but most developed countries have special judiciary units for

dealing with intellectual property", Žugić explained.

Not only the producers and consumers, but also the state can have substantial benefits from this right. Montenegro is now a member of the world organisation for the protection of intellectual property and this membership can bring substantial revenue.

"Using Madrid protocol for the protection of seals Montenegro has been certified as a country which protects this right. This means that any bearer of this right in Montenegro can ask for international protection by choosing the countries where this right should be protected, and than it

is the job of the Bureau to ensure protection and thus create earnings for the state. In addition to Madrid we also have the Lisbon protocol for the protection of geographic origin and the Hague protocol for design", Žugić said.

Experts warn that the negative consequences of infringements on the right to intellectual property for economic development can be loss of legal employment opportunities, loss of tax revenues, less investment in new technologies, limited range of high-quality goods and services and endangered free and fair competition.

On the other hand, detrimental effects for the consumers are goods of worse quality, without guarantees, with all the accompanying health and safety risks.

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

EVERYTHING THAT COUNTS WILL BE FAKED

Economic significance of intellectual property is best described by statistical data: Intellectual property brings about 40% of revenues to the producers on world markets, and in developed technologies up to 90%.

Almost every product that acquires a successful position in the markets is immediately reproduced – from shoes, sportswear and jeans to cosmetics.

"L'Oreal claims that it loses 10% of its profits annually because of counterfeits, while "Levi Strauss" estimates yearly damages from such practice to ten million dollars. Information technologies are similarly suffering from intellectual property theft: the producers claim that the losses caused by "wild" software in South-East Europe amount to 435 million dollars and in Western Europe 2.7 billion dollars annually.

HOW FOUNDED IS "STRATFOR'S" CLAIM THAT ĐUKANOVIĆ'S GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REALLY WANT TO SEE MONTENEGRO IN THE EU?

Suspicious relations of the prime minister



Although it has declared membership in the European Union (EU) as its strategic priority, Montenegrin govern-



by Neđeljko Rudović

ment is ever more often faced with accusations of being insincere and trying to remain outside of the Brussels' reach.

While some of the domestic analysts and opposition warn that the Government of Montenegro headed by **Milo Đukanović** is only simulating reforms by adopting "European laws" without bothering to implement them in practice, some foreign observers claim that Đukanović plans to turn Montenegro in an off-shore zone and thus replace Cyprus.

US analytical centre "Stratfor" estimates in its analysis from the beginning of this month that Montenegro could give up on membership in the EU, keeping the status of "eternal candidate". They explain that joining the EU would deplete the flow of money of those who wish to see Montenegro as the new off-shore destination.

This renowned American agency, which provides intelligence information and analyses for its clients across the world estimates that, while Montenegro prepares itself for the role of a new off-shore destination, it will continue to work for the benefits of closer relations with the EU, even if only to create an image of stability which is provided to its rich visitors by such favourable diplomatic relations.

The government, which for the last 17 years has been firmly founded upon Đukanović's Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) has denied to have wavered from the European course,

emphasising that Montenegro has already signed the agreement with EU, which is the first step to a potential membership.

Nevertheless, Đukanović's proximity to and business connections with an influential economics professor, **Veselin Vukotić**, who has been advocating a slowdown in Montenegro's efforts to join EU, could suggest that the government is at the same time considering the possibility of distancing itself from Brussels.

Đukanović himself has repeatedly emphasised that EU membership is his primary goal, but "Stratfor" seems to be confident in its assessment that Montenegro will be the next country to fill the spot left by Cyprus' accession to EU as the key destination for foreign capital.

"Montenegro is a banking centre which offers its clients (some of whom are extremely rich) services that could not be provided under EU's strict supervision... In this case, however, Montenegro benefit from formal membership in the EU. This dilemma perhaps explains why Montenegro did not submit an official membership application. Even if it finally decides to apply for membership, Montenegro could remain an eternal candidate", forecasts "Stratfor".

Their predictions are in agreement with the opinion of the leader of the Movement for Changes (Pokret za promjene – PzP), **Nebojša Medojević**, who claims that the high authorities in Montenegro do not truly wish to proceed with European integrations, in order to safeguard their own positions and interests.

"Montenegro is ruled by a small group of people who fear changes that will lead to EU accession... Their intention is to turn Montenegro into a country which geographically belongs to Europe, but preserves an off-shore status and serves for money laundering and offering refuge to outlaws" says the president of PzP.

On the other hand, deputy prime

minister for European integrations **Gordana Đurović** says that Montenegro has a clear European perspective, and points at the recently adopted National Plan for Integration into EU for 2008–2012. She emphasises that Montenegrin legislation, its institutions and procedures are being harmonised with EU rules and standards.

"This was all implemented with exceptional efficiency and expediency. European perspective for Montenegro is clear and we are planning to apply by the end of this year. This is in itself sufficient to discredit the claims of the esteemed Stratfor agency", says Đurović.

Đurović is Đukanović's vice-president. The latter, however, is also a follower of the neoliberal paradigm promoted by professor Veselin Vukotić, who has been at the helm of the Government's privatisation council. Vukotić is famous for the statements which compromising his publicly declared support for EU accession.

"Are 130 000 pages of EU laws to be adopted in the next few years a threat to economic freedoms? If we understand their application as administrative task – they certainly are! Institutions cannot be efficient unless they grow out of an environment of economic freedoms and continue functioning in an environment of economic freedom" Vukotić said a few months ago at an economics conference.

Professor Vukotić is a close associate of Đukanović. The two of them together founded the company "Univerzitas", owner of the University Lower Gorica which was established last year.

Deputy prime minister Đurović is, nevertheless, convinced that nobody in the government would advocate Montenegro's future as an off-shore zone.

"In the mid-90s Montenegro wanted to attract foreign investments by initiating an off-shore project, but it never took root and Montenegro gave up on it. Montenegro should not be looked upon as a future off-shore destination, but only as an EU destination".

AMBASSADOR OF BULGARIA SNEŽANA NAJĐENOVA

It is better to learn from others' mistakes

Bulgarian ambassador to Montenegro **Snežana Najdenova** recommended Montenegrin authorities to learn about fight against corruption, a phenomenon which only slows down European integrations, from others' mistakes.

"I suggest they should learn from others', not from their own mistakes, if they can. Unfortunately, we did not learn from others" said Najdenova in the interview for *European Pulse*.

● From the experience of your own country, what are the priority areas for Montenegro in fighting corruption – the Parliament, the judiciary, police, customs...?

There is a strong connection between corruption and the functioning of judiciary. Politicians in the parliament can only draw attention to certain problems, emphasise their existence, but the judiciary is there to find the best mechanisms to suppress corruption. This is, first of all, the question of the effectiveness of judiciary.

There is a strong connection between corruption and the functioning of judiciary. Politicians in the parliament can only draw attention to certain problems, emphasise their existence, but the judiciary is there to find the best mechanisms to suppress corruption

Bulgaria changed its constitution four times, and a great deal of these efforts was in order to establish an independent and efficient judicial authority.

● Was the Constitution changed only because of judiciary?

No, but it was a substantial part of reforms. The last amendment brought into existence a new institution – Inspectorate of the Judiciary Council.

Earlier we had a Judiciary Council which elected judges, guaranteeing that the judiciary was independent of the executive or legislative branch, but it turned out that the



judiciary became independent of the state itself, protected by the Council. This is why the last amendment created the Inspectorate to control Judiciary Council and all courts.

● Who elects the Inspectorate of the Judiciary Council?

Inspectorate appoints the mem-

bers of the Council according to the quotas which are allotted to the parliament and a few other institutions.

● What is your opinion of the precedent made by European Commission in suspending more than 500 million euros of aid from European funds because of corruption?

First of all, this is not a precedent. Bulgaria is not the first EU member to temporarily lose the access to, in this case, three pre-accession funds.

I see it as a warning from the European Commission to force us to establish effective mechanisms for exploiting European funds while guaranteeing that the money of EU taxpayers goes for the right purposes.

If you look at all new EU members, they all had to pass through a crisis in their second year of EU membership. When you achieve your goal, when you become EU members, it seems you also become more relaxed and we have seen that happen to some parts of our administration.

● Were you ever faced with the complaint that Bulgaria could join EU

IT IS GOOD THAT YOU CANNOT HIDE ANYTHING

● What is your overall impression of Montenegro?

I believe that we can call Montenegro a democratic state.

Its path to development and European integrations has been slightly delayed, but for understandable reasons.

Being a small country has advantages, but also disadvantages. The advantage is that you all know each other and cannot hide anything. The disadvantage is that everybody has a friend, a cousin, somebody to phone up and ask to "check it out please, speed up a little" etc. Bulgaria is not a big country either, but is certainly bigger than Montenegro.

Overall, I believe that Montenegro is a beautiful country and that its future lies in the EU and NATO alliance.

with a lower average wage than Montenegro, with so much corruption, while Brussels is constantly criticising Podgorica precisely for this reason?

Unfortunately, not only have I heard this complaint from ordinary citizens, but I also read statements by some of your politicians who like to discuss the standard of living in Bulgaria.

This is a rather frivolous approach to the matter. Montenegro has just begun its road to EU, while Bulgaria has passed the whole road. When you reach its end, you will know that the average wage is not the only criterion for EU membership.

Wages are important, of course, but if you compare the prices, they are also lower in Bulgaria than in Montenegro. Besides, the wages in the financial sector, construction, banking and other areas have also started to grow. Only in 2007 the average wage has jumped for 23%.

Bulgaria had 7% GDP growth last year, one of the highest in the EU. We also have the record amount of foreign investments.

Foreign investments do not flow to places where the corruption is so rampant as some of the media would speculate.

● **How important is the role of media and civil sector in the process of European integrations?**

Very important. I believe that the media and the civil sector are the allies of all democratic governments on their road to EU. They are sometimes a bit more critical, it is sometimes unpleasant to hear such criticism, but it is much better than if nobody was pointing out your mistakes and problems.

How would you comment such low support for NATO membership in the Montenegrin public?

When we first started talking about Bulgaria, a former member of

Media and the civil sector are the allies of all democratic governments on their road to EU

the Warsaw Pact, having to join the NATO alliance public support was about 10%. You are doing much better now.

The most important thing is your government's communication strategy. Montenegrin public must learn why NATO integration is important.

NATO membership would help Montenegro to join EU as soon as possible. Of course you can say that Cyprus or Malta joined EU without being NATO members, but their position was different. Unlike the other "new" EU members who first joined the NATO, Cyprus and Malta were never close to the former Soviet Union. NATO membership means that a country is stable, and investments immediately multiply.

NATO is, first of all, a political

alliance. All decisions are taken within the political structure on the diplomatic level. It is no wonder that the NATO Council is actually a council of member states' ambassadors, not of their generals or other officials.

This is not well explained to the people in Montenegro. I believe that the non-governmental sector, the media and the government itself should be more active in explaining to the people that Montenegrins will not have to be sent to Iraq or Afghanistan.

● **Should Montenegro, and when, recognise Kosovo's independence?**

Bulgaria recognised Kosovo's independence in a joint declaration with Croatia and Hungary.

We did it because we thought – it is better to have a bad solution than no solution at all.

I am glad that the Serbian government decided to send their ambassadors back to EU member states that recognised Kosovo. This means that the Serbian ambassador will also return to Sofia. I think it is positive that the new Serbian government is also cooperating with ICTY. If they continue with this policy, the

barriers to Serbian integration into EU will soon disappear. It makes us happy, for Serbia is our closest neighbour and if Serbia steps up the pace of EU association like Montenegro did this will also be good for the region and for Bulgaria.

It would be good if Kosovo was allowed to integrate into the region and into EU. Integration, not isolation of Kosovo is the right way to decrease tensions and resolve problems. The content of this issue is something else, however. For me, the problem is absolutely imagined, but see what an open question like that can do – it has halted Macedonia's progress towards the NATO, maybe even towards EU.

V. ŽUGIĆ

EUROPEAN COMMISSION WILL NOT BE THRILLED EITHER BY OPPOSITION
BOYCOTTING THE PARLIAMENT OR BY THE GOVERNMENT'S IRRESPONSIBLE
BEHAVIOUR

Together on the wrong path

European Co-
mission (EC)
will have a hard
time writing their
balanced Prog-
ress Report on
Montenegro for

by Danilo Mihajlović

2008, especially when it comes to the Parliament.

There are few reasons for the Brussels' representatives to praise Montenegrin legislators, but a whole mountain of problems for which to reproach them. In its yearly reports, European Commission deals with various institutions and is in a way a measure of progress of a country in the process of European integrations.

It seems that the Montenegrin parliamentarians, while bursting with talk of European integrations, had a rather unimpressive half year and severely slowed down Montenegro on its path to EU.

The "crown" of their gaffs was the



two-month long boycott of the Parliament by the opposition since the Radio Television Montenegro (RTCG) decided not to broadcast live sessions of the parliament and the arrogance of the ruling coalition who did not think twice about using their absence to discuss 35 draft laws in only 58 minutes.

No international organisation would support boycott of an institution, even if they admit that it is a legitimate form of political struggle. The opposition apparently forgot all the criticism it received in 2004 from international addresses for its eighteen month long boycott of the Parliament.

On the other hand, representatives of the ruling parties didn't bother too much with inviting their opposition colleagues to negotiate, but rather forgot about the essence and purpose of parliamentarianism, trying to scramble their work as soon as possible and go for vacations.

It is all the more problematic if we remember that the opposition's main accusation is that the prime minister, **Milo Đukanović**, controls the public service RTCG and that as soon as he



Marko Čanović

returned to the office he ordered it to shut down broadcasts from the Parliament. A good number of international organisations has also, directly or indirectly, noted in their reports on Montenegro that RTCG does not function independently from the ruling structures.

"EC will certainly carefully assess the present situation in its report" says for the European Pulse director of the Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT) **Marko Čanović** and warns that our legislators will have to face an enormous amount of work in the process of European integrations.

"There is no time to waste. MPs have to understand that they are all together in this and must work together to bring Montenegro closer to European standards. Using TV time to collect daily political scores ought to be a thing of the past, the Parliament should become more efficient and focused on adopting best laws, regardless whether they are proposed by the government, opposition, or the ruling parties' MPs, Čanović said.

BRUSSELS LIKES COOPERATION

The best illustration of the way Brussels views parliamentary activities is given by the last two Progress Reports for Montenegro.

The 2006 Report thus states that "among the most important issues is the lack of consensus between government and the opposition which undermines efficient functioning of the parliament".

"The most severe problems crop up around the adoption of certain "sensitive" laws", states the 2006 report.

Only a year later, the EC offered the following view:

"There was some improvement in the relations between the government and the opposition, which resulted in greater willingness to cooperate in important matters".

"The Parliament has continued its legislative work and adopted 55 laws, which is slightly more than last year. Many of these laws are of crucial importance for the fulfilment of Montenegro's commitments from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)".

He believes, however, that Montenegrin parliament possesses sufficient democratic capacity to resolve the current stand-off.

"And enough reasonable individuals to prevent the throwing of clips into the wheels of Montenegro on its road to Europe", adds Čanović, whose organisation has a long record of organising trainings for Montenegrin parliamentarians.

He says that boycotting Parliament is a legitimate form of political struggle, but that the opposition has not stopped to think about the results this form of "pressure" has yielded thus far.

"The citizens ought to be able to follow the work of the Parliament, but it is also not absolutely necessary to transmit every session live. In most countries the real part of the work takes place in parliamentary committees, and I don't see why the opposition MPs should block the entire parliament because their joint sessions are not broadcasted on TV. There are also other ways to inform the public about the functioning of the Parliament", Čanović explains.

Asked about the Brussels' reaction to the fact that the ruling coalition finished discussing 35 draft laws in 58 minutes, only to adopt them all in the next few hours, Čanović says that the role of the Parliament and of their discussions in the plenary sessions is to prepare the citizens for new rights and obligations ensuing from the new laws, which is impossible to do in such a short time.

"I believe that the very absence of the opposition gave MPs of the ruling party the freedom to adopt important laws, without even discussing them.



From the parliamentary session

This is certainly not in line with the spirit of parliamentarianism and all MPs should work together to resolve the current position", Čanović said.

Reminding that the opposition was forced to boycott the parliament, vice president of the Socialist People's Party **Vasilije Lalošević** believes it would be much better for Montenegro's relations with Brussels if the EC report could note that the parliamentary crisis has been resolved.

Political director of the Democratic Party of Socialists, **Predrag Sekulić** says, on the other hand, that "there is no crisis, and the Parliament is doing its work".

"The ruling coalition was willing to negotiate about the swift return of the opposition to the Parliament, but we cannot work against the law. I would like to remind that the current law on media was also supported by the opposition", says Sekulić for the European Pulse.

He categorically denied accusations that he and his colleagues have expressly completed discussion on 35 laws and explained that in European practice it is common that the bulk of the discussion takes place in the parliamentary committees, and only the final vote takes place in the plenary sessions.

"I can vouch that every single act was discussed in the committees for at least an hour. Plenary sessions are where the final vote takes place, and that should remain the practice even when the opposition returns", says the political director of DPS.

Director of the US National Democratic Institute (NDI) **Lisa McLain** agrees with Sekulić and says that plenary sessions should be short, but preceded by a detailed procedure in the committees.

However, 58 minutes is still too little for adequate discussion of 58 laws, she said.

Director of NDI, which has also been working on educating MPs for years, warns that, as far as the Montenegrin road to EU is concerned, for all this time the Government has been working without supervision.

"This is very serious, regardless of whether you belong to the ruling or opposition parties. All parties are in favour of European integrations, and the current situation in the Parliament is not good for European integrations. This problem can only be resolved if they accept to work as a team", McLain said.

MORE THAN EFFICIENT

If we disregard the details, such as the way in which the laws are adopted or dilemmas surrounding the extent to which they really comply with the relevant European directives (as in the case of the law on the Central Bank or law on telecommunications), European Commission can be very satisfied with efficiency of the Montenegrin Parliament.

In 2006 the parliament adopted 42 laws altogether, and in the following year 55. This year, however, the MPs of the ruling coalition have managed to adopt 35 laws in a single parliamentary session, all in the course of few hours.

Of Punks and Lipci

by Brano Mandić

Humans have, since they first stood on two legs and bent their first branch, tried to fashion the nature in their own image. The construction site in Lipci is just another effort to turn a piece of sea into land, to pave someone's hacienda and earn a feudal pension befitting those who toil for the nation. The fact that our cavemen has, ten thousand years ago, immediately do-dled a deer and a few ungulatae next to his first construction site is only there to support the thesis about the continuous efforts of the people from this area to design an environment which goes under the name of "Wild Beauty".

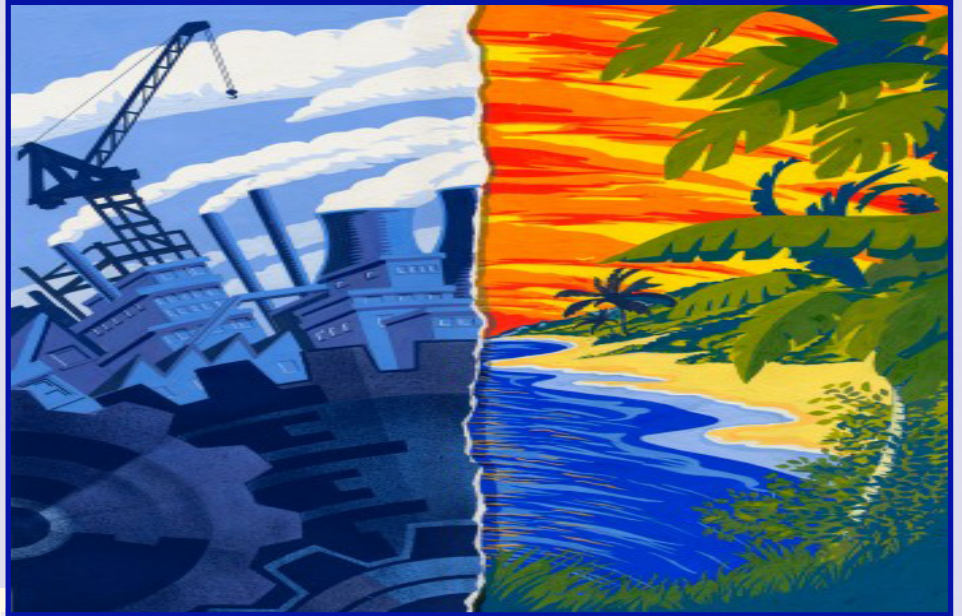
We should thus turn a benevolent eye to the pioneering efforts of the famous gang from Nikšić, "brothers Radulović" for friends or just "Radulovići" for journalists, like we were talking of a mambo band, fierce competition to Piva jazz and brothers Jovović.

True, the inspection has almost busted the "performance", and quite a bit of dust was stirred in and around Lipci, both literally and metaphorically. However, since the dust in Montenegro originates from heavy rock, we can also expect that, coming from the rocks extolled in our anthem, it also has a brutally short airborne life and will soon settle, attracted by the centrifugal force of concrete mixers under the very eyes of UNESCO.

Soon enough, just like in Zavala, the sea will turn clear and purple, and

Shame on the head of every traitor who dares to suggest that there could be touristic destinations more beautiful than the Montenegrin coast. Whoever dares to pull out of his dodgy backpack and put into circulation photographs of some island in the Pacific should bear in mind that only two years have passed since we won independence and that such actions can threaten the very concept of elite tourism, of even of the state itself!

all that remains will be the funny tale of brothers who once upon a time threw some unfortunate inspectors into the



waves, earning themselves a big smiley in the history of bullies and creative souls who should not be disturbed while they work for the benefit of the nation.

In the meantime, all TV stations from Podgorica flocked to Budva to take pictures of models and all who want to

Reno.

Us with cheaper tickets have remote controllers to stoke the channels and in the general profusion of nonsense finally find the one with the best shots of legs, buttocks and best party worthy of Richard's Head and the hotel appro-

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become models and their managers and all who really want to be managers too, sponsors, yachts, motor boats and the assorted appendices of a wet Mediterranean dream, fire eaters, fakirs sprawling on nails and urchins addicted to dicso biscuits, nostalgic dance stars of

priately named "Awesome".

There you can always find some French and Arabs falling into the aesthetic trance and trying to crawl out of it in front of our cameras with the Kantian mantra: one-hour-drive-from-your-gorgeous-sea-to-your-gorgeous-mountains.

Ideological use of natural beauties for the purposes of hypnosis is only one strand of the simulacrum we are supposed to swallow along with rising average wages. Shame on the head of every traitor who dares to suggest that there could be touristic destinations more beautiful than the Montenegrin coast. Whoever dares to pull out of his dodgy backpack and put into circulation photographs of some island in the Pacific

the nineties and all those who can be interviewed while Belgrade journalists on Jazz have their exclusive chat with Jean

should bear in mind that only two years have passed since we won independence and that such actions can threaten the very concept of elite tourism, of even of the state itself!

Awful!

First arrests in the case of Morinj. Old story. The prosecutor will try to prove that six "quiet neighbours" went wild on the prisoners of war. Montenegro is dealing with its past. This is also a chance for **Milo** to learn about the camp which, he says, he only heard about for the first time in 1997. He forgot about exploding burek-shops and the excrement smudged over the doors of the infidels when Ustašas threatened to sink Montenegro, about 200 people who died defending **Slobodan Milošević**, the obsolete politician. But who cares about yesterday's fads. On we go. We have evolved, worked it all out masterfully. We are the tiger of transition and we have deported a handful of Muslims into the hands of **Roćen's** buddy **Radovan** The Hague **Karadžić**. Let us not forget that their lives have also been built into our stylish cafes, future swimming pools of Podgorica which multiply at the speed which is sure to cause severe climate change, to stir up a monsoon and blow away the sweetest sip of espresso in Hercegovačka street... No reason to worry, it will not be a political tsunami brought by the Serbian People's Party. Only an idiot could oppose progress and swimming pools, but if the price of progress is to erase the key paragraph of our history (and we are not talking the battle of Fundina, Mr **Minister Vučinić**), than there is something rotten about this progress crying out to the heavens and to Brussels.

Ridiculous!

Serbian punk and writer **Marko Vidojković** speaks in his novel about two youths who screwed in the dome of the People's Parliament on 5 October and spread the seed of love in a secret corner of the law-makers' edifice burned down by the revolution. In Montenegro, **Amfilohije** says that the youths have sinned on the top of the mountain of Rumija, which is a reason enough for him to jump into a helicopter and elevate a tiny tin church to 1 700 meters



above the sea level of the holy mountain. As if that weren't enough, in front of the bishopric's seat in Bar they erected an even tinier model of it on a heap of rocks, which misshaped installation is to embody the visual identity of the said mountain.

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It remains unclear if this was a "lower monastery" for ants and tourists unwilling to endure four hours of forced marching along the route of St. Vladimir or a form of representative magic so loved by our priests so that everyone who brings a stone to the gas station (the bishopric is across the street) can congratulate himself and sing an Halleluia.

What I mean is: Serbia is ravaged by myths, but somehow it has more islands where a man can stop and rest from the Battle of Kosovo, like Vidojković's novel or the last Kojas' album. Here everything is half baked, tribal spirits chiselling the right form of protest. No excesses, no swearwords, or, as the young would say – no bullshit.

If you really cannot help it you can, for example, think of all the sexual mis-

deeds committed in the Parliament of Montenegro, all the sadistic outbursts, slobbering and repenting in those hateful corridors and halls of a building that was lucky never to burn down. It would be a beautiful flame, though, the insurance would pay for it and then we could build another one in Cetinje, which is only a fifteen minutes drive to Budva and in Budva one could scoop up a few under aged chicks and the party goes on.

What won't come to one's mind after two months' bickering over two armchairs in something with the name of National Council for European Integrations. To make it all more cheerful NGOs were there too, together and with an attitude, to debate who is more European, to toss out each others' dirty laundry which was all very lucky for the journalists' pack who were left jobless since both **Rajko Kovačević** and **Miško Vuković** were on holidays. Rajko was in Pljevlja. He is my favourite politicians because he likes to mow and can tell a good mower which is only an extra point for him. Wonder what this likeable

guy from Pljevlja was up to in the times of Bukovica and beautified **Čeko Dačević**. Probably studying, but for real, without student protests and all that Western rubbish to which Montenegro has been, Jesus be thanked, perfectly immune. Now this Mr Kovačević in his original party edition is sometimes more dear to me than urban representatives of the society of the civil, because Rajko would never calculate his love for the party like the young NGO elite calculates their rebelliousness. Rajko is a punk after all, even if only in his love for the leader. If nothing else, it is fun to listen to him, and who could ask more of a politician?

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

UNLIKE EU MEMBER STATES, MONTENEGRO CARES LITTLE ABOUT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

Sun and wind neglected

EVROPSKI REPORTER

Low utilisation of solar and wind energy, as well as of other alternative energy resources demonstrates the lack of interest in Montenegro for renewable energy production.

As a self-proclaimed ecological state Montenegro is obliged to protect its natural resources and the health of its people by redirecting energy production to alternative sources. The same has been suggested by the European Union (EU).

If we take into account the utilised hydropotential (including hydro power plants in Montenegro), the country is still above the required European standard for the share of renewable energy. In addition to that, the Montenegrin legislation considers "renewable" only the energy produced in micro hydro-plants (mHEs) with the capacity up to 10 megawatts (MW), whereas the European regulations allow for the inclusion of bigger plants.

Professor of the Electro-technological Faculty of the University of Montenegro Milutin Ostojić says that the state ought to take the necessary steps to oblige the investors in the construction sector, especially in the south of Montenegro to include collar thermal collectors

Electricity shortage is one of the biggest problems of Montenegro's energy sector. Consumption has increased dramatically, the annual deficit of 40% is covered by expensive imports, and in the last twenty years not a single bigger plant was built in Montenegro.

The deficit, which is only

expected to grow in the upcoming years because of the situation in the energy sector, can be somewhat decreased by fostering energy efficiency and using alternative, renewable energy sources.

European Parliament adopted a law on the increase in shares of renewable energy in overall consumption in the EU up to 20% by 2020. EU directive consists of three parts regarding biofuels, heating and cooling, and renewable energy. The current share of renewable energy in the overall EU consumption is 6%.

Montenegro is way above the European energy with 59% of primary energy products derived from renewable sources: 55% from hydro power and four from firewood. However, the existing potential of alternative resources is severely under-utilised, and the Ministry for Economic Development admits that it can be valorised with reasonable investments.

"The current level of utilisation of alternative energy resources in Montenegro is very low – around 0.3%. Renewable energy is produced in micro hydro plants and a tiny share of solar energy is being used to heat water", said the officials in the Ministry.

They add that the current situ-

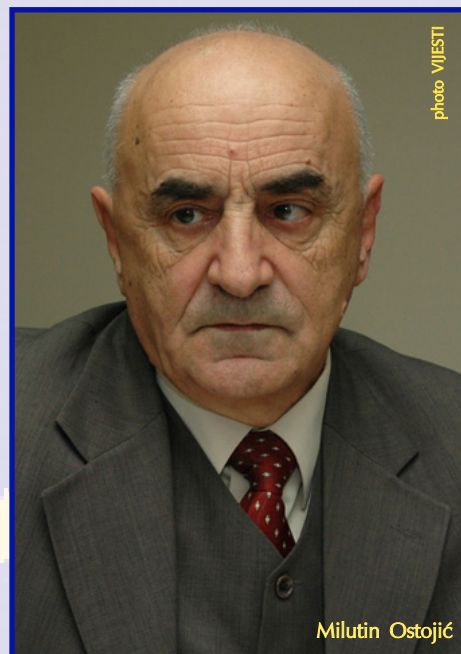


photo: VJESTI

Milutin Ostojić

ation in the Montenegrin energy sector already complies with the projected EU goal of 20% of renewable energy in the overall balance of energy consumption.

"The share of renewable energy sources in the overall primary consumption in Montenegro in 2006 was 24.9%, which is already more than the proclaimed EU goal for 2020", states the ministry.

Montenegro has the hydropotential which is among the highest in the world index of strategic priorities for utilisation, and is also economical and fits well with the ecological and social environment. Montenegro currently uses only 17% of its hydro potential, and is planning to build several small HES with the combined capacity of 80MW by 2025 – 20MW by 2010, 30MW by 2015, another 20MW by 2020 and 10MW more by 2025 – approximately 25 GWh per year.

The estimated amount of



investments is 120 million euros. In the planning documents so far the gross hydro-energy potential of smaller water currents is estimated to 800–1000 GWh, with the real utilisation capacity of small HEs around 400 GWh. Further research is necessary to provide more precise estimates of the real potential of micro HEs.

Solar energy is more than sufficient to satisfy all bigger energy requirements of the world. During only one year the solar energy reaching Earth is 10 000 the amount necessary to satisfy the needs of the entire population of our planet.

Professor of the Electro-technological Faculty of the University of Montenegro **Milutin Ostojić** says for the *European Pulse* that the Montenegrin energy strategy does not even mention estimates of substituting electricity with solar energy for heating purposes.

"The strategy does not include production of bio-gases, bio-fuels or the use of geothermal energy for the production of electricity or for the construction of thermal stations for central heating", Ostojić says.

He believes that the state ought

to take the necessary steps to oblige the investors in the construction sector, especially in the south of Montenegro to include collar thermal collectors.

"We should not forget the heating/cooling ground pumps and thermal air pumps. The third possibility is to use geothermal energy for the production of electricity in adequate power plants and to build thermal stations for central heating. Such power plants and thermal station have already been built in several European countries, and their experiences should be studies and

transformed into projects for domestic use", Ostojić said.

Montenegro is also planning to invest around 60 million euros in windmills over the next 70 years. Germany has the leading position in licences for the production of wind energy – 1/3 of the globally installed capacity of windmills. Spain, Denmark and Italy are also increasing their share of wind energy. Denmark still has a negligible share of wind energy in its overall consumption, but is stepping up the pace of windmill construction, hoping to boost the share of wind energy for household consumption to 50% by 2030.

Montenegro has a substantial wind energy potential in several locations along the Adriatic coast, in the region of the Rumija mountain between Bar and the Scuttari Lake, in the hills above Petrovac, mountains between Herzeg Novi and Orahovac, and in the continental region around Nikšić.

"Technical potential of the most attractive locations in Montenegro has been estimated to 100 MW. We need further research to identify micro-locations for the potential projects and a study for development of wind-power plants. With investments of around 1 000 euros per kilowatt and the projected util-

SOLAR POTENTIAL ON PAIR WITH GREECE AND ITALY

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"Solar energy potential of Montenegro is quite significant and can be compared to that of Greece or Italy. The coastal and central areas are most convenient for exploitation of solar energy because of the higher number of solar hours (2000–2500 annually). The key barrier to greater exploitation of photovoltage systems are the high costs of their installation – between 4000 and 6000 euros per kilowatt, while their transformation efficiency is rather low. However, bearing in mind current technological developments it is worth exploring this area in more detail, and the Ministry will conduct appropriate analyses and prepare an action plan" promises the Ministry of Economic Development.

isation ratio of 2 200 hours per year we expect to create a minimum of 60 MW", states the energy strategy.

The Government does not yet have precise data on the amount of biomass that would be available for energy purposes, and is planning to conduct further research in cooperation with local governments. According to some estimates, the technical potential can support three to five smaller power plants with respective capacity between 5 and 10 MW.

The strategy envisages construction of co-generational plants with overall capacity of 5 MW for 7.5 millions, and expects the project to attract attention of private investors.

Deputy director of the Montenegrin Energy Regulation Agency **Momir Škopelja** says that we urgently need a law on renewable energy to bring together all disparate regulations in this area and create optimal solutions.

"Montenegro's greatest potential certainly lies in constructing big HEs, but in our traditional (and legal) terminology these are not considered renewable energy. Among the sources which are recognised as renewable by law, the greatest attention in Montenegro has been given to micro hydro plants (mHEs)", said Škopelja for the *European Reporter*, adding that Montenegro has a huge potential in solar energy.

The reminds that, although the renewable energy is becoming cheaper, its prices are still significantly above those of traditional



sources, and such energy is sold everywhere in the world at special, higher prices.

"The recipe for successful exploitation of renewable energy should be copied from the European countries that are most successful in this area, while bearing in mind Montenegro's specificities", Škopelja said.

According to him, we should first make a reliable overview, and if possible a detailed register of all renewable energy sources in Montenegro. Škopelja emphasises that the current regulations regarding concessions and construction licences should be adjusted to the needs of these special objects.

"It is necessary to change the current regulation which sets the concession tax on water used in mHEs at minimum 2.5% of revenues from sold energy. Concession tax should by definition depend on the way the natural resource is

exploited, and be higher in the cases when a natural resource is depleted through consumption than in the case where there is practically no consumption, as in the case of mHEs – the water simply enters the pipelines, flows through the turbine and returns to its current. The tax for the small HEs and windmills should be set below 1%, Škopelja said, adding that the regulations ought to be simplified also with regard to granting concessions.

Škopelja advocates a system of granting concessions via authorisation acts, upon request of the future investor once a certain set of conditions has been fulfilled.

"The principle of granting the right to research of renewable sources with a bank guarantee should be by all means abolished, because it limits greater opportunities for exploitation. EU directives also require a certification system to guarantee the origin of renewable energy, which is another task for the Government. The purpose of this system is to guarantee that the energy was really produced from renewable sources, in order to avoid possible manipulations", Škopelja explained.

Ivana GUDOVIĆ

GERMANY BEST AT USING WIND

Germany has the leading position in licences for the production of wind energy – 1/3 of the globally installed capacity of windmills. Spain, Denmark and Italy are also increasing their share of wind energy. Denmark still has a negligible share of wind energy in its overall consumption, but is stepping up the pace of windmill construction, hoping to boost the share of wind energy for household consumption to 50% by 2030.

WHY DO I WANT TO BE A CITIZEN OF EUROPE?

We can win much more than we can lose



At first, it seems like an easy question, doesn't it? But the moment you ask yourself and wait for the



by Renata Branković

answer... first the waiting gets longer and then suddenly you think – what is there to explain. It should be so clear! But is it?

Another round of daily news, another newspaper, another article on European integrations... I cannot but feel a little uneasy about such news. Why? For months now, years even, we have been listening to various officials, presidents, ministers, port-paroles detailing the beauties and advantages of EU membership, benefits of being a part of Europe, but I wonder – it sounds too good to be true! And this is why I think the time has come to ask ourselves, not the officials, bosses, friends, cousins, why do we want to be citizens of Europe? Only if we have our own answer can we seriously take responsibility for our representatives' moves towards the chosen goal.

So to start from myself.

The contemporary world has indeed become a "global village". The time has erased former barriers, the humanity has become part of one system, we are becoming a part of something bigger than ourselves. But this is not the end. It is in the human nature to strive, and once the goal has been achieved, to endeavour new conquests. We are no different in that respect. The question "What do people want

with their lives?" has already been given a possible answer by Freud: "People want happiness, to become and remain happy".

If we accept that the life itself is often just an enormous inevitable game; the game of person and accident, victory and defeat, then we also have to accept that there are always two sides to the coin and proceed with this insight. We have been privileged by the fact that we can know and achieve an enviable state of development. Consequently, we should also be ready to take on ourselves a part of responsibility.

When speaking of great decisions, then, we must be far-sighted, clairvoyant even, in order to predict all possible consequences of our present actions. The truth is, however, that without risk there cannot be gain, and that the road to success is littered with failures. The errors of the past should teach us a lesson for the future, but few have learned to be cautious, patient and reasonable.

We should not just blend into the multitude, accept what the majority has accepted out of fear of being rejected. We should not accept others' slogans, goals and decisions if we cannot identify with them. And, most importantly, we must not allow others to decide instead of us, to answer our own questions.

To return to coins and their sides: if everything is double-edged, every man and woman must halt in a given moment to weigh the pros and cons, to reflect and only then to proceed. Even then, nobody can guarantee that we have taken the right decision, but at least we will know that we have not decided groundlessly, swayed by the desires of one or others. Let us hold

the rudder firmly in our hands... Let the reason defeat recklessness...

My conclusion, after having looked at the things from various angles, listened to the pro-Europeans and Eurosceptics and those still undecided, is that we can gain much more than we can lose by becoming citizens of Europe.

Considering the fact that ours is a turbulent past, that we have only recently acquired independence, a state, a coat of arms and an anthem, and that all these changes also bring responsibilities, we must choose what is best for us. The question comes down to the choice: to be isolated, self-centred, or to join Europe and try to forge in this new-old family a better future for ourselves and the coming generations?

I want more tolerance, more democracy, better living standards, less corruption, more efficiency, freedom to move and live in any country of Europe, opportunities to study abroad and to return to my own country and use what I have learned. I want to represent Montenegro and honour it by working in its name, for my family, my colleagues, my neighbours... I want to be a citizen of Europe because we must, and I believe we also should, prove to ourselves and to others what we can do if we only overcome our prejudices and divisions. Somehow, I believe we can do a lot!

So that would be my answer. And now your turn, and an only your answer: Why do YOU want to be citizens of Europe?

The author is Faculty of Political Sciences' student of the generation. She attended VI generation of European Integration School

Verdict backs married couples

Persons who do not live in the EU but are married to someone who does live in one of the member states must be able to acquire a permission of residence in their spouse's country, ruled recently the European Court of Justice.

The verdict is directed towards several countries in the EU which try to control the number of immigrants by withdrawing the right of residence for their spouses.

The ECJ ruled in favour of four citizens of African countries who had been refused residence permits although they are married to Irish citizens. Irish justice ministry based the decision of the Irish law, which allows residency to be grant-

ed only to those third-country nationals who have already lawfully resided in another EU country.

The court, however, said that the law contradicts EU directive on the free movement of people.

One of the four cases brought before the court was that of **Blaise Metock**, a citizen of Cameroon who came to Ireland in 2006 and married a woman of Cameroonian origin but with Irish residence and citizenship. Metock's asylum and residence application was refused, but the appeal went to the High Court which called on the European Court of Justice to decide on the case.

Danes and the Dutch most employed

According to the Eurostat, the highest employment rate in the EU last year was found in Denmark – 77.1%, followed by Netherlands (76%), Sweden (74.2%) and Austria (71.4%).

The lowest employment rates are those of Malta (55.7%), Poland (57%), Italy (58.7%) and Romania (58.8%).

On average, employment rate for citizens between 15 and 64 years old in the 27 EU countries last year was

65.4% or 218.5 million citizens. In comparison, the rate of employment for the same cohort in 2006 was 64.5%.

Denmark, Sweden and Netherlands are once again states with the highest rate of employment for women (73.2%, 71.8% and 69.6% respectively). The worst performers in this respect are Malta (36.9%), Italy (46.6%) and Greece (47.9%).

Brussels gives a green light to Porsche

European Commission granted permission to Porsche to acquire control of Volkswagen, the biggest European car producer.

"The merger is not against the regulations and will not impede effective competition within the European economic space", said the EC.



Porsche is the biggest shareholder of Volkswagen and last month it agreed with the Wolfsburg company to buy an additional package of shares bringing it another 4.92% of voting capital and thus de facto control over the firm.

Porsche will continue to manufacture its high quality SUVs and sports vehicles, while Volkswagen maintains its wide range of models, from passenger cars to commercial vehicles.

Only for the second quarter of this year Volkswagen posted a 35% increase in profits (1.64 billion euros). For the first six months of the year Volkswagen already sold 3.27 million vehicles, and for the first time more than half a million in China.

Spending wisely

Slovenia was one of the most successful EU members as regards the phasing of EU funds, said Slovenian Minister for Regional Development **Ivan Žagar**.

In the first two years of membership Slovenia drew some 95% of the funds available to it from the European Regional Development Fund, 93% of the funds available for fisheries and 89% of those available for agriculture.

The funds available from the address of the European Social Fund were made use of more poorly, the use rate only reaching 70%.



Sahara energy for EU

Massive solar power installations in the Sahara desert could feed the EU's growing energy demand via a new supergrid. The proposal has already been backed by France and UK.

The idea is based on the construction of a 45 billion euros high voltage direct current (DC) grid that could transfer electricity produced by Saharan and North African solar installations to consumers thousands of kilometres away.

EU is trying to create a new energy policy that would diminish Europe's dependence on imported fossil fuels and at the same time decrease CO² emissions from European industry, thus mitigating fears from climate change.

The new energy proposal already contains a provision that the share of energy from renewable source in total consumption should be increased to 20% by 2020 from the current 8%.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY A GROUP OF NGOS FINDS THAT THE VISA FACILITATION AGREEMENT FAILED TO DELIVER

Visa is still a problem

Most people in the five West Balkan countries see no difference before and after the implementation of visa facilitation agreement with European Union (EU). These are the preliminary conclusions of the hot-line service established in the framework of the project "Does it really matter? Visa facilitation in Western Balkans".

The project is implemented by the European Civic Action Service (ECAS) in cooperation with non-governmental organisations from the countries where the agreement has come into force: Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC), European Movement in Albania, NGO Vesta from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) from Montenegro and the Civic Pact for SEE from Serbia, with support of the King Boudain Foundation and Open Society Institute.

Visa facilitation agreement for the five West Balkan countries came into force on 1 January 2008 with the goal of simplifying application and granting procedures for Schengen visas for the purpose of travelling to EU.



The agreement envisages a decreased and uniform visa fee of 35 euros, additional exceptions from the fee for certain categories of applicants on personal or professional grounds, obligation to decide

Applying for a visa is a traumatic experience. Often you don't know until the last moment whether you can travel at all

on visa applications within 10 calendar days, and simplify the application process itself by decreasing the number of required documents.

All this was supposed to ensure

that travel to the 24 Schengen countries will be easier than before, including the possibility of receiving a multiple entry visa for shorter periods.

However, a series of interviews conducted with applicants in front of several embassies of the EU member states in May and early June 2008 proves that the opposite is true.

"Reports on progress in the Western Balkans have just been published, and the results are far from satisfying. There is quite a contrast between the 20 June declaration of the European Council that "the promotion of people-to-people contacts between Western Balkans and the EU is of utmost importance" and the developments on the ground. We cannot find a single positive response to the achievements of visa facilitation in

the region, except in theory", state the preliminary conclusions of the hot-line service which form the basis of the upcoming final report that will be presented to the interested parties in Brussels in September.

One of the key conclusions is that the citizens have not been adequately informed about the provisions of the visa facilitation agreement.

"Government's hotline service in Albania is discontinued. ECAS hotline can in itself help to some extent, as this country's progress report has attracted major attention.

YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS THERE

The preliminary report emphasises that applications can also be refused without justification.

"Hotline service indicates that certain groups are more likely to be refused: students, those who seek employment, truck drivers, artists or those who are employed on temporary or honorarium basis and non-accredited journalists. It is, however, less obvious why an elderly couple applying for a German visa was refused, with the explanation that "their trip was not urgent and they had no business in Germany". The couple was trying to pay a visit to their son, daughter and grandchildren", states the document.

It often turns out that it is enough to just direct the people who call to the right documents and application procedures. Progress reports are very critical of the governments' failures to inform their own citizens, but a share of blame for the lack of communication in this respect goes to the European Commission Delegations and the embassies of EU member states", states the preliminary report.

It is further noted that the 35 EUR visa tax can be easily multiplied by other expenses related to visa application procedures and the interview at the embassy.

"People often complain that they had to come two or three times in order to be admitted at the embassy only to find that travel agencies with numerous applications can easily get ahead of them by jumping the queue (e.g. the case of the Joint Application Centre in Montenegro)", states the report.

Some embassies, say authors, have tried to mediate this problem by scheduling appointments by phone, but the applicants complain that the phone is rarely answered,

The 10 days decision deadline is generally respected, but often one has to wait longer periods in order for his or her application to be admitted into procedure

or that they are put on hold for long periods, which can be very costly (the call cost is around 1 euro per minute, and the cost of a single call can easily come up to 20 euros), which makes the whole procedure a lot more expensive.

"In Macedonia, a truck driver paid the standard tax of 8.5 euros to a specialised agency working for the Italian embassy, only to find out that "successful application" requires additional charges. Such additional charges and side-payments must be investigated, eliminated or decreased", emphasises the research report.

Third major complaint is relat-

A FOOTBALL PLAYER WITHOUT A VISA

Occasionally applicants are not granted visas because they are unable to procure some additional documents (not stipulated in the visa facilitation agreement), such as special certificates from the host or home countries which were not required on earlier occasions.

There is evidence of the practice of national authorities adding different requirements and documents to the application list. It was found that every embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina has special additional rules and different conditions regarding the application procedure. In other words, even if the applicants satisfied all the basic requirements they were refused the visa without explanation and were thus discouraged from applying again.

A famous Albanian football player who did not get the Schengen visa said: "I never had such problems before, not even when the procedures were a lot more restrictive. It should be easier, not more difficult for a sportsman now to get a visa, if we are to call this a Visa facilitation agreement", states the document.

ed to the waiting period – the 10 days decision deadline is generally respected, but the procedure is often prolonged by the extended periods one has to wait in order for his application to be admitted into procedure – a problem which is not covered by the agreement.

"After you contacted them, it can take 2–3 months to be admitted for an interview at the embassy of Greece or Italy in Tirana". This is clearly an extreme case, but the report brings numerous examples

meeting took place. This additional waiting time must be avoided or decreased", warns the document.

Good administrative practices and a polite attitude towards applicants wouldn't hurt, add the authors, although they are aware that these issues have not been regulated by the visa facilitation agreement. They simply note that 29% of the citizens who contacted the hot-line service were dissatisfied with the way they began their travel to the Schengen countries – especially if it started in the embassies in Montenegro.

"Why did, for instance, an employee ask a renowned Albanian academic – "Are you going to sleep under a bridge?"

In the words of one applicant – applying for a visa is a traumatic experience. Often you don't know until the last moment whether you can travel at all. Is it necessary to explicitly incorporate into the visa regime a clause that enforces the respect for the EU convention on basic human rights, especially in the part which requires observance of good administration practices and respect for human dignity", asks the report in its preliminary conclusions.

V.Ž.

BRUSSELS TO STOP AIRLINES FROM 'CONNING' PASSENGERS

Without nasty surprises

New European rules governing air fare advertising will soon enable customers to see the real price they have to pay for flights, rather than get a nasty surprise once taxes, fees and additional charges are included.

The European Parliament approved the draft legislation in July after having reached a deal with the Council, paving the way for it to enter into force by the end of the year.

The text is aimed at airlines that try to lure in customers with sexy prices – sometimes as low as 1euro – while neglecting to mention that the client will in fact have to pay extra taxes, document fees or surcharges related to security or fuel – multiplying their bill.

The new legislation specifies that

The text is aimed at airlines that try to lure in customers with sexy prices – sometimes as low as 1euro – while neglecting to mention that the client will in fact have to pay extra taxes, document fees or surcharges related to security or fuel – multiplying their bill

all carriers will have to include such extra charges in the final fee they advertise, "including on the Internet", after a Commission review of the sector revealed that 137 out of 386 tested websites were "misleading". Surcharges relating to security will also have to be shown separately on the ticket or indicated to the passenger. And air carriers will have to ensure that they are used "exclusively to meet airport or onboard aircraft security costs".

However, the rule applies only to "unavoidable costs". Any "optional" price supplements – such as taking baggage on board, which is considered an "avoidable" cost by many low cost airlines – may still be left out of the advertised price. The text nevertheless requires that they be commu-



nicated in a "clear, transparent and unambiguous way at the start of any booking process and their acceptance by the consumer must be on an 'opt-in basis'".

"This transparency has to be a good thing, and I hope it will end what has been over recent years an exercise in deceit by some airlines which try to con the travelling public

into believing they are buying a very cheap ticket when the opposite is true," said British Socialist MEP **Brian Simpson**.

But low fares airline association ELFAA, which includes Ryanair, insists that its members "have the most transparent pricing policies". In turn, it blamed large flag carrier airlines for

Ryanair, Europe's largest low fares airline welcomed the European Parliament decision to bring other airlines into line with Ryanair's standards of fare transparency

"abusive" and "restrictive" practices, such as return pricing or minimum and Saturday-night-stay rules, for forcing up air fares for passengers.

"If the Parliament were really looking out for consumers, they would outlaw the unjustified fuel surcharges,"

says Ryanair Spokesperson **Stephen McNamara**.

Ryanair, Europe's largest low fares airline welcomed the European Parliament decision to bring other airlines into line with Ryanair's standards of fare transparency, adding that Ryanair fare-setting standards are already compliant with the new decision.

McNamara said that "there will be no changes to the

Ryanair website following this legislation as its advertising policy already complies with the regulations.

"Ryanair fare-setting policy is perfectly in line with the Parliament's decision, while guaranteeing its passengers the lowest fares with no fuel surcharges", McNamara said.

The rules are part of a package updating existing EU legislation on the operation of air transport services in the Community. Among others, the review also aims to establish a more level playing field for leasing aircraft, clarify administrative responsibility for revoking licences, ensure the proper application of employment laws to crews and enforce stricter controls on the financial situation of airlines to ensure that passengers' rights are safeguarded even on carriers facing bankruptcy.

But ELFAA says some of these changes, including stricter requirements for the leasing of aircraft and

references to social provisions, will "undermine the principles of the single market for air transport services" and impose "unnecessary complications" on operators.

V.Š.-V.Ž

EUROPEAN COMMISSION CUTS AID TO AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHERN FINLAND BECAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING

The troubles of a Finnish wine-maker and his neighbours

In spring and fall, when temperatures are erratic, **Fredrik Slotte** sprinkles his vineyard with water. The water freezes, encasing the vines in thin tubes of ice that protect them from temperatures far lower than freezing.

Is this Burgundy? Loire, Bordeaux? No, it is the Åland Islands, a cluster of wooded islands in the Baltic Sea between Finland and Sweden, roughly 1,600 kilometres northeast of Burgundy.

Slotte, a twenty six year-old physician, is one of a growing number of people in Finland and some neighbouring countries who, as global temperatures climb, are turning to winemaking. The grapes he plants are hardy, weather-resistant varieties, including a cross between a Latvian and a Siberian strain.

Within a couple of years, Slotte expects to produce about 110 bottles a year – hardly a threat to the French – including a frothy, pink blush sparkling wine, what the French call *vin gris*, and a robust white.

But a wine business must sell what it produces, which is where Slotte has run into a problem.

The Åland Islands, with a population of 27,000 Swedish speakers, are an autonomous region of Finland. And since Finland, which entered the European Union in 1995, is not considered a wine-growing country under European rules, Slotte may not sell his wine.

Neighbours didn't like the European Commission using Fredrik, who hopes to produce 110 bottles per year, to get rid of their subsidies

"I give it to my family and friends," he said.

The prohibition has to do with farm subsidies. When Finland entered the European Union, the country was divided into several zones. While farmers in northern Finland are entitled to large subsidies because of the severe weather conditions there, those in the milder south, including the Ålands, receive less. But the European Union contends that the southern Finland

subsidies are still too much, and it has been seeking for years to justify eliminating them.

That is where Slotte entered the picture.

No one really knows how the European Commission, the European Union's executive body, got wind of Slotte and his vineyard, although it could have been through an article about him three years ago in a local newspaper of the islands, which featured a photo of a smiling Slotte on its front page, happily clutching a bunch of grapes.

Then the Commission suddenly said: "You people are growing wine, just like in France. Why do you need subsidies?"

Being entangled in the wrangling over subsidies has taken its toll on Slotte and his neighbors.

"It was a tough time," said **Michaela Slotte**, whose husband is Slotte's older brother and also grows grapes. Most of the neighbours around their family farmstead receive subsidies.

"This is a small village. Neighbours didn't like Fredrik being used to get rid of their subsidies," she said.

In the meantime, Helsinki and Brussels have agreed on a formula to scale back the farm aid without changing Finland's status as a nonwine-growing country, and the tempest around Slotte's vineyard has subsided. "We used to be a fishing and farming people," said **Lampi**.

"But no more."

The Ålands, with their sandy inlets and green fields dotted with pastel-colored wood houses and barn-red outbuildings, seem to be doing just fine as the old pursuits like farming and fishing wither away.

Their economy is increasingly based on services linked to the ferry and shipping companies that use the Ålands' harbors to benefit from the islands' tax-free status – a perquisite, based on the Ålands' autonomy,



that was negotiated when Finland joined the EU.

Slotte insists he is not in the wine business for the money. "It's only a hobby," he said.

But some say he is too modest. His sparkling wine, while no Veuve Clicquot, is tasty, and would be welcome in the local restaurants.

Slotte also employs other tricks to protect his vines from the cold. His vineyard can survive temperatures as low as –22°C, which is not always necessary, as the winters have been increasingly mild.

After studying temperatures on the Ålands over the last 20 years, he found "a curve pointing upward".

"The climate is certainly more suitable climate for wine-growing than 20 years ago" he said.

So is global warming on Slotte's side? **Ingmar Eriksson** is not so sure. Eriksson, 70, makes apple wine, apple brandy and apple liqueur on his 25-acre farm. Apple wine is permitted under European Union rules, and Eriksson sells about 7,900 gallons of it a year.

Winters have been more erratic lately. This year, he said, it was warmer in January than in March.

"History teaches us that ice ages came and went," he said. "It's premature to say if it's global warming."

When asked whether the islands had a future as a wine-growing region, he replied: "No. Perhaps if you grew the grapes indoors."

He added, with a laugh, "It just shows how little they know about us in Brussels."

Taken from International Herald Tribune
John TAGLIABUE

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

Eurojargon

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

Strasbourg: Strasbourg is a French city located close to the border with Germany. The plenary sessions of the European Parliament are held here for one week every month. It is also home to the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe – which are not EU institutions. The term "Strasbourg" is sometimes used in the media to mean one or other of these bodies.

Subsidiarity: The "subsidiarity principle" means that EU decisions must be taken as closely as possible to the citizen, and that taking activities on the level of the Community ought to be reconsidered in the light of the opportunities existing on the national, regional and local level. In other words, the Union does not take action (except on matters for which it alone is responsible) unless EU action is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level.

Summit: Meetings of the European Council are sometimes referred to as European (or EU) 'summit' meetings, because they bring together the EU's heads of state or government. Some countries are represented by their Prime Minister, others by their President, some by both. It depends on their Constitution.

Supranational: This literally means 'at a level above national governments'. Many EU decisions are taken at 'supranational' level in the sense that they involve the EU institutions,



to which EU countries have delegated some decision-making powers. The term should not be confused with 'transnational'.

Third country: This phrase simply means a non-EU country, i.e. a country which is not member of the European Union. The relation between a member state of EU institutions and a third country means relation with a country outside of EU.

Transnational: This word is often used to describe cooperation between businesses or organisations based in more than one EU country. Part of the EU's purpose is to encourage this cross-border or 'transnational' cooperation.

Transparency: The term 'transparency' is often used to mean openness in the way the EU institutions work. The EU institutions are committed to greater openness. It is connected to various demands for broader access to information and EU documents, greater participation in the decision-making process and clearer and more readable documents (simplifying the Treaties, consolidation and better drafting of legal regulations).

NON – GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPEAN UNION



EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S NETWORK – EURONET

EURONET is a non-governmental network consisting of national and transnational organisations from across Europe who cooperate in order to promote children's rights, their protection and continuous improvement. The organisation is supported by a small Secretariat based in Brussels.

The organisation currently has 35 members from 24 European countries, who are all actively involved in advocating children's rights as laid down in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The goals set out by the UN Declaration on Children's Rights constitute the principles and objectives of EURONET's activities, and they are, in short:

- Ensure all children the right to live without experiencing prejudice, exclusion and discrimination.
- Ensure that the children's voice is heard within the European Union institutions.
- Ensure that the children are recognised as citizens of the EU; a statement of their fundamental rights should be included in the EU Treaties.
- Ensure that every EU Member State supports and promotes all children's rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Promote participatory and inclusive work with children

EURONET's publication "What About Us?: Children's Rights in the European Union" provides the most comprehensive and up to date information about children's rights issues in the European Union. Its analyses and information often serve as a reference for European Parliament MPs and NGO representatives active in the field of the protection of children's rights.

EURONET's activities are especially focused on the issues of violence toward children, sexual trafficking and discrimination towards vulnerable youth.

EURONET works toward implementing a coherent European policy toward children's rights based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. EURONET is also a member of the Platform of European Social NGOs.

For more information on EURONET, please visit www.europeanchildrensnetwork.org

Prepared by: Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ

CCE and Friedrich Ebert Foundation announce the call for participants in the XII generation of



DEMOCRACY SCHOOL



– School for the study of democracy from theory to practice –

The school consists of 5 modules each lasting four months. The lectures will take place once or twice a week for duration of two hours. All costs are covered by Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Centre for Civic Education, while the participants are obliged to attend at least 80% of the programme. The call is open for all candidates who wish to contribute to the development of democracy and civil society in Montenegro. All candidates are welcome regardless of their age, gender, nationality, religious or other beliefs, but the advantage will be given to political party and NGO activists and all those who demonstrate high levels of social activism. The leader of the school is Prof Dr Radovan Radonjić, who will be joined by renowned lecturers from country and abroad. All interested candidates should send their application with a short CV the latest by 17 September 2008 to:

Centre for Civic Education
(for "Democracy School")
Njegoševa 36, 1 floor, 81 000 Podgorica
Fax: 020 / 665 112; tel: 020 / 665 327
E-mail: cgo@cg.yu
www.cgo.cg.yu

YOU ARE YOUNG AND WOULD LIKE TO...

- ◆ Change something in your environment
- ◆ Learn about one of the most successful non-governmental organisations in Montenegro
 - ◆ Help us with your ideas and creativity
 - ◆ Experience the beauty of volunteer work
 - ◆ Develop your self-confidence and skills
- ◆ Get to know new people, new countries, different cultures
 - ◆ Learn about team work
- ◆ Work on projects that contribute to improve life of our community
 - ◆ Gather experience that will help you decide on your future profession

...and have plenty of time, motivation for work in a non-governmental organisation and desire to dedicate your energy to social activism, Centre for Civic Education invites you to become our volunteer.

Send your application to info@cgo-cce.org

Journey to Europe

For the second year in a row, European Movement in Montenegro has successfully realised the project "Journey to Europe", as a part of a larger regional project that is being organised also in Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania. The idea is to give an opportunity to young people, best students of the University of Montenegro who have never travelled abroad to get to know the countries of European Union.

After a public call and a series of interviews 25 best students were selected to embark on this journey. The conditions of acceptance were high GPA (above 8.5), good knowledge of foreign languages, and the advantage was given to those who have had little or no chance to travel outside of Montenegro.

The selected students received one-month Schengen visas, one-month Inter Rail tickets, Euro 26 and ISIC student cards and 200 euros of pocket money.

Their first destination was Berlin, where they met their colleagues from the region, visited Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Germany and were taken on a number of organised tours around the city. Montenegrin students could also visit the newly opened Embassy of Montenegro in Berlin where they were received by Ambassador Vladimir Radulović. Upon their return to Montenegro the students will work for one month as volunteers in a non-governmental organisation of their choice, in smaller or larger groups, and thus contribute to various activities of these organisations in Montenegro. The project was implemented in Montenegro with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Germany and German Embassy in Montenegro, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Open Society Institute – Regional Office in Montenegro and UK Embassy in Montenegro, which provided UK visas for the students who wished to visit this country during the trip. The project was also supported by the Montenegrin Agency for Broadcasting Services, Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises and Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Administration.

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:



I-MATH WINTER SCHOOL: DOCCOURSE COMBINATORICS AND GEOMETRY 2009 UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA, SPAIN

Scholarship / Financial aid: a limited number of grants available

Date: January to March, 2009

Deadline: October 19, 2008

Open to: young researchers

Announcement follows:

The DocCourse is an advanced training activity aimed at young researchers.

It spans three months with two main Intensive Courses and several Thematic Seminars. During the period of the program the participants will undertake a Research Project under the supervision of a local adviser.

The course aims at giving a broad and up-to-date panorama of contemporary research in Discrete and Computational Geometry, a very active field combining topics and tools from geometry, combinatorics, and computer science, and having fruitful connections to algebra, topology, algebraic geometry, probability, and analysis. The topics covered in the course include: convex polytopes, metric spaces, geometric probability, combinatorial geometry,

geometric algorithms, convex geometry, geometric graph theory, lattice points, and algebraic and topological methods.

Grants and financial support: The CRM offers a limited number of grants (covering registration, accommodation and a monthly stipend for living expenses) addressed to young researchers.

The deadline for application is October 19, 2008.

<http://www.eastchance.com/anunt.asp?q=304,eu,sch>

TRANSMEDIALE & CLUB TRANSMEDIALE 2009 BERLIN, GERMANY

Scholarship / Financial aid: prizes totaling ca. 10.000 EURO

Date: 27 January – 1 February 2009

Deadline: September 5th, 2008

Open to: artists that could be interested in this context

Announcement follows:

As leading international festivals for art and digital culture as well as adventurous music and related visual arts, respectively, transmediale and club transmediale are calling for submissions to the Transmediale Award competition and the Vil'Om Flusser Theory Award. Transmediale presents and pursues the advancement of artistic positions reflecting on the socio-cultural, political and economic impact of new technologies. It seeks out artistic practices that not only respond to scientific or technical developments, but that try to shape the way in which we think about and experience the technologies which impact virtually all aspects of our daily lives. As such, transmediale understands media technologies as cultural techniques that need to be embraced in order to comprehend, critique, and shape global societies.

Club transmediale (CTM) is a prominent international festival dedicated to contemporary electronic, digital and experimental music, as well as the diverse range of artistic activities in the context of sound and club culture. CTM presents projects that experiment with new aesthetic parameters and new forms of cooperation, develop possibilities for informational and economic self-determination, and reflect on the role of contemporary music against the backdrop of technological and social transformations.

Together, transmediale and club transmediale invite the submission of works and projects that respond to these challenges and embody contemporary notions of art that embrace, question and enrich digital culture. Submissions of art works for both festivals participate in the transmediale Award 2009 while theoretical abstracts, papers and critical artistic positions are invited for the Vil'om Flusser Theory Award, with prizes totaling ca. 10.000 EURO.

mations.

For the 2009 edition, the festivals have each set a specific thematic focus.

Transmediale.09 – DEEP NORTH peers beyond the evolving alarmist scenarios of catastrophe prevalent in the often contradictory global warming debate. transmediale.09 shifts this focus to the global artistic, cultural, societal and philosophical consequences that the presumed imminent collapse of the polar ice barrier may trigger. Are we about to reach another historically succinct moment of unavoidable and cataclysmic change – a point of no return leaving in its wake uncontrollable global transformations? Does climate change elicit cultural change, a shifting of extremes or a collapse in established, systemic and network norms? DEEP NORTH becomes not a fixed location, but a paradigm transforming loss, scarcity, inertia and rivalry into urgent and revealing states of being and expression.

With STRUCTURES – Backing-Up Independent Audio-Visual Cultures, club transmediale.09 presents projects that spring from the critical, interdisciplinary and experimental practice at the intersections of sound and other art forms. In recent years, a new breed of hybrid projects and initiatives that merges experimental audio and media cultures has developed in the convergence-zone between pop culture, science, arts and media technologies. This still remains primarily the domain of committed individuals and small, self-organised groups or networks that, often in the most precarious of circumstances, provide the supporting platform for these new artistic articulations and experiments. In its 10th year, CTM looks into the current state and potential development opportunities of these independent structures.

Together, transmediale and club transmediale invite the submission of works and projects that respond to these challenges and embody contemporary notions of art that embrace, question and enrich digital culture. Submissions of art works for both festivals participate in the transmediale Award 2009 while theoretical abstracts, papers and critical artistic positions are invited for the Vil'om Flusser Theory Award, with prizes totaling ca. 10.000 EURO.

<http://www.eastchance.com/anunt.asp?q=76,nfe,int>

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