

# European pulse

Electronic monthly magazine for European Integration – No 68, May 2011

## FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE

### Two months until Montenegro's final deadline to fulfil EC's seven conditions

#### interview

Executive director of LGBT Forum Progress  
Zdravko Cimbaljević

#### analysis

Will Podgorica lose the status of the EU's  
regional favourite after Mladić's arrest

#### research

How far is the region from the EU's target  
to lift the renewable energy share to 20%  
by 2020



Foreword: **Vote**

Vladan Žugić

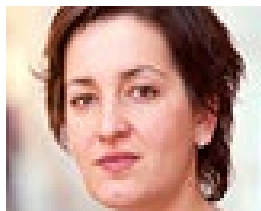


After three years of writing the new election law and six years of postponing its adoption, things seem fairly clear. Montenegro will not get the date for the opening of accession negotiations with EU unless it adopts the election law by 31 July, because this is the first, and perhaps the most important, condition set by the European Commission. The culprit will be the opposition, but also the government and its unwillingness to tackle corruption and organised crime. The draft Law on Elections incorporates most of the suggestions of the opposition, the Venetian Commission and OSCE, and the only reason it cannot garner the support of the two-thirds of MPs in the Montenegrin Parliament is a kind of whim more typical of pre-school children: I don't want to play with (vote for) this! To make the paradox greater, the opposition parties don't seem to realise that the Government could also call for another election under the current law and thus buy itself another few years in power. The leaders of the opposition, unless they want to keep that title for eternity, must enter the game with the government this time. If they don't they are playing against their own and against the European interests of Montenegro.

## Calendar

05. May **Tusk: Negotiations by the end of the year** / Montenegro could begin a new phase of its European integrations in December – the beginning of pre-accession negotiations with EU, said Polish Prime Minister **Donald Tusk** after a meeting with the Prime Minister **Igor Lukšić** in the villa “Miločer”. Poland will take over EU presidency on 1 July.
07. May **Freedom of expression and media part of negotiations** / At a conference dedicated to the freedom of the media, organised by EC, European enlargement commissioner **Štefan Füle** said that the freedom of the media will become an integral part of the negotiations chapters. “The chapter on judiciary and fundamental rights is of supreme importance, and lies at the very heart of the negotiations. So far, however, it did not contain a specific reference to the freedom of speech and freedom of the media. In the future, we are planning to incorporate these freedoms into the chapter”, Füle said.
17. May **Gay pride postponed indefinitely** / Organisers of the Gay Pride in Podgorica failed to reach an agreement with the authorities on the terms on which the event was to take place. The organisers from the LGBT Forum Progress insist that a high-ranking official from the Government should participate both in the Organisational Committee and in the event itself, but the representatives of the executive refused. Originally, the event was to take place on 31 May.
- 17-18. May **Second session of the Parliamentary Committee** / During its second meeting held in Podgorica, Parliamentary Committees for Stabilisation and Association with EU consensually adopted the Declaration and Recommendation for institutions in Montenegro and EU. In the overall positive document for Montenegro, European and Montenegrin MPs emphasised the importance of enforcement of the adopted laws for further progress.
26. May **Füle: You're on the right track, don't slow down** / Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** said he was impressed by the commitment of Montenegro and its Government to the reforms, but that further progress towards EU requires tangible results. “The country is on the right track. This is no time to slow down – just the opposite”, said Füle at the press conference organised by the National Council for European Integrations.

# Dangerous Silence



Katarina Safarikova

Of all the concrete reminders of the European Union's presence in people's lives, the one they most appreciate, pollsters say, is ability to travel ID-free around the union. This freedom has come under severe attack in recent weeks, led by Western European countries. This is surprising, to some degree, but more surprising was the silence of the eastern members that followed. When Italian authorities simply rubber-stamped Schengen visas in the passports of some 20,000 Tunisian migrants, many of the Tunisians boarded trains bound for France, where there is a large Tunisian community. The Italians had deliberately breached the Schengen rule that says all asylum or residence requests must be processed in the country where the migrant first enters the Schengen area, in this case Italy. This was the payback after Italy had asked other EU members for help with influx of North Africans, to no avail. French police stopped trains at the border and sent many migrants back into Italy. France's President Nicolas Sarkozy got furious and demanded an emergency meeting with Italian leader Silvio Berlusconi. They emerged from the tête-à-tête with a common solution: the Schengen system must be preserved but at the same time be changed, "corrected" as they put it. The Danes were quick to embrace this solution, presenting the rest of the EU with their unilateral decision to reinstall border posts and document checks after years of free travel into the country. The official reason the Danes have given for this is the rise of criminality among foreigners. What hard evidence there is points rather to fewer crimes and criminal cases involving immigrants in recent years, but the Danish media began reporting a rise in crime after 2008, when Central and East European EU countries joined the Schengen area – and a year after the re-election of a prime minister who promised to curb immigration. We can moan about the eagerness of these West European leaders to water down a system that serves citizens well and inspires proto-blocs elsewhere in the world – and in a not very se-



rious situation, since accommodating 20,000 or so migrants isn't that big a challenge for a country of 50 million. But where were the leaders of the newer EU members while all this was happening? Why didn't they stand up to defend Schengen? Because after all, it is the citizens of these countries for whom the freedom to travel is a new and precious commodity, who value it perhaps more than anyone, and who would be the victims if internal borders are re-erected? They haven't done anything yet, and if they stay silent it will be for all the wrong reasons. Some countries, like the Czech Republic or Slovenia, have long opposed the so-called solidarity principle in the case of migration. The Schengen system works for the benefit of all its members, so shouldn't each be partly responsible for accommodating undocumented migrants? Yet the Czechs, like the Slovenes and a few others, counter that it is "questionable" to "solve others' problems." Membership – be it of the Schengen area, the entire EU or your local fishing club – is about respecting common rules and values. When the basic rules are violated, either the guilty get punished or the club loses its reason for being. The freedom of travel in Europe is not a given, and it's looking very shaky now.

*The author is a reporter for The Economist, the Czech weekly Respekt and several other East European media.*



Montenegro's deadline for fulfilling the seven conditions of the European Commission expires in two months

## The date is in the hands of MPs and criminals



Samir Kajošević

Montenegro has a fair chance to receive the date for the opening of negotiations with European Union on 12 October if it manages to arrest some big fish on crime or corruption charges, or if the Parliament manages to adopt the necessary amendments to the Constitution alongside a long list of other laws. That won't be an easy task for the Parliament, especially if we take into account that for the last three years the political parties have been failing to agree on the new electoral law, which requires support of a two-third majority. Adoption of this

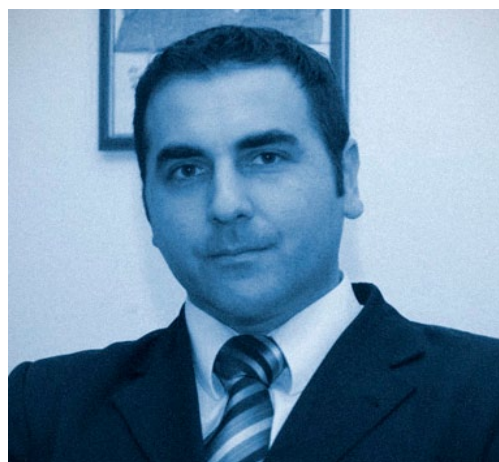
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law, which would be in line with the Constitution and the recommendations of OSCE and the Venetian Commission, is indeed one of the more explicit conditions set by the European Commission in November last year after Montenegro was granted the candidate status. What has been done since, or how much is left for the Government, Parliament and other institutions to accomplish in the last two months, before their August break, which is practically the final deadline for fulfilling the EC's seven conditions?

In some areas, such as the relations with the civil society and freedom of expression, the Government is making good progress towards Europe, especially with its new Law on NGOs, decriminalisation of defamation, and financial support to some broadcasters. On the other hands, the authorities did nothing to investigate the cases of intimidation of the civil society activists and physical attacks on journalists who, for their

part, failed to agree on a self-regulatory body. By supporting in principle the first Gay Pride in Montenegro, Lukšić's cabinet tried to demonstrate its openness towards the LGBT community, which the EC believes to be heavily discriminated against. However, the Pride was eventually postponed until circumstances improve, and the authorities made no step from words to deeds. Moreover, there has been no sign of a clear will to resolve the status of the displaced persons housed in temporary camps in Konik – everything that has been done so far in this respect was to conduct a registration of Konik's population.

Secretary General of the European Movement in Montenegro, Momčilo Radulović, says that Podgorica's biggest obstacle to the date of negotiations will be the lack of will to fight organised crime and corruption. "We had a number of arrests in the lower and middle rungs, but that is not enough to demonstrate full political commitment to the fight against organised crime and corruption. Based on what we saw in the last few months, it's hard to say that there is much commitment and will. This will be the



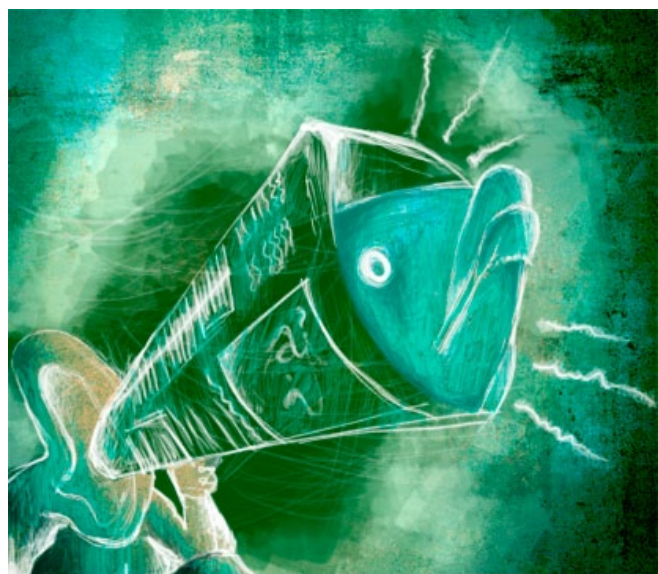
Momčilo Radulović

most difficult task until September", Radulović said. When in late 2010 the Government began arresting the officials of the ruling party, it

In some areas, such as the relations with the civil society and freedom of expression, the Government is making good progress towards Europe, while on the other hand Lukšić's cabinet hasn't demonstrated a clear commitment to resolve the status of displaced persons in the Konik camps

seemed that the fight against crime and corruption will be its main ace. After **Milo Đukanović** resigned from his position as prime minister, the public witnessed a spectacular police action seizing, among others, the mayor of Budva **Rajko Kuljača** as well as brother of the vice president of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) **Dragan Marović**. "Zavala case also sealed the fate of a DPS MP **Đorđe Pinjatić**. There was a sense that the Government will go after the big fish, but the warnings of future arrests of highly ranked DPS officials and former ministers remained idle speculation. It turned out that the police action in Budva was rather a rehearsal for the DPS congress than a way to please Brussels. This is perhaps why a recent meeting of the Joint Committee of Montenegrin and EU MPs concluded that „the achievements with regard to investigations, criminal prosecutions and verdicts in cases of corruption and organised crime have improved, but not sufficiently, especially when it comes to high-ranking officials“.

MP of the Socialist People's Party (SNP) **Predrag Bulatović**, member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, believes that Montenegro made no visible progress on the road to EU. "I'm not trying to dismiss the fact that we had the case of "Zavala" and money laundering charges in the case dubbed "The Balkan Warrior", or our cooperation with Italy in the case "Šarić". What matters, however, are the final verdicts – they are the only tangible measure of progress", says Bulatović, who is also a member of the parliamentary Security and Defence Committee. It will be mostly their achievement if the EC approves of Montenegro's progress with regard to the strengthening of the control and legislative role of the Parliament. During last year's



sessions and repeated hearings of the head of Police, Agency for National Security and Directorate for the Prevention of Money Laundering, the Supreme State Prosecutor also appeared before the Committee, accusing the Police for the lack of cooperation and saying it was their fault that nobody from **Darko Šarić**'s clan had been arrested before. The pressure from the same committee finally led to the official charges being brought up against **Darko Šarić** and **Jovica Lončar**, for drug trafficking and money laundering. They are accused of laundering some 21 million euros from the drug trade and the prosecutor ordered confiscation of their illegally acquired property. This will be a great test for the Montenegrin institutions, since the accused have only negligible property to their name, whereas their real wealth is said to be enormous, including several hotels on the Montenegrin coast.

But the Parliament and political parties are yet to face the real challenges, since the Government recently passed the ball into their court, proposing constitutional amendments to the appointment procedures for the Prosecutors' and Judicial Council. The government spends months analysing and comparing experiences, even though the experts have been warning from the beginning that there can be little depoliticisation of the judiciary and the prosecution without amendments to the Constitution.

State Secretary for European Integrations Slavica Milačić says the Government has reason to be optimistic in expectation of EC's October report, as the Action plan for the fulfilment of European commitments has been running according to the plan. On the other hand, secretary general of the European Movement Momčilo Radulović says that in informal communication European officials have expressed doubts that Montenegro will fulfil all the conditions in the next two months, even though they praised its achievements so far.

Only a few days ago, after receiving the opinion of the Venetian Commission, the Government offered the solution which involves changing the Constitution and reduces the role of the Parliament in the choice of judges and prosecutors to a vote in the election of the Supreme Prosecutor and President of the Supreme Court, after the candidates have been nominated by the Prosecutors' and Judicial Councils. However, judging by the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and SNP, the amendments, which require a two-third majority support, will not go smoothly.

While waiting for the prime minister's cabinet to come out with a proposal on de-politicising public administration and ensuring merit-based employment and promotion, the Parliament should adopt the Governments' proposals on de-criminalisation of libel and the new law on non-governmental organisations. State Secretary for European Integrations **Slavica Milačić** says the Government has reason to be optimistic ahead of the EC's next progress report, because the Action Plan for the fulfilment of European commitments has been running as planned. "We made progress in all areas, especially with regard to legal regulations and strategic documents concerning the reform of public administration, strengthening the independence of the judiciary and anti-corruption laws", Milačić said.

According to Bulatović, Brussels could nevertheless, for its own reasons, turn a blind eye on Montenegro's shortcomings this autumn. "Generally, it is in EU's interest to be able to wrap the Western Balkan into a quicker process of entering negotiations, and the things seem to be moving in that direction. The assessment of our achievements will be fairly relative, and I'm inclined to say that, in the interest of the enlargement process, the EU will set a date to begin negotiation with Montenegro. It's good for them too if we enter the negotiations as soon as possible – this is the phase where we really get down to setting right whatever is not working in this country", Bulatović said, adding that the real implementation of European standards only begins with the chapters of EU negotiations.



Slavica Milačić

According to Radulović, European officials have word of praise for Montenegro in unofficial communication, but they doubt that the country will fulfil all of its commitments. "In communication with the representatives of European institutions, their impression of Montenegro is generally positive, in spite of some concern with the commitments that Montenegro undertook in its Action plan. European officials are not sure whether we can fulfil all these commitments by September", he warned.



Will Podgorica lose the status of the EU favourite after the arrest of Ratko Mladić

## General spurs on the Balkan lame horse



Neđeljko Rudović

Will the EU now take a sharper look at Montenegro and expect Podgorica to deliver tangible results in fighting corruption and crime? Will Brussels become less enthusiastic about Montenegro now that there is no reason to shower its favours on the smaller neighbour in order to demonstrate to Belgrade that there are shorter roads to the EU membership?

These are some of the questions nagging at the Montenegrin political circles after Serbia finally arrested the most wanted ICTY fugitive, **Ratko Mladić**, who has been charged with the most severe war crimes during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the early 1990s. It was precisely Mladić and the lack of cooperation with ICTY that sidetracked Serbia onto the slower path of European integrations. According to some analysts, in order to motivate Belgrade, the EU officials chose to emphasise the example of the „star pupil“ of the region, quickly granting Montenegro the status of a membership candidate, with the option of receiving the opinion on its readiness to begin negotiations already this autumn.

There is no doubt that Serbia will be rewarded as soon as it delivers Mladić. EC immediately announced, if unofficially, that Serbia can look forward to receiving the candidate status, and perhaps even the date for negotiations, already by the end of this year. Serbia's progress towards EU could prove to be an engine that would move forward the whole region. Although the EU insists that each country will be assessed on individual achievements, there is a strong sense that Brussels is very likely to negotiate with several countries simultaneously and perhaps even declare a joint accession date to the „elite club“. The reason is very simple: the EU is reluctant to set into motion the entire negotiations' machinery for every individual state.

Should Montenegro cease to be the pet case of EU, this may in fact be the greatest service the EU had rendered it so far. With absolute domi-



nance of the ruling coalition and weak opposition, the authorities are only implementing the reforms they really have to implement, and even then mostly on paper. A firmer approach in Brussels would force Podgorica to take things more seriously, as would definite progress on the part of Serbia. As recently observed by **Alexandra Stieglmayer** of the European Security Initiative (ESI), now we will see the growth of competition and jealousy between Serbia and Montenegro on their path to EU: „This doesn't have to be a bad thing. Serbia will not want the tiny Montenegro to go faster but, on the other hand, Montenegro is a stubborn one. Belgrade could hold Podgorica back in certain phases, but not for long. If Podgorica is really doing better and Belgrade is falling behind, the EU will have to let Montenegro move ahead“.

Either way, Mladić's arrest has at least rekindled the EU members' interest in the Balkans.

Zdravko Cimbalević, executive director of LGBT Forum  
talks about the difficulties facing the first LGBT NGO in Montenegro

## Montenegrin Government feigns support for discriminated groups

In the interview for European Pulse, Zdravko Cimbalević, executive director of LGBT forum, the first visible LGBT group in Montenegro, says that LGBT activists are “confronted with severe social condemnation, insufficient protection and complete indifference on the part of the institutions”.

**» What are the main obstacles to the work of LGBT activists and realisation of LGBT rights in Montenegro?**

On the individual level, the improvement of the status and rights of LGBT persons is especially made difficult by the minister of human and minority rights who, for the last two years, has continuously appeared in public with homophobic statements, blocking and refusing all LGBT initiatives. In spite of the numerous, persistent demands from the civil society minister Ferhat Dinosha is refusing to resign or to apologise to the LGBT community for treating them as a group of sick people whose existence makes him unhappy. To this date the minister has full support of the Government which is entirely behind his statements and approach to work. Moreover, education in Montenegro is geared to defend the existing political and social concept which ignores the existence of LGBT persons. That only reinforces the stigma on the LGBT population, their social exclusion and development of long-term intolerance and discrimination.

**» Have you done anything to change the current negative climate, except joining the demands to dismiss Dinosha?**

LGBT Forum Progress submitted the first complaint to Ombudsman for human rights and freedoms because of the violation of the rights of LGBT persons in Montenegrin textbooks, as these are entirely silent on the subject of LGBT rights. Also, LGBT Forum Progress submitted a proposal for amendments to the Law on Health Insurance. We also regularly submit complaints to the police against those who indulge in hate speech or incite violence



against LGBT population. We participate in numerous activities of other civil society organisations in Montenegro, and initiate and maintain cooperation with similar organisation in the region and in European Union. I believe that in this relatively short period we have done a lot, but there is still a lot of work left to do.

**» The Government of Montenegro announced a series of activities aimed at improving the anti-discrimination legislation and practices. How would you evaluate the effect of these efforts?**

Government's pronouncements about effective realisation of the Action Plan for Monitoring Implementation of Recommendations given in EC's Opinion are not entirely realistic. It is one thing when a bureaucrat observes the area of discrimination from his cabinet, and quite another when you live every day as a member of a certain group or minority, and have to face numerous challenges, indifference and discrimination. In the last six months Montenegro didn't make any progress with regard to effective implementation of anti-discrimination policies and everything done in that direction was merely of rhetorical or technical nature, without any genuine, tangible impact. One exception is the Police Directorate which chose to improve its overall approach



to LGBT persons and its relations with the LGBT community through a recently initiated communication regarding the Agreement on Understanding and Cooperation with LGBT Forum Progress.

**» What exactly does that mean?**

For instance, Dinosha as the responsible minister hasn't given up on his inappropriate references to LGBT persons, and he still refuses to undertake the necessary affirmative measures to improve the social position and status of the members of sexual minorities. The same minister refuses all dialogue with authentic LGBT groups and has denied official reception to the first and so far only public LGBT activist. That sends a clear message that the Government, at least as long as he is a member of it, is not interested in having a greater number of citizens openly declare themselves as LGBT persons.

This year's anti-discrimination campaign wasn't accompanied by dialogue and cooperation with NGOs. It is all the more worrying that the groups that face discrimination weren't involved in the preparation of the campaign. All leading NGOs active in the field of human rights have publicly rejected the concept and the content of this campaign. The Government simply ignored the demands that such a campaign should be discontinued. The training of public employees, conducted in order to improve implementation of the Anti-discrimination law, had no effect, and there were no local experts among the trainers. To express their support and solidarity, all Montenegrin NGOs boycotted the final round of trainings. The Anti-discrimination law has very limited possibilities for implementation. This is due most of all to the delayed adoption of amendments on the Law on Ombudsman for human rights and freedoms, as well as the complete lack of preparedness on the part of courts to handle such cases. Nor was there any progress in the treatment of transgender persons by the Montenegrin public health system in the first half of 2011, and these persons live in complete isolations. They are mostly poor and cannot afford medical treatments which are necessary to adjust their bodies to their gender.

**» Talking about the institutional capacities to protect sexual minorities, do you have any data on the reported cases and their outcomes?**

According to the data available to LGBT Forum Progress so far there have been two complaints involving violence against LGBT persons. There were also three charges of discrimination brought before the Basic Court in Podgorica, and a total of 11 complaints involving harassment of LGBT persons and incitement of hatred and intolerance, submitted to the Police Directorate and State Prosecutor. Another four complaints were submitted to the director of Police Directorate, Internal Control Unit of the Police, Council for Civic Control of Police Forces and Ombudsman for human rights and freedoms regarding inadequate treatment of LGBT persons by police employees. There is limited ability and knowledge on how to process the cases of violence and discrimination against LGBT persons. This results in drawn-out procedures which discourage the victims – although they are marked as urgent cases by law, no procedure has been started in any discrimination case even ten months after the complaint had been submitted.

**» LGBT Forum Progress announced the first Gay Pride for 31 May, but the event has been postponed indefinitely. Why?**

It turned out that the Government of Montenegro was only feigning support for discriminated groups, in this case sexual minorities. We had a minimum demand that at least one high government official should be symbolically part of the Organisational Committee of the event, who would walk with us and give a short speech afterwards. We waited for the Government's response for two months, and ten days before the announced date we received the list of appointees, none of whom were prominent political figures. This attitude is neither fair nor benevolent. Also, taking into account our own and the credibility of our partners, as well as the safety of the Gay Pride, given the lack of political support and clear security commitments, we decided to postpone the Pride indefinitely until the Government changes its approach.

## How widespread is homophobia in Montenegro? Differences still hard to accept



Mirela Rebronja

In the course of 2010, Centre for Monitoring conducted a study on the presence of homophobia among the general Montenegrin population. The results are far from encouraging for the development of the culture of tolerance. According to their findings, most of the Montenegrin citizens believe homosexuality to be a sickness, an unnatural, but also immoral phenomenon. The opinion poll probes for the extent, intensity, sources and causes of homophobia in Montenegro, as well as its effects and complex social and legal-political consequences, by analysing five more focused areas.

The first is the analysis of the overall attitude of the citizens, i.e. the dominant interpretations of homosexuality in Montenegro. The second comprises the practical consequences of this attitude, including the possibility of a public gathering of sexual minorities, and the degree of tolerance towards such manifestations. The third assesses the citizens' opinions on legal regulations governing the rights of sexual minorities, the behaviour of politicians, non-governmental organisations and the Montenegrin state towards this, authentic or "imposed and imported" issue. The fourth, most concrete area examines personal relations, insights and experiences of the respondents and their immediate surrounding with homosexuality. The fifth, final section, tries to offer an explanation of widespread homophobia and the importance of differences among the citizens in their attitudes and behaviours with regard to homosexuality, which in turn are highly correlated with their socio-demographic background, values and socio-psychological profiles.

The starting supposition, frequently confirmed in previous opinion polls, is that the basis for homophobia lies in stricter forms of traditionalism, authoritarianism, religion and nationalism, which (in)directly deny the right to be different. Similarly, personal characteristics of the



respondents, such as residence in traditional and backward, rural areas, age and insufficient or low-quality education, insecure or unsatisfactory jobs and wages can, especially in combination, lead to above-average, more intense homophobia.

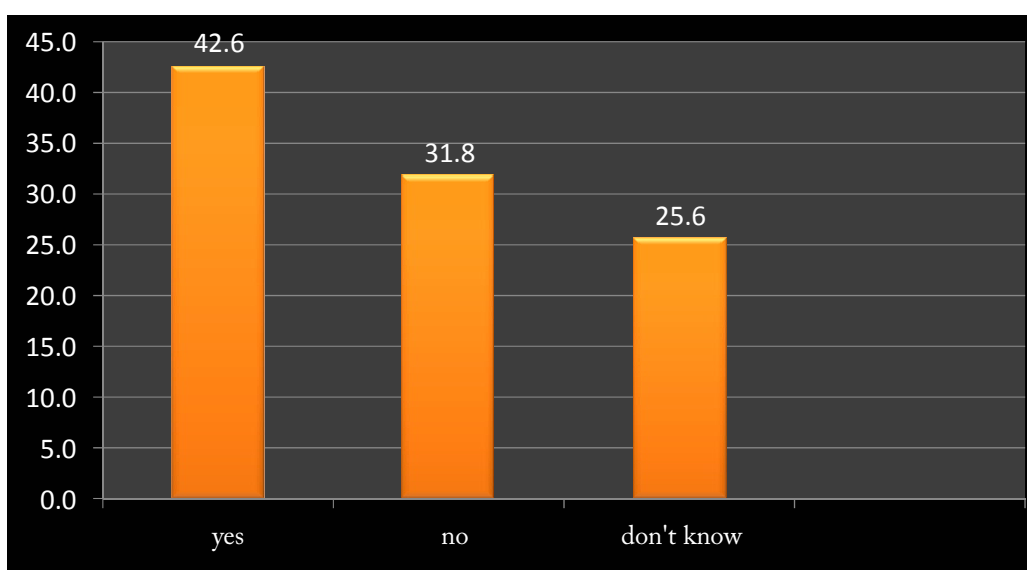
The general conclusion of the study is that homophobia is believed to be a sickness, an opinion shared by a large – two third – majority of Montenegrin citizens. A significant, but still small minority of around 1/5 of respondents disagrees with this qualification. At the same time, more than 3/4 of the respondents believe that homosexuality is and should remain a personal, private individual issue, and not a subject of public politics. This attitude also transpires in the belief of 2/3 of the respondents (68.7%) that homosexuality has always existed, but used to be hidden, whereas today we talk way too much about it.

However, in spite of the above, it is encouraging that more than half of the respondents wouldn't object to their children having more information about the nature of homosexuality at school, although those with reservations towards homosexuality exceed 2/3 of the respondents. This is especially evident in the finding that 3/5 of the respondents believe that having children raised by homosexual parents encourages them to become homosexuals and only 1/3 of the respondents would accept a tolerant "coexistence" with homosexuals and their right to freely, publicly, express their sexual orientation. The overall negative attitude is also reflected in the claim, endorsed by ¾ of the respondents, that a discovery that their child was homosexual would make them feel like failed parents. On the other hand, the fact that every fifth respondent would be ready to look for excuses for verbal violence against "sexually different" persons, and every eight would do the same in case of physical violence is a sign, if a feeble only, that there might be rising tolerance towards this form of difference in Montenegro. In addition to this, almost 3/5 of the respondents said they would report a case of violence against somebody because of their sexual orientation, although on the other hand only every sixth respondent believes that ho-

mosexuals are really an oppressed group and that they should be helped in ascertaining their rights. It is especially worrying that one half of the respondents believes that the problem of the lack of respect of human rights of homosexuals in the Montenegrin society has been "imposed" by non-governmental organisations, and only 1/5 of the respondents disagree with this claim. Moreover, just 15.4% of the respondents support the right of the same-sex partners to marry, and only 10% think they should be allowed to adopt.

Furthermore, the current homophobic climate seems to have also scared the decision makers away from taking more decisive steps to change it, as such activities could also endanger their positions.

The findings were obtained through fieldwork, in face to face interviews, on a sample of Montenegrin citizens above 18 years of age. The sample was designed to be representative for the whole territory of Montenegro, including towns and rural areas, and it covered 18 out of 21 municipalities.



If my preferred political party began to speak about the rights of homosexuals, I would not vote for it again



# Your smoking or your health



Brano Mandić

Imagine how confused you need to be to immerse yourself fully into all the changes. You'd have to be retarded, logically challenged or a vampire living five hundred years to live through all the proposed reforms. Here's one entire gang of youngsters sowing pamphlets and calling for heavenly justice, and I wonder: do they get to sleep from all that zeal, do they at least steal an afternoon nap before the evening news, to digest it properly. Where is all that flood of well-phrased discontent coming from, these fountains of youth that reawakens and seeks justice. I feel like a grandmother in that movie. I skim through some touching articles, watch some wisecrack speeches, usually starting with "we". Who are "we"? I am sure that I don't belong to any "we", except with regard to my family, and even then feebly, I only say hello to the closest family members and I'm so often worked out dry that, putting the earpiece down, I fear that we haven't managed to communicate anything important or noble. I should be fighting for social justice, but how when I know that this evil goes deeper than politics. I went to Vienna for a few days to check it out. that, putting the earpiece down, I fear that we haven't managed to communicate anything important or noble. I should be fighting for social justice, but how when I know that this evil goes deeper than politics. I went to Vienna for a few days to check it out. First to the flea market, then to Schönbrunn (there's still provocation and attitude in me!). Beer excellent. I saw the limousines carrying breathless playboys in their seventies through the back doors – metal, without windows. The whole street in the heart of that hateful big city belongs to **Roman Abramovich** – brother Babylon. But nobody makes any fuss about the Russians, probably because there's a system that makes them into humanoid creatures and citizens obeying the positive laws... If you think about it, there's a great injustice being done against the Russian people, because in Montenegro they are the target of open hatred and slander, a target we have chosen ourselves to make us feel better. The problem, of course,

is not the Russians but the invitations we sent them on the pub napkin. As we called, so they came. And if one day they leave, they'll probably do it through the back door, like leaving a reputable brothel where they happened to nap for a bit longer than the good taste allows.

I picked it all up in Vienna, and nothing suited me, because I don't suit myself, and any city deprived of the ideas and spirit of the onlooker turns into plain concrete, even when adorned by such tempting examples of wall decorations as can only be displayed by the capital of an empire. But darn all that, now I want to write – already back in the tiny, wild capital of Montenegro – in Podgorica, where some two hours ago the former policemen and street brawler **Aleksandar Pejanović** was killed (by a colleague policemen, with a single shot, in a bar – drove his dead body to the hospital and turned himself in). What sits on my mind in this hot and heavy misery at the end of the world is a simple cigarette to which I return often and with great gusto, in spite of all ideological falls.



31 May here is the day against smoking and I'm already hearing threats and warnings from all sides: that we're a primitive, sickly nation, smoking itself into oblivion. That's awful, and all the noble doctors and other responsible individuals are fighting to take away this last bit, this poor tar which is my last hope, solace and sustenance. To make things worse, in European Vienna, in this cradle of everything stylish and noble I smoked wherever I could, lit one cigarette after another while the expedite Habsburg waiters smoothly handled the ashtrays and left me feeling like a man who is in control of his lungs.

When facing in this most painful way the relativism of European directives, a man is all the more repulsed by the choir of those who every day strive towards the steps and obstacles, fiery circles through which we need to scramble without singing our tails in order to reach the European Union, family of nations. When you've had all the tobacco you wanted in Vienna, and then came back to this den where on top of everything else they're also taking away your smoke, you really feel disarmed. I asked my elders, in knowledge and experience, how come the Austrians can do it, and I got the boring, accurate answer: they can afford it. There's the smoking directive, but it's not the only one. The Austrians jumped through the legal loops and managed to keep the smell of tobacco on their streets and in their excellent restaurants.

The days when the Balkan was the haven for forbidden pleasures is long past. In Zagreb you can't go anywhere with a cigarette, and in Skopje that's pretty much the only topic of conversations (apart from **Alexander the Great**), in Belgrade there's a ban on drinking after 22:00h... The way it looks we'll become greater Europeans than Europeans themselves, all of us into sports, with white teeth and committed to democracy. It's the very bottom. All people will be NGO activists and pick their area of engagement between 9 and 17h. Without any substantial link to the laudable traditions of the European spirit, we are getting ourselves trained like puppies to jump on the directives which – if you're Austrian



– you need not heed much. The prophets of the promised land would do better to change the record a bit. To rant a little less about justice, about the holy norms and smoking prohibition, because the bottom line is that we should agree with Brussels on what and how much we can produce, what good can we do to the EU and are we likely to plunge into another nationalist bloodbath. There's no country, be it ever larger than us, that leaves these negotiations like a sovereign victor, no apparatus that can overcome the administration well trained on East European fronts. We need more practical spirit than ever, but the clever heads just replaced the war mythology with nerdy fanaticism inculcated into an entire new generation of ungifted kids who are learning their Europe from the book, or rather textbook and, to make it worse, seem to take most things literally.

On the other hand, as a counterbalance, the remnants of the nineties, primitives who never got further than Mladić's photograph. These are your options, my friend, pick your own side and get older, inevitably keep getting older and deeper into the midlife crisis. Because the generation of the author of these lines is already up to the waist into parenthood, without any guarantee that their children will have a childhood even remotely as lovely as we did in our ancient Yugoslav community.

In the meantime, in Podgorica, on the day of another murder in the city centre, on the eve of the non-smokers holiday, try to find consolation on some terrace still innocent of the noise.

How close are the countries of the region to the EU goal of 20% renewable energy by 2020

## Balkans on the green road

Hydro-power plants built in the times of former Yugoslavia, as well as plenty of sun and wind should mean that all West Balkan countries, apart from Kosovo, shouldn't have too many difficulties in meeting the benchmark set by the EU for its current and future members: 20% of all energy consumption and production coming from renewable sources by 2020. Discovering and utilising renewable energy sources constitutes long-term investment in the environment and at the same time helps to meet important economic needs. On the other hand, outdated infrastructure, inefficient bureaucracy and various lobbies make the entry of foreign interests interested in the construction of windmills and solar powered plants very difficult. While Montenegrin authorities are readying for negotiations with Italian A2A to revise the agreement on partial privatisation of EPCG, and while the only windmill in Montenegro, in Krnovo, has fallen into disuse, here is an overview of the situation in the neighbouring countries.

Croatia: Croatia's potential for the development of renewable resources is vast, but still underused, at least when it comes to solar, wind or geothermal sources. The situation, however, has been changing in recent years. "We currently produce 40% of our energy from renewable sources, thanks to the hydroelectric power stations. We are much worse off with consumption because we must buy around 30% of our power," explained **Nikola Ruzinski**, state secretary at the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The "new renewables" are increasingly stirring interest among private, mainly foreign, investors, especially when it comes to wind energy exploitation. The first windmill power plant in Croatia was built on the island of Pag in 2004. The greatest strides in the development of wind power have been made in the coastal region, particularly in the Sibenik area, where the German company Enersys has invested in two new plants. Solar energy presents a different picture,



having been underutilised despite its extensive potential. "Exploitation of solar energy in Croatia doesn't have systematic support and is left to the enthusiasts," the president of the Eko Kvarner Association, **Vjeran Pirsic**, adding that "Various energy lobbies, including wind power proponents, are blocking further development of the solar alternative". An outdated energy infrastructure and a sluggish bureaucracy are just some of the obstacles to developing renewable energy sources in Croatia.

Macedonia has plenty of sun, wind and other natural resources needed to produce energy. Foreign and domestic investors have shown an interest in developing projects that can help make the most of those resources. Sonce Park in the village of Kadino near Skopje is the country's first systematic attempt to make use of the sun and wind as alternative sources of energy. A similar plant with a 50kw capacity began working in Radovis last month, while another two are being built in Belcista, near Ohrid. Macedonia is planning to start building solar plants in the Bunardzik free economic zone, near Skopje. Macedonian electricity producer ELEM is also taking steps to utilise



wind power as a way of reducing the country's dependence on imports. "ELEM is actively preparing to build the reservoir at Lukovo Pole and the hydroelectric plant at Boshkov Most, and we are already working on revitalising six existing hydro plants," said company spokesman **Mirče Kotevski**, adding that "In addition, we are preparing to build a wind park near Bogdanci". The Bogdanci windmills will be built through a 33m-euro credit from Germany. The country's need for electricity increases 4% every year. It spends about 38m euros on electricity.

**Albania:** Although all of Albania's energy comes from the country's hydropower facilities, only 35% of its potential is in use. Such is the case with other renewable energy sources in the country. "My country has the potential to become a small but strong energy superpower in the region. We are privileged to have an exposure in Italy - one of the biggest consumers of energy in Europe and the world, which motivates us to focus on energy," Prime Minister **Sali Berisha** said. The Albanian government is seeking to lure investors through a business-friendly legal framework and energy policy. Around 100 current contracts are in progress, envisioning the construction of approximately 264 hydropower facilities that will be built by investors from Austria, Norway, Italy and Germany. Opposition politicians, however, point to alleged abuses. Socialist leader **Edi Rama** has said the economy, trade and energy ministry is staffed by "thieves". In late 2010, talks were held to hike consumer prices. Three main power companies in the country -- The Power Distribution Company, Operator of the System of Transmission and Albanian Power Corporation -- asked for a price increase for both individual consumers and businesses. But critics say the increase is uncalled for at a time when the country's water reserves are at an all time high.

**Serbia:** The potential for renewable energy remains largely untapped in Serbia, but officials say that is about to change. A Serbian compa-

ny, MK Group, has already partnered with the Italian firm Fintel Wind to build the country's first 5 MW small wind power plant by October 2011. "Launching of other wind power plants is expected for late 2012 and early 2013. But complicated administrative procedures pose a barrier, company representatives say, urging officials to clean up the red tape. Currently, renewable sources provide only a fraction of the country's energy needs. Finding enough money is a key hurdle. The country does not have a large enough budget to meet the government's stated goal -20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020, compared to the current 12% - on its own.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Renewable energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) remains largely unexploited, but it's not for lack of potential, experts say. Rather, the country suffers from a lack of clear state-level legislation, and no government ministry has been specifically put in charge of the issue. Other obstacles include a lack of field experts, antiquated technology, and the monopoly enjoyed by the three major electro-energy companies in BiH. Rich in rivers and forests, the country is sitting on a potential goldmine when it comes to renewable resources. BiH also has significant geothermal potential, especially near the towns of Bosanski Samac, Kakanj and Sarajevo -- insufficient for energy production, but usable for other heating purposes.

**Kosovo:** To meet EU standards, Kosovo will have to boost significantly its use of renewable energy. "It'll be hard for Kosovo," acknowledged **Kaqusha Jashari**, a former member of the parliamentary commission on energy. "We currently derive almost all our energy [around 95%] from coal." Nevertheless, progress is being made. A German company is building wind energy generators on Goleš, a mountain near Prishtina's airport, and they are expected to be functional within a few months. Meanwhile, the existing Zhur hydro power plant is being expanded with an eye to the EU's criteria.

Prepared by: V. Ž. / Source: SETimes.com

## To become modern, active citizens of EU



Nikola Đonović

The author is a volunteer in the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and a student of the Political Science Department, University of Montenegro

Why do we want to be citizens of EU? What makes EU an ideal community of states? Is our goal the EU or its values? These questions are the key to further development of our country and our region.

It seems to me that our public is deluding itself that Europe will build us a better society instead of us doing in on our own. But the point is the opposite: we ought to prove what we are a capable country, not a passive negotiator. The only assistance the EU offers comes through its funds, via rigorous procedures that ought to be thoroughly understood before use. Even if we win the assistance we are often unable to use it according to the rules. Does the problem lie in the EU, in its bureaucratic machinery, complicated demands, incomprehensible *acquis*, etc? Or is it simply our problem – a problem of mentality?

The problem is in ourselves as individuals, in the political, sociological and economic sense. We need to understand that by joining the EU we will not become better. Improvement doesn't come through prestige (the title of a member state), but through quality, through self-realisation. The conditions set by the EU today constitute *hereditas globale* – the global norms and standards (with the exception of the specific European economic policies). We are the only ones who can improve our situation and decide on our way. Montenegro, just like other countries in the region, should focus on internal issues and policies, as well as their economies and the most important economic branches, instead of just fixating on the EU and its opinions. I don't call for complete ignorance, just rational ignorance. The notion of rational ignorance is often used to describe the voters' interest in a particular political party or issues, and here it refers to the lack of necessity of a large administration. Don't take me wrong, I am not asking the countries to abandon their relations with

EU, just to reduce the costs, on both sides, of excessive bureaucracy. If we are able to utilise the funds cleverly, we will soon progress towards these values. The question is, will the countries that fulfil all the criteria wish to join the EU structures later? The decision and the solution to this puzzle must come from the people.

I see the solution in a thorough reform of education, and in making the vote obligatory. Every citizen must decide on his or her fate. A modern citizen ought to question every decision made by the officials in his or her name, as well as everything else in his or her life. I don't wish to spread pessimism, just to offer questioning as a solution. It is necessary to support diversity, because to listen is to learn. "When was the last time you changed your mind on something important? I changed my mind a few times. One thing I can say for sure is that I never changed while surrounded by people who agree with me." (Schlesinger, 2009:26). Questioning the facts and awakening citizens' awareness can only come through educational reform and life-long learning.

Politics became a reality that ought to be embraced and utilised. To be a citizen of a state means a lot more than just holding its documents.

To solve our internal problems is to make a step towards a better tomorrow. If our main goal is to attain European (world) values, and not to revert to national and identity issues, we already made a revolutionary step towards EU. And this: self-sufficiency and initiative, good neighbourly relations, strong institutions, decentralisation of power and civic activism is our alternative.

Sounds paradoxical, but the alternative is precisely what Europe has been telling us day in and day out – work on yourselves.

### Ten billion loss on cigarettes



European Union will ask for a meeting with Russia and its other Eastern neighbours on excise taxes on tobacco products, in an attempt to stall smuggling which costs the Union some 10 billion euros per year, said the European Commissioner for Taxes and Customs Union **Algirdas Šemeta**. According to him,

the difference in excise tax creates the incentives for smuggling. He also said that Moldova and Ukraine have already “accepted in principle a rapprochement between the excise levels”. “We asked the same of Russia, as well as of Georgia, Armenia, and other countries in the Eastern Partnership Programme”, he said. A pack of cigarettes which can be bought for 0.5 euro in Kaliningrad, Russian Baltic territory, costs at least 1.5 euro in Lithuania and almost 4 euro in Germany.

### Tourism on the path to recovery



The latest data show a post-crisis recovery of the tourist sector in EU. Almost three quarters of Europeans, 73% of them, travelled for tourist or business reasons in 2010, which is a 4% increase compared to 2009. This year 58% of

Europeans will spend the holidays in theirs or another EU member state. “The fact that 58% of EU citizens want to spend their holidays in Europe shows that tourism is on the path to recovery and that it has gone back to being a growing industry”, said **Antonio Taiani**, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry. The results indicate that 38% of EU citizens are planning to spend their holidays this year in their own country, 20% in another EU country, and 16% outside of EU. The most popular tourist destinations in the EU are Italy, Spain and France.

### 500 plastic bags per year



European Commission began consultations on the best possible way to reduce the use of plastic bags. The question is whether to increase the prices, or if alternative ways, such as a prohibition of plastic bags on the entire territory

of European Union, would be the most effective method. European Commissioner for Environment **Janez Potočnik** said “we use the plastic bag for a few minutes, and they remain in the environment for decades”. Every year an average European citizen uses 500 plastic bags, and most of them are only used once. Some members already took steps to reduce the consumption of plastic bags through price increases, agreements with the retail sector or prohibition of certain types of bags, but there are no common regulations on the EU level.

### Scanners not obligatory

European airports can use scanners to check the passengers, but the passengers have the right to refuse to pass through the machines. This is the verdict of the Transportation Committee of the European Parliament, which, responding to the health and privacy concerns, said that the scanners which use “ionised radiation ought to be forbidden in EU” and that the images they create “must be destroyed immediately after the person passes through the safety check and they mustn’t be retained”. The Committee also urged the prohibition on taking the liquids on board to be removed by 2013. Some EU members, including UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and Finland already used these scanners.





## Eurostat data shows the prices of goods and services vary a lot among the EU members Denmark most expensive, Bulgaria the cheapest



According to a recent Eurostat publication, price levels for consumer goods and services differed widely across Europe in 2010: in Denmark, consumer prices were 43 % higher than the average of the 27 EU Member States, while the lowest prices were found in Bulgaria. In addition to the EU member states, Eurostat reports the trends in the prices of goods and services in the candidates, potential candidates, as well as Norway and Switzerland.

After Denmark, the most expensive country is its Scandinavian neighbour – Finland, where the prices are 23% higher than the EU average. On the other end of the spectrum, Bulgaria has the lowest prices, 51% below the average, and is followed by Romania, where the prices in 2009 reached 59% of the EU average.

Among the most expensive member states, where the prices of goods and services range 10% to 20% above the EU average are also Luxembourg and Sweden (20%), followed by Ireland (18%), Belgium and France (12%). Austria, Netherlands, Germany and Italy are only slightly more expensive than the average, in the range of 5%. Only UK sits exactly at the average, while in Spain and Greece the prices are slightly below – 3 to 4%. Cyprus, Portugal and Slovenia score 10% to 20% below the average price level, with prices in Cyprus and Portugal slightly below 10% of the EU average, and in Slovenia around 16%. Lithuania, Hungary, Latvia and Poland are in the group of countries where goods and services are 30 to 40% cheaper than the average.

A little earlier, Eurostat had also published the data on the per capita GDP which show that in 2010 Luxembourg had kept its position as the richest EU country, while Bulgaria is the poorest member of the elite club. Last year, the per capita GDP of Luxembourg was almost three times the EU average, with Netherlands trailing a distant second with per capita GDP “only” 34% higher than the European average. Denmark, Ireland, Austria and Sweden count among the countries whose 2010 GDP was around 25% above the EU average. The second group of countries, with per capita GDP 10% to 20% above the EU average, is led by Germany, followed by Belgium, Finland and UK. Spain, Italy and Cyprus found themselves around the average, while Greece, Slovenia, Malta, Portugal and the Czech Republic had a per capita GDP 10 to 20% below the EU average. In Romania and Bulgaria, this figure is around 55% below the average.

In Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, BiH and Albania per capita GDP was 60 to 70% below the European average.

V.Ž.

## IN MONTENEGRO CLOTHES EXPENSIVE, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO CHEAP

Prices of goods and services in Montenegro, which are overall 59% below the EU average, are about the same in Romania, but higher or even much higher than in Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania and BiH. Of all the countries of the region only Croatia, with the price levels at 70% of EU average, is more expensive than Montenegro. According to the Eurostat, prices of clothing are around 5% in Montenegro than the EU average, while the prices of electronic equipment are only 8% below the average. On the other hand, alcohol and tobacco products are only half the EU level. The cost of food and non-alcoholic drinks is around 77% of the EU average.

Total	Food and non-alcoholic drinks	Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Clothes	Electronic equipment		Personal transport	Restaurants and hotels
EU27	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Belgium	112	115	100	115	103	101	112
Bulgaria	51	66	64	75	89	88	45
Czech Rep.	72	78	82	98	97	90	59
Denmark	143	136	125	125	113	167	153
Germany	104	110	98	104	96	101	103
Estonia	75	81	80	100	101	88	71
Ireland	118	120	170	95	94	116	129
Greece	96	98	90	107	100	96	96
Spain	97	94	80	90	100	98	95
France	112	109	108	107	103	102	104
Italy	104	106	104	101	106	100	107
Cyprus	89	106	95	94	106	98	106
Latvia	69	83	83	100	96	91	77
Lithuania	63	72	78	98	97	92	65
Luxembourg	120	116	88	105	96	97	107
Hungary	65	81	68	85	99	95	54
Malta	79	93	91	88	110	114	77
Netherlands	106	96	102	102	98	113	105
Austria	107	115	92	103	102	106	104
Poland	63	70	74	96	91	90	77
Portugal	88	91	83	100	99	120	81
Romania	59	67	64	94	96	88	50
Slovenia	84	95	80	98	102	94	87
Slovakia	71	81	82	102	97	89	71
Finland	123	113	136	122	106	114	129
Sweden	120	116	140	126	115	98	138
UK	100	102	142	89	98	91	103
Island	111	113	155	135	153	118	114
Norway	147	165	237	138	117	158	178
Switzerland	148	149	112	126	103	106	141
Montenegro	59	77	50	105	92	85	62
Croatia	74	92	82	104	104	97	91
FYROM	44	51	41	76	92	90	42
Turkey	73	90	106	73	110	115	79
Albania	50	70	51	77	101	98	42
BiH	57	75	58	100	100	86	59
Serbia	52	65	49	98	94	85	54

Declaration of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee

## Still short on the big fish

The track record of investigations, prosecutions and final convictions in corruption and organized crime cases was improved but insufficiently, especially in cases of high ranking officials, mostly due to the low efficiency of law enforcement, warns the Declaration and Recommendations to the Montenegrin and EU institutions, adopted by the joint EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) at their second session on 17 and 18 May in Podgorica. The meeting of the Montenegrin and European MPs, which was also attended by the deputy general director for enlargement Stefano Sani-

### Government to disclose acts on privatisation

The Declaration 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. "The Committee urged the government and local authorities to facilitate access to relevant data; urged the state authorities to 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", states the Declaration.

no, head of the EU delegation to Montenegro Leopold Maurer and the chief of Montenegrin diplomacy Milan Roćen, under joint presidency of Eduard Kukan and Ranko Krivokapić. In the 18 points of the Declaration and Recommendations the Parliamentary Committee welcomes the fact that the process of establishing the legal and constitutional framework of the country has almost been finalised and noted the need for close cooperation between all political entities in order for the process to be completed. "The Committee calls on all political parties to reach a consensus on the draft electoral law without further delay in line with

the recommendations of the OSCE-ODIHR and the Venice Commission", states the Declaration. The Committee also welcomed the improvements in the work of the Parliament and called for greater internal allocation of budgetary and human resources to it in order to provide MPs and the Parliament's administration with better technical and financial conditions. The Committee also noted the timely adoption of the "Action plan for strengthening the legislative and oversight role of the Parliament of Montenegro". "The committee encouraged further strengthening of legislative and control functions of the Parliament including hearings and other control mechanisms. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the parliamentary Working Group, mandated to upgrade rules of procedures, particularly with regard to representing initiatives and motions coming from the opposition" states the document. The Committee called on the 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 urged the Commission to provide the necessary technical assistance in this regard within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accession, and also urged the government to make the process of law-making more transparent and publicly accessible.

The Declaration also welcomed the appointment of the Council for Cooperation between the Montenegrin Government and NGOs called for further strengthening of cooperation of the government and NGOs, as well as the signing of the Memorandum between the Parliament of Montenegro and the network of NGOs in the area of democratization and human rights, and welcomed the work of the National Council for European Integration, which includes representatives of civil society, government, the judiciary and the opposition, but called for its role in the progress of EU integration to be strengthened. The Committee reiterated the utmost importance of the rule



### Think about ownership of the energy sector

The committee welcomed measures to develop a lower carbon economy by developing the country's huge hydroelectric, thermo-energy and other renewable energy potential, which will contribute in covering domestic needs and even constitute an export resource. "The Committee warned of the risks that large scale dams may have on the environment; called for appropriate and transparent environmental assessments of the investments in energy, including of 'environmentally better options' and public consultations with NGOs, prior to the decision to invest and called upon the Government to be careful in decision making on possible ownership changes in the energy sector", states the Declaration.

of law for the development of the country and welcomed, to this end, the increased activity in preparing and adopting the requisite legislation and underlined the central importance of full implementation of the new laws. The committee invited the Montenegrin authorities to fully implement the constitutional provisions of the official languages in use, in all areas and particularly in education in the next school year. The document also noted "some progress" in the reform of the judiciary, as demonstrated by the adoption of major amendments to criminal procedures, and in increasing the human resources available and reducing the backlog of cases in the courts, but called for a review of the system for the appointment of judges and prosecutors in accordance with the opinion of the Venice Commission requested by the Government. The Committee regretted the fact that the first Gay Pride has been postponed, and expressed their expectation that the state authorities, political parties and all institutions will preserve an open society, promote tolerance and give an equivocal support to the organisers of the Gay Pride and ensure that it can take place with the safety of all participants guaranteed. The Committee commended Montenegro's good relations with its neighbouring countries and recognised the significance of the strengthening of the parlia-

mentary dimension of regional cooperation. The Declaration and Recommendations further call on the Government to ensure the environment for a significant improvement of the competitiveness of the economy, monitoring and enforcement of privatisation contracts, ensuring transparency in the provision of state aid and the adoption of better and simpler regulation of the business environment and in particular to facilitate the functioning of small and medium enterprises.

"The Committee noted a significant role of tourism in the economy and its potential to contribute to the development of the country; it pointed out, however, certain weaknesses in this sector, and called upon the Government to take further steps to achieve an optimal balance between the valorisation of mass and elite tourism, the revitalization of rural areas, linking of tourism and agriculture, infrastructure improvement, environmental protection, efficient waste management; emphasized the importance of increasing the volume of agricultural production with adequate support for rural development and with special emphasis on organic produce and livestock", states the Declaration and Recommendations of the Joint Committee.

### Troubling independence and financing of the public service

The Committee, it says, acknowledged the steps taken by the Montenegrin Government to ensure freedom of expression in the media by sending to the Parliament a proposal of the law on electronic media and amendments to the Criminal Code and in particular by decriminalization of defamation. "However, the Committee called for further energetic and swift efforts to ensure the independence and professionalism of media outlets, especially ensuring their independence and strengthening the objectivity of the public broadcaster as well as an improvement of transparency of its accounts", states the joint Declaration of the Montenegrin and European MPs. The Committee stressed that reported cases of intimidation and physical violence against journalists as well as against civil society activists must be fully investigated and prosecuted wherever appropriate.

## Conflict and Memory

Centre for Civic Education (CCE), in cooperation with the European Greens/EFA organised on 13 May 2011 a panel discussion titled “Conflict and Memory: Bridging Past and Future in (South-East) Europe”. The guests/speakers were: **Ulrike Lunacek**, MP of the European Parliament, co-speaker of the committee of foreign affairs of the Greens/EFA group and European Parliament rapporteur for Kosovo; **Filip Kovačević**, political scientist and professor at the University of Montenegro and **Vedran Džihic**, political scientist, professor at the University of Vienna and the Austrian Marshall fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International studies in Washington DC. The panel was moderated by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE.

Fifteen years have passed since the end of the war in BiH, eleven since the conflict in Kosovo, and conflicting memories and selective stories about the past are still the rule all across the former Yugoslavia. Has there been a recovery in trust and peace among the ethnic communities, is the search for truth part of the national programmes, are the political elites and civil society dealing with the roots of the conflicts? These are only some of the questions that motivated this discussion, which approached the Balkans as an integral part of the common European history. The discussion was combined with a book launched, featuring “Conflict and Memory: Bridging Past and Future in (South-East) Europe”, edited by Wolfgang Petritsch and Vedran Džihic.

## Student activism in Montenegro?

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organised a screening of *Montenegrin Beauty*, accompanied by a discussion at the University Donja Gorica (UDG) on 13 May 2011. The speakers were **Danilo Marunović**, director and author of the film “*Montenegrin Beauty*”, **Bojan Baća**, teaching assistant at UDG and research coordinator in CDT, and **Balša Brković**, a writer and anarchist. The discussion was moderated by **Jelena Šofranac**, member of the CCE Youth Group and a UDG student.



“*Montenegrin Beauty*” talks about the (lack of) student activism and rebellion in the Montenegrin social context. The film is 20 minutes long, and was produced by CCE in cooperation with NGO Koala Production, with support of FES. It appeared on the major Montenegrin TVs (Atlas, Montena, Vijesti, RTCG and TV Budva), and was shown by CCE as part of its educational programmes, and during events at the Political Science Department of the University of Montenegro. CCE’s intention to employ artistic expression in order to initiate a broader social debate on this issue proved fruitful, as the film turned out to be an excellent introduction into dynamic debates on this issue.

## Art for justice

On 30 May 2011, on the premises of the Centre for Civic Education, CCE, LGBT Forum Progress and Human Rights Action organised the premier screening of the film “*Saša*” by Dennis Todorović, which deals with the rights of LGBT persons. The screening was part of a programme

that took place ahead of and instead of the first Gay Pride in Montenegro. The Organisational Board, consisting of the representatives of civil society, postponed the Pride itself until the political and security conditions improve. The screening rights have been secured through the international academic conference “Justice in the Balkans: Equality for Sexual Minorities”. The film was followed by a lecture “Feminist legal theory and rights of (other?) sexual minorities” by Professor **Frances Elisabeth Olsen** from the UCLA Legal Department in Los Angeles (USA). In her lecture, Olsen analysed the relationship between the fight against discrimination of women and fight against discrimination of sexual minorities. The goal of the organiser was to use a contemporary artistic expression to promote tolerance, equality and indivisibility of human rights in the Montenegrin social context.

## LGBT rights: Montenegro and others

Centre for Civic Education (CCE), LGBT Forum Progress and Human Rights Action organised on 31 May 2011 international conference “LGBT rights, freedom of expression, freedom of association and/or sexual stigma in Montenegro”.

The conference was part of a programme that took place ahead of and instead of the first Gay Pride in Montenegro. The Organisational Board, consisting of the representatives of civil society, postponed the Pride itself until the political and security conditions improve. It was supported by the international academic conference “Justice in the Balkans: Equality for Sexual Minorities”. The conference presented the situation of the LGBT population in Montenegro, the specific challenges in initiating institutional, political and professional responsibility of the public institutions, problems facing the representatives of the civil society and regional experiences with regard to the affirmation of rights of LGBT persons. Furthermore, special attention was paid to the fight against stereotypes and prejudices and the importance of education in the realisation of a progressive concept of human rights. The conference was attended by numerous Montenegrin, regional and international experts and activists in the area of human rights.

## Human rights in practice

In the framework of the regional programme of human rights education, with support of the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Ministry, students of the XI Generation of Human Rights School organised by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) visited on 5 May 2011 the Institution for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions (ZIKS) in Spuž, and the Police Directorate in Podgorica. The students were received by the director of ZIKS **Milan Radović** with his colleagues, while at the Police Directorate they were hosted by **Predrag Ašanin**, head of the local police unit Podgorica and **Slavko Stojanović**, deputy director of the Police Directorate. This helped the participants to complete their theoretical knowledge of the functioning of the mechanisms that protect human rights of detainees or prisoners.

25 participants of the XI Generation of Human Rights School are students of Montenegrin universities (UCG, UDG, UniMediteran). They completed the Human Rights School with a diploma award ceremony on 30 May 2011.



**Women's Studies Center in Science, Engineering and Technology, Istanbul Technical University (ITU)**

Gender, Macroeconomics and International Working Group (GEM-IWG), GEM-Europe and GEM-Turkey Invite you to take part in the 1st European Regional Intensive Workshop and Symposium *Knowledge Networking and Capacity Building Program on Engendering Macroeconomics and International Economics*.

In collaboration with ITU Women's Studies Center in Science, Engineering and Technology; Warsaw School of Economics; Levy Economics Institute, Gender Equality and the Economy Program, (GEEP) and University of Utah, Department of Economics.

In Partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and UNDP, and with support of IDRC.

This program aims to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective into macroeconomic research and policy formulation in Europe with a special focus on the transition and emerging economies in Eastern and Southern Europe, the Balkans as well as the Caucasus and Central Asia. The purpose of the program is to create a knowledge network of economists in these regions.

The program is for economists in academia, research institutions, government, civil society organizations and in international development institutions. Partial or full funding will be available for up to 20 fellows. The fellows of the program will be required, at a minimum, to have completed two years of study in an economics Ph.D. program and have passed their qualifying exams, or have its equivalent such as a master's degree in economics. Funding priority will be given to those who are: a) residents or citizens of and/or those who are active in research or policy formulation on gender, macroeconomics and international economics in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

For inquiries, please contact the Program Coordinators: Ipek Ilkkaracan Ajas (ilkkaracan@itu.edu.tr); Ozge Izdes (izdes@economics.utah.edu).

Deadline for the completed applications is 15 August 2011.

More information on [www.boell.pl/web/96-909.html](http://www.boell.pl/web/96-909.html)

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