

European pulse

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Foreword: **Verdict**

Vladan Žugić



I saw a movie, I cannot remember the title, which tries to show what the world would look like if the fascist had won the Second World War, thanks to the fact that the USA and USSR never struck an anti-fascist coalition, as they never discovered the truth about the concentration camps. I was reminded of this rather cheap movie when the Higher Court in Podgorica ruled against the charges for deportation of Muslims-Bosniaks in 1992, the same as in the cases of war crimes against civilians committed in Morinj and Bukovica. How many people in Montenegro do not want to face the past? How many young people know about Bukovica, Morinj, deportations? Crimes that should have been accounted for by **Milo Đukanović**, **Svetozar Marović**, **Momir Bulatović**, not a handful of executors who, as one of the liberated former policemen said, would do the same thing today because, "a job is a job". Germany is the most developed country in Europe today, partly due to a successful process of confrontation with the past that was initiated by the USA. The situation is similar with Italy and some of the new EU member states whose historical sobering was incited, ironically, by the USSR. At the moment, our "liberators" from Brussels have no intention of setting reconciliation with the past as one of the conditions for Montenegro's further advancement on the European road. Based on the redeeming verdicts for the crimes against civilians, the Commission bureaucrats will write that the Montenegrin judiciary isn't independent and that it is too politicised. They know that the culprits are higher up.

Calendar

- 4 - 5 March **Lukšić with EU decision-makers** / Prime minister **Igor Lukšić** paid a visit to Brussels where he met for the first time the topmost European officials: president of the European Council **Herman van Rompuy** and of European Commission **José Manuel Barroso**, as well as with the Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle**. All three European officials emphasised that implementation of the adopted legal framework is the key to Montenegro's further progress towards EU.
- 9 March **European Parliament on Montenegro** / European Parliament adopted a Resolution on European Integration of Montenegro, the first since Montenegro was granted the candidate status, which recommends that the membership negotiations should be started at the latest after the publication of the Progress Report in October, provided the country can demonstrate the expected progress in implementing European standards.
- 24 March **No more court fines for journalists for insult and defamation** / The Government adopted the proposal for changes and amendments to the Criminal Codex abolishing criminal responsibility of media and journalists for insult and defamation, which was one of the European Commission's conditions for the opening of negotiations.
- 25 March **Füle: Concrete results will make you an example for the region** / European Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** said the EC would like to see concrete results of the laws adopted in Montenegro. "Montenegro has a huge chance, if it fulfils all the set tasks, to begin membership negotiations this year. Its success in European Integrations this year was an excellent message to all countries in the region" said Füle at the meeting with the president and deputy president of the National Council for European Integrations **Nebojša Medojević** and **Mevludin Nuhodžić**.
- 25 March **Buzek looking forward to negotiations** / After the meeting with the prime minister **Igor Lukšić** in Brussels President of the EP **Jirži Buzek** said he hoped that the membership negotiations between Montenegro and EU will begin soon after the publication of the 2011 Progress Report.

Respect the commitments

Early solid achievements in this area in Montenegro, notably in the de-politicisation of the public administration, the strengthening of the independence of the judiciary and the effective fight against corruption and against organised crime, will later ensure smooth negotiations and integration in the EU.



Štefan Füle

Montenegro's overall progress towards the fulfilment of the criteria for EU membership has been remarkable. There is a growing political consensus. The country has made important progress in putting in place its legal and institutional framework. It is also strongly committed to regional cooperation. There is a solid record of structural economic reforms and progress in most areas of the 'acquis'. The European Council decision to grant candidate status for Montenegro is recognition of these achievements and a strong signal which confirms the credibility of the EU's enlargement policy. Tangible results are now needed in order for Montenegro to be able to move to the next stage of European integration.

I have had a chance to meet the new Prime Minister of Montenegro, Dr **Igor Lukšić**. His commitment to pursue the reform process and strong determination to meet the key priorities set out in the Commission Opinion are encouraging.

After public consultations with civil society and talks with the Commission services, the Government adopted an action plan to address the priorities. It is now crucial to focus on implementation and establish a solid track record. The key priorities set out in the Opinion are a significant but achievable challenge that requires the involvement and commitment of all actors in Montenegro.

Previous enlargements have shown the importance of addressing key issues under the political criteria as well as chapter 23 early in the accession process.

Early solid achievements in this area in Montenegro, notably in the de-politicisation of the public administration, the strengthening of the independence of the judiciary and the effective fight against corruption and against organised crime,

will later ensure smooth negotiations and integration in the EU. Montenegro must improve its electoral framework in line with the recommendations of the OSCE-ODIHR and the Venice Commission. The parliament needs strengthening – an important priority for both the Commission and the European Parliament.

Effective compliance with European standards in the field of human rights is essential, in particular regarding freedom of expression and relations with civil society. Further efforts are needed to strengthen anti-discrimination policy, notably gender equality and the effective protection of vulnerable groups. Sustainable solutions are needed for the displaced persons. The future of Montenegro undeniably lies in the European Union. And we should act responsible.

The credibility of our enlargement policy is based on the enlargement countries' respect of the conditionality towards the European Union and the European Union's respect of its commitments towards the enlargement countries. It is in all our interest to ensure that the progress of Montenegro towards the European Union is based on solid achievements and concrete results.

Montenegro's performance this year will be assessed in the Enlargement Package due in October 2011. Only if the Commission establishes that Montenegro has achieved the necessary degree of compliance with the accession criteria, in particular the seven key priorities set out in the Opinion, will it be in position to recommend opening of negotiations.

Excerpts from the speech by the European Enlargement Commissioner at the plenary session of the European Parliament of 8 March 2011 in Strasbourg

Solutions to be incorporated into the new Law on NGOs

The devil is in the detail



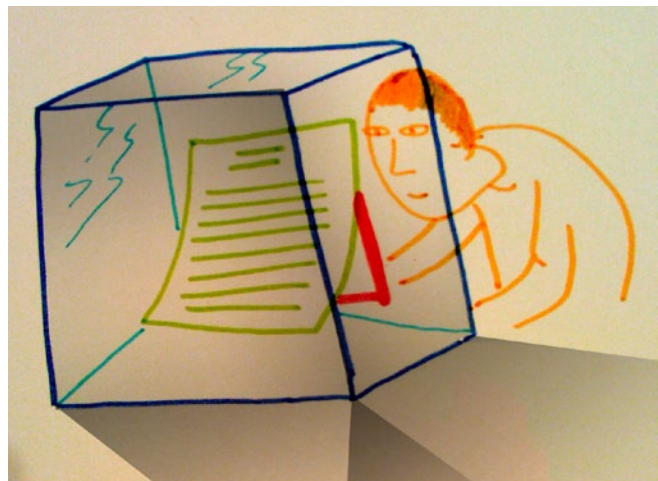
Milena Perović Korac

A Working group in charge of drafting the new law on NGOs has recently been formed, and the Ministry of Interior Affairs uploaded an early version of the draft on its website, to be available for public comment until 14 April. A decade of implementation of the current law showed that the regulation is in many ways flawed and not entirely in line with international laws and commitments undertaken by Montenegro. Such is, for instance, the clause that the founders of non-governmental organisations ought to be settled or reside in Montenegro. The article in question is contrary to the European Convention of Human Rights which stipulates that “freedom of association cannot be conditioned by requirements of nationality, citizenship or residence”. This is only one of the articles of the current law that will have to be changed in order to harmonise the law with the

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international documents. Another one is the clause that a non-governmental organisation must have the status of a legal person, i.e. that it must be registered. The new law will be thoroughly harmonised with the international documents, announced **Veselin Vukčević**, assistant to the Minister of Interior Affairs and coordinator of the Working group. “It will be completely different from the current one and incorporate the best European practices”, he said. “Civic financing of non-governmental organisations, co-financing, membership regulations and other issues contained in the current laws will be thoroughly overhauled, in order to create a transparent, acceptable regulation in line with EU requirements”, Vukčević said. Although the current law is fairly liberal, as acknowledged also by the European Commission in its Analytical Report, in practice the NGOs

are facing a series of problems, the two most important of which are the inadequate framework for the financing of the non-governmental sectors, as well as the controversies surrounding the appointment of NGO representatives to various public bodies. The civil sector has often warned that the public, i.e. state funds, are often insufficient and non-transparent. NGOs’ main objections to the distribution to funds concern the lack of clear criteria and mechanisms which, according to them, opens up the possibilities for misguided and irrational allocation of funds. Also, the NGOs warned that the procedures for appointment of civil society representatives in the managing bodies, such as the National Council for European Integrations, are flawed. There is no criteria to distinguish “active” from “paper” NGOs or to discern the areas in which they are really active. EC’s Analytical Report also draws attention to these two issues when discussing the organisation of the civil sector. “The procedures for appointment of representatives of non-governmental organisations to the National Council for European Integrations should be improved, as well as the transparency and monitoring of budgetary financing of non-governmental organisations and tax exemptions”, notes the Report. EC also warned that “public financial assistance to non-governmental organisations dealing with socially vulnerable groups is often insufficient compared to the



In addition to the most controversial issues of financing and participation of NGO representatives in public bodies, the new law should address a number of other questions. These concern the issue of NGO's property in case its activities cease, the right to undertake economic activities and abuse of this right, definitions of non-governmental organisations, associations and foundations, the rights and duties of members of non-governmental organisations, membership registers...

social significance of their activities". Moreover, the NGOs that are the most open in their criticism "have been subject to political and administrative pressures", notes the report. We also find support for the argument that the financing of non-governmental organisation needs changing in the document "Analysis of regulations relevant to the work of non-governmental organisations", co-authored by the Government representatives in cooperation with the Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and TACSO project office in Podgorica. The analysis singles out the following clauses of the current law as being in need of revision in the new version of the act: the question of NGO's property in case its activities cease, the right to undertake economic activities and abuse of this right, definitions of non-governmental organisations, associations and foundations, the rights and duties of members of non-governmental organisations, mem-

bership registers... The draft uploaded by the Ministry of Interior Affairs is an improvement over the new law with regard to the financing of NGOs, but some elements still require a more precise definition. **Stevo Muk**, member of the Working group in charge of drafting the law, and an associate of the Technical Support for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) project, says: "We defined the key alternatives with regard to the financing from public funds. An important improvement is that we put a greater weight on transparency in all stages of the financing process, and emphasise more objective criteria for financing than was the case until now. There are also new regulations preventing the conflict of interests of the members of commissions in charge of the financing of NGO projects". He explains that an important novelty of the Draft is the possibility of institutional financing of non-governmental organisations which, according to him, "strengthens sustainability of non-governmental organisations that are acting in the public interest". Another substantial improvement, according to Muk, is a broader definition of public interest, which now "incorporates a significant proportion of activities of non-governmental organisations". The draft retains some elements of the current law, one of which is the possibility for an NGO to undertake direct economic activities up to a turnover of 4 000 EUR or 20% of total annual income. "This is in line with the international practice and helps organisations that derive most of their income from the regular, standard sources of funding", Muk said.

Minors founding NGOs

The draft law on NGOs remains liberal just as its predecessor, a trait also reflected in the clause that any person aged 14 or older can be a founder of an association. Although the Constitution of Montenegro guarantees the rights and freedoms to children "according to their age and maturity", the right of under-aged persons to found a non-governmental organisation in accordance with the regulation on limited business opportunity in place in Montenegro has not been incorporated into the current law. In the neighbouring countries, the practice is that minors can found NGOs, with agreement of a legal representative. "In light of the most recent developments in our schools and the rise of juvenile delinquency and peer violence, it seems that this solution can offer the opportunity to channel certain needs – dissatisfaction with their position in the society and other desires – through the organisational and institutional framework of a non-governmental association, which provides for full recognition of the importance and contribution of a minor as founder", explains Daliborka Uljarević, director of CCE.



Centre for Civic Education (CCE) also believes the current draft is generally good. **Daliborka Uljarević**, Executive director of CCE said: “The legislator has recognised the need for public financing and for laying out the framework to make the sector sustainable in the long run”. However, she warns that the process must be strictly regulated and controlled, or else “if it is not genuinely regulated, it can lead to profound discreditation of the non-governmental sector”. Accordingly, CCE plans to suggest a number of improvements to the draft: “For instance, the form of the agreement to be concluded between the Commission and NGOs receiving the funding should be prescribed in detail. It is also important to ensure that all contracts and reports on implementation are made public. The public is the best guarantee of adequate control”. CCE also believes that the “clauses regarding the option of a limited economic activity of non-governmental organisations should be further specified and should be subject to more effective sanctions in case of abuse. If an entity makes a more severe breach of the legal limitations with regard to economic activity, it should be banned from such activities for a certain period. Such measures would certainly help to protect the dignity of the sector and create clearer and cleaner relations within the sector itself”. The draft also regulates the property of the non-governmental

organisations and stipulates that NGOs can only use their property to accomplish their statutory goals and are forbidden from distributing it to the founders, members employees or other related individuals, in line with the regulations preventing the conflict of interest. The requirement for having to establish a managing board has been abolished, as recently urged by the vice president of the Association of Layers of Montenegro, **Branislav Radulović**. Radulović said that often a non-governmental organisation consists of a single person, and the requirement to have managing boards leads to multiplication of fictitious bodies. Speaking about the shortcomings of the procedures for appointment of NGO representatives to various public bodies, he said that the Law could be improved by modelling it after the Slovenian law – introducing categories, based on the nature of NGOs’ primary activities, without making the liberal attitude towards the creation of NGOs any more restrictive. “Precisely because of the lack of clear criteria and definition of orientation (area of activity) of civil society organisations, it is really difficult to decide which of the many NGOs (5 394) and foundations (169) are the representative ones for each of the bodies where the NGOs have the legal right to appoint representatives. Moreover, there is a problem of distinguishing between active and fictitious NGOs”, Radulović explained. It remains to be seen whether the proposals will be accepted. The next phase is a public discussion to decide between some alternative solutions offered by the Draft – such as those that suggests that at least three persons (instead of the current five) can found an NGOs. Another task is to think through all the details of the articles regulating the financing of non-governmental organisations and the appointment of their representatives to the public bodies. “For the next phase of development of the sector, it is of strategic importance to ensure stronger guarantees of internal democracy and responsibility of NGOs, without endangering their freedom and autonomy”, Muk warned. We already know that it is not enough for a law to be liberal and acceptable. The devil is in the detail.

Does the census show how far Montenegro is from European values

Party above all



Neđeljko Rudović

Although the arrival of the new prime minister and a few ministers suggested the possibility for a limited change of the system of governance, Montenegro remains a hostage of the parties in power. What the Government says is quite different from what it does. They have mastered the rhetoric which makes Brussels and other European centres happy, they spare no promise of European prospects, they convinced **Jirži Buzek** and other European officials that they will make some real changes in Montenegro and then, at the secret meetings behind closed doors, they appointed party officials for instructors and census surveyors. While on the one hand they keep promising de-politicisation of the judiciary and public administration, which is one of the conditions for negotiations with EU, at the same time they are pushing through the most unscrupulous party interests, undermining the fundamental Constitutional principle of equality of citizens. The opposition parties are another proof that Montenegro is still far from Europe – the two largest opposition parties joined DPS and SDP in the tailoring of the list of surveyors, taking away the chance of the unemployed citizens of Montenegro to earn a few hundred euros. The only way to make it onto the list of surveyors was to be a member of the ruling or the two opposition parties. Not only are the unemployed without party affiliation being left out, but the parties have also unashamedly contracted their official in municipal governments. Thus among the 12 chosen instructors for the census in the municipality of Ulcinj we find **Nailj Draga**, member of the local parliament committee of Forca and the former director of the primary school “Bedri Elezaga” in Vladimir. Ulcinj is no exception with respect to the representation of committee members in the census commissions. While in Herzeg Novi nearly half of the 24 instructors works for the local government, two surveyors in Kotor are also local parliamentarians – **Dragiša Borović** from SNP-a and **Dragan Vulović** from DPS. Among the instructors in Herzeg Novi are also the secretary of the municipal Parliament **Milan Benderać** of SNP-a, two MPs of the same party **Vesna Samardžić** i **Nebojša Vasić**, as well as the head of the citizen's office **Anđelija Barović**, while in Danilovgradu, among other employees of the local government, vice president of the municipi-

pal government **Vidoje Pavićević** (SDP) also made it into the list of instructors. The four largest parties – DPS, SDP, SNP and Nova reached an informal agreement to include their activists in the list of surveyors, roughly proportional to the election results – two thirds are from DPS and SDP. The goal is not only to reward the activists with some pocket money, but also to have them, subtly or openly, influence the respondents. DPS and SDP want as many citizens as possible declaring themselves Montenegrin, while SNP and Nova are vying for more Serbs. So far only Pavićević changed his mind – he decided to give his place up, officially because he had no time for the census. In fact, Pavićević and company are only brutally repeating the pattern shamelessly tried and tested by their bosses in Podgorica: the Human Resources Authority and their so-called selection process is but a screen for employing the most convenient, not the best candidates. The consequence of this practice is a society held hostage to a system running on fear and flattery, which begs the crucial question – can we speak of freedom and democracy in Montenegro or are the institutions and proclamations just a form concealing an artful dictatorship?



Head of the regional office of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Michael Ehrke Montenegro's economy a major obstacle to its membership in EU

The main obstacle on Montenegro's way to membership and to a successful membership after accession is, beside the fight against corruption and organized crime which are usually mentioned in the European Commission reports - the economy, says Michael Ehrke, head of the European Friedrich Foundation (FES) regional office, in the interview for European Pulse.

"This applies to all countries of the region: they are simply not competitive internationally, they have enormous current account deficits

In the case of Montenegro, people often point to tourism as a kind of magic force which will save the local economy. Tourism may help, but in the long run no country can live only from tourism.

and are not able to finance the imports they need by exports. The background is a process of deep deindustrialization which started in the late 80s and continued even in the years of relatively high growth 2000-2007".

He adds that in the case of Montenegro, people often point to tourism as a kind of magic force which will save the local economy.

"Tourism may help, but in the long run no country can live only from tourism", warns Ehrke.

» What are, in your opinion, Montenegro's chances to get the date of negotiations with the EU this fall?

I cannot forecast the accurate date for the start of negotiations. I would rather warn to concentrate too much on negotiations. There won't be real negotiations. The only thing which will be negotiated are the deadlines to which certain elements of the the *acquis communautaire* are to be implemented.

I would concentrate, instead, on the necessary real reforms before, during and after the negotiations – even after eventual accession.



» How do you assess the civil society and its activities in Montenegro?

For me, the picture is ambiguous. On one hand, the Montenegrin society does not yet show the clear-cut differentiation of autonomous spheres – as politics, family, economy – which characterizes modern societies. Therefore, civil society as an autonomous sphere is rather weak.

On the other hand, civic groups who see themselves as a part of the civil society often fulfil tasks which under other circumstances are done by the state. In this sense, the civil society is relatively strong.

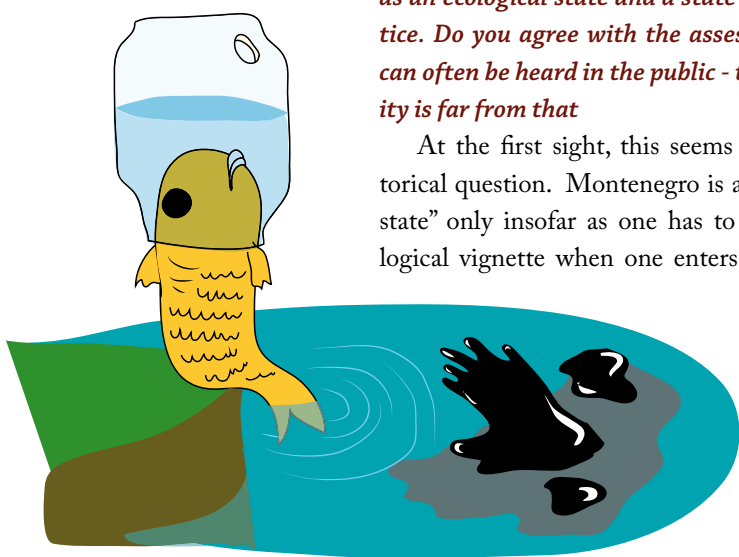
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» According to you, what would be the main challenges that civil society and media in the region face?

The biggest challenges for the civil society in this region are to reconcile countries which 15 years ago waged war against each other, to come to terms with the war past and to prevent violent conflicts in the future

» Montenegro is defined by its Constitution as an ecological state and a state of social justice. Do you agree with the assessments that can often be heard in the public - that the reality is far from that

At the first sight, this seems to be a rhetorical question. Montenegro is an “ecological state” only insofar as one has to buy an ecological vignette when one enters the country.



The state of the Skadar lake, the contamination produced by the Aluminium plant and the destruction of the coastline by unregulated construction do not indicate a highly developed ecological awareness.

On the other hand, social and ecological principles defined by the Constitution can be an effective peaceful weapon for the democratic forces and the civil society. The Constitution can give their demands for an ecological and social state additional legitimacy

» Would you describe shortly the focus of Friedrich Ebert Foundation projects in Montenegro

In Montenegro, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation concentrates on three main activities: First, political education in the sense of motivating and qualifying for political participation on which a democracy depends. Second, we want to qualify the citizens of Montenegro for a successful EU membership. This does include not only civil servants, experts and politicians but all “normal” citizens. Third, we want to support the Montenegrin trade unions in their fight to protect the worker’s interests.

V. Žugić

CIVIL SOCIETY THE MAIN LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

» How would you compare the “strength” of the civil society in Montenegro with civil societies in the neighbouring countries?

I see no big differences in the strength and activities of the civil society in Montenegro as compared to Serbia or Bosnia. The civil society groups in all former Yugoslavian countries are determined by two circumstances: The past of the wars and – as one of the consequences – the presence of a lot of foreign “donor” money. The civil society in the former Yugoslavian countries is seen – also from abroad – as the most important force against war and authoritarian rule. Thus, civil society groups are supported from abroad, including financially (the per capita amount of development aid for Montenegro is perhaps the biggest in the world). Ironically, in some cases, this money threatens to undermine the core principles of civil society organizations, namely the volunteer, unsalaried work of activists and the funding of civil society organizations by the membership fees of their members.

» What is the focus of FES activities in Montenegro??

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Disaster in Japan fuels major concern in the EU,
which is home to 143 active nuclear plants

Europe afraid of the mushroom

Breakdowns of the cooling systems in three out of six reactors of the nuclear power plant Fukushima, caused by a terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan, lead to widespread concern in the European Union, which is home to 143 nuclear plants.

Nuclear reactors exist in 14 member states – France (58), UK (19), Germany (17), Sweden (10), Spain (8), Belgium (7), Czech Republic (6), Hungary, Slovakia and Finland (4 each), Bulgaria and Romania (2 each), Netherlands and Slovenia (1). Italy and Poland are also planning to build nuclear plants, but after the disaster in Japan have been waiting for an assessment of the situation in EU and a possible change in safety standards before they make the decision. Among the West Balkan countries, Croatia has access to nuclear energy through the power plant Krško which it operates together with Slovenia. In Serbia, there is a moratorium on the construction of nuclear

There are 143 nuclear reactors in European Union, based in 14 member states – France (58), UK (19), Germany (17), Sweden (10). Among the West Balkan countries only Croatia uses nuclear energy from the power plant Krško which it operates together with Slovenia.

plants and participation in nuclear project until 2015. A similar moratorium was introduced in a number of countries after the meltdown of Chernobyl in 1986. In spite of that, Serbian officials have indicated a possibility of Serbia's participation in the construction of a new nuclear plant Belene in Bulgaria. German RWE had previously withdrawn from the project, and Croatia refused the invitation to participate. The construction of Belene originally began in 1981, but was halted 10 years later because of financial difficulties, and the works resumed in autumn 2008. The construction of the power plant in the north of Bulgaria, by the Danube, was entrusted to the Russian company Atomstrojexport. Bulgaria is looking for a strategic investor for the realization of the project after the German company withdrew in late 2009. In the meantime, Croatia also announced it was not interested in the construction of the power plant. The project was supposed to compensate for the reduction electricity production capacities in Bulgaria caused by an early phasing out of the nuclear plant Kozloduj.

According to the Croatian Strategy for energy development, the decision to build a nuclear power plant should be made at the latest by 2012, and the atomic energy should help Croatia to reduce carbon intensity and energy import dependence of its economy. There are also speculations in Albania regarding the possibility of building a nuclear power plant



Austrian government, which has firmly opposed nuclear plants, criticised in late 2009 the decision of neighbouring Germany to extend the deadline for closure of 17 nuclear plants in this country. Austrian environmentalists have also repeatedly called for closure of the plants in Slovenia and Slovakia which are bordering Austria.

as a joint project with Italy. According to the Albanian media, the plant would be situated close to the border with Montenegro, whose officials have shown no sign of alarm. However, after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the Austrian minister for environment, **Nikolaus Berlakovich** made a request at the ministerial meeting in Brussels to re-examine safety standards of the nuclear plants in Europe. According to him, these plants ought to undergo certain endurance tests.

“Can they withstand earthquakes? Are their reactor cooling system up to the task? We need this in order to appease the citizens who are worried by the situation in Japan”, added Berlakovich in support of his request last Sunday. Austrian government, which has firmly opposed nuclear plants, criticised in late 2009 the decision of neighbouring Germany to extend the deadline for closure of 17 nuclear plants in this country. Austrian environmentalists have also repeatedly called for closure of the plants in Slovenia and Slovakia which are bordering Austria.

Hungary, which currently presides over the EU, has flatly refused to organise a discussion on this topic at the meeting of the ministers of environment. “It seems to me that the Environmental Council (consisting of the EU ministers in charge of environment”) is not the appropriate forum for a discussion of this topic”, said Hungarian minister for rural development, **Sandor Fazekas**. Italian minister of environment **Stefania Prestigiacomo** also warned that the situation has been a source of concern

in Italy, which has been planning to revive its nuclear programme, ended in 1987 after the tragedy at Chernobyl. Poland has taken a similar stance, and its minister of environment said the country will not take any decisions in this direction until it receives further information.

It seems nevertheless that the consequences of the Japanese tragedy stirred the most profound ripples in Germany, where the voters had punished the federal chancellor and head of the Christian-Democratic Union (CDU) **Angela Merkel** and her foreign affairs minister, head of the Liberal Party **Guido Westerwelle** for their insistence on extending the lifespan of a number of nuclear plants. Even the decision to declare a three-month moratorium on the extended use of German nuclear plants has not helped CDU and the liberals in the elections in Baden-Württemberg, a province which has been ruled by CDU for several decades. The most developed German state has now fallen to the Greens. The analysts are united in their verdict that the results of elections would have probably been different without the earthquake in Japan and the disaster in the nuclear power plant Fukushima.

Switzerland, which is not a member of EU, took some definite steps and halted renovation of its power plants, in expectation of stricter safety standards. Outside of Europe, India announced a safety check-up of all the plants.

According to the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, there are two reference levels for the nuclear plant safety in case of earthquakes – level 1, or an earthquake which might happen and after which the nuclear plant can continue working. Level 2 is based on a hypothetical case of an earthquake of 6.5 grades happening right underneath the reactor, and in this case it should be possible to safely turn off the reactor while releasing the heat and retaining radiation. An emergency plan has to be developed for every individual plant.

The morning of the “Odyssey dawn”

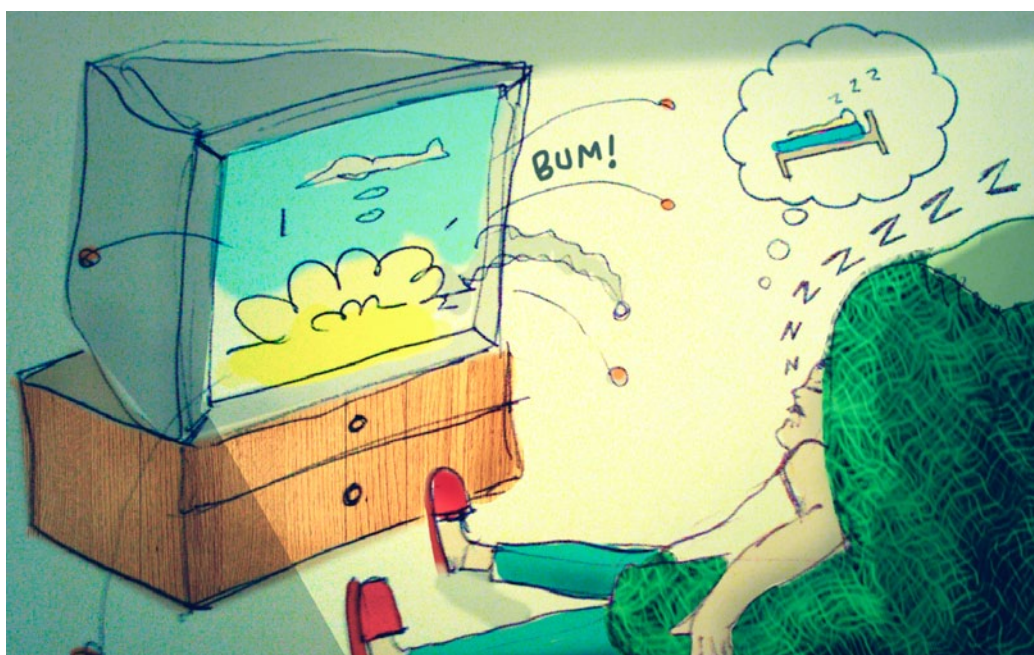


Brano Mandić

Once again, Montenegro is at the damned crossroad between the East and the West, and the world news are making it into the prime time. The forces of light and darkness, in Libya, loom near. Open-mouthed, we are following the situation, happy, content with Gaddafi's styling and with the public attitude of a leader who does not shrink from addressing the public via TV Pink. The internet comments, which all come down to unwavering support for **Colonel Gaddafi** are an education. They are already boiling over the limits of Facebook and threatening to turn into a mini-hysteria. Let's not hold it against the citizens of Montenegro – Gaddafi is perhaps the last specimen of a leader with a Cold War-aura. He is fairly stoned and cool, he could easily replace **Keith Richards** and blow off the competitors in any reality show. He's got the exotic looks and talks mainly about the heavenly justice and fascism, which is

It would be interesting to find out whether the level of support for NATO membership fell since the beginning of the Odyssey Dawn. If so, it means it is high time that somebody in our political elite takes a serious interest in analysing and interpreting foreign policy priorities and problems

an excellent choice of topics for a dictator. His policies are none of our business, nor are they of any interest to the citizens who only care to know that the Americans, our ancient enemies, are against the Colonel, which is why we are all for him and are going to raise the clamour until Allah hears the cries of our brothers. We had enough of necktied hypocrites from Brussels and their impotent demagoguery, long live the Colonel! Somehow at the same time Putin had visited Serbia and the Red Star equalised with Zenit, so over there there's the same euphoria and hearty support to the great friend of our nations. That's discourse: mix in a bit of bar wisdom with a bit of Internet, and behold the pure crystal of wisdom! Quite evidently, the old friend of our nations and nationalities managed to homogenise the traditional hatred for the western arms, and, let's not mince the words, the loathing of the policy of future membership in NATO. Just as the Government made a move on the campaign, trying to advertise NATO as a regular political organisation, when this stupid war crops up, a perfect opportunity for the simple but wise people to identify with David against Goliath and remember what it was like 12 years ago when the targets lay all around us. A very tricky situation, especially since there is not a person in Monte-



negro who could competently expound on the developments of this war and explain what is really going on in Libya. The war at other end of the world has thus become an ideal matrix for all sorts of frustrations, most of all a political who's-the-hero. Supporting Gaddafi means being a dispossessed patriot in the village, or, if you're of the urban persuasion, anti-globalist. If there's anybody who still supports the Western airplanes, it's but a handful, they are in a cramp, in a Quisling trip, because this same West was not too articulate in explaining us the details of its plan, i.e. what will happen if and when they overthrow the Colonel. In any case, it would be interesting to find out whether the level of support for NATO membership fell since the Odyssey Dawn dawned. If so, it means it is high time that somebody in our political elite takes a serious interest in analysing and interpreting foreign policy priorities and problems. At the moment no party has an expert on the Middle East, or somebody with a PhD in the Scandinavian model of social democracy. The

The Church has legitimised its military observations long ago, and the fact that no priest has been held responsible for crime and warmongering tells us that they have every right to political appearance, because we give them that right every time we vote for these and such political elites

Libyan case, which seems to have set on fire the popular masses shows that there is quite a space for political profit in that area, and a chance for an effective appearance. Instead, however, the young offspring of what we call opposition parties banded together into an anti-NATO group which already had its first TV appearance. What really swept me off my feet, not for the first time, was the act of a priest. Not of any priest, but of that always active parson of Podgorica, father **Velibor Džomić**. Father Džomić had thought long and hard about the victims in Afghanistan and decided to say it all into the face of the cameramen of Montenegrin televisions, offering his pearls of wisdom on the new world order and the role of the Montenegrin Orthodox Church in that apoca-

lypse that devours little children. The Serbian Orthodox Church has its hands in politics up to the elbows, but this time round it passed relatively quietly, probably because we think of NATO as foreign policy and therefore nobody even mentioned **Sekula Drljević** and the question is whether this is politics at all, or just one educated priest with too much leisure time and love for the pulpit. It has become normal that a priest joins the campaign against NATO and that a church gets carried away to that extent, so this will probably merit few reactions. The Church has legitimised its military observations long ago, and the fact that no priest has been held responsible for crime and warmongering tells us that they have every right to political appearance, because we give them that right every time we vote for these and such political elites. Now **Amfilohije** has resorted to the ancient director's trick of the wider angle: he'll skip all the petty issues of our neighbourly slaughters and get closer to the universal truth by plunging into one global theme, highly conducive to all sorts of abstractions and myth-making, since the citizens know as little about the attack on Libya as they do about the Battle of Kosovo. Wish us every luck with the peace-invoking discourse of the Orthodox priests who found it necessary to support the struggle of the leader of one Islamic jamāhīriyyah and thus demonstrate that the God is one and indivisible like once upon a time DPS. My skin crawls at the idea that the people in priestly mantles will be leading the campaign against NATO, which is perfectly indifferent and unnecessary to them, and as a citizen I expect some more sensible information in order to decide whether I'm for or against it. This way I can only end up on one side, because I will never be on the same side with priests-politicians. There, I suppose that's how one becomes a traitor and a mercenary of the great world powers and their secret kitchens. There's no other alternative. Just like there's no alternative for Montenegro, according to those others who are brainwashing us with tales that NATO is but a messenger of culture and entertainment, a diplomatic school rather than a military power. Now, you decide...

European Parliament resolution on the process of European integrations in Montenegro

Hope from the parliament benches

On 9 March 2011, European Parliament (EP) adopted the Resolution on the process of European integrations in Montenegro, welcoming the decision of the European Council to grant Montenegro the status of candidate country stressed that the decision to start accession negotiations should be made at the latest after the publication on the 2011 Commission Progress Report. EP also welcomed the fact that the process of establishing the legal and constitutional framework of the country has almost been finalised, but warned that the deadline for harmonising the existing legal system with the new constitution has been extended for the fourth time and called on the authorities to adopt swiftly the outstanding legislation, in particular the amendments to the legal framework on elections in line with the recommendations of the OSCE-ODIHR and the Venice Commission, and to improve the mechanism for verifying election-related complaints before the Electoral Commission or the courts. The Resolution also calls on the Montenegrin Parliament to urgently and significantly strengthen its capacities regarding the task of assessing whether laws proposed by the government are in line with the *acquis* and urges the EC to provide the necessary technical assistance, and the government to make this process more transparent and publicly accessible. EP reiterated the importance of the rule of law for the development of the country and for the credibility of the state institutions in the



eyes of citizens, and called on the authorities to take into account the importance of public participation in the development of new legislation and its effective implementation. The Parliament urged the Montenegrin authorities to improve the implementation record of anti-corruption legislation, and to change in the legislative framework for political parties and electoral campaign financing in order to ensure independent control and transparency of the financing mechanisms. The Resolution also calls for energetic steps to be taken to eliminate the cases of conflicts of interest in public administration, and for the amendment of the law which allows Members of Parliament and other elected representatives to take up duties as members of managing or supervisory bodies. European MPs pointed out that the freedom of information law is being implemented with difficulty, especially when it comes to the provision of documents that could reveal corruption in the field of privatisation and public procurement, and urged the government to facilitate access to relevant data and refrain from pressuring those nongovernmental and non-profit organisations and civil society actors in general which investigate corruption and organised crime cases and perform a watchdog role. Among other remarks on the state of the rule of law in Montenegro, EP reiterated the warnings of the Commission and Council that organised crime, and above all money laundering and smuggling, remain a problem in spite of

European MPs pointed out that the freedom of information law is being implemented with difficulty, especially when it comes to the provision of documents that could reveal corruption in the field of privatisation and public procurement, and urged the government to facilitate access to relevant data and refrain from pressuring those nongovernmental and non-profit organisations and civil society actors in general which investigate corruption

EP is concerned that women continue to be under-represented in decision-making processes and in leading positions, and calls for steps to swiftly mainstream gender equality policy

improvements in the legal framework, and that the public administration still remains under-resourced and overtly politicised. The Resolution especially welcomes the adoption of the general law on prohibition of discrimination in employment or provision of public services, but notes the remaining shortcomings in the law and underlines that vulnerable groups such as Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians and persons with disabilities still allegedly suffer discrimination. Also, the EP notes that discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity widely persists, including on the part of state authorities. “EP is concerned that women continue to be under-represented in decision-making processes and in leading positions both in the public administration, such as parliament, ministries, top government posts, and in the management of public companies, and calls for steps to swiftly mainstream gender equality policy, and to introduce the principle of equal pay”, states the Resolution. MEPs are satisfied with the generally good inter-ethnic relations in Montenegro, but call on the government to ensure greater representation of minorities in administrative structures, and to align the law on citizenship and the law on foreigners with European standards. As regards the economic situation in Montenegro, EP warns that in spite of a relatively good track record in implementing economic reforms the financial crisis revealed potential weaknesses in its current economic model and highlighted the urgency of further structural changes. The Resolution expresses concern by a significant level of informal employment, and adds that the informal economy is a deeply rooted problem in Montenegro, the resolving of which demands in-depth strategies which have to include all aspects of society. “EP draws attention to the fact that the labour market is still characterised by structural unemployment and that at

the same time vacancies for highly skilled jobs remain unfilled, showing a mismatch between required and supplied skills”, notes the Resolution. EP has also welcomed the decision of the Montenegrin authorities to define Montenegro as an ecological state in the Constitution, and recognised the significant role played by tourism in the economic development of the country. However, the Parliament stressed the potential risks to the environment stemming from tourism and called on the government to take urgent steps to protect nature, such as swift implementation of the law on the environment and further efforts which are needed to prevent possible devastation of the coast on

EP urged the Montenegrin authorities, notably the Ministry of Economy, to post publicly on its website all annexes and documents related to the recent agreement on the establishment of an underwater energy cable between Montenegro and Italy

the Adriatic sea. “EP welcomes measures to develop a lower carbon economy by developing the country’s huge hydroelectric and other renewable energy potential, which will contribute in covering domestic needs and even constitute an export resource and foreign currency earner for the country. The Parliament warns, however, that large scale dams often have significant negative impacts on the environment and calls for appropriate environmental assessments before their approval or authorisation, in line with the EU *acquis*”.

In relation to this, the EP urged the Montenegrin authorities, notably the Ministry of Economy, to post publicly on its website all annexes and documents related to the recent agreement on the establishment of an underwater energy cable between Montenegro and Italy, which has lead to a judicial complaint lodged in Italy by some municipalities and NGOs about this project, and called for the full consequences of the deal, including the environmental impact, to be made public.

On the way to a better tomorrow



Emir Kalač

The author works in the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM). He attended X Generation of European Integrations School.

My dream to live in an independent Montenegro came true on 21 May 2006. However, my actual dream, as that of all citizens of Montenegro, is to live in a country where we would be content with the quality of life, where the laws will be obeyed, and which will be governed by a functioning democratic system. At the moment, we are still rather far from that. If you ask an average Montenegrin citizen to justify his or her choice of EU, you will instantly get the “higher wages, more employment...” answer. Which is logical, as the middle class (which ought to be the pillar of the society’s sustainability) has all but vanished, and the ranks of poor and unemployed are swelling. Economic cooperation and material prosperity of the citizens are the areas where the EU achieved a remarkable level of cooperation, and they correspond to our basic goals. Together with the members of the CEFTA agreement, the EU is our biggest economic partner. Nearly half of our exports and imports are with the EU, although the imports, at 553 mn euros significantly exceed the exports (130 mn). I am not competent enough to talk about the economic issues, but although I believe it is reasonable to import cars, industrial machinery and oil, I do think we can produce enough electricity and meat to cover at least our own means: that our agriculture can absorb more than 6.5% of the workforce (data from 2009), since the Common Agricultural Policy is one of the most important policy areas for EU. Why the EU, with regard to the rule of law? They say the “rule of law does not come overnight”. The decision to become a candidate for EU membership was (is) discussed in various ways, but it is clear that the core problems, already noted in the first EC Progress Report on Montenegro have remained the main obstacles to the development of the rule of law in Montenegro. We still have a problem with (in)dependent judiciary, inadequate electoral system, discrimination, organised crime, corruption...the EU will not risk another Romania or Bulgaria. Why the EU, with regard to security? Even if it does not be-



long to the first EU pillar, and the EU members have not had high quality cooperation in this area, the fact that since the EU’s foundation its members have not waged wars on each other is a strong argument in favour of integrations. Peace is, after all, a precondition for every next step on improving the relations among states. Why the EU, with regard to education, science and research? Because the Montenegrin educational system is among the weakest in Europe. In 2006, Montenegrin fifteen year-olds took the 48th place among the 57 OECD members tested by PISA. Montenegrin universities are absent from all international rankings of academic institutions (ARWU, Webometrics etc). On the other hand, 27 of the 100 best universities in the world are in the EU (Webometrics). Programmes such as FP7 will pave the way for Montenegrin researchers to participate in different regional projects, offering them a chance for professional improvement and to apply the knowledge acquired during numerous exchanges in Montenegro. Finally, the lawyers, engineers, economists, political scientists graduated “abroad” do not hang out at home or wait on tables for pocket money... On the way to EU we can solve our numerous problems. We will only solve them, however, if we take a serious, responsible and well-organised approach to it. The EU should not be seen as a destination – but as a path to a better tomorrow. And, last but not least – Montenegro will join the EU when the EU, i.e. the European system of values, has entirely “entered” Montenegro.

Plumbers in Germany

According to the estimates of the Centre for Migration Research of the University of Warsaw, more than 500 000 Poles could leave every year for Germany and Austria, once the two countries open their labour markets to Polish citizens on 1 May. After Poland's accession to EU in 2004, the first large wave of Poles was recorded in the UK and Ireland. At the time, Germany and Austria decided to postpone the opening of their markets for the new member states until 2011. However, the Polish labour

minister Jolanta Fedak recently said that Poland is not afraid of mass labour emigration to Germany and Austria. "Poles already know the European market. We are not expecting an exodus", she said, adding that the opening of the markets will be mostly important for those who work illegally in Germany and who want to legalize their status.



Problems with electronic waste

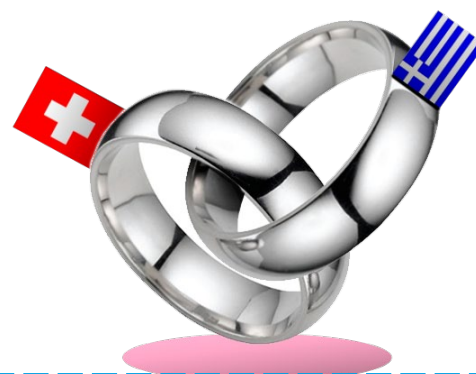
After the European Parliament asked last month that the EU collects 85% of electronic waste, EU ministers of environment approved the proposal of the European Commission which envisages as 65% quota and delayed implementation of the new directive by four years. According to EC's estimates, an average European produces 17 to 20 kilograms of electronic and electrical waste every year. This includes everything, from light bulbs to computers, TVs, mobile phones and refrigerators. The 2003 Directive on electrical and electronic waste seeks improved collection and recycling of such waste. However, it turned out to be too complex, expensive and even impossible to implement, which is why the EC proposed a revised version in late 2008. The member states only reached a consensus on it last month.

Sanctions for spendthrift members

After several months of discussion, on 15 March, the EU ministers of finance agreed on measures for increased financial discipline in EU member states. According to the newest measures, there will be sanctions for the countries members of the Eurozone whose public debt exceeds 60% of GDP, and a limit on growth of public expenditure in order to ensure repayment of the public debt. It is expected that the European Parliament will also agree on the measures by mid-2011. Should the debt exceed 60% limit, the member states will have to start cutting it down at the rate of 5% of excess debt per year. According to the Eurostat data for the second quarter of 2010, 13 EU member states have a public debt above 60% of GDP, and 10 of them are members of the Euro area. Greece has the highest public debt, 40% larger than its GDP, and is followed by Italy (119.6%) and Belgium (99.6%). The lowest public debt is that of Estonia, which became a member of the Eurozone this year.

Easing divorce pains

European Commission proposed last month common rules that are supposed to simplify division of property after divorce when the spouses have different citizenship or own property in a third country. According to EC, there are 16 million international marriages in EU. When a marriage like that falls apart, because of divorce or death of a spouse, there are often problems related to the division of property because of different regulations in different member states. This also means that the citizens spend a lot of time and money figuring out which country has the jurisdiction and which legislation applies in their case.



In anticipation of population census in the West Balkan countries

A seal on reality

Only from afar the census statistics can appear as a neutral count of red blood cells. As everything else in the region, the population census is politics par excellence. After a decade, updating the demographic, economic and social data will undoubtedly affect relations among the states, risk opening old wounds and stir memories of unfulfilled promises. Those who understand the census as a new trigger for hatred and mutual accusations can rest assured. The cold statistics will confirm many evils that took place on these territories in the last decades. For those ready to turn to the future, the census is but a seal on the new reality.

Serbia

The census in Serbia, planned for April, has been postponed until October. With money low in the state's coffers, the EU had to help out Belgrade financially. But Serbia is dragging its heels when it comes to giving accurate data, including those required by the questionnaire from Brussels. This means that there will also be delays in access to the pre-accession fund. I wonder if this is good for the government. The results of some 50 000 census researcher take time to process. This is not China, where it takes 6.5 million researchers. Nor India, which decided to include its homeless in the census. The task, in short, doesn't seem so complicated, but we will only get the picture of the nation in 2012 – a year before elections. I doubt that the statistics will be a source of pleasure to those in power.

For example, the "white plague" Serbia is facing, the decline in our birth rate that is seeing Serbia depopulated by between 30 and 35.000 inhabitants every year. The population of a small city, gone missing. The census will also expose the mass flight of young minds. After Ireland and Hungary, we are the third country in Europe whose diaspora is just slightly less than the population left in the country.

How many people you think will respond positively to the question about their computer skills? What computers? The effectiveness of Serbia's educational system in the 21st century can be judged from the fact that a third of the population is illiterate or "technically illiterate".

How cynical is the question on the "number of additional apartments or houses" to the army of 700,000 people living below the poverty line? One imagines their rage against corrupt politicians, wealthy tycoons and the whole collection of pickpockets.

Kosovo

The census to be held in April in Kosovo will certainly be among the most interesting. This will be the first real census in three decades, the first following three unsuccessful attempts after the 1999 bombings. What a great opportunity for the passionate local academics and politicians to remind us that in 1929 Serbs made up 61% of the Kosovo population, while in 1981 the census, conducted by the then regional authorities found that 77.48% of the total population was Albanian.



As it is feared, for a reason, that a huge majority of expelled Serbs will not be included in the census, Belgrade announced that the census should be resisted by all political means. It should be boycotted, like the Albanian boycotted ours in 1991. Resist "legalisation of the ethnic cleansing of Serbs from Kosovo". I've been thinking that the delay of the Serbian census might be intentional. Wait to see the results of the census in Kosovo. Wait to see the outcome of the dialogue between Belgrade and Prishtina.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

In the year of the Census some small consolation may be found in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the last census was conducted right before the war, in 1991. But the political class there has not yet agreed on what to do. The paralysis of government means the country may be the only state in Europe not to hold the census this year. It means we will still not get any accurate statistics on the changes to the population during and after the war, as well as data on the destruction of thousands of buildings, factories, schools and other buildings. The problem is eminently political. Bosnians refer to the Eurostat standards and request that the census not include mandatory questions on religious affiliation, nationality or language. They say it would only "legalise ethnic cleansing," one of the most terrible consequences of the war in BiH. Croats, on the other hand, maintain that they were the biggest victims of the cleansing, claiming that there are 43% fewer Croats living in Bosnia-Herzegovina today than in 1992. Together with the party of the Republic Srpska, they fear unitarisation and centralisation of Bosnia. Some compromise has been made, although incomplete, and it seems that there will only be a partial census on the territory of RS. Economic consequences of this debate could be severe. The European Commission had already warned that BiH might fall even further behind its neighbours in the process of European integration if it fails to conduct the census in 2011.

Croatia

The Croatian citizens will not be spared the politicisation either when they are called upon in April to answer 45 questions, some of them relating to their private lives – like the question as to whether "they live in a same-sex union." The peace has done its part, and now there will be no more questions referring to "refugees" or "displaced persons". But the populace will no doubt want to know why only 41,000 babies are born in Croatia each year, while registered deaths stand around 54,000. How many Croats live in BiH? The bishops are asking that the 2011 census be used as the last chance to establish the number of victims of communism.

Macedonia

The census will be held in Macedonia in April. The questionnaires have already been formulated, and no political problems should arise, as all standards have been fully respected. The questionnaire will contain questions on religious and ethnic affiliation, and the answer is – mandatory.

Albania

The same is true of the neighbouring Albania. The nationality and ethnicity of the population will be canvassed in order to settle frequent controversies on these issues. Experts expect this will allow many Albanians to apply for Greek citizenship and so enjoy the generous retirement benefits that Greece bestows on its minorities. All in all, a lot of statistical truths, and no fewer practical problems, will be brought to light. A snapshot of the Balkans in the 21st century, in the waiting room of the European Union.

Source: www.presseurop.eu

Assembly of the RECOM coalition adopted the statute,
which will be forwarded to the parliaments of all countries in the region

So that the crimes never happen again



Mirela Rebronja

The author is a PR representative
and coordinator of Initiative for
RECOM in Montenegro

“The future inter-state Commission will have the following goals: to establish the facts on war crimes and other severe violations of human rights committed on the territory of former SFRY between 1 January 1991 and 31 December 2001, [...] to recognise the injustices inflicted on the victims, in the aim of building a culture of solidarity and empathy, to contribute to the enactment of victims’ rights, to contribute to the acceptance of the war crimes and human rights violations on the part of the political elites and society in the signatory countries, to contribute to shedding the light on the destinies of the missing persons and to contribute to the prevention of future reoccurrence of war crimes and other severe violations of human rights”, states the draft Statute. On 26 March 2011 the fourth Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM took place in Belgrade, where the delegates adopted the draft Statute of RECOM by a two-third majority, following a broad public debate on the draft version of the document. The draft Statute of RECOM will be forwarded for adoption to the parliaments of all countries in the region

Civic initiative to establish as regional inter-state Commission to find and record the facts on all victims and severe violations of human rights during the 1991–2001 wars, and the consequences of these wars on the territory of former SFR Yugoslavia has been active for more than three years. The initiative is led by the Coalition for RECOM, currently consisting of more than 1 500 organisations and individuals determined to contribute to the establishment of the Commission. The idea came from the victims themselves and for the civil society, as a genuine necessity in the unstable post-war societies, and it has been expanded ever since through an intensive consultation process. The participants in the consultations are brought together by the common understanding that the trials before the International Criminal Court for former Yugoslavia, as well as before the national courts, are an important channel for punishing the perpetrators of war crimes, but are not sufficient to satisfy the victims’ thirst for justice, nor can they in themselves create the necessary conditions for a lasting peace in the region.



Voting for the draft Statute of the Assembly for RECOM

The meetings of RECOM regularly emphasised the need to build a culture of solidarity and empathy and to oppose political manipulation of victims. In this way, a broad debate was started on the regional level, based on dialogue, research and analysis of facts, and as such represents a unique attempt at a comprehensive historical record of crimes committed in the period 1991-2001 on the territory of former Yugoslavia. As emphasised in the draft Statute, adopted at the IV Assembly of the Coalition, the states ought to commit themselves to helping as much as possible to clarify the fate of a large number of individuals still considered “missing” and to jointly contribute to the acceptance of facts on war crimes and human rights’ violations towards all victims, and to the renewal of trust between individuals, peoples and societies at large. Article 10 of the draft Statute sets the leading principles of the future Commission: respect for human dignity; independence and impartiality; commitment to truth; equality and respect for human rights and freedoms; accountability, accessibility and openness; careful investigation of facts and just procedures; integrity, decisiveness and adherence to the highest standards of professional ethics; special protection for the victims of sexual abuse and persons who were underaged in the period considered by the Commission; and protection of privacy. Based on the above principles, according to the Statute, RECOM is also expected to fulfil a number of concrete goals, defined by the Article 13 of this document: “The Commission has the following goals: to establish the facts on the war crimes and other severe violations of human rights committed on the territory of former SFRY in the period from 1 January 1991 to 31 December 2001, political and social circumstances which influenced these acts and the consequences of the crimes and human rights’ violations; to recognise the injustices perpetrated against the victims, in the aim of building a culture of solidarity and empathy; to contribute to the enactment of the victims’ rights; to contribute to the acceptance of the facts on war crimes and other human rights’ violations on the part

of the political elites and societies in the countries signatories of the agreement; to contribute to shedding the light on the fate of the missing persons and to prevent future reoccurrence of war crimes and other human rights’ violations”. For each of these goals, the draft Statute elaborates concrete tasks in order to clarify the vision and the way in which the said goals will be fulfilled. The mandate of the Commission should be set for three years, which according to the expert working group which developed the Statute as well as the majority of participants in the consultation process is sufficient time to fulfil the goals. It is important to note that the development of the document included all parties who demonstrated readiness an interest in contributing to the final version. The document has passed several rounds of revision and was finally adopted by a large majority of votes at the Assembly which brought together delegates from all countries in the region. The next step of the Coalition will be a campaign to win support of the broad public, including collection of a million support signatures. The action will be coordinated by the Youth initiative for human rights in Serbia and Croatia, and implemented in cooperation with the partners and coalition members in each country. the signatures, together with the RECOM Statute, will be submitted to the parliaments of all countries in the region, with the request that these bodies adopt identical laws on this matter and establish a Regional Commission. Until the parliamentary approval, the Coalition will continue to advocate the Initiative for the establishment of RECOM before all governments, political parties and other most influential authorities in the societies in the region. The Assembly supported and approved the upcoming activities in attracting a broad public support, and the significance and success of the regional initiative is best illustrated by the fact that the number of the Coalition members has been growing daily, and that according to public opinion polls the post-Yugoslav societies are still burdened by their past and in need of a thorough, genuine confrontation with the facts and justice for the victims.

Open prison

Representatives of some ten NGOs active in protection and advancement of human rights in Montenegro were invited by the director of the Institution for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions (ZIKS) in Spuž, **Milana Radović**, to a meeting on 25 March 2011 to discuss possibilities for cooperation.

The parties discussed participation in programmes intended to raise the convicts' and prison employees' awareness of the human rights of imprisoned persons, especially of those belonging to vulnerable groups, as well as the awareness raising campaigns on addiction and protection from contagious diseases, and programmes intended to resolve stress-inducing and conflict situations.

Danilo Ajković, CCE's PR and programme associated participated on behalf of CCE. He offered cooperation between CCE and ZIKS and said that CCE is committed to ensuring that all imprisoned individuals can exercise their right to professional education while serving their sentence which, according to him "is one of the key preconditions for their reintegration into the society".

Montenegrin Beauty

Documentary film "Montenegrin Beauty" by on the (lack of) student activism, produced by Centre for Civic Education in cooperation with NGO Coala Production with support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation was shown on 16 March 2011 at the Department of Political Science. CCE's intention to utilise artistic expression to initiate a broader social debate on this issue proved fruitful, as the screening lead to a very lively and interesting discussion. Apart from having a chance to talk to the director of the film, the students also discussed the reasons behind the lack of student activism in Montenegro, as well as the possibilities for changing the status quo through establishment of a student organisation that would protect the rights of all students. The next screenings are planned for the Department of Philosophy, and the privately owned Faculty for Administrative and European Studies and University Donja Gorica (UDG). The documentary was also shown on RTCG, TV Vijesti, NTV Montena and TV Budva. The film is also available online at vimeo.com/cgo/montenegrin-beauty



Diplomas for the X generation of Human Rights School

A graduation ceremony on 23 march 2011 marked the end of the X generation of Human Rights School, organised by Centre for Civic Education in cooperation with the Norwegian Human Rights Committee, and with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway. The school is part of a regional programme of human rights education in the Western Balkans, within which CCE is the reference organisation for Montenegro. The diplomas were awarded to successful participants by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE.

In the course of the School the participants had a chance to learn about the concept, the culture and principles of human rights, analyse international documents in the field of human rights, and become acquainted with the standards and recommendations of international organisations, as well as mechanisms and instruments of human rights protection, including an overview of the human rights' situation in Montenegro.

The lecturers in the School were academics and professors of the Montenegrin and other universities, renowned lawyers, judges, researchers, MPs, representatives of political and non-governmental organisations, film directors, psychologists, journalists, as well as representatives of institutions dealing with the advancement of human rights in Montenegro. A special value of the School lies in the diversity of its participants and interactions that developed in the course of the programme. X generation of the Human Rights School was completed by 24 citizens of Montenegro. Their numbers, as well as the continuing interest in the programme ever since its foundation are encouraging and demonstrate that there is a readiness among the Montenegrin citizens to become socially engaged and active participants of the social processes, while improving own knowledge and skills.



Talinn University Master's Scholarships

The five Master's curricula that foreign first-year Master's students can apply to in year 2011 are as follows: Anthropology (2 places), International Relations (2 places), Communication Management (1 place), Comparative Literature and Cultural Semiotics (1 place) and European Studies - Europeanization of Governance and Politics (1 place). University will award scholarships to 7 foreign first-year Master's students. The selection criteria is based on the examination results table from the entrance exam that is published by the university. Eligible candidates are: who do not reside in the Republic of Estonia and who, during the last three years, have not resided in Estonia for a total period exceeding one year; whose Master's studies in the participating higher education institution commence after 1 June 2010; who are full-time students and who stay in Estonia during the period for which the stipend is paid; who do not receive any other scholarships. Deadline: 20 May 2011.

For more information click here >>>

Master in International Media Studies

It is a joint project from the University of Bonn, the Bonn Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences and Deutsche Welle, Germany's international broadcaster with its headquarters in Bonn. The bilingual Master's Program offers a unique course offer given the current development of global media and the connection between media and cooperative development. The program combines topics like media and development, journalism, communication science and media economics, while developing practical skills and competencies that are important for the world of media. The Master's Program is a scientifically-based, international training program that offers real-life professional experience. It examines journalism and media economics - in radio, TV, print and multimedia/online - as well as cooperative development and education. The course of study at Deutsche Welle lets the participants experience internationality in daily life and on all levels. Eligibility: Those interested must have completed an academic program (bachelor's degree or equivalent) and have acquired at least one year of professional experience in a media-related field after their first degree. The Master's Program is bilingual and students will have to provide proof of good verbal and written language skills in both German and English. Especially targeted at:

- * Media representatives from radio, TV, online and print* Journalists-in-training, especially from electronic media
- * Journalists and management from community radio stations
- * Communication experts
- * NGO employees, employees from ministries and employees from cooperative development groups and projects
- * Representatives from regional working groups and national broadcasters
- * Media association representatives

Deadline: 15 April, 2011.

For more information click here >>>

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