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WORD ORDER

Are the winds that blow from Brussels to Podgorica about to change?

Is EU beginning to think that organized crime and corruption have become the biggest obstacles to European integration of Montenegro, replacing administrative capacities and the rule of law?

The dilemma was suggested by the "friendly warning" by the new Enlargement Commissioner **Stefan Fule** during his first visit to Podgorica.

When, six years ago, still as part of the State Union, Montenegro received its Feasibility study, the European Commission put a strong emphasis on the lack of fight against corruption and crime, nepotism, political influence on judiciary... All that accompanied by sharp attributes which, at the time when EU was not quite warmed up to the idea of Montenegrin independence, could have been considered pressure on the Montenegrin authorities.

Already in the first Progress Report the criticism began to pale, and the last two reports could even be taken as positive.

The same tendency was obvious in the statements by the Commission officials who in the last two years emphasized the lack of administrative capacities as the main problem in Montenegro, while corruption and crime usually came after the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression...

Fule, however, reversed the order of, as Eurospeak would have it, "Montenegro's challenges on the road to EU".

"Fight against corruption and organised crime, strengthening of the rule of law, improvement of administrative capacities are all necessary for your citizens. What is very important, especially in the issues such as the fight against organised crime and corruption, as was also emphasised by the Prime Minister (**Milo Đukanović**), is that all the requirements, in terms of the legal and institutional framework, are also fulfilled in practice", Fule said.

It is hardly by chance that the seasoned Czech diplomat decided to list the Montenegrin challenges in this particular order.

V.Ž.

Almost 700 new questions (1 March) – DG Enlargement sent a new set of 673 additional questions to the Ministry for European Integrations, to clarify the replies it received to the European Commission Questionnaire. The deadline to submit the answers is 12 April. European Integrations Minister **Gordana Đurović** said that EC requested so much additional information because the association process today is much more demanding than five or six years ago when Macedonia or Croatia received only about a hundred additional questions.

Expert for the "Šarić case" (3 March) – An EU expert visited Montenegro during the "Šarić case" and requested certain information from the authorities, which are to be evaluated further in the case, said the head of the EU Delegation in Montenegro **Leopold Maurer**, adding that the EC's opinion on Montenegro's candidacy, as well as the Progress Report will include an evaluation of this country's achievements in fighting organised crime.

Greece ratified SAA (4 March) – Greek Parliament ratified the Stabilisation and Association Agreement which Montenegro has signed with EU on 15 October 2007. Greece is the 26th EU member to ratify this document.

Đurović hiding replies, in spite of the ruling by Administrative Court (9 and 10 March)

– Montenegro's Administrative Court ruled that the Government cannot keep the answers to the EC Questionnaire secret. The charges were brought by the Association of Young Journalists, which requested the copies of the answers. The verdict states that the label of confidentiality on these documents is "abstract", given the nature of the information requested, as well as the fact that the document was already submitted to EC. Minister for European Integrations Gordana Đurović said she will appeal to all the legal instances before she discloses the replies to the public.

Fule: It gets more difficult (18 March)

– European Enlargement Commissioner **Stefan Fule** warned Montenegro that the upcoming phases of European integrations will be more demanding and present stiffer challenges than was the case so far. After a meeting with the Montenegrin officials in Podgorica, Fule said that further reforms are necessary in fighting corruption and organized crime, strengthening the rule of law and administrative capacities. Fule agreed with the Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović** that with regard to corruption and organised crime all the requirements set in the legal framework now ought to be implemented in practice.



Croatia gives the translations (20 March) – At the beginning of the conference dedicated to the Western Balkans in Brdo near Kranj, Slovenia, Croatian Prime Minister **Jadranka Kosor** gave the Croatian translations of European legislation to the Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Đukanović and the officials of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo. Kosor said that Croatia's decision to hand over 100 000 pages of translations, worth around 8 million euros, was a sign of friendship towards its neighbours.

SAA ratified by all (29 March) – Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that, according to the information supplied by the Montenegrin Mission to EU, the relevant unit of the Council of EU has received notifications by Belgium and Greece that the ratification procedure of the SAA with Montenegro has been completed. This means that the SAA has been finally ratified by all EU member states. "The SAA will come into force on 1 May 2010, and the Council for Stabilisation and Association is expected to be formed in June, on the margins of the EU ministerial council", states the announcement.

A VIEW FROM EU

The dangers of the Greek crisis for the Balkans



The countries of southeast-ern Europe cannot remain indifferent to the ongoing fiscal and debt crises in



by Jens Bastian

Greece due to the latter's track record of foreign investment, foreign policy focus in the region and growing trade volumes.

Neighbouring countries in southeast-ern Europe are anxiously trying to determine how they will be affected by the developments in Athens. In light of Greece's track record of foreign direct investment, its foreign policy focus on the region and growing trade volumes between the countries, neighbouring Serbia, Albania, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey cannot remain indifferent to the magnitude of the crisis next door. Nor can they cast a blind eye to the possible solutions being addressed in Athens or advocated in Brussels, Berlin and Washington.

Both Serbia and the EU member Romania currently have IMF-led stand-by agreements. These facilities have been in place since early 2009. In the case of Romania the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme is being supplemented by financial assistance from the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London and the World Bank. Turkey itself is presently in negotiations with the IMF about possible financial assistance.

Put otherwise, as the discussion and controversy over possible IMF support for Greece continues, some of its neighbours have extensive experience with the Washington-based institution. The same holds for Hungary and Latvia, equally two EU members with multi-year, IMF-led macroeconomic stabilisation programmes in operation.

What could be the short to medium-term repercussions of the Greek fis-

cal and public debt crises for its neighbours? Is the contagion risk-limited or imminent? Some spillover effects have already started to manifest themselves. As the value of Greek bonds falls, sovereign debt issuance and the risk premium investors demand to hold securities emitted by Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey have been adversely affected.

Moreover, the ripple effects of the Greek crisis are being felt in three other key areas, namely the impact on foreign trade volumes, the level of remittances being sent back home from Greece and the cost of lending by the local subsidiaries of Greek parent banks operating in the region.

As the 2009 reporting season for commercial banks illustrates, they are being confronted with mounting problems concerning non-performing loans in

From Tirana over Skopje to Belgrade and Ankara many politicians worry that the crisis in Greece could have an adverse effect on their perspectives for EU membership, or at least that Brussels could become even more cautious about enlargement and more rigorous regarding economic conditionalities of membership

Greece and in their main external markets, i.e. next door. They are increasing their provisioning levels, which will impact not only on their asset quality and profitability for 2010 but also influence their lending activities in Serbia, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia. A return to annual lending growth reaching 50%, as witnessed in the mid-2000s will not be repeated by Greek banks.

We also have to bear in mind that the recession-hit markets in southeast Europe still have a long way to go until they can legitimately claim to be on safer economic grounds. The secondary effects of the global economic and financial sector crises in the region are feeding through the real economies of these countries, e.g. in terms of declining consumer demand, indebtedness of private households and corporate entities as well as growing unemployment.

Under these difficult conditions, the economic crisis in Greece risks affecting the recovery potential of its neighbours.

Over the past decade foreign direct investment from Greece, rising trade volumes with each other and labour migration to Greece all contributed to assist the economic transition of its neighbours. This positive impact may be put on hold for some time to come.

However, possibly the most important issue on the minds of policymakers and central bank governors in neighbouring countries are the potential consequences for the most crucial political project in the region. There is a growing concern across capital cities from Tirana over Skopje to Belgrade and Ankara that the EU accession perspectives for countries in southeast Europe could be affected as a result of the EU becoming rather cautious about enlargement and more rigorous regarding economic conditionalities of membership.

It is in this area of foreign policy making that Greek leadership can be most influential in the coming months. Sending out clear signals of engagement with the region, sustaining these with practical efforts of support for its neighbours can underscore this agenda. The credibility which Greek governments and the private sector have established over time in the region as an investor, diplomatic force and gateway for goods, services and people is an impressive achievement.

It is therefore in their own self-interest to build on this political capital and continue identifying economic opportunities in the neighbouring countries. Despite the crisis and the challenges it poses, Greece should not become inward-looking, nor forget its next door neighbours in the region of southeast Europe.

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IN EXPECTATION OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING MONTENEGRO TO ADOPT A NEW LAW

Volunteers in between two fires

Montenegro should soon adopt a law regulating volunteering, ahead of 2011, the European Year of Volunteering.



by Vladan Žugić

However, unless they can strike the compromise, either the civil sector, which is the main promoter of volunteering or the Government will remain dissatisfied.

Two drafts of the law have made it into the parliamentary procedure – one by the Government and one by the non-governmental sector, submitted to the Parliament by six MPs of both Government and opposition – **Slaven Radunović** (New Serbian Democracy), **Snežana Jonica** (Socialist People's Party), **Aleksandar Bogdanović** (Democratic Party of Socialists), **Dužanka Tušup Džakula** (Movement for Changes), **Genc Nimanbegu** (Forca) and **Damir Šehović** (Social-Democratic Party of Montenegro).

The civil sector warned that the Government proposal was "rigid and prohibitive of volunteer work" and that it opened the possibility for many abuses.

On the other hand, the Government says that they could not support the official

proposal of the six MPs because it requires additional expenditures from the Budget for 2010, which is contrary to the executive's measures to contain public costs because of the crisis, but also because of its provisions for the so-called "corporate volunteering".

The Governments' version recently gained support of the Parliamentary Committee for Health, Labour and Social Services and was forwarded to the general assembly for consideration, while the other version, composed jointly by the members of all parliamentary groups and civil society representatives, did not receive the approval. In late 2009 the Government adopted the Strategy for Development of Volunteerism in Montenegro for 2010–2015 period, which sets the strategic goals for development of volunteerism in order to improve the current

situation and provide the necessary legislation for volunteering work within public institutions.

The Strategy was drafted in collaboration with the non-governmental sector, Employment Bureau, Directorate for Cadres, Institute for Public Health, Ombudsman for human rights and freedoms and other interested parties.

Executive director of the Association for Democratic Prosperity ZID **Igor Milošević** says in the interview for *European Pulse* that the Strategy is an excellent document which the Government should have just transposed into law.

The problem, he says, is with one of the sectors of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security which sees the question of volunteering as an issue concerning the

Two drafts of the law are currently in the parliamentary procedure – one by the Government and one by the non-governmental sector. The civil sector warned that the Government proposal was "rigid and prohibitive of volunteer work" and that it opened the possibility for many abuses. On the other hand, the Government says that they could not support the other proposal, officially submitted by six MPs, because it requires additional expenditures from the 2010 Budget, which is contrary to the executive's measures to contain public costs because of the crisis, but also because of its provisions for the so-called "corporate volunteering".

TOURISTS BEFORE VOLUNTEERS

According to Milošević, one of the problems with the Government's proposal is the requirement that foreign volunteers ought to get a residence permit, which is an additional complication for organisers of volunteer work.

"This puts the EU volunteers in Montenegro in a worse position than EU tourists, who can stay in Montenegro without a permit for up to three months", Milošević said.



photo: VIJESTI

Igor Milošević

FIVE PERCENT OF GDP FROM VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is not a part of the *acquis*, although the Treaty of Amsterdam recognised the Declaration 38 on volunteering services.

The document states that the European Community recognises the importance of volunteering services for social development, and encourages and supports a European dimension of volunteer organisations.

The 2005 Lisbon strategy identifies volunteer initiatives and corporate volunteering as one of the key factors of sustainable development in Europe which promotes innovation and competitiveness.

However, the EU also relies on volunteer work economically, as it constitutes 5% of GDP in its member states.

"That means that Montenegro, if it were to reach the same percentage, would have 150 million euros annually from volunteer work", says Milošević.

In its Proposal of the Law on Volunteer Work the Government cites the commitments from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

Labour Code

However, it is precisely the Government's proposal, which stipulates that a beneficiary of volunteer work can be both a legal and a physical person, that will create a loophole for illegal work.

Baby-sitters and other individuals providing personal care services could thus be easily employed by physical persons as volunteers.

However, head of the labour department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security **Anka Stojković** rejects this possibility.

"The Labour Code defines the procedure for concluding a labour contract for personal and household services and the ministry monitors the implementation of this law through Labour Inspectorate. This means that there can be no loophole that would allow for a rise in illegal employment based on the provision that a physical person can be a beneficiary of volunteering services", says Stojković for the *European Pulse*.

She says that the Government could not endorse the proposal of the six MPs as it requires additional expenditures from the 2010 Budget of the Republic of Montenegro, and also because it introduces "corporate volunteering", which "could lead to abuse by employers (as in transferring employees without their permission)".

The proposal submitted by the non-governmental sector envisages that "volunteers supported by the employer (i.e. corporate volunteers) are employed and stimulated by the employer to put their skills and knowledge during the work time to development of the community, by performing

volunteer activities".

"Corporate volunteers are assigned to volunteer activities through organisations of volunteer work, based on an agreement signed between the organisers of volunteer work with the employer. The time a corporate volunteer spends on such activities is regulated by the contract from the point 2 of this Article, and cannot exceed 16 hours per month. Per diem expenditures and other costs incurred by corporate volunteers during these activities are the responsibility of the employer", states the proposal of the non-governmental sector.

Stojković explains that the proposal,



Anka Stojković

submitted by the 6 MPs, stipulates that the employer concludes a contract about volunteering activities with the organiser of volunteer work, without the agreement of volunteers, which is contrary to the Labour Code. The Labour Code states that the employee concludes a labour contract which sets clearly the place of work and type of activities in accordance with employee's qualifications, in exchange for adequate salary.

"According to both proposals volunteering is conceived of as voluntary and for-free, whereby the contract on volunteer work is concluded between the volunteer and organiser of volunteer work, and not between the volunteer and employer. In that sense, corporate volunteering is contrary not only to the Labour Code but also the very

EU RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2009, the Educational, Audio-visual and Cultural Executive Agency (EAC-*EA*) of the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission (DG EAC) published a report on "Volunteering in European Union". In addition to a detailed overview of this issue in EU, including the legal framework and existing practices, as well as statistical data, country reports and other findings, the report also offers a series of recommendations to organisers of volunteer work, to the member states and to EU itself.

The organisers are advised to work on improving the management of volunteer resources, and are encouraged to use the advantages of accreditation and to provide training for volunteers, enhancing the transparency of the volunteer work and coordinating activities.

The member states are recommended to adopt and improve the legal framework in order to promote volunteering among different social groups, raise the level of social recognition of volunteering, develop adequate procedures in the field of volunteer work, as well as knowledge about volunteering and the related databases, to establish the necessary infrastructure to support the development of volunteering, and assist corporate volunteering.

KRIVOKAPIĆ TO WITHDRAW GOVERNMENTS' PROPOSAL

A group of non-governmental organisations asked the President of the Parliament of Montenegro **Ranko Krivokapić** to withdraw from the procedure Government's proposal for the law on volunteer work, which is to be presented as the preferred option at April 7 general assembly.

The adoption of the Ministry's proposal, states the letter addressed to Krivokapić, would have long-lasting consequences for the society in general – it would negatively impact the promotion and development of volunteering in Montenegro, the status of workers and the spread of the "black" labour market, as well as the development of international cooperation and European integrations.

"At first, there was the hope that the two proposals might be reconciled, but it turned out that the proposal of the Ministry of Labour and Social Services unfortunately deals with this issue entirely from the standpoint of the Labour Code. This will not create an environment conducive to volunteering, just the opposite", says the letter.

It adds that the Law on Volunteer Work is not in line with the Strategy for development of volunteering in Montenegro, or with the Strategy of Inclusive Education which envisages volunteering on the local and institutional levels and development of classroom assistance programmes.

"The proposal imposes the duty of signing a contract for volunteer work for all volunteering activities – even if they take altogether an hour, or are ad-hoc activities such as volunteer assistance in emergency situations: floods, fires etc. which are the foundation of the principle of civil protection of the country – which undermines timely implementation of activities and citizens' motivation to be actively engaged", warn the non-governmental organisations.

NGOs claim that the Ministry's proposal is contrary to the Strategy for Cooperation with NGOs, Strategy for development of social protection of the elderly, Strategy for integration of persons with disabilities, because it almost excludes the possibility of personal assistance and threatens the freedom of association of persons with disabilities.

"It is also against the National Plan for Youth Action (it forbids volunteering of persons younger than 15 – while the Universal declaration on volunteering supports the right of every woman, man, and child to free association and volunteering). Implementation of this Law would make the engagement of children by, for instance, greens in planting trees or cleaning up of school yards – illegal", explain NGOs.

On the other hand, the NGOs argue that their own proposal for the Law on Volunteering is entirely in accordance with the needs of the Montenegrin society, as well as with international standards and recommendations set in the EU Study on Volunteering (February 2010 – Directorate General for Education and Culture – DG EAC), which all emphasise the need for the legal framework to facilitate, instead of controlling and discouraging volunteering.

proposal of the law on volunteering", Stojković said.

Milošević denies that the proposal supported by his organisation envisages any expenditures from the 2010 Budget, and explains that all expenditures are expected from 2011.

"Volunteer work is a resource for the country. But that means that there needs to be some investment in it, it can't just happen on its own. According to the experi-

ences so far, the ratio between investments in volunteer work and returns on it are 1:3", Milošević explains.

He reminds that corporate volunteering is a practice everywhere in the world.

"Why wouldn't a person leave his company to give a talk about his profession in a school? This is not a "transfer" to another company and there is no possibility for abuse by the employer", Milošević said.

He claims that the Governments' pro-

posal undermines the principle of volunteer work among other things, because it stipulates that "a volunteer can be...a person capable of work".

"This means a doctor's certificate of work ability, which costs 40 euros, and for minors a permission from a parent or a guardian. Further, the organiser of volunteer work should insure the volunteers against injury at work, and submit all contracts to the Employment Bureau within three to five days. Such provisions simply eliminate all desire to engage in volunteer work", warns Milošević.

Stojković disagrees.

Although the proposal by the non-governmental sector, which *European Pulse* had a chance to look at, was titled "Proposal for the Law on Volunteer Work", Stojković says that it was submitted to the Parliament as the Proposal for the Law on Volunteering by the MPs.

"Article 8 of the Government's proposal states: "a volunteer can be a national or a foreigner who is: capable of work, or a person with a disability but capable of performing certain activities as volunteer work. Abuse of volunteer work for the purpose of acquiring or increasing profit is strictly forbidden".

Bearing in mind that volunteer work is not the same as volunteering in a broader sense, and that the government's proposal contains a provision which states that organiser of volunteering work is obliged to insure the volunteers against injury or work-related disability during volunteer work, and that it prescribes special protection for minors, in line with the laws on safety at work, it is clear that a volunteer must be capable of performing certain volunteering activities, which also includes persons with disabilities", Stojković explains.

Milošević says that the biggest paradox of the Government's proposal is that it forbids organisers of volunteers to employ volunteers in an activity which is in their domain of work:

"An ecological organisation is thus forbidden to employ volunteers in a cleaning campaign, because this is their domain of activity!?".

Milošević says that their version of the law incorporates models from the relevant documents of the United Nations, Council of Europe, and the principles set by the most important, fundamental documents in this area, as well as the needs of Montenegro.

In any case, Montenegro will soon get a law on volunteering. Regardless of the law, it remains to be seen to what extent are our citizens ready to volunteer.

WHY ARE MONTENEGRIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SO NERVOUS

Diagnosis in the replies



The Government got nervous! The impression is partly generated by the Prime Minister, who opened up



by Neđeljko Rudović

the fronts towards Serbia and Croatia under the heading of "organised crime", but the sense that something is severely amiss is being fed most of all by – surprisingly – **Gordana Đurović**, Minister for European Integrations.

Prime Minister **Đukanović** is accusing Serbia of undermining the foundations of Montenegro's independence by its insinuations that Montenegro is not doing enough to fight organised crime, and has lashed out against Croatia of supporting and allowing **Ratko Knežević** to slander certain individuals in the Montenegrin government. In the meantime, Minister Đurović has staunchly refused to publish a word of what the Government replied to the European Commission's Questionnaire. In spite of the verdict of the Administrative Court which ruled that the answers mustn't remain secret, in spite of the established practice in Croatia and Macedonia to publish the Government's view on situation in all sectors at the same time as it is being made available to the Commission's officials in Brussels, and in spite of the Government's proclaimed dedication to European values. For one of these values is transparency of governing institutions, which have the duty to account to the public for their deeds.

The Government and Minister Đurović found a procedural loophole: they will answer the ruling of the Administrative Court by issuing a new decree which requires that the replies remain secret until the completion of the communication process with the

Commission in expectation of its opinion on Montenegro's status as candidate for EU membership. The new decree will supply a more detailed justification of the decision which, Đurović believes, will incorporate the objections of the Administrative Court. The court ruled, among other that the Government did not supply adequate justification for its decision.

Formalities aside, the real question here is why the Government is so eager to hide the data and assessment of the situation it already submitted to Brussels? Is it perhaps afraid that the public might find the data incomplete and misleading, or perhaps even false? Will it turn out in the end that the Government tried to cheat on Brussels? Such suspicions might indeed be well founded, because in its draft replies to the question on the freedom of the media the Government forgot to mention the latest draconic rulings against independent media.

Equally puzzling is the Minister's explanation of why she thinks the public should remain in ignorance: "Nobody can convince me that this (publishing the replies) will be handled in a well-intended manner by anyone in our otherwise contaminated and politicised public arena. I don't mean the consequences for the Government's reputation, that is cer-

journalists", as some Government members would describe the representatives of independent media?

Nor is Brussels that naive, as can be seen by the fact that it sent another 670 questions, which is an unusual record, since Croatia, for instance, only received about a hundred. The head of the EU Delegation **Leopold Maurer** gave a roundabout explanation of the purpose of these additional questions: "Not all experts know about Montenegro and its laws. They have to have a precise picture of the situation here, and that's why they need additional questions... My colleagues, who are in charge of the these issues, mainly the rule of law, looked at the replies to the questionnaire and in this process it's normal to ask further questions in order to understand the replies and know more about Montenegro".

And while the Government is afraid of the public judgement of its honesty, and Brussels is mulling over its own opinion on the matter, another opinion on the situation in Montenegro recently arrived from USA. The latest report on the state of human rights in the world in 2009, presented in Washington by the Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, finds that Montenegro is characterised by "inef-

The real question is why is the Government so eager to hide the data and assessment of the situation it already submitted to Brussels? Is it perhaps afraid that the public might find the data incomplete and misleading, or perhaps even false? Will it turn out in the end that the Government tried to cheat on Brussels?

tainly not a measure of public interest, but the confusion it will create among the ordinary citizens and with EC, which is a partner in this process".

Now this sounds like the critically oriented media will rip the replies apart and do everything to draw public attention only to the most negative aspects. But why would the media do this unless the Government again tried to sell us a rosy picture of our reality? Couldn't the Government simply publish the answers on its website, to shut up the "malicious

ficient judiciary and political pressures on this branch of government, bad conditions in prisons, unjustified arrests, mistreatment of detainees by the police and tolerance of such cases...".

Among other problems the State Department notes physical attacks on journalists, excessive fines in libel cases against media, refusal to provide access to public information, discrimination against women, trafficking in human beings and discrimination against ethnic minorities, especially Roma...

PROGRAMME EDITOR OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION, TEA GORJANC PRELEVIĆ

Montenegro allows mistreatment in prisons

Recently published report on Montenegro by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) of the Council of Europe (CoE) will be the key to European Commission's assessment of the fulfilment of membership conditions regarding respect of human rights, and will determine the country's chances to become a membership candidate, since these standards are common to both CoE and EU, says programme editor of the Human Rights Action, **Tea Gorjanc Prelević** in the interview for *European Pulse*.

● Which findings of this report on Montenegro are the most striking and merit the most attention?

The most striking is certainly the finding of the Committee that in Komanski Most they encountered "appalling" conditions of the people and children with special needs and their description of the situation, as well as the fact that the authorities did not act immediately after the report to depose the management which allowed it.

It is also very worrying that the experts found baseball bats and similar torture equipment in some police stations

All the responsible civil servants should be warned against every possible action that can be considered torture or inhumane or degrading treatment towards other people or children. In addition to this, however, they should also know how to deal with violent inmates in order to overcome their resistance, without crossing the line of physically punishing them for it, which is prohibited by all the relevant documents of the United Nations, and even more so by those of EU and CoE

and concluded that even in 2008 there was a substantial risk of torture in police detention in Montenegro.

It is equally striking that the state did not at all bother to respond to the findings of the CoE Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and did not initiate



Tea Gorjanc Prelević

adequate investigation in the cases of beatings of detainees in the ZIKS Spuž on 1 September 2005, following the murder of the head of the Police force Šćekić, nor did it act to investigate the charges of torture subsequently filed by the persons accused of terrorism (action "Eagle's Flight"), although the Committee expected

The most serious cause for concern, perhaps, is the Committee's observation that Montenegrin prosecutors and investigators demonstrate an inadmissible level of tolerance towards obvious indicators of mistreatment. For instance, in the case when a victim does not report mistreatment, probably out of fear of the possible consequences, but bears obvious injuries which could potentially be a consequence of mistreatment by the police while in detention, the investigator and the prosecutor are obliged to show maximum interest in the cause of these injuries. The report suggests that in this sense there is an urgent need to train all state prosecutors and eliminate the practice in which a prosecutor or a judge can simply choose not to investigate such cases.

● What should be done to reduce the chances of human rights' violation and torture in Montenegrin jails?

If we really want to prevent torture, it is necessary to first get an honest picture of the situation and institutions and

them to do so.

This gives the impression that in Montenegro such things can go unpunished, which is of course against all international standards which require impartial and effective investigation of every report on torture.

of the causes of this problem. Some of them are listed in this Report, such as the lack of training and understaffed administration and other closed institutions.

Training alone will require a lot of work. For instance, all the relevant public servants should be warned against all possible actions which can be considered torture or inhumane or degrading treatment towards other people or children. In addition to this however, they should also know how to deal with violent inmates in order to overcome their resistance, when necessary, without crossing the line of physically punishing them for it, which is prohibited by all the relevant documents of the United Nations, and even more so by those of EU and CoE.

● **Do you think that adoption of new laws or control mechanisms would be necessary?**

Some amendments to the current legal framework are necessary, along the lines suggested by the Committee for the Prevention of torture, i.e. detailing the right of every individual to have his or her family informed immediately after having been detained, and to have immediate access to a lawyer and a doctor. The same was demanded by the Human Rights Action in the process of drafting the Law on Criminal Procedure, but the Government insisted that immediate access to the lawyer was self-evident and need not be put into the law.

In Montenegro, investigations and criminal proceedings against civil servants guilty of mistreatment are infinitely delayed, obviously in order to exceed the statute of limitations. If nobody is ever punished, that only reinforces future violations of human rights, instead of eliminating them

Unfortunately, as the CPT has found, in practice even the existing framework regulations were not "self-evident", so more precise wording of the rules could do no harm.

Negative reports by the Committee every four years show that a regular, continuous monitoring of implementation of their recommendations in Montenegro will be necessary.

● **Can the civil sector help in this, and how?**

According to our sources, the detainees do not have enough information on their rights and duties, especially with regard to the right to appeal.

Many of them are mistrustful of the police administration, they suspect that

their letters are being read and that they will suffer even more if they report mistreatment. This is typical of transition societies, which is why the countries that wished to improve trust in their institutions allowed non-governmental organisations to make occasional unannounced visits to prisons and to talk to randomly selected inmates about the treatment they receive.

● **What can be gained by that?**

In this way we establish a long-term process of overcoming mistrust both of the detained persons towards the administration as well as that of the public towards the respect for human rights in Montenegrin prisons.

Many inmates are mistrustful of the police administration, they suspect that their letters are being read and that they will suffer even more if they report mistreatment. This is typical of transition societies, which is why the countries that wished to improve trust in their institutions allowed non-governmental organisations to make occasional unannounced visits to prisons and to talk to randomly selected inmates about their treatment

Some non-governmental organisations already offer legal help free of charge in the mistreatment cases, which is certainly useful. Every case of mistreatment which is processed and punished is a sort of warning to potential perpetrators in the future. However, in Montenegro investigations and criminal proceedings

against civil servants guilty of mistreatment are infinitely delayed, with an obvious intention to reach the statute of limitations. If nobody is ever punished, that only reinforces future violations of human rights, instead of eliminating them.

● **You recently met with the European Commission experts. What are the European standards Montenegro should meet in this area?**

The international standards begin with UN agreements and other documents, Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights, detailed standards on living conditions in prisons and other closed institutions adopted by the CPT as well as those contained in the rulings of the European Court of Human

Rights. These standards are common to European Union and Council of Europe. This is why the recent Report on Montenegro of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture will be of key importance for the European Commission's opinion on Montenegro's candidacy for EU membership with regard to fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria concerning human rights.

● **What are the main EU documents in this area? What are their main requirements?**

In addition to the above mentioned European standards, there is also the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

or Punishment from 1984, which was established by the UN and also prohibits torture and similar mistreatments. It established the Committee Against Torture, which acts upon charges against individual countries.

CAT was the most important body in this field before Montenegro became a member of the Council of Europe and recognised the authority of the European Court of Human Rights, as it was the only international authority available to people whose right to protection against torture was violated by the state of Montenegro. In the famous case from Danilovgrad (Hajrizi Džemail et al. vs. FRY) CAT found that FRY, i.e. Montenegro was guilty of not preventing and punishing the burning of the Roma village in Danilovgrad and it ruled that the state should compensate the victims, which was done later, and punish the responsible individuals, which never happened – the case exceeded the statute of limitations and no one was ever found responsible for it.

However, allowing a case to exceed the statute of limitations is also punishable by law and the responsible individuals should be tried, but no authority in Montenegro could ever be bothered about that.

V. ŽUGIĆ

THE RELIGION WHICH FOR CENTURIES GUIDED THE THOUGHTS AND DEEDS OF EUROPEANS

Christianity - a founding pillar of Europe



The ideals guiding Europe today are mostly based on the principles of democracy and respect for human rights, but



by Miloš Vukanović

their roots stem from the era of the enlightenment, bourgeois and industrial revolution.

We cannot say that similar ideals were not present in the times before this, however. But they paled in comparison with the power and influence of another current of spiritual and philosophical thinking which shaped, as in some ways it still does, the deeds and thoughts of Europeans for almost a thousand years. It was Christianity and the "voice" of the Church as its institutionalised form which for the long time exercised a profound influence on almost every aspect of the lives of the people of the old continent.

Christianity began as a Jewish sect in Eastern Mediterranean around the middle of the 1st century AD, although many of the principles contained in the New Testament could be found in the writings of the Essenes, a religious group active in Palestine a century earlier. Its earliest development took place

under the leadership of the Twelve Apostles, particularly **Saint Peter** and **Apostle Paul**. From the beginning, Christians were subject to persecution by the Jewish religious leaders, who disagreed with the apostles' teachings, which often lead to punishment, including death, of early Christians.

Larger-scale persecutions followed at the hands of the authorities of the Roman Empire, first in the year 64, when Emperor **Nero** blamed them for a massive outburst of fire in Rome. According to Church tradition, it was under Nero's persecution that early Church leaders Peter and Paul of Tarsus were each martyred in Rome, although the discipline of history has some doubts as to the veracity of this chain of events. Further

In Europe, Christianity exercised a powerful influence on cultural, moral and political developments of the states on the old continent

widespread persecutions occurred during the rule of **Decius** and **Diocletian**.

Imperial persecution ceased in the 4th century, when **Constantine I** issued the Edict of Milan in 313 and on 27 February 380 Emperor **Theodosius I** enacted a law establishing Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine also adopted the principles of the

First Council of Nicaea in 325, which sought to address the Arian heresy (which rejected the divine nature of Jesus) and formulated the Nicene Creed, which is still used

by the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodoxy, Anglican and Protestant churches.

With the decline and fall of the Roman Empire in the west, the papacy became a political player, first visible in **Pope Leo's** diplomatic dealings with Huns and Vandals. The church also entered a period of missionary activity and expansion among the various tribes. Around 500, **St. Benedict** established the so-called Monastic Rule. Monasteries contributed to the rise of many early centres of learning, and especially of the Carolingian Renaissance. From the 7th century onwards, Islam conquered many "Christian lands" of the Middle East, North Africa and Spain, resulting in a retreat of Christianity from these areas and in numer-

ous military efforts including Crusades, the Spanish Reconquista and wars against the Ottomans. The Middle Ages brought about major changes within the church, giving rise to a specific structure and administration, especially under Pope Gregory I. In the 8th century, iconoclasm became a highly disputed issue in Byzantium, until the Second Ecumenical Council, which ruled in favour of icons. Also in the west, from the 11th century onward, older cathedral schools developed into universities in Paris, Oxford, Bologna. While originally they only taught theology, they increasingly added subjects such as medicine, philosophy and law, becoming the direct ancestors of modern western institutions of learning. At the same time, the Church opposed the persons and communities who appeared to "distance themselves from established norms", to the point of engaging in violence against them, of which the prime examples were the Crusades against Catharists in France and Bogomils in Balkans as well as the powerful Inquisition.

Between 7th and 13th century, the Church underwent gradual alienation of some of its parts, resulting in the so-called Great Schism, and a division into a Latin or Western branch, the Roman Catholic Church, and an Eastern, at the time domi-



Interior of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

THE SECOND MAJOR SCHISM

The second major schism, the Reformation, led to a split within the Western Christendom. **Martin Luther** in 1517 protested against the sale of indulgences (a paper by which the Church guaranteed absolution from sins, and which could be acquired in exchange for money or land). He soon moved on to deny several key points of Roman Catholic doctrine. **Zwingli** (Switzerland) and **Calvin** (Netherlands) further criticized Roman Catholic teaching and worship. These challenges developed into the movement called Protestantism, which repudiated the primacy of the pope, the role of tradition, the seven sacraments, and other doctrines and practices. The Reformation in England began in 1534, when King **Henry VIII** had himself declared head of the Church of England. Beginning in 1536, the monasteries throughout England, Wales and Ireland were dissolved.

Partly in response to the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church engaged in a substantial process of reform and renewal, known as the Counter-Reformation or Catholic Reform. The Council of Trent clarified and reasserted Roman Catholic doctrine.

During the following centuries, competition between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism became deeply entangled with political struggles among European states. Throughout Europe, the divides caused by the Reformation led to outbreaks of religious violence and the establishment of separate state religions in Western Europe: Lutheranism in parts of Germany and in Scandinavia and Anglicanism in England in 1534. Ultimately, these differences led to the outbreak of conflicts in which religion played a key factor. The Thirty Years' War, the English Civil War, and the French Wars of Religion are prominent examples. In the meantime, the relations with the eastern churches were becoming more difficult because of the repeated attempts at conversion and unionism (recognition of Pope's primacy).

nant, Greek Orthodox Church. The two churches disagreed on a number of administrative, liturgical, and doctrinal issues. In addition to the religious divisions and debates, the reason for the split is fairly simple. After establishing its dominance on the Mediterranean and in Europe, the Christian Church had five heads, i.e. five patriarchs, who were stationed in Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria. Under the political dominance of Byzantium, however, the primacy of Constantinople remained undisputed for long time in at least 4 of these centres, and it continued to exercise pressure on Rome. With the loss of the Middle East and under the threat of Arabs, the rise of the empire of **Charlemagne** and the decline of the political power of Byzantium, the situation changed in favour of Rome. This is not to say that there weren't more and more lively discussions about the doctrine before 1054, but these were always solved either by the display of the Byzantine armour or by the need of cooperation among Christian centres because of the dangers from the

outside. After the 11th century Byzantium was on the retreat, attacked from all sides and unable to establish its primacy even among the churches which, in the spiritual sense, came from under its wing (because of frequent wars with the orthodox coun-

Christianity gave Europe great cultural and philosophical achievements but also some negative experiences which served as a lesson for the future

tries as well as the principle of autocephalous rule), while Rome had a sovereign rule over the ever more powerful reigns of the west. In this situation, Rome would not except to be considered equal to the Eastern patriarch. In spite of some attempts to reunite the church, different positions on a number of religious issues, and more importantly different administrative arrangements (centralisation of the Catholic Church under a single Pope and the decentralised system of eastern Christianity with a number of autocephalous churches) prevented rapprochement of the two sides for centuries to come.

In Europe, from the very beginnings the Christian Church exercised a powerful influence on cultural, moral and political developments of the states on the old continent. Christians brought the eastern philosophy to the west and incorporated it into their own teachings, and the Church became the guardian of the knowledge of the ancient world and the moving force behind the intellectual and cultural developments in the darkest periods in Europe. A barbaric tribe, when converted to Christianity, would typically enter a period of cultural development not only within the community but also with regard to the social transformation, i.e. establishment of a feudal social system which was a precondition for the formation of medieval states. The Church also demonstrated a surprising level of adaptability, taking over the ancient pagan traditions and customs and preserving certain cultural specificities of many peoples.

Although it was responsible for the first wave of cultural developments in Europe, the Church did try to slow down the subsequent waves. Every new philosophical, scientific or cultural breakthrough which threatened to endanger the absolute dominance of the Church in the slightest would be severely sanctioned. Inquisition, persecutions of heretics and thinkers, religious wars and internal conflicts which decimated European population and slowed down its cultural and scientific development left a lasting stigma on many religious groups. Economic greediness and the financial power of the Church equally worked to turn many away from it.

Today's secular Europe owes much to Christianity. Whether we like it or not, the religion certainly influenced the

direction of historical and cultural development of the regions we now live in, as well as the mentality, ethics and philosophy of Europeans. Christianity gave Europe major cultural and philosophical achievements but also some negative experiences which served as a lesson for its future. During millennium and a half of mostly unperturbed dominance, Christianity and its doctrines were a major influence in shaping the foundations of modern Europe.

The author is a programme associate in Centre for Civic Education

New Government and the losers

by Brano Mandić

1.

Perhaps it was not in our stars to get a highway from the Croats, but we did receive the honour of the translated acquis in the midst of their nemesis, Slovenia. The great victory of regional cooperation would have been even greater if the Kosovo-is-the-heart-of-Serbia problem didn't clamber up to Brdo near Kranj and if at least one Croatian acquis-CD would have been sent to Belgrade. Europe said that enlargement will continue to be a priority and we can continue to hope, like the Turks.

Europe received us in the former Tito's villa. Just where today's conference hall was built once upon a time there was a pool, a little sauna and a space for walking and thinking of a great statesman, the genre of which has become unperformable in the Balkans.

All the more so since **Milo Đukanović**, the Prime Minister, is seen as the biggest star of the Balkan politics, and the citizens of Montenegro have the privilege of seeing from close by the measure of today's successful regional leader. The once rebellious politician chose the right path, smelled out the virtues of public relations and decided to dive into the new era, leaving the



closer to the city centre. Parking is underground, so that worn out workers don't have to see their reflections in the polished limousines. Now one can't even take a nap in front of the Government, let alone organise a strike. Inside it's all Italian furniture, imported from across the Adriatic, not by motor boats but via the legal firm of Prime Minister's partner **Tomo Čelebić**.

Perhaps it was not in our stars to get a highway from the Croats, but we did receive the honour of the translated acquis in the midst of their nemesis, Slovenia. The great victory of regional cooperation would have been even greater if the Kosovo-is-the-heart-of-Serbia problem didn't clamber up to Brdo near Kranj and if at least one Croatian acquis-CD would have been sent to Belgrade. Europe said that enlargement will continue to be a priority and we continue to hope, like the Turks

opposition miles behind to play the 5 October, like we used to play partisans and Germans when we were kids.

Đukanović, by the way, also changed the Government building. He left his old working desk after twenty years. That must have been a touching parting. Now the Government is even

Business crisp and clean, naturally. Everything is being modernised and polished up, there's now a chance of an internship programme for the students, in the Government and otherwise, it has truly become one European executive. Its Europeaness, like all other Europeaness we are being served in

propaganda pamphlets rests on five to six gimmicks which should be followed to make a nation appear less wild. Nobody expects more from the Balkans, not for the time being. It's been a while since anybody was killed in Montenegro, which makes it a stable state. Sickening logic, but unfortunately that's what matters and we should all be happy about it, at least on weekends, holidays or on the first day of spring.

2.

A 65 year old woman received the inspection in her modest home. The modest home is a camping trailer. It is parked on the Gorica hill on an empty clearing, meadow, whatever you want to call that part of nature where usually at night you can find the inhabitants of Podgorica with dodgy habits creeping to throw some garbage or to dream of a better future blessed by some opiate. Now, this very trailer, probably "Elan" from the times of the beloved former country, stood in the way of city authorities who came to remove it. The elderly lady also received journalists and said

that, when the bad cops from the Time of the Gypsies take away her trailer, she will go back under the nylon drapes. She improvised something under the trees to shelter her against the rain and the wind. To make it better, the trouble caught her on the first day of the spring, on the Northern hemisphere. They could have come in December. This way, while we wait for good weather and sunny marathons, we can be doubly content. One: the rule of law somehow manages to function even in the remote corners of our kingdom. Besides, humanism at work and unerring humanity which counts with precipitation and the climate timing of repressive measures deserves praise. A trailer cannot be permanent like the church on top of Rumija, it was obviously not part of the moratorium instituted by DPS–SDP coalition and it ought to disappear from the face of the earth as one of the biggest challenges to urbanism in Podgorica, which is slowly becoming a modern city. Just make sure it's according to the law. Forward into legalism and legality. Cheers for the local government and a triple hooray for the mayor who is promising a soup kitchen, of course, only for those with a Montenegrin passport. There are many kinds of hunger, but when a Montenegrin is hungry, that is truly hard to bear and it touches you to the depths of your being. The popcorn sellers are worried that they too might be swept away from the streets. There shouldn't remain anything that pulses with life, no trace of human communication. Replace them with ATMs, parking poles, city

Taxin Shinawatra paid us a short visit, he was not in a red shirt. Therefore, he was entirely politically correct, had a meal at a restaurant. He praised the service, and I don't see what is so terrible about it

lights and other wonders. Beggars don't count, they are mirages which a genuine Aryan shouldn't take as a plausible sensory perception.

3.

We are so dedicated to dealing with organised crime that we missed out on a few blunders in the near neighbourhood. Thus we were all collectively shocked at the existence of



people with disabilities. Wasn't it just yesterday that we baptised such creatures with a hammer or locked them up so that nobody could see that our stock was getting thinner? Then the skeletons started coming out of the closet in Komanski Most. That, by the way, is an institution where children are being tied to trees. Also the place where somebody recorded how one boy was sexually abused. It must be his fault that he's not healthy and eager,

The popcorn sellers are worried that they too might be swept away from the streets. There shouldn't remain anything that pulses with life, no trace of human communication. Replace them with ATMs, parking poles, city lights and other wonders. Beggars don't count, they are mirages which a genuine Aryan shouldn't take as a plausible sensory perception

with a banner at some meeting or with a hands-free phone at some prestigious broker's. I think that the people of

weak mental health and persons with disabilities are all losers of the transition which have been discussed in so much detail and with psychoanalytical finesse by the prime minister and his clique. They simply failed to adapt to the changing circumstances. We cannot expect the state to work for us any more – it's time to show some private initiative and let the market level out all injustices.

4.

Taxin Shinawatra paid us a short visit, he was not in a red shirt. Therefore, he was entirely politically correct, had a meal at a restaurant. He praised the service, and I don't see what is so terrible about it. Of course, nobody in the government found it pertinent to inform the citizens of Montenegro, who maybe have some cousins in Thailand and are worried about the demonstrations and complications there. Praised be the media, we nevertheless found out that Taxin came over to invest some of his hard earned money. The case of Shinawatra is a classical example of a media-induced hype. The media first announced that the man has a Montenegrin passport. The media reported that things are getting tougher on Thailand. The journalists found out that the man is strolling on the Montenegrin beaches... were it not for these tendentious reports, we wouldn't know the man even existed, nor would we bother about his political connections, wasting our time on some peripheral exile, as if we weren't having enough problems of our own.

And then someone will say that the media is helping the citizens! No, the more information we have the more we suffer, and thus the first rule to be endorsed by any journalist of note should be – absolute silence, meditation, Tibetan fixation on a single spot, say, the natural beauties of Montenegro and so on, until the citizens let down every guard and fall in love with our rocky mountains. That's the way to defend the victory of the referendum, that's the way to protect the basic need of every human not to be bothered by anybody's problems, unless you have a sound proof that they are very much his own.

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

POLICIES TO FIGHT CORRUPTION – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRENT FRAMEWORK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

With bad cadres the future won't be bright

Although corruption in education receives more attention in Montenegro than corruption in other areas, the reality clearly indicates that this problem mustn't be disregarded.

The last year's, as well as the most recent studies indicate that this issue should be put into focus and that more action is needed to gradually eradicate this problem from the educational system.

This was recently confirmed by a public policy study conducted in

the framework of a project jointly implemented by Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) and Centre for Civic Education (CCE) with support of the Embassy of the Republic of Germany, on the issue of corruption in higher education.

The study, authored by **Ana Selić** and **Zlatko Vujović**, aims to identify the high-risk areas for corruption in the Montenegrin educational institutions and boarding schools, to assess the effectiveness of the policy framework which is



currently in place, present alternative mechanisms which are already used in EU states and the region and propose improvements to the current framework.

The four chapters of the study address each of these issues in turn. The first chapter is a detailed assessment of the corruption problem in education, its causes, consequences, and the place this problem occupies in the political and social life of the country. It also offers a classification of types and manifestations of corruption in education, and indicates a range of activities related to corruption: such as grading which is not based on merit, taking exams under a false name, blackmailing students by the condition that they must acquire a textbook written by the professor in order to pass the exam, physical, sexual and other form of abuse etc.

The second chapter turns to the analysis of exposure of Montenegrin educational institutions to corruption and assessment of the present incidence of corruption, and presents an overview of the measures which are currently in place to fight this problem. The authors note that

SENSITIVE AREAS

The research was conducted in a number of phases over a period of several months, and it identified several larger problem areas in which it was possible to cover most of the manifestations and channels of corruption in education.

A very sensitive area for development of this malign phenomenon is the allocation of budgetary resources and hiring of teachers and administrative staff. Interference of various interest groups and the importance of nepotism and political orientation in the hiring process lays the ground for inadmissible developments such as corruptible staff and low quality of education caused by the lack of interest and motivation among the students. Corruption is largely manifested also in the process of accreditation of universities and departments, which "declares" as legitimate institutions which are not properly equipped to provide educational services, do not implement standardised enrollment criteria and receive their accreditation by boards of experts whose members are susceptible to conflict of interest.

The study also warns that the process of public procurement and financing of educational institutions shouldn't be disregarded, as this is an area where universities enjoy significant autonomy and are rarely held accountable.

The study concludes that the policies currently in place to fight corruption in education are obviously not effective enough. "This must change in the future, as it is evident that corruption is one of the major problems on our road to EU integration, and corruption in education is especially important in a small country which doesn't need quantity, but quality in education in order to develop – it doesn't need graduates "on paper" or among the unemployed, but valued young experts, highly educated cadre who will build up the professional and personal integrity in their country and whose knowledge and work will contribute to its future development" states the document.

the bodies in charge of implementation of these regulations are the Ministry of Science and Education, Anti-Corruption Directorate, Directorate for Public Procurement and Commission for the Control of Public Procurement. Through an analysis of the legal framework, media reports and a survey of students' opinion they identify high-risk areas, which are: hiring of new faculty, financial transactions of educational institutions, evaluation of students, enrollment, and accreditation of teaching programmes. It finds that "in Montenegro there are cases when students are forced to buy the professor's book as a precondition for passing the exam".

The third chapter offers an overview of policies recommended by international institutions in order to fight corruption in education, including the existing Action Plan of the Ministry of Science and Education, CEMI's proposal, and the current practices in EU and coun-

WHERE TO REPORT CORRUPTION

The starting point in the fight against corruption is the readiness to talk about this problem publicly and openly. It is therefore necessary to foster the right climate in the social and political environment in order to promote critical and free discussion of this problem.

For that reason, the document also includes the findings of a study conducted by CEMI and CCE about the perception of Montenegro's citizens of this problem, and their answers to the question whether – if they knew about it – they would report corruption in education. Only 2/5 of the citizens confirmed that they would be ready to report corruption-related practices to the relevant authorities.

An interesting, although disheartening finding is that 44% of the citizens believe it is possible to buy a valid diploma from certain schools or departments. However, 36% of the respondents didn't know whom to report such cases. Opinions are divided between the management of the school or the department, Ministry, Anti-Corruption Directorate and the NGO sector, but there is little difference in the level of citizens' trust in these entities. Only 15% of the respondents would report corruption cases to the management of educational institutions, 14% to the state authority for fight against corruption, 13% to the police, and 11% to the Ministry of Science and Education and non-governmental organizations. Only one percent listed some other entities, which still indicates that the citizens recognise the right addressees that could help them in fighting corruption in education.

Current anti-corruption policies in education are obviously not effective enough. This must change, as it is evident that corruption is one of the major problems on our road to EU integration, and corruption in education is especially important in a small country which doesn't need quantity, but quality in education in order to develop – it doesn't need graduates "on paper" or among the unemployed, but valued young experts

tries of the region. The study emphasises UNESCO's recommendations, which suggest long-term strategies, studies of the perception of corruption and risk analysis. The study also presents suggestions by the Centre for Anti-Corruption Resources of U4, GTZ, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and experiences of other countries in the region.

The last chapter is titled "Proposal for the measures to fight corruption in the educational system

of Montenegro". Among the proposed measures are, first of all, requirements for budgetary allocation, hir-

ing of teaching and administrative staff, accreditation of universities and departments, monitoring of

With regard to fight against corruption in education, public procurement and financing of educational institutions shouldn't be disregarded, as this is an area where universities enjoy significant autonomy and are rarely held accountable

public procurement procedures, free access to information and financial transparency of educational institutions, transparent evaluation process, in order to avoid nepotism, "sale" of good grades or other illegal activities. Moreover, it is necessary

to work on changing the approach of teachers and administration, by adopting integrity programmes, implementation of the legal obligation to submit property inventories, raising wages of the employees of public university, establishment of an office for Student Ombudsman etc. Finally, the authors warn that it is equally important to work on raising the awareness of corruption and participation of civil society in the fight against corruption in this area.

The study also contains a proposal for amendments to the Action

Plan for the fight against corruption of the Ministry of Science and Education in order to improve the policies and ensure more effective implementation.

M.R.-V.M.

WHY DO I WANT TO BE A CITIZEN OF EUROPEAN UNION

Government to serve the people



Just recently I've been thinking how great it would be if, like the Slovenians, we could fly to Rome for 41 euro... Or, perhaps, how great

by Bojana Laković

it would be if I could cross the street at a zebra, not worrying whether one of the careless and nervous drivers would run me over, not to mention how happy I would be if I was doing the job I've studied for and not worrying what will be left of my salary once I've paid all the bills for the month.

Montenegro is facing grave political and economic problems.

I want a country where you can always know who is the prosecutor and who the judge. I don't want my friend to have to prove in court that she is blind in order to get her basic rights

Everywhere we see hungry workers, some of them fighting for their rights and some of them keeping quiet for the sake of those who brought us where we are. In prisons and rehabilitation centres the inmates suffer torture without anybody being held responsible.

A friend of mine, who is in a wheelchair, cannot enter most of the public institutions because they are inaccessible, and another friend of mine needs to go to the courts in order to gain the right to have her guide dog bring her to work.

We have adopted many laws, but most of them remain on paper.

President of the Supreme Court nonchalantly said she did not care for the State Department report. Persons sought by Interpol get the citizenship of this country easily while persons who had been living here for twenty years supposedly don't fulfil the requirements.

Our "expert" doctors, so-called humanists, allow people to die in the corridors of the Emergency Centre so that their coffee doesn't grow cold. And of course, nobody is responsible...

Young people can't get a job – for the places in public administration you need

good connections and if your mom or dad are not big enough fish your university diploma is worthless. You can still become a construction worker, or, as a person in the Employment Bureau told me: "retrain and become a waitress". Our officials are congratulating themselves for having arrived at the White Schengen list because now young people will be able to travel! But with what money, gentlemen?

The Province is on the rise... buildings, office blocks, boulevards and roundabouts, looking prosperous all right. In the meantime, much of the population is on the brink of existence. And everybody is only

I want to see young people building up their lives with their own hands, instead of waiting for miracles while sipping a coffee in Njegoševa street

talking about Europe, everybody wants to join the EU from a running start...

I'm really curious – is anybody in our

normal, part of the integration process.

This is not the kind of Montenegro I want to see in European Union.

I want my country to reach the Swedish standard on its way to European integration.

I want to see young people building up their lives with their own hands, instead of waiting for miracles while sipping a coffee in Njegoševa street. I want to have a choice between airlines and pick the most suitable one to take me to my other homeland, Europe, without any hassle.

I want a country where you can always know who is the prosecutor and who the judge. I want law and justice to

rule. I don't want my friend to have to prove in court that she is blind in order to get her basic rights.

I want to a highway to connect me to my parents, who live in the North, instead of having to spend hours rocking in an uncomfortable bus.

I want to see "healthy" opposition which does not forgive mistakes and counters them with concrete proposals, instead of empty words.

I want to see citizens who make inde-

Government worried that the EU is asking so many additional questions? Why are they hiding the answers from the public? Finally, will anybody ever be held accountable for

I want the government to serve the citizens of Montenegro, not to use them as servants. This is the kind of Montenegro I would like to see in European Union, in which I could gladly and proudly say that I too am a citizen of European Montenegro

that? Probably not, everything will be covered up again and the people will be served the same old story that this is all

pendent decisions and respect the rights of others, regardless of the differences.

I want the requirement for getting a job to be expertise, not family and political ties.

I want the citizens to respond to the cases of torture and not to allow them to happen ever again.

I want the government to serve the citizens of Montenegro, not to use them as servants.

This is the kind of Montenegro I would like to see in European Union, in which I could gladly and proudly say that I too am a citizen of European Montenegro.

The author works for the Association of Young People with Disabilities (UMHCG). She attended IX generation of European Integrations School



Stockholm the green capital

Fishermen in front of the parliament, sportsmen in the city parks, bicycles overtaking busses running on ethanol – these are some of the things that can be seen in Stockholm, the city which earned the title of the European green capital for 2010, mostly because of the ways in which it managed to reduce CO2 emissions.

In 2009, Stockholm had the level of 3.4 tonnes of carbon-hydroxide per head of the population and it is aiming at 3 tonnes by 2015. The rest of the EU has average emissions of 10 tonnes per capita and rising.

To achieve such a result, the Swedish capital concentrated on traffic and heating, two sectors which cause 43% of the total emissions of greenhouse gasses in EU.

Thus, for instance, the local government keeps encouraging its citizens not to

use cars. According to the 2007 statistics, during the winter 19% of the citizens went to work by foot or by bike, in spite of the cold and the snow, while in the summer their numbers almost double. Fees to enter the city centre by car were introduced in 2006 and led to a 20% decrease in traffic in that part of the city.



Equal in diplomacy

The Visegrad group, which consists of Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, warned that it might boycott the establishment of the new European diplomatic service if the duties are not equally distributed.

The four countries said it was necessary for diplomacy to reflect the genuine "geographical weight" of every country in the diplomatic network. During the last two weeks the initiative was joined by Austria, the Baltic countries, Bulgaria,

Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia.

"A failure to include all member states into the creation and implementation of policy could cause them to lose interest in the European foreign policy and it could lead to widening of the gap between European and national policies", states the letter by the Visegrad 4.

The EU should announce the new diplomatic service and appoint the officials by the end of the month.

Football part of the acquis

European football clubs which train young players can get compensation in the case these decide to sign their first professional contract with another club, ruled the European Court of Justice.



The ruling concerns the 29 year old French player **Olivier Bernard** who in 1997 signed a contract with the English team Newcastle, although he spent three years before that training with the French Olimpique from Lyon. According to the then French regulations, youth players had to sign for the teams they trained for, in case they were offered a contract. However, Bernard rejected Lyon's offer and joined Newcastle. Lyon sued Bernard and his English employer for damages.

ECJ ruled that "Bernard's employment is an economic activity and as such subject to EU laws".

No cheating for citizenship

EU member state can take away citizenship rights from their nationals if it turns out that it was acquired by fraud, ruled the EU Court of Justice.

The same legal practice can be applied even if it means that the person in question might become an apatrid (a person without any citizenship), the court added.

ECJ's opinion on the matter was requested by the German federal court in the case of **Janko Rottmann**. Rottmann was born in Austria, and became a German citizen. Germany later decided to take away his citizenship as Rottman hid that he was sought by the police in Austria and thus acquired German citizenship by fraud. According to the Austrian law, taking up German citizenship meant that his Austrian citizenship became invalid, but losing German citizenship does not mean that he will automatically get back Austrian citizenship. In this way, he became an apatrid.

Future in the green cars

European automobile industry ought to prepare for major restructuring and invest into the so-called "green" cars in order to reinvent itself, warned the EU council of ministers of industry in mid-March.

"European Commission will present an action plan for electric vehicles, but the industry must act now in order not to be too late", emphasised the Spanish minister **Miguel Sebastian**.

Czechs indebted

Czech Republic's debt rose last year by 7.12 billion euros to a total of 47 billion, announced the Czech Ministry of Finance.

While in 1993, when Czech Republic became independent per capita debt of the country stood at 630 euros, today every Czech "owes" 4.480 euros. According to the estimates by financial institutions, Czech Republic is about to double its debt next year, which will thus soar from 33% of GDP in 2002 to 60% in 2011.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF EU MEMBERSHIP: CYPRUS FIVE YEARS AFTER ACCESSION

Island of transparency

by Dr Costas Melakopides and
Dr Kostas Sasmatzoglou

Cyprus is one of the smallest EU members, but very proud of its independence as well as of its "enviable" geostrategic value. Since 1974, when the Turkish military occupied

37% of island's territory after 11 years of civil war and violence between Cypriots of Turkish and Greek nationality, most of the political and intellectual energies of the Cypriot state are directed at the "existential" issue of the reunification of the northern and southern part of the island.

It was indeed the conflict with Turkey and the fear from the larger neighbor, as well as problems with violations of human rights in the North and illegal settlement of Turkish citizens in this area that led official Nicosia to apply for EU membership in July 1990. Soon after receiving the green light from the European Commission to begin preparations for membership, the Cypriot government established 23 working groups, modeled on the candidacies of Austria and Scandinavian countries, which undertook to study the *acquis*, to compare it to Cypriot legislation and policy, to identify gaps, and to prepare a programme for action to converge with the Union's laws and regulations.

The first regular Report from the Commission on the candidate countries' progress towards accession showed Cyprus as the front-runner, well ahead of the other candidates with regard to legal harmonization. Cyprus' preparations were generally acknowledged in all subsequent reports, which noted the country's successes as regards most dimensions

of the Copenhagen criteria. In addition, the Commission had clearly endorsed the Cypriot government's optimism regarding the "catalytic role" that accession could play vis-à-vis reunification. The final harmonization



FINANCE THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO MEMBERSHIP

Cyprus is an open, market-oriented economy which is mostly based on services and to a lesser extent on light manufacturing. Cypriots are among the richest nations of the Mediterranean, partly due to their well developed network of telecommunications, excellent connections with all bigger international airports and a relatively well educated population. A majority of Cypriots speaks fluent English, which is a legacy of the long-term presence of British authorities which governed the tiny island state until its independence in 1960.

Although relatively well-off, the Cypriot economy suffers from a number of structural problems typical of small states: high trade deficit and low competitiveness of industrial goods on the European markets. It still succeeded in achieving a solid level of development, mostly due to tourism and very developed sector of financial services.

It exactly the finances, however, that presented the biggest obstacle to fulfillment of EU membership conditions. Until accession, Cyprus was known as an "off-shore" destination and a tax haven which since 1975 attracted not only entrepreneurs in search of "easy money", but also a large number of shady investors who could take advantage of minimal regulation on Cyprus to launder their portfolios.

During the 1990s, Cyprus recorded a huge inflow of investments from the former Soviet Union, as well as from the other countries of Eastern Europe, and its soon gained notoriety as the perfect place to stash the money from illegal privatizations.

By joining EU Cyprus committed itself to introducing stricter regulation with regard to ownership and registration of companies, and to increasing corporate taxes from the symbolic 4.25% to 10%, which is still the lowest corporate tax rate in EU. At the same time, Cyprus introduced one of the world's strictest rules on money laundering and was finally taken off the "black list" of money-laundering destination a mere year before joining EU.

From the fiscal point of view, harmonization with the EU tax laws only helped the Cypriot economy – in 2005 tax revenues soared by 8.9%, and in spite of the doubling of the tax rates, few companies decided to move elsewhere in search of low taxes – even in the next few years around 10 000 companies were established on Cyprus in any given year.

Still, the smears from the past are not easily washed off, even if for years now Cyprus has ranked very high in terms of transparency and effectiveness of the financial system in most reports of the international financial institutions.

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of Cypriot legislation with the *acquis* required adoption of 1080 new legislations and legal changes, which was achieved through a good relationship with the Parliament.

In spite of that the "catalytic function" of the negotiations proved to be an illusion. **Rauf Denktash**, the then leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, remained adamantly inimical to the EU, rejecting invitations to join the Cypriot negotiating team.

Meanwhile, the international community produced another proposal for peaceful settlement of the conflict, dubbed "Annan Plan" after the then Secretary General of the UN. The plan was enthusiastically endorsed by the Turkish part of the island, but the Greek representatives refused it, claiming that the plan was not in the interest of the Cypriot state and that it was too "lenient" towards Turkey, for which this meant a removal of a major obstacle to its own EU accession hopes. In a twin referendum conducted in both parts of the island, a huge majority of the Turkish side supported the plan, whereas 76% of Greek Cypriots voted against it. Although there were some indications that Cyprus' membership in the EU will be made conditional upon acceptance of the Annan Plan, a year later Cyprus became a full EU member, in spite of the unresolved territorial issue.

Protocol 10 of the Treaty of the Accession of the Republic of Cyprus to EU solves this problem by a clause



which states that "whereas the entire Republic is an EU member-state, the *acquis communautaire* will be enforced in the occupied north upon settling the country's legal, political, and ethical problem".

representatives to accept the "Annan Plan", the European Union repeatedly took up Cyprus' side, as in the conflict over recognition of the "Turkish Republic of Cyprus" by Turkey. The European Union made

In spite of all improvements before and after accession in most fields, Cyprus still needs hard work in many areas. They include greater seriousness concerning the environment (more renewable energy resources, more de-salination plants, rational water consumption), reform of the public health system, development of the political and academic culture and fight against clientelism and corruption

By accepting into membership a country in a semi-occupied state, the EU endorsed the responsibility to resolve this territorial issue. Although many Brussels' officials were disappointed with the refusal of Greek

clear it will have nothing to do with this unilateral declaration by Turkey and that the recognition "has no legal effect on Turkey's obligations towards the EU and its Member States".

The 2004 accession to EU and the 2008 entry into the Eurozone have also affected the country's economic performance. Although it is clearly premature to give a comprehensive analysis of the full economic impact, there are clear signs of improvement in certain areas. Competition on the European markets dramatically improved the hitherto low productivity of Cypriot enterprises. Macroeconomic indicators are very good, confirming the overall stability of the economy. Improved intra-EU labour mobility is

TAX HAVEN AND THE DEMONS OF MAFIA

The impact of the Russian mafia did not stop in the finance world – until 2003, around 2000 women were brought to Cyprus every year to work in the local "night clubs" which resulted in a political scandal and jailing of the director of the Cypriot immigration department who was involved in the trafficking.

Cyprus has a similar reputation with regard to smuggling of tobacco and small arms – according to the Geneva Centre for International Studies, this tiny state of 800 000 people import as many small arms per year as Germany, France or UK. It is suspected that very little of it ever reaches the shores of Cyprus, but it seems that nobody knows where the weapons are headed from there.

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FEWER TOURISTS BECAUSE OF PRICES AND URBAN CHAOS

Although Cypriot destinations are very competitive on the world markets, many entrepreneurs worried that EU accession will lead to a rapid increase in the price of services, because of higher costs of adjustment to European standards in terms of the maintenance of hotels, restaurants etc.

The numbers indicate that some of these fears might have been justified – between 2000 and 2005 the number of visitors on Cyprus fell by 8% and revenues from tourism decreased from spectacular 2.17 billion euros in 2001 to 1.76 billion in 2006. It is, however, difficult to say to which extent this negative trend has to do with EU membership. This is especially true if we compare Cyprus to other EU members: between 2000 and 2005 the number of visitors in Spain grew by 16%, while the new members and candidates grew even faster – Turkey is the absolute champion in attracting tourists (111.5% increase in the number of visitors), closely followed by Slovenia (42.5%) and Croatia (45.2%).

It seems that the loss of competitiveness of Cypriot tourism should be sought elsewhere. Index of tourist competitiveness for 2008 shows that, although Cyprus is ranked fairly high (24th out of 133 countries), certain aspects of the Cypriot offer are turning away visitors.

Tourists mostly complain of unjustifiably high prices, neglect of the natural and cultural heritage, inadequate health services and hygiene standards, and, especially, over-constructed shore and insufficient care with regard to environment. Although Cyprus has hardly any industry, the construction boom of the last few years and the lack of adequate regulations led to the quality of air on Cyprus (measured by the amount of CO₂ emissions) being rated among the lowest in the world – on this particular criteria, Cyprus ranks 106 among 133 countries of the world.

Tourism employs around 30% of Cypriot population.

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also starting to infuse badly needed flexibility into the labour market. Finally, the quality of the overall financial and economic regulatory and supervisory framework is showing clear signs of improvement, with Cypriot consumers beginning to reap the benefits. Cyprus was probably very lucky to qualify for entry into the Eurozone in January 2008, only a few months before the start of the financial crisis. Together with the apparent solidity of the banking sector which had, among other things, avoided exposure to international "toxic" products the Euro is considered as the main reason for the Cypriot economy's vitality, marked by continuing growth even in the first half of 2009. In mid-2009, Cyprus recorded the highest growth

rate in EU 27, together with the lowest rate of inflation and lowest unemployment.

Part of the economic development momentum after accession to EU is due to the government's efforts to attract foreign investment. Beside the Russian Federation, which is the largest investor in Cyprus, this island has recently turned also towards other neighbouring countries in the Middle East, Iran, and even China.

In the meantime, European integration won broader support among the citizens of Cyprus who believe that EU membership contributes to greater international prestige of the tiny republic. Belonging to the European family is acknowledged as a serious asset by the Cypriot public, decision makers, opinion

makers, the business community and civil society who, each in their own areas, are developing ever closer ties with Brussels. Most notable is the development of civil society organizations which "flourished" after the accession to EU. Many governmental and non-governmental organisations have been fairly successful in using EU funds to finance their projects, which proved very useful during 2008 when, in addition to the global economic crisis, Cyprus experienced the second worst drought since 1901, and an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease,

It should be noted, however, that some of these positive effects were already emerging during the accession process itself. Since the beginning of this process, a number of innovative features have been introduced into Cyprus' political culture: new relationships were established between parliament and civil society, more transparent and participatory political processes, a more visible role for women and youth, and, perhaps most importantly, an environment conducive to future peace and cooperation among Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

In spite of all improvements before and after accession in most fields, Cyprus still needs hard work in many areas. They include greater seriousness concerning the environment (more renewable energy resources, more de-salination plants, rational water consumption), reform of the public health system, development of the political and academic culture and fight against clientelism and corruption.

Dr Costas Melakopides is a co-founder and Director of the Cyprus Institute of Mediterranean, European and International Studies (KIMEDE) and professor of International Relations at the University of Cyprus. Dr Kostas Sasmatzoglou is Secretary of External Relations at the European People's Party (EPP)

IN THE PROCES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS, SPECIAL EMPHASIS WILL BE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

Street lights in every village?!

EVROPSKI REPORTER

by Milorad Milošević

In the process of European integrations special emphasis will be placed on development of rural areas, which in Montenegro still cover a substantial part of its territory. Recently in Podgorica the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Waters of the Government of Montenegro and representatives of the European Commission presented a new project of EU support to Montenegrin officials dealing with rural development. The project is worth 1.5 million euros, and will be financed over the next 20 months with the help of the governments of Austria, France and Slovakia.

Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the leader of the new EU project in Montenegro **Ljiljana Simović**

In the near future our villages should, in line with EU standards, acquire adequate road and utilities infrastructure, water supply, street lights, well-preserved environment... says Simović, warning that rural areas should not be "over-urbanised"

says for the European Reporter that it is important to preserve Montenegrin "village traditions, culture, customs and heritage" in the recess of European integrations. According to her, in the near future our villages will, complying with EU standards, acquire adequate road and utilities infrastructure, water supply, street lights, well-preserved environment...

The quality and control of food safety in villages, she said, will be the responsibility of two institutions, already established by the Ministry of Agriculture – Veterinary and Phyto-Sanitary administration.

"The countries beneficiaries of SAPARD, an earlier EU assistance programme, were provided with funds to invest in infrastructure. This is, unfortunately, no more the case. All we can do is set aside the funds for infrastructure from the national budget, or by applying to international projects as before", she said.

Simić warns that the rural areas should not become over-urbanised.

"The goal is to provide the necessary infrastructure, while preserving the original architecture of the village – its landscapes, traditional crafts, cuisine and many other things, which we are proud of and which we would like to show to Europe. Europe is a multinational community of peoples and everybody should contribute to it, while preserving their own identity. By investing in the villages we invest in our past, and by that also in our future", Simović explained.

There is no common EU standard for rural areas – the extent to which Montenegro adopts European regulations in this area and invests in rural development policies depends on the Government's willingness to implement them.

"There are examples of villages in

Austria, Slovakia, Germany that look like some of our villages in the North. They are cared for, with asphalt roads, street lights, with little shops, a post office and a bar on the main square. Only a picture can bring you the real looks of such a village. There are wonderful villages in the EU, but there are some in Montenegro as well", Simović said.

She adds that certain villages in Montenegro already "look European" and gives the examples of Virpazar, Njegovođe (in Žabljak), Drušić (Rijeka Crnojevića), Vladimir (near Ulcinj), Ostros (near Bar) as well as some villages in the Zeta region where infrastructure is highly developed.

"Arbelobelo is a village in the south of Italy which is truly a magnificent example of a village in a rural area. The village is under UNESCO's protection and it preserved many features of the earlier centuries, which turned it into a real tourist attraction. This doesn't mean that it doesn't



Virpazar

have asphalt roads, a functioning water and waste system, street lights etc. Just the opposite", Simović explains.

Some of the EU standards, she says, warn that not every forest path needs to be covered in asphalt, in order to preserve the landscapes.

"Easy on urbanisation. Once an area has been transformed into an urban area, it is difficult or impossible to go back. Perhaps this is the principle we need to follow", Simović said.

Asked whether the village households will be allowed to produce brandy or wine independently, by traditional methods, like they do now in many parts of Montenegro, Simović confirmed.

"If they register production, they will be able to sell it as well, and if not they can keep it for domestic consumption", she explained.

EU recommendations for rural development policy have been incorporated into the strategic documents of the Ministry of Agriculture: Strategy for food production and rural areas, adopted in 2006, and the National Programme for Food Production and Development of Rural Areas for 2009–2013, adopted in December 2008.

"All the recommendations and guidelines have been taken from EU regulations, and in the case of rural development policy in particular we rely on the guidelines from EU Regulation no. 1698/2005", Simović said.



Centar za građansko obrazovanje

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) issues a call for applications for VIII generation of the

HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS SCHOOL

– School for learning human rights from theory to practice –

The School consists of 25 sessions that will take place in April, within two four days long seminars outside Podgorica. All expenses are covered by CCE with support of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, through the regional project on human rights education in Western Balkans, and with obligation of the participant to attend at least 80% of the programme.

Human rights and minority rights school provides the participants with broad theoretical and practical knowledge on the concept of human rights; it promotes the culture of human rights, inspiring and motivating people to stand up for their rights, as well as for the rights of those who are not able to do so on their own; and empowers them to exercise greater influence on their social environment.

Upon finishing of the School the participants receive a certificate and are entitled to join other programmes of educational development.

CCE welcomes all candidates regardless of their age, gender, nationality, religion or personal convictions, but gives precedence to the activists of political parties and non-governmental organisations, youth leaders, students and other persons who already have a positive track record of social activism.

Expert lecturers will be working with the participants through the interactive presentations, workshops, film projections and theatre performances dealing with a broad spectrum of human rights issues.

If you want to learn, listen to others, understand those who are different from you, and you are open, courageous, concerned about the environment in which live and eager to contribute to the development of the culture of human rights in Montenegro, the new Human rights and minority rights school is the right choice for you!

All interested candidates should submit their application with a short biography by **11 April 2010**, to:

Centre for Civic Education (for "Škola ljudskih i manjinskih prava")

Njegoševa 36, I sprat, 81 000 Podgorica

Tel/Fax: 020 / 665 112

E-mail: info@cgo-cce.org www.cgo-cce.org

CORECOM continues with activities

The Sixth Regional Forum for Transitional Justice, whose purpose is to promote the initiative of the associations of victims and non-governmental organisations in the region for the establishment of a Regional commission for truth-finding about all victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia (RECOM) was held in Novi Sad on 20 and 21 March 2010.

The forum was opened by the president of the Government of Vojvodina **Ana Toma-nova Makanova**, head of the European Commission Delegation in Serbia **Vincent Degert**, president of the Independent association of journalists of Vojvodina **Dinko Gruhonjić** and film director **Želimir Žilnik**.

In addition to the Coalition for RECOM from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia, the Forum also hosted representatives of the diplomatic corps, Council of Europe, OSCE and the Government of Serbia. On the first day, the participants attended public testimonies of the victims and witnesses of war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and participated could contribute to the Initiative to found the Commission by participating in three

smaller workshops: "Goals and mandate of RECOM", "Composition and election of the members of RECOM", "Legacy of ICTY".

As on the previous occasions, the workshops were preceded by presentations of the experiences of countries which had similar experiences. The discussion of the model for RECOM was opened by **Felix Reategui**, head of the reporting unit of the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation in Peru and **Cristian Correa**, secretary of the Commission for Political Arrests and Torture from Chile.

The Forum was preceded by the Second Assembly, which adopted reports on the consultation processes which took place between the two assemblies, an operative plan for the upcoming period, changes and amendments to the Statute, and elected new members of the Coordination Council from BiH and Kosovo.

Forum was organised, on behalf of the Coalition for RECOM, by the Independent Association of Journalists from Novi Sad. CCE, also a member of the Coalition, was represented at the Assembly and Forum by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director and **Mirela Rebronja**, programme associate.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATIONS IN
EUROPEAN UNION



Open Europe

Open Europe is an independent think tank, with offices in London and Brussels. It is set up by some of the UK's leading business people to contribute bold new thinking to the debate about the direction of the EU.

This organization is committed to European co-operation, but believes that the EU has reached a critical moment in its development and that idea 'Ever closer union', espoused by **Jean Monnet** and propelled forwards by successive generations of political and bureaucratic elites, has failed.

The EU's over-loaded institutions, held in low regard by Europe's citizens, are ill-equipped to adapt to the pressing challenges of weak economic growth, rising global competition, insecurity and a looming demographic crisis, considers this organization.

Open Europe believes that the EU must now embrace radical reform based on economic liberalisation, a looser and more flexible structure, and greater transparency and accountability if it is to overcome these challenges, and succeed in the twenty first century.

Open Europe estimates that the best way for EU to pursue the reforms is an urgent programme of radical change driven by a consensus between member states. In pursuit of this consensus, Open Europe will seek to involve like-minded individuals, political parties and organisations across Europe in our thinking and activities, and disseminate our ideas widely across the EU and the rest of the world.

More information on this organization and its recent reaction regarding crisis in EU are available on the web site www.openeurope.org.uk.

Prepared by: **Petar ĐUKANOVIĆ**

Annual conference on corruption in higher education



In the framework of a joint project on corruption in education, on 15 and 16 March 2010, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Centre for Monitoring (CEMI), with support of the German embassy in Montenegro organized the first annual conference on corruption in higher education titled "Only knowledge brings the title".

CCE and CEMI have been making a great effort for a while now to reduce the level of corruption in all areas of the Montenegrin society, and especially in higher education. The goal of the conference was to open a discussion on the challenges of corruption in education at the highest level, with participation of the most competent experts in this field and to formulate proposals and measures that could contribute to eradication of this devastating phenomenon within one of the pillars of social development, relying on the best practices from the region and elsewhere. The conference was opened by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE, **Peter Platte**, ambassador of the Republic of Germany in Montenegro and **Svetozar Marović**, deputy prime minister of the Montenegrin government in charge of the

political system. **Zlatko Vujović**, president of the CEMI board of directors gave the introductory presentation of the policy study "Politics of fight against corruption and education – implementation of the current framework and suggestions for improvements", followed by a speech by the Rector of the University of Montenegro Prof Dr **Predrag Miranović**, titled "A view from the perspective of University of Montenegro: Consensus". Prof Dr **Zoran Stoilković** from the Political Science Faculty in Belgrade, member of the Council of the Anti-Corruption Agency in Serbia and **Dinko Cvitan**, head of the Office for Eradication of Corruption and Organised Crime (USKOK) in the State Secretariat of the Republic of Croatia presented regional experiences in this matter.

The first day of the conference brought together deans and professors from Montenegrin universities, as well as representatives of the civil sector, police, prosecution and other relevant institutions.

The second day was reserved for a discussion of corruption in higher education among student representatives from different departments of the University of Montenegro.

Cooperation between the Parliament and the civil sector

Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) began realisation of the project "Improving cooperation between civil society organizations (CSOs) and Parliament of Montenegro", financed by EU via the EU Delegation in Montenegro, with the goal of establishing institutional framework for the cooperation between legislators and the NGO sector, improving the flow of communication between CSOs and MPs on the issues of importance for the protection of human and minority rights, strengthening the consultation with CSOs in the legislative process and improving the capacities of CSOs to influence

the process of adoption and monitoring of public policies in the area of human and minority rights.

To that purpose, on 18 March 2010 CDNGO organised a meeting between representatives of civil society organizations dealing with democratization and protection of human and minority rights, to discuss the prospects of establishing an informal CSO network in this particular field and appointing representatives of the network to the Working Group organised together with the Parliament representatives to draft a Cooperation Agreement.

Dragana Otašević, CCE programme associated represented CCE at the meeting.

Challenges of democratization

Forum 2010 organised on 5 March 2010 a round table titled "Organised crime – a challenge for democratic development of Montenegro", which was introduced by **Žarko Rakčević**, coordinator of Forum 2010. **Azra Jasavić**, a member of the Forum 2010 presented the current situation with regard to confiscation of criminally acquired property as well as the draft of future procedures. **Goran Rodić**, a lawyer from Podgorica, spoke about extradition as an important category in the fight against organised crime.

The event was attended by representatives of the University, non-governmental organizations, political parties, media etc.

Snežana Kaluđerović, legal advisor, representing CCE, emphasized that organised crime is very skilled at using certain social circumstances for infiltration into legal social structures and that it is very adaptable to any political, social or economic context – not only within single countries, but also on the international level, which means that it can only be tackled through a comprehensive approach.

Call for a quality solution for volunteering

ADP "ZID" and FOSI ROM organised on 31 March 2010 in Podgorica a round table on "Legal Regulation of Volunteering in Montenegro".

Igor Milošević, director of ADP ZID and **Sanja Elezović**, director of FOSI ROM introduced the question of the importance of quality regulation of volunteering for the development of the society, and **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE, discussed the inter-sectoral cooperation and EU trends. **Goran Đurović**, from the TACSO team, spoke about the role of volunteering for the promotion of EU values and strengthening civil sector capacities, and **Marija Vuksanović** from CDNGO discussed the legal solutions appropriate for the Montenegrin context, its citizens and the civil sector.

MPs who submitted the proposal for the Law on volunteering which incorporated recommendations of the civil sector **Slaven Radunović** (NOVA), **Snežana Jonica** (SNP), **Aleksandar Bogdanović** (DPS) and **Genc Nimanbegu** (Forca) also contributed the discussion.

In the second part of the programme, **Mirela Rajković** from ADP ZID focused on the impact of the law on the civil sector and affirmative measures that should be the result of legal regulation of this area.

FOR THIS ISSUE WE RECOMMEND:

MSC IN POLITICAL SCIENCES

Trinity College in Dublin offers new Master programme in International Politics to graduate students through combination of rigorous training in the study of international politics with a comprehensive empirical approach to understanding many prominent problems in contemporary world politics, especially topics where domestic and international politics cannot be understood in isolation from each other. These topics include democratization, international cooperation, development and foreign aid, international conflict as well as the politics of many environmental issues and their implications for the politics of developing countries. Students will also receive training in research methods.

Merit-based scholarships are available for the incoming cohort that enters the programme in September 2010.

Deadline: 30 April, 2010.

For information on how to apply for these merit-based scholarships, please visit the courses website at:

http://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/postgraduate/index.php

SCHOLARSHIPS IN LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Queen Mary, University of London's (QMUL) School of Law, comprising the Department of Law and the Centre for Commercial Studies (CCLS), has just announced the following scholarships for students enrolling for the 2010–2011 academic year:

Department of Law Scholarships: 4 Scholarships are available to UK/EU



students and 2 scholarships to Non-EU students in various specializations

Centre for Commercial Law Studies Scholarships: 3 scholarships are available to UK/EU students and 3 scholarships to Non-EU students Commercial Law subjects under a General LL.M. Other specializations also are available. "Opportunities in Law Scholarships" will be awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need. Deadline for applications 15 May, 2010. Further Scholarship Information please find on: <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/prospective/index.html>

MA IN TOURISM AND LEISURE

The Scholarship will go toward tuition fees to attend the X edition of the International Master in Tourism & Leisure in Italy – part time edition (October 2010 – October 2012).

The Scholarships will cover up to 50% of the tuition fees (equivalent to 9.000,00 EUR – nine thousand EUR). The amount of the scholarships will be discounted from the overall tuition fees. In case of course abandonment or exclusion for any reason, no amount of the scholarship will be paid or reimbursed. The candidates need to meet

the following requirements: academic degree (or equivalent qualification) in any discipline; fluent working knowledge of English (a TOEIC or TOEFL certificate is an asset); significant work and life experience is an asset; aged less than 30 as of October 2010.

MIB School of Management will grant the scholarships to the best candidates on the basis of educational qualifications, personal skills, professional know-how and motivation shown during the assessment interview.

To be considered for a scholarship, the application form for the programme must be completed on-line at www.mib.edu.

In order to finalize the application, the following documents must be received: degree certificate; two letters of recommendation; if available a certificate which demonstrates an adequate knowledge of English such as TOEIC or TOEFL (alternatively, verification will be made directly by the School); if available a deductive reasoning test score such as GMAT (alternatively, verification will be made directly by the School).

The documentation must be sent by September 21, 2010 to the following address: Attn. Ms. Barbara Sepic, MIB School of Management, Largo Caduti di Nasirya 1, 34142 Trieste – Italy.

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