

European pulse

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Vladan Žugić

What does the Aluminium Combine in Podgorica (KAP) have to do with Montenegro's European aspirations, except the speculations about conflicting geopolitical interests of EU and Russia which the Montenegrin public has been ruminating over since the beginning of the tragicomic privatisation of the onetime economic giant?

Let's start from the beginning: Montenegrin tax payers will pay back 22 million of debt accumulated by the Russian management with gracious support of the Government. They will most probably also have to pay back to the foreign banks the remaining 110 million of debt plus interest. Should all public guarantees kick in, Montenegro's public debt will hit 55% of GDP, with the high likelihood of ballooning even higher in the future, as the Government will most probably have to issue new Eurobonds very soon, or take out new loans with the commercial banks or IMF. This then means that Montenegro is on the cusp of exceeding the 60% debt to GDP ratio stipulated by one of the Maastricht criteria which allows some EU members to enjoy the benefits of the Eurozone.

Moreover, activation of all public guarantees on KAP's debt will push up Montenegro's budget deficit, which was already 4.37% last year. According to the Maastricht criteria, budget deficit should be below 3%. It is also unclear whether Montenegro meets the criteria on inflation and long-term interest rates.

In the months, and probably years, when Germany, the EU and European Central Banks are imposing rough disciplinary measures on the spendthrift members of the Union, would it be surprising if somebody questioned Montenegro's right to use the Euro, while not being a member, and violating all Maastricht criteria?

Calendar

01. February **The future negotiating structures** / The government adopted a decision establishing structures in charge of negotiating and concluding the Treaty on Accession of Montenegro to EU, including their composition and mandate. The head of the state delegation will be the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations, and his deputy the chief negotiator. In addition to them, the delegation will consist of deputy negotiators, head of the Montenegrin mission to EU and secretary of the negotiating team. Deputy negotiators are appointed and dismissed by the Government and are responsible for conducting negotiations on individual chapters. State delegation for accession negotiations with EU is accountable to the Government and acts upon negotiations guidelines adopted by the Government.
21. February **High school students in favour of EU accession** / Almost 60% of Montenegrin high school student between I and III grade support Montenegro's membership in EU, which is close to the country average. The poll was conducted by NGO Juventas, CEMI and Bonum from Pljevlja, and shows that Montenegrin high school students expect EU to deliver above all peace (40.8%), social protection (35.3%) and freedom of travel, while another 23.4% expects it to ensure democracy.
21. February **EU presidency believes in Podgorica** / Minister for European Affairs of Denmark, which is currently presiding over EU, Nicolai Wammen said it is essential that Montenegro should remain fully committed to reforms in order to make sure it can advance to the next phase in June.
- 21-22. February **Consultations on constitutional amendments** / Prime Minister Igor Lukšić and Minister of Justice Duško Marković met with the leaders of the parliamentary opposition Srđan Milić, Andrija Mandić and Nebojša Medojević and representatives of Albanian national parties to discuss amendments to the constitution concerning independence of judiciary.
24. February **EU won't support blackmail by tricolour** / EU will have no understanding, or offer any support for the conditioning of Montenegro's integration by some other political issues, warned director for Russia, Eastern neighbourhood and Western Balkans in the European Foreign Office, Miroslav Lajčák. Lajčák's warning came during his visit to Podgorica, and refers to the opposition's demands to replace the flag by tricolour and reintroduce Serbian as official language as a condition for their agreement to the constitutional changes..



Aleš Debeljak

The author is a professor of Cultural Studies and Director of the Center for Cultural and Religious Studies at the University of Ljubljana.

From Yugoslavia to the European Union

Nomen est omen. The quiet, dead-end street in the outskirts of Ljubljana where my family lives is called Union Street. Not any union. Today, the name still continues to evoke primarily Yugoslavia, the political union of Southern Slavs, the union that emerged out of the ashes of the Austro-Hungarian empire and collapsed in the flames in 1991. Recall: Yugoslavia was a political community that was explicitly established as a trans-national union of states/republics. The European Union, too, is a political community explicitly established as a trans-national union of states. Is this a somewhat distasteful comparison? Well, let's see: both unions feature various religions, diverse nations and "nationalities", different languages, scripts, a legacy from ancient Rome and medieval Byzantine Empire, the Renaissance, Humanism and Enlightenment. And both suffer from democratic deficit. Granted, the personality cult that helped define socialist Yugoslavia is unknown in the EU (who is the president of the European Council again?), the system operates in capitalism instead of socialism... But remember the old joke from the time of the Cold war: "Capitalism is a system of exploitation of men by other men. Socialism is the opposite". Most importantly, however, both rely on elusive identity concepts: EU's "unity in diversity" is no more solid than Yugoslavia's "brotherhood and unity". Both ideologies represent a screen onto which nations and individuals project their own desires and expectations. Yugoslavism bit the dust. Europeanism continues to hold out its promise: a far-reaching, inclusive, utopian agenda might appeal to the majority of the citizens and peoples of Europe. So far, alas, precious few efforts have been made to facilitate the construction of such a common narrative. Among the numerous national, ethnic, and cultural traditions on the continent, Europeanism does not figure very high on anyone's menu of identities. Moreover, the systemic and institutional integration of the European continent increasingly diverges from what should be its complementary process – cultural integration. The European Union needs a constellation of aspirations, images, attitudes, convictions, and concepts that could transcend our local references and serve as a source of individual inspira-

tion and grant meaning to collective behaviour. Without it, the Union will remain a framework for designed to facilitate free-flowing financial and labor transactions, but our respective cultural spheres will remain condemned to an existence of reciprocal tolerance at best, that is to say, mutually encouraged passivity. Alas, the current negotiation on the shape and character of "Europeanism" is to a large degree guided by a profound distrust of particular ethnic and national identifications. Such distrust may be understandable in regard to the horrific massacres committed in the 20th century in the name of "the Nation", but it is epistemologically unacceptable in a globalizing world in which "Europeanism" is itself but a particular collective identity. If one wilfully avoids acknowledging the relevance of the cultural habits and values of the various nationalities of Europe, one's "Europeanism" will end up looking hollow, simulated, and insubstantial. Neither the authority of the European Commission nor the civic and ethnically blind character of Europe's trans-national bodies possesses the ability to inspire citizens; these institutions are too hollow for social mobilization, and too abstract to spark spontaneous affection. Just take the euro: it was designed to please many constituencies and is of course a result of a compromise. Is the euro banknote a mirror of Europe and Europeanism? What visually distinguishes the €5 bill is an image of a vaguely ancient viaduct that could have been erected anywhere in the former Roman Empire? In vain one searches for portraits of such familiar figures as **Erasmus, Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Mickiewicz, Velasquez, Newton, Goethe...** The columns and arches on these notes instead suggest ruined empires, transformed into a longing for connection and community. In other words: the iconography of euro banknotes represents a no-man's land, bereft of history and memory. In this regard, Europe's weakness lies in its inability to offer a coherent collective narrative, an integrative template for common dreams. In its absence, Europeans will forever remain easy prey to local populisms.

Source: www.citsee.eu

Montenegro might miss out on the date for negotiations in June because of weak results in fighting crime and corruption

How to be Sisyphus



Slađan Blagojević

It would appear that since 9 December 2011, when the Council of EU approved conditional opening of accession talks with Montenegro, the country only slid backwards on the task it was supposed to accomplish in order for the Council to approve the beginning of negotiations this June – fight against corruption and crime. The judiciary displays incomprehensible amateurism when pronouncing verdicts for the heaviest offences, and often repeats the processes. The Court of Appeals recently overruled the first-instance ruling of the Higher Court in the case against four individuals accused of murdering the high police inspector **Slavoljub Šćekić** because of typos in the verdict. The “Zavala” case has been all but forgotten. The prosecution doesn’t seem able to find its bearings even with the most recent corruption cases. The public has never been more

Marković: EU isn’t asking for “big fish”

Asked whether there was any space to do better, given that we still have the cases of “listings” and “Telecom”, in addition to the practice that the court processes drag on for years, while a number of EU representatives are calling for arrests of “big fish”, Marković says “it can always be better”.

“Nevertheless, it is not true that the EU is asking for charges and verdicts against the “big fish” EU is asking for efficiency and success in the fight against crime and corruption, and in order to raise charges and produce sentences you must have evidence. There will always be crimes and perpetrators, but our job is to establish a professional, effective system to combat crime and corruption” said Minister of Justice.

He warned that further legislative progress, i.e. adoption of the constitutional amendments related to judiciary will be “tough work”.

“I expect full democratic accountability of all parties participating in this process, because independent, reliable and accountable judiciary is in the interest of everyone in Montenegro”, he said.



worked up, but the prosecution hasn’t reacted convincingly to the leakage of false listings, or to the latest information about the sale of Telecom. A while ago the Prime Minister **Igor Lukšić** began consultations with the leaders of opposition and Albanian national parties on possible constitutional amendments related to judiciary inde-

pendence. The consultations have been doomed from the beginning. Part of the opposition is willing to trade agreement to the constitutional amendments, which require two-third majority in the Parliament, for a return of the tricolour as the national flag and Serbian as the official language of the country. In the year of parliamentary, perhaps even presidential elections, it is unrealistic to expect the government and the opposition to clinch a compromise on identity issues, always so handy for political mobilisation. Besides, constitutional amendments related to independence of the judiciary have not been formally requested



by EU and its members. Judging by repeated reminders of the need to demonstrate visible results in the fight against corruption and crime, Brussels would probably gladly disregard legal tweaks in the Constitution for tangible verdicts or charges in high corruption cases. The government, the opposition and the civil sector have very different assessments of Montenegro's chances to get the date for negotiations this June. Deputy PM and Minister of Justice **Duško Marković** believes we won't waste the chance; MP of the Socialist People's Party (SNP) **Predrag Bulatović** thinks that we probably will; and secretary general of the NGO European Movement in Montenegro **Momčilo Radulović** says that there's still time. We neither scored nor conceded the goal yet – nevertheless, if anything is to happen we must change the game. According to Marković, the last two months were quite positive. "Our efforts to strengthen the capacity of the police, prosecution and judiciary are yielding results. We are working hard on this, in cooperation with European and other partners. I would say things are better today than they were yesterday, and the results will be even more convincing in the time to come", said Marković for European Pulse. Asked whether the country will manage to fulfil all criteria required to get the date for accession negotiations with EU this June, Marković said only "I think we will". Bulatović reminds that EU gave us a very short

Bulatović: EP sees the "Telecom" affair as a precondition for negotiations

Bulatović recalls that no major case had been brought to conclusion, including "Zavala", "Šarić" or "Kalić".

"On the other hand we had this affair with listings which, to my mind, had been covered up and in relation to which the prosecution assumed a very dubious attitude. Especially in so far as they claim that some phone call records have been faked, especially those of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. I'm not saying that the Minister had telephone contacts with (Darko) Šarić, but the evidence to prove that the records are fake is very slim. It's unacceptable that a case like that should be simply covered up. Moreover, we have a very clear case of corruption with evidence coming from the USA related to the process of privatisation of Telecom, which suggest that the process of privatisation was tainted by corruption", he said.

A long-term official and leader of the opposition believes these issues have not been looked into properly, that they're put on old and that there is not even a preliminary investigation in any of the alleged corruption cases which for years have been coming up in relation to some ministers and mayors.

"I don't think it's possible we will get to the bottom of this to produce some tangible results. I followed the discussion in the Foreign Policy Committee of the European Parliament and the discussion often brought up the Telecom affair as one of the major preconditions to begin negotiations", Bulatović said. He added that the legislative process is important, but less so than the implementation of existing laws.

Similarly, according to him, the new Law on interior affairs is a result of a political showdown between the two ruling parties over control of the Police Directorate, which "also suggests that we didn't take any steps forward".

deadline to produce visible achievements on an enormous task, “seen that there is no political will within the ruling circles in Montenegro to fight organised crime, especially where it is interlinked with the leadership itself, and when it comes to corruption on the highest level”. “If it were to be judged objectively at this moment, I would say Montenegro did nothing”, said Bulatović in the interview for European Pulse. He said that in this short time he saw no willingness on the part of the government to do anything at all. “EU wants an efficient, de-politicised judiciary, and that’s not only a matter of the Constitution or laws in general. It is a problem stemming from the lack of political will, from the close net tying together the key people in the judiciary with the parties in power, with the leadership of the two ruling parties. The police is under control of the ruling parties, and will be headed by a party soldier. Prosecution is not doing the work it should be doing, the judiciary makes no special efforts. Montenegro’s leadership is steering the country away from the possibility of getting a date for negotiations in June”, he said. Radulović thinks it is still too early to evaluate progress in such a complex area, but also that some tendencies are clearly slow and that the political establishment ought to give a much greater push to these developments, for instance by correcting the constitutional framework. “The upcoming months can bring certain changes, and if they don’t, this can have a negative impact on Montenegro. I hope this will not happen. There are two key actors who should be held responsible and accountable in this matter: the political establishment of the Government and the opposition, as well as prosecution and judiciary with regard to the processes which are already under way. We didn’t score, but we didn’t concede a goal either. Now we’ve got to see whether we can change the game”, said Radulović for European Pulse. The practice so far, including the last two months of extra time, suggests that for much of the leadership independent judiciary and arrests of big fish are a too high, nearly magic mountain. But if we could ask Thomas Mann today what to do next, he would probably answer: where there’s rule of law, everyone has an equal chance..



Radulović: it's not too late to react

Radulović warned that negotiations related to constitutional changes should be intensified and focused on the specific areas related to this process, without extending the debate to, among other, identity issues.

As much as possible, both sides should compromise in order to produce the expected high quality amendments to the Constitution.

“This would be the main achievement we are expected to produce, together with continuation of the legal processes which have been halted or slowed down, and finally some concrete verdicts in the ongoing processes, if the investigations confirm the leads so far provided by the media, non-governmental organisations and some parts of the public”, he said.

Secretary general of the European Movement in Montenegro thinks the prosecution could have reacted better to the “listings” and “Telecom” affairs, but that we are yet to see “whether this will have any negative consequences”, because the remaining months should be enough to correct the mistakes and delays in these and other processes related to corruption within institutions and organised crime.

The sudden urge to “negotiate” amendments to the Constitution Amateur performance for Brussels



Nedeljko Rudović

One of the most remarkable MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro, **Džavid Šabović**, offered another proof of his originality this January when asked by the journalists why where Constitutional amendments on judiciary suddenly taken off the agenda. Everything slowed down a little, he explained, now that the European Council gave Montenegro the green light to begin accession talks in June 2012. Still, this official of the Social-Democratic Party (SDP) promised more vigorous efforts to fulfil the conditions the Brussels set in order to allow Montenegro further. Two months passed between Šabović's promise and the Prime Minister's call to the opposition leaders to discuss the matters. After these meetings, PM **Lukšić** also announced discussions on the highest political level, without informing anyone when they might take place. There was also no sign of life anywhere in the Government for two months after the deputy Prime Minister **Duško Marković** announced that constitutional amendments must be voted in by the end of March, if Montenegro wishes to begin the accession talks with EU. The sudden decision of the Prime Minister to join in at the very end of February thus recalls the old practice of simulated negotiations, in order to convince Brussels that we're really up to something. Seen that it's practically impossible to adopt constitutional amendments by the end of May, when the European Commission is to submit the “spring report” on Montenegro's progress to the Council of EU, Lukšić's manoeuvre is primarily an attempt to demonstrate that political dialogue is under way, hoping it will be enough. The practice of half-way solutions thus continues, and Lukšić's only chance is to try to deceive the EC into believing that he might yet make a breakthrough. His basic problem is that the solutions prepared by his cabinet, which try to insulate the judiciary from political influence, aren't even supported by his own party. Government's proposal, which was submitted to the Parliament already last year, stipulates that politicians will have no say in the future appointment of judges. The opposition was unconvinced, but the most severe criticism

There are no new arrests, no new verdicts, although Brussels demanded them in writing. Constitutional changes were only mentioned in the passing statements of some EU officials.



came from the ruling DPS and SDP which made it clear that the MPs and the Minister of Justice must keep their places in the Judicial Council, which is in charge of appointing future judges. The justification was equally clear – MPs are the representatives of citizens and must have some control over the judiciary. The second level of the problem is that the agreement with opposition is nowhere in sight, and without their votes the Government can't have the two thirds necessary for changing the Constitution. The Government has no intention of accepting opposition's proposal to appoint the highest officials in the judiciary by a two-third majority in the Parliament, nor the additional conditions calling for the Serbian language as the official language of the country and replacing the national flag with the former tricolour. The performance orchestrated for the “naive” EU representatives is amateurish, and the bigger problem is the complete lack of any visible, tangible results in the fight against corruption and organised crime. There are no new arrests, no new verdicts, although Brussels demanded them in writing. Constitutional changes were only mentioned in the passing statements by some EU officials.

Long-term correspondent from Brussels

Ines Sabalić says a candidate status for Serbia would boost Montenegro's pace

Once Serbia begins negotiations, everything will be in your hands



Long-term correspondent from Brussels Ines Sabalić said the Council of EU decision to grant Serbia the status of a candidate could act as an impetus for Montenegro and other Balkan countries to step up their efforts in the accession process. "Serbia is considered the key country of the region by EU, and it is true that no other country can have so much influence on the progress of the rest of the region. In fact, the whole region has been lagging behind for so long precisely because Serbia couldn't get together a breakthrough, historical social consensus on whether it wishes to be a part of Europe", Sabalić said. According to her, the EU wants the countries in the accession process to be sure they wish to belong in the Union.

Croatia, for instance, thought of itself as unquestionably part of Europe even when it strayed from the best European values, and was never in two minds about where it was heading. A candidate status for Serbia means that Serbia fulfilled the conditions set by EU, and it did so because the pro-European option won. The decision on the Serbian candidacy can only boost Monte-

EC got nervous with Croatia, because they believed the process against Sanader's deputy, Polančec, is developing too quickly. They asked – what is going on, normally things are so slow here. So, they are interested to get the machine going, and – this we also know from Croatia's example – one or two cases are not enough to convince them things are really under way.

negro's pace of accession. If Serbia is moving ahead, the EU will be under impression that the whole region is finally moving, that it's on the right track, and Brussels and the rest of EU capitals will be congratulating themselves on the progress" Sabalić explained. On the contrary, if Serbia was not to join, that would, according to her, mean not only that the EU would lose interest in the region, but also that the region would lose interest in EU.

"In the best scenario, outlined by Carl Bildt, Serbia could begin negotiations in late 2013, although some others suggest it will rather happen by the end of 2014. In any case, when that happens, Montenegro can again be sure that nothing outside its own control will interfere with its progress", she said. Sabalić added that it is in EU's interest to tie the whole region to itself, and that this is the only solution that really matters. "Only Croatia, or only Montenegro is not a major win, but with Serbia, and the possibility to pull in BiH, it will already be quite a success", she said.

» Is there a chance that some member states might block the opening of negotiations with Montenegro in June?

There is always a chance that might happen. Romania blocked Serbia in the Council of Ministers, although Romania is normally considered

to be among Serbia's best allies in the Council. The same day, Slovenia blocked sanctions for Belarus, because of the hundred million euros of investments it has there. This happens all the time and it proves that EU is not a monolith. Metaphorically speaking, if it needs to, Romania can always find some Vlachs in Montenegro to justify such a move.

Clearly, such blockings are of strategic nature and they don't last long. We could see such a strategic move on the part of the three Baltic countries and Poland which warned Serbia it would lose their support because of Vuk Jeremić's candidacy to the post of President of UN General Assembly, countering the candidacy of the Latvian representative. Latvia is upset about it, but so is Poland, because not only is it the Baltics' turn to take up presidency, but also the Serbian candidacy is being pushed through by Moscow.

Increasingly, the candidates will be expected to align their moves with EU's decisions. Montenegro is now free to support Jeremić, but if it was closer to EU it probably wouldn't do it.

As for Montenegro, it is possible that the current, xenophobic government of the Netherlands would oppose the beginning of accession talk, but this can be prevented by making progress in what the Netherlands consider to be the most important area: fight against organised crime.

» Are the Brussels and EU more interested in getting the constitutional amendments on judiciary passed by June, or in seeing some concrete progress in terms of the number of verdicts, charges, etc.? Here the impression is that in that sense we are actually doing worse in the last two months than before. The case of Zavala has been practically shelved, we had a huge corruption scandal related to Telecom...

With the judiciary, it's really quite simple. Brussels is interested in seeing the judiciary function, in seeing that there's an efficient prosecution raising substantiated charges which can be confirmed in the process. In other words, they are looking for highly competent prosecutors and their apparatus. Also, once the case reaches the court, they want to see that the judges are

EU worried about the geopolitics of Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania

» What happened to Macedonia and Albania, which are starting to lag behind Serbia and Montenegro?

Albania has the political problem of internal divisions, and a huge problem with public administration. Its capacities are limited. Macedonia has more capacity than is commonly thought, but it's stuck in the political conundrum with its historical obsession with Alexander and the need to prove its roots all the back to antiquity. They also have problems with freedom of the media, as all opposition media seem to be blocked. Now that Greece is already getting out of hand, there's no chance Brussels will be pressuring it further on Macedonia. Or, they could, if they wanted to, but they obviously don't. I think the EU is still not sure how to untangle the geopolitical situation with Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia.

objective and competent in leading the process.

Of course they expect to see some verdicts, but only once the process is complete. They are not interested in political processes, just the opposite, they are opposed to any process that could be interpreted as political scapegoating.

I know they were nervous with Croatia, because they believed the process against Sanader's deputy, Polančec, is developing too quickly. They asked – what is going on, normally things are so slow here. So, they are interested to get the machine going, and – this we also know from Croatia's example – one or two cases are not enough to convince them things are really under way. But that's not the task for the very first phase of the process.

» Aside from Chapters 23 and 24, what could be the most difficult areas for Montenegro?

It's not about individual chapters, it's about having an effective public administration. We know what is difficult for every country: agriculture, finances, environment... But these chapters are not complicated in themselves, but because you need an administration to implement them, because they require comprehensive, modern knowledge, which is only acquired through the process of negotiations.

Common “Organic” for EU and USA

From 1 June 2012, organic products from USA or EU will bear the same common label “organic” in both markets. Until now, growers and companies on both sides of the Atlantic had to acquire separate certificates if they wished to export their organic products: in other words, they had to deal with double costs, inspections and administration. When exporting to EU, American “organic” label will not be valid only for those apples and pears whose trunks have been treated with antibiotics against *Phytophthora*. On the European side, products excluded from the common label for exports to US are products from animals treated with antibiotics and seafood. The EU and the US currently account for 90% of global organic food consumption, and the value of the market is estimated at 40 billion euros. In 2007, there were 33 800 certified organic food producers in EU, with only 1 000 of them registered in the 12 new member states. Demand for organic products is growing in the big EU markets, although in 2007 they accounted for less than 2% (around 14.5 billion euros) of the total household food consumption in the 15 old member states.

Skiing in the Danish planes

Unhappy that he cannot go skiing in the Alps, one Danish farmer used the EU subsidies to build a small ski-centre on his land. That wouldn't be so strange if **Ole Harild** didn't build the ski-enthusiasts' haven on the island Bornholm, which is flat, like the rest of Denmark, and very rarely gets any snow. Now it has ski slopes, a snow cannon, a ski lift, and plenty of skiers. President of the Ski Friends association **Jesper Joern Jensen** said Ole Harild received 98,600 euros for his project, half of it paid by the EU and the other half by the state of Denmark.

Corruption is a problem for 98% of Greeks

According to the latest Eurobarometer, a large majority of EU citizens, 74%, believe that corruption is a big problem in their countries, and nearly half of Europeans think the level of corruption increased in the last three years. Most of the respondents said corruption exists on both the local and the national level, that corruption-related verdicts are often not strict enough, and that there isn't enough supervision of financing of the political parties. It is estimated that corruption costs EU some 120 billion euros every year. Greeks top the list of those who believe their country has a problem with corruption. 98% of Greek citizens share this opinion, and are closely followed by citizens of Portugal and Cyprus, where 97% believe corruption is a problem in their country. The country with the fewest number of citizens who think there is corruption in the country is Denmark, with only 19%, followed by Luxembourg and Netherlands (34%) and Finland (36%).

EU needs more teachers

A number of EU countries could soon face a shortage of teachers. Judging by the number of students enrolled in educational-related programmes, this profession is not very popular any more, and many of the current staff are soon to reach the retirement age. Nevertheless, one encouraging piece of news from the “Key figures on education in Europe 2012” is that in spite of the crisis the financing for education remained stable. The biggest problem is the lack of qualified teachers for science and mathematics.

Agency for National Security (ANS) and secret surveillance
– who guards the guardians?

Too much space for abuse



Dina Bajramspahić

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A state needs effective intelligence and security services with special mandates in order to protect its national security and be able to tackle organised crime. Secret surveillance measures (SSM) allow for preventive action, early discovery and elimination of various forms of threats. Nevertheless, this instrument of protection is also a tool of power susceptible to abuse. These can result in substantial damage to the main values of a democratic society, which means it is necessary to exercise public control and develop oversight mechanisms. Secret surveillance measures deployed by the Agency for National Security (ANS) comprise those measures of secret data collection which require a higher level of

Although reserved for exceptional circumstances, SSMs are more frequently deployed than any other measure, i.e. following and observation – in 2008, SSMs were used five times as frequently

preme Court. The measures are deployed where there is reasonable doubt that the national security is under threat. In the period between 2005 and 2009, 324 citizens of Montenegro were under SSMs administered by ANS. The information for the last three years is still under the seal of secrecy, as its publication could allegedly endanger national security. Although such measures are reserved for exceptional circumstances, when other measures have been proven ineffective, SSMs are more frequently deployed than any other measure, such as following and observation – in 2008, SSMs were used five times as frequently. This suggests there is a need to justify such practice.

The Law on Agency for National Security does not contain a precise definition of *monitoring of electronic communication*, so it remains unclear whether this incorporates access to the listings and IP addresses of internet users, tracking the location of users, access to data in the root directories etc, all of which require a court decision, as much as access to the content of communication. The lack of precision leaves enough space to ANS for liberal interpretation and arbitrary implementation of the measures, and needs to be more strictly regulated. Another reason for concern is the absence of legally prescribed practice to destroy the data on individuals and cases when further SSMs are found to be ungrounded and are discontinued. Such practice is made mandatory by the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights which found that keeping *personal* data in secret files violates the right to privacy. This means that once the mea-



authorisation, i.e. 1. *Monitoring of electronic communication and post*, which require authorisation by the president of the Higher Court; and 2. *Monitoring of building interiors, closed spaces and objects through technical equipment*, which require authorisation by the Judicial Council of the Su-

asures are concluded the materials which do not refer to the reasons the measures were undertaken in the first place as well as other personal information unrelated to security concerns must be destroyed, while the rest can remain in the ANS registries, to be archived once the legal statute expires. Case law of the European Court of Human Rights also stipulates that an individual has the right to be informed that he or she was under SSM, and acquainted with the findings. The reason is to offer the citizens a chance to use their right to legal recourse, but also to hold the institutional accountable for its acts. There is no information on the number of citizens who requested and were granted access to this right.

The goal of monitoring isn't only to identify abuse, for which there is obviously plenty of space, but also to assess the results of SSM, since such measures interfere with the right to privacy not only of the person under surveillance but also of the many persons who are in contact with him or her. There are three systemic level of control over implementation of surveillance measures: judicial, internal and parliamentary. Judicial control is limited to approval of measure and has no role in assessing the legality of their implementation. Internal control of ANS is not in the position to exercise effective, independent monitoring. This is already evident in the fact that the general inspector of ANS in charge of internal control never found a case of illegal implementation of SSM or another form of abuse. Information on the controls exercised by the general inspector is not available.

Parliamentary control of implementation of SSM is hardly effective. There is a widespread perception in the Montenegrin public that the ANS deploys such measures to track the opponents of the government, and similar concerns are often raised by representatives of the opposition in the Parliament. Based on this, it would be reasonable to expect frequent requests for exercise of oversight, but this is not the case. Security and Defence Committee of the parliament visited ANS only once, and on that occasion re-

It is necessary to institute a policy of free access to information related to secret surveillance measures insofar as they do not interfere with the national security, but may increase the transparency of ANS. ANS' registers have been sealed to the public, and are used to store even such information which could not have any negative impact on the national security. In that way, the public is legally, but unjustifiably, deprived of information.

quested a report on implementation of SSM for 2008/2009. Once a year, the committee discusses ANS' Annual Report, but the information on SSM in these reports is scarce and incomplete, making any judgement on their effectiveness impossible. For comparison, Slovenian intelligence service (SOVA) submits detailed reports on SSM to the relevant parliamentary committee every 4 months, and their content is prescribed by law. In Montenegro, the Committee refused the initiative of a group of MPs for control hearing of the director of ANS. In 2011 there was no oversight of SSMs. Oversight capacity of the current parliamentary mechanisms is limited and they should be improved and more frequently deployed. It is also essential to introduce mandatory reporting by the Supreme Court to the Parliament on the surveillance measures it approved, in order to ensure high quality parliamentary oversight of ANS.

Information on MNS is extremely limited. It is necessary to institute a policy of free access to information related to secret surveillance measures insofar as they do not interfere with the national security, but may increase the transparency of ANS. ANS' registers have been sealed to the public, and are used to store even such information which could not have any negative impact on the national security. In that way, the public is legally, but unjustifiably, deprived of information. More public insight into the scope of implementation of SSMs can help to generate constructive dialogue on this issue.

Desire for Europe



Radoš Mušović

The author is a student of the graduate programme in journalism at the Faculty of Political Science and a volunteer in the Centre for Civic Education (CCE)

Asked which group of instruments is played by Germany in the big European orchestra, in an interview for *Süddeutsche Zeitung* **Angela Merkel** said: *It seems to me the European orchestra cannot be divided into those who play the tender tones and those who blow into the trumpet – every nation is equally represented in every group of instruments.* In view of the cultural and political model propagated by EU, integration of the West Balkan countries has no alternative. Exhausted by the never-ending transition, these countries, Montenegro among them, are struggling with organised crime and corruption. These problems are the cancer of the Montenegrin society, because the public institutions do not seem capable of tackling them. Also, as a consequence of the transition, the right to vote has become meaningless to many, because they don't believe in their power to influence the political elites in the country. Pronounced political apathy only contributes to a system profitable for the politicians, criminals and tycoons. On the other hand, 99% of the citizens is facing a financial collapse. The way out, as confirmed by various opinion polls, is believed to be further integration. This can be explained in several ways. The most obvious is trust in the democratic institutions of EU which could to some extent contribute to reforms, and their ability to pressure all branches of government into doing their job. Lacking active citizenship, the EU takes on the role of representing citizens' interest. As strange as it must sound, in transitional societies the EU bodies are often more sensitive to the citizens' problems than our own governments. Another reason I personally care about Montenegro's integration is that it offers me the possibility of change in the social climate. It is very frustrating, especially for the younger generations, to live in a traditional, patriarchal environment, whose strict and conservative rules suffocate the desires, as well as the rights of individuals. This is why we feel so resentful towards those who are different from us. The essence of the change

is to bring better life to the citizens, but also to break the habits that have been developed in cultural and political isolation from the civilised world. However large the problems that shake Europe right now, the idea of common life on this continent has no alternative. The crisis of the eurozone, lack of European identity and balance between the member states are all issues that must be confronted. The sense of belonging should be developed not only in the member states, but also in the candidate countries. If we were to build EU just on that feeling, I am sure we would quickly find a way out of our problems. In the same interview, asked whether she is familiar with the desire for Europe (*desir de l'Europe*), a term coined by the



French, Merkel said she was suffering for 35 years, waiting for the wall to fall, because she felt she was cut off from the rest of the continent, from the West, from the civilised world. And I feel her words very much as my own, because already for 22 years I've been waiting for the invisible wall to fall, the wall cutting us off from real democracy, respect for human rights, freedom of expression and, finally, better life. And even if Merkel is politically very far from me, I don't mind quoting her words once more for conclusion: "Europe is our happiness – happiness we must preserve".

How to restore the model of European growth

Learn from the Asians



In view of negative demographic trends and unyielding budget deficits, Europe needs to make serious cuts in the labour market and in organisation of the state apparatus, warns World Bank Report “Golden Growth: Restoring the Lustre of the European Economic Model”. Public administration is too large, in most countries it is also inefficient and spends a lot more than administration in Europe’s competitors, USA or Japan. Fiscal consolidation should therefore become EU’s top priority in the next 10 years, and the control of public spending in circumstances of accelerating population aging should be the political priority for the next 20 years. Western and Southern Europe need to improve their business environments, while Eastern Europe should pay more attention to infrastructure. Compared to USA, China, Taiwan and Korea, Europe is lagging behind in activities such as internet, biotechnology, computer software and medical equipment. On the other hand, it still holds the primacy in industry, electronic equipment, telecommunications, car industry and consumer goods. However, Europe’s biggest worry should be its continuous fall in productivity. Given the global character of Asian company, European enterprises will need to shift the location and type of production in the next few decades, argues the report. For the time being, the data suggests that European firms are a stable factor of growth of the European economy. “Europe has to make adjustments

to its economic model, not abandon it,” said **Philippe Le Houerou**, World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia. Europe needs many changes to make governments and labor markets work better, together with changes to foster innovation and productivity growth in enterprises. To revitalize the European growth

EU governments spend too much

In view of the large government spending and deficits, it is time to ask whether European governments are too big and are spending too much. European states consume 7 to 10% of GDP more than other countries with a similar level of per capita income. West European governments spend 10% of the GDP more than US, Canada, Australia or Japan. The future will require cutting spending and more efficient administrations.

model, the report makes three sets of recommendations: restart the convergence machine that has allowed poorer countries become high income economies; rebuild “brand Europe”, and reassess what it takes to remain the world’s lifestyle superpower, with the highest quality of life on the planet. Trade and financial integration are two of the strongest attributes of the European economic model. According to the report, the adjustments needed to strengthen these components are: better management of financial flows, quicker expansion of the modern services trade, and greater mobility of workers. According to the report, preserving Europe’s global brand will be somewhat more difficult than restarting convergence, but still well within the continent’s reach. Enterprises in the northern and EFTA economies—already among the most innovative in the world—have to be provided fuller access to markets in the rest of Europe. Governments in southern and Eastern Europe will have to improve the business climate, and the larger continental countries must give their enterprises more economic freedom if they are to compete with North America and East Asia. They must also learn from the US to better harness scientific discovery for commercial



use and make their universities magnets for the best and brightest. The report suggests that the West European countries must reduce debt to 60 percent of GDP by 2030. Adjustment needs are even higher in the candidate countries and new East European members, as many of them have not even begun the reform of the welfare system. The link between public spending and population aging is reflected in the fact that in the future an ever-larger chunk of money will go for health insurance of older cohorts. This means that in absence of serious pension reforms, deficits could increase in the next 20 years by 3% of GDP. Countries that are already spending 10% of their GDP on health and pensions risk having to reduce future spending on education, infrastructure and innovation. Serbia and Ukraine, which already spend more than 15% of their GDP on social protection, risk endangering the welfare of future generations. Europe will have to act on many fronts in order to combat the weaknesses of the labour market. It needs to raise workplace competitiveness, improve labour mobility, reassess the link between work and welfare and rethink its migration policy. European labour model ensures greater security of income than any other system in the world. However, since the 1980s, millions of Asians joined the world labour market, while in Europe the years of work over lifetime decreased. The report argues that this needs to change, and that reform of the pension system should be the top priority. The Authors suggest that the Europeans should

New member states used the chance

In the last two decades, the new member states used well the chance they got through integration into the European economy. Candidate countries were incorporated into the western markets through trade and traditional services, such as transport. This was also a great opportunity for Western Europe, with the companies such as Fiat, Renault and Volkswagen becoming more efficient and sophisticated, and improving their branches in Eastern Europe, such as Dacia and Skoda.

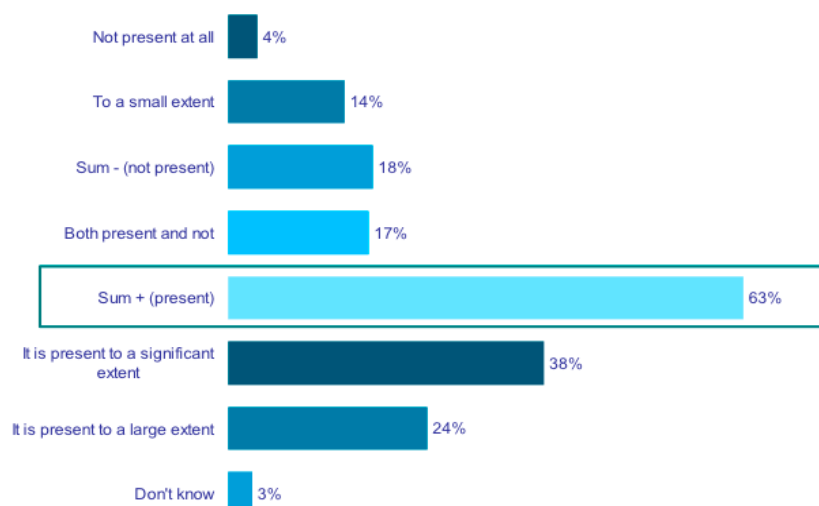
follow the example of Asians who work longer. After the growth of the 1990s, in the last decade Europe had to face a loss of productivity. Productivity gap between Europe and US is twice as large today as it was in the mid-1990s. Enterprises in southern Europe are less productive. In order to become competitive, they should have increased productivity by 3-4% every year since 2000. Instead, productivity fell by about one percentage point per year. The authors also point to oscillating trends in job creation. Trends were not positive in all parts of the EU. Unlike Scandinavia, continental members such as Germany and Austria and later Baltic countries, Southern Europe experienced little growth. Between 2002 and 2008 many jobs were created, but mostly in the construction sector and less productive enterprises such as micro-companies and family firms. The reason probably lies in the entrepreneurial character of Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal, which are dominated by small firms, which is not an environment conducive to success in big markets. It is small wonder, then, that after the fall of communism big capital from Western Europe went to the East, and not to the South. Compared to the US, Europe lags behind in the implementation of new technologies. Western countries which attained or exceeded the American level of physical, human and financial capital, cannot grow faster because of deficit in innovation, research and development. The South is even slower when it comes to adoption of new technologies.

Source: *EurActiv.rs*

CCE and LGBT Forum Progress poll on discriminatory behaviour among the citizens of Montenegro

Most vulnerable LGBT and persons with disabilities

In your opinion, how present is discrimination in Montenegro?



The majority of citizens – 63% believe there is discrimination in Montenegro, and LGBT persons are singled out as the second most vulnerable group, after persons with disabilities. These are the results of the public opinion poll on discriminatory behaviour among the citizens of Montenegro, primarily homophobia, conducted by Centre for Civic Education (CCE) in cooperation with LGBT Forum Progress, with support of the Canadian Embassy, as part of the project “It’s OK to be different”. The poll was conducted with assistance of Ipsos agency between 31 January to 2 February on a random sample of citizens, via telephone, and included 803 adult respondents. One of the reasons behind the poll is that the position of minorities and minority orientations, including sexual minorities or LGBT population, constitutes a litmus test of democracy in societies with strong baggage of traditionalism and authoritarianism. According to these organisations, Montenegro, like much of the regions, belongs to this societal type.

In addition to persons with disabilities, which is spontaneously listed as the most vulnerable to discrimination by 16% of the population, LGBT persons (12%), Roma (11%), national minorities (8%) and women (5%) are in the top of the list. The

largest number of citizens defines discrimination as a situation where one’s rights are threatened (16%) or denied (18%). This formulation is more common among the citizens with secondary or higher education. The second most common association is demeaning or derisive behaviour (10%, followed by understanding of discrimination as rejection or exclusion from the community (7%).

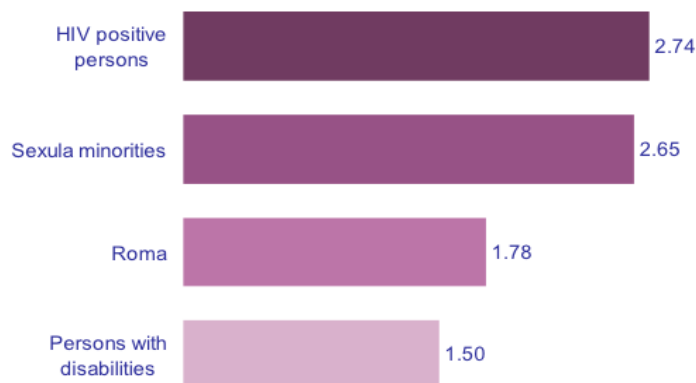
According to the poll, the majority of citizens of Montenegro believe that homosexuality is a disease. Some 60% of the respondents agree with this statement, while 32% oppose it.

When asked directly, most citizens of Montenegro do not approve denial of others’ rights. According to the poll, 86% believe it is never justified to deny somebody their rights, while every tenth respondent believes that under certain circumstances some people’s rights can be justifiably abridged. Education turned out to be an important factor in discrimination – those with less education are more likely (18%) to believe that denying people right in certain circumstances can be justified.

The poll further demonstrated that most people associate homosexuality with negative statements – I don’t support, I don’t like, I’m opposed (13%), something awful, causes disgust (11%), unnatural, abnormal (8%), disease, deviant people (7%), although right to personal choice is the most frequent association the citizens have with LGBT persons (17%).

According to the poll, the majority of citizens of Montenegro believe that homosexuality is a disease. Some 60% of the respondents agree with this statement, while 32% oppose it. Women and persons with post-secondary and higher education are significantly less likely to consider homosexuality a disorder, while persons with only primary and lower education living in the North-West are more likely to think homosexuality is a disorder.

Assessment of social distance



It is positive that most citizens seem open to further education on this topic, and 74% would have nothing against their children attending lectures at school where homosexuality is discussed on scientific grounds.

Nearly a third of the population would stop voting for a political party they currently support if they started advocating rights of homosexuals

As for the right to public expression of sexuality, citizens of Montenegro are fairly divided. A little more than half of the respondents (52%) think that persons with a different sexual orientation have the right to publicly express their sexuality, while 45% oppose public kissing and hugging of same-sex couples. The citizens show little difference in how threatened they feel by public expression of sexuality of two men or two women – two men would incite a sense of threat in 36% of the population, two women in 34% of the population.

The respondents expressed a large social distance to LGBT people. The respondents feel the least social distance with persons with disabilities (1.5 on average), Roma (1.78), followed by sexual minorities (2.65). The largest distance is felt towards HIV positive persons (2.74).

For illustration, 72% of the respondents would have nothing against an LGBT person as their neighbour, but the figure falls drastically when asked whether they would support a friendship between their children and LGBT people. Only 17% would accept an LGBT person as a marriage partner of someone from their family.

Most citizens do not deny the existence of homosexuals in Montenegro. Only 17% agree partly or entirely with the claim that there is no homosexuality in Montenegro, while 77% disagree.

Homosexuality and rights of LGBT persons are still a taboo for much of the Montenegrin population. One indication is that nearly a third of the population would stop voting for a political party they currently support if they started advocating rights of homosexuals. Only 57% would not change their opinion about the party they support if they promoted rights of homosexuals. Although more than half of the citizens (52%) do not think homosexuals are a threatened group which needs to be helped to attain its rights, radically negative behaviour towards homosexual doesn't enjoy widespread support: 85% of the citizens disprove verbal, and 92% physical violence against this population. 61% of the respondents disagree with the claim that Montenegro's entry into EU will undermine its culture and traditional values, while 79% disagree with the claim that marriages between members of different nationalities constitute a threat to national integrity.

The “yes” vote in the Croatian referendum will have little repercussion on the European ambitions of the Western Balkans

Bogged down by bad experiences, crisis and enlargement fatigue



Will the positive outcome of the Croatian referendum on EU membership rekindle enthusiasm for European integrations in other West Balkan countries, which took a hard dive in the wake of the economic crisis? Pessimists worry that after Croatia's accession a new “iron curtain” might come down to keep the future aspirants out for a while. Some believe that given the negative experience with Greece, Bulgaria and Romania, the EU might “raise the bar” and make the entry conditions more stringent. Also, in spite of its commitment to support integration of other West Balkan countries, Croatia might toughen up on the unsolved bilateral issues, just like Slovenia did a few years ago in the border dispute with Croatia. Croatian politicians, entrepreneurs, but also majority of citizens, claim further enlargement is also in Croatia's interest, and promise that once inside the EU they will continue offering full technical and political support to their South-East neighbours. “I don't think that Croatia's accession to EU will have a direct impact on the negotiations with other Balkan countries or on the requirements they face”, said **Hrant Kostanyan** from the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). European Policy Centre

The EU will be more careful when monitoring certain areas, as it now believes it was not careful enough in the past with some countries which have already become members. This doesn't mean EU will raise the bar, it means the control will become more stringent, says European Policy Centre (EPC) expert Rosa Balfour

(EPC) expert **Rosa Balfour** thinks Croatia's accession should in principle have a positive effect on other Balkan countries, but that there is some uncertainty about EU's willingness to continue with enlargements after Croatia's accession. This uncertainty, she added, is not of recent vintage – it has been around for a few years, and the EU also seems to have become less interesting and attractive to the Balkan countries than it used to be. “However, if we analyse the more important, tangible strategic orientation, of both the EU and the Balkan countries, the general thrust seems to be continuing enlargement. The problem is, of course, when and how. As for the timeline, we can expect some slowdown in European integrations in the near future. This is partly due to the difficulties of some Balkan states which are well beyond those Croatia had to face – for instance, territorial problems, fight against organised crime, or the functioning of public administration. We should add that EU will be very careful in its monitoring of certain areas, as it now believes it was not careful enough in the past with some countries that are already members. By this I mean first of all corruption, the rule of law, public administration, judicial reforms, general state of human rights, relations with neighbours and, of course, the solution to the Kosovo problem. This doesn't mean the EU will raise the bar, i.e. introduce new criteria – it simply means the control will be more stringent, and it will be more difficult to meet the old criteria”, Balfour said. Kostanyan agrees

with Balfour, adding that the EU enlargement fatigue does not concern the remaining Balkan countries. “They are very small and can be easily absorbed. This is not about enlargement fatigue, it’s about fulfilling the necessary criteria to join the EU”, says Kostanyan. Balfour thinks the EU will remain committed to the Balkan enlargement: “It is hard to say when the Balkan countries will join the EU. The way things go now, I think the member states are willing to grant Serbia the candidate status. Also, we can expect the opening of negotiations with Montenegro. However, beyond these initial steps, it is very hard to predict when these and other Balkan countries might join the EU. The process will be difficult and uncertain”, Balfour said. She added that, in the long run, the Balkan countries don’t have too many options. “You hear of some alternatives, such as strengthening of the links with Russia, Turkey, or some other country. However, none of these options offers the same security and stability like EU. Also, joining the EU doesn’t mean you have to break off your ties with Russia or Turkey, this is not an “either-or” offer. Balkans are surrounded by EU, the strategic orientation is mandated by geography. As for the EU, regardless of its current difficulties, especially with some member states – it remains committed to the enlargement process. It promised them the membership – if it reneges on the promise, it risks its own credibility. As long as EU is functional, it will remain committed to this goal”, Balfour said. Some speculate that Croatia’s accession was made easier since this country was lucky to become a candidate and make a lot of progress in negotiations long before the global economic crisis erupted. Croatia also enjoyed the support of Christian-Democratic parties in EU. “You need unanimous support of all EU members to join. Therefore, I don’t think that support of a single party which is influential in some EU countries can be decisive, as it will never be in power in all countries”, Kostanyan said. After the crisis engulfed the Eurozone, most of all Greece, many in the Balkans started to lose faith that EU can solve their countries’ problems. This sense of disappointment could

What if the next Croatian elections are won by nationalists

Unresolved bilateral issues with Croatia’s neighbours might lead to a tougher stance towards the Balkan countries by this country in the future, if Slovenia’s example is any clue. “Croatia’s president insisted that he remains committed to reconciliation and regional cooperation, which is an attitude the EU welcomes. However, much depends on who will win the next parliamentary elections in Croatia. We can see some negative trends in the countries which joined the EU in 2004 and are now drifting away from European values. This even happens to the old members of the EU club, so it’s also possible it will happen to Croatia. However, EU keeps pressuring Croatia to continue its positive involvement in regional cooperation. Naturally, if the nationalists win the next elections, Zagreb can change its policy towards Serbia and Bosnia”, Balfour conceded.

Kostanyan said it was hard to predict whether the new member will start lobbying for the rest once it joins the EU, or try to capitalise on its position to blackmail others. “It is too early to talk about it, and these would be bad speculation”, Kostanyan said.

potentially be exploited by the nationalist and populist forces opposing membership of EU. “It is probably positive, and much healthier, not to look at the EU as a solution to all your problems. If corruption is widespread, it means that the local political elites are not fully accountable for their work, that the laws are not being fully implemented. Therefore, political leaders in the Balkans are responsible for the situation in their countries. Of course, the crisis which is now shaking the EU is a serious blemish on its international image. But at the same time, it means that the ruling classes in the Balkans must take the responsibility for the state of their finances, transparency and many other issues. This is part of strengthening their democracies”, Balfour said.

Source: Radio Slobodna Evropa

What we need to know before we decide to join European Union

EU for citizens

Directives, regulations, *acquis communautaire*, Council of EU, chapters, screening... How many citizens of Montenegro, or for that matter of most countries which aspire to become EU members, or are already in EU, understand this terminology?

In effect, the questions which really matter to European citizens, much more than familiarity with these omnipresent bureaucratic terms, are those that relate to the working conditions in EU, prices, the size of fruit, driving licences, schools... this is why European Pulse decided to publish answers to the questions important for our everyday lives, answers that should bring EU closer to the citizens of Montenegro.

VAT in the country of registration. If they buy a used car from a private person, the VAT is not charged. If the used car is bought from a licensed seller, VAT is paid in the country of sale, but not in the country of registration. The car can be transported to the home country by another registered and insured car, or by a specialised transport firm. It can also be driven home, if you have appropriate insurance and temporary licence plates which can be acquired in the home country or in the country where you bought the car. It should be checked in advance whether the temporary plates are valid in all member states through which you will be driving..

Did you know that some 99% of all economic subjects in EU are small and medium enterprises, and that close to 90% employ up to 10 people?

What is the minimum wage in EU and is it mandatory for the whole Union?

There is no universal European model of minimum wage setting in EU. In most countries this is regulated by national legislation, while in Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy and Sweden the minimum wage is set by collective agreements separately for each sector. In 2011, monthly minimum wage (before taxes) was between 123 euros in Bulgaria and 1 758 euros in Luxembourg.

How does EU protect endangered species?

In order to protect endangered plants and animals, EU developed the largest coordinated network of nature protection areas, called Natura 2000. All EU countries are members of Natura 2000, and protected areas are declared



How can you buy a car in another member state and transport it to your home country?

EU citizens can buy a car freely wherever they want within the Union, without any customs fees. However, VAT charges depend on whether they bought it from a private individual or a licensed seller, and whether the car is new or used. If the car is new, the buyer pays

according to scientific criteria for endangered species, based on the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, which list more than 1000 endangered species of plants and animals. Human activity is not forbidden in these areas, but it has to be revised - if it has a negative impact on the protected area, it has to be revised, for instance, by changing part of the route of a prospected road. If there is no alternative solution, the plan has to be approved by the European Commission, which controls the protection of the environmental network. Some countries declared very large portions of their territory part of the environmental network of Nature 2000 – Slovenia 35.5%, Spain 27.2%.

In 2010 32.5 million foreigners lived in EU (6.5% of all population), of which 12.3 million are European citizens living in another member state.

Do EU citizens have the right to know who collects their private data and for what purposes?

Whenever EU citizens reserve a flight, apply for a job, use their credit cards or surf the net, they reveal their personal data. EU's 1995 Data Protection Directive obliges all member states to incorporate private data protection in their national legislation. It also contains the clause that a country must have a public database of all entities who are entitled to access to citizens' personal data, as well as the body overseeing the activities of these users. A country which does not comply with the said directive can be sued for violation of EU regulations.

Under what conditions can an EU citizen employed in another member state permanently settle there?

If an EU citizen worked or lived as a pensioner in another country continuously for more than five years, he or she is automatically entitled to permanent residence. The five-year period can be interrupted due to pregnancy, serious illness,



study or employment in another country. Army service is also considered a valid exception. "Continuous residence" means the person can spend just under six months in a year outside of that country.

If an EU citizen wishes to continue his or her work in the same profession in another member state, would he or she have to pass additional exams?

In order to get a job in another member state, an individual must have officially recognised professional qualification (education and work experience). Regulated profession database of the DG Internal Market and Services contains a list of legal regulations of particular professions in different EU countries. If the profession is not subject to any specific regulations in the host state, it can be performed under the same conditions as in the home country, provided agreement of the relevant authorities. Same professions can often be classified differently in different member states, so it is best to contact national institutions in charge of recognising professional qualifications in home and host countries, which can provide you with detailed information and recommendations.

Source: "101 question on EU's influence on the lives of citizens", published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations of Croatia – www.mvpei.hr

Europe in my town

Montenegro in EU:

What does it mean for ME, what does it mean for my TOWN

Centre for Civic Education (CCE), in cooperation with Monitoring Centre (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiative (CI) from Belgrade, is implementing the project “Europe in my town”, supported by EU Delegation in Montenegro.

“Europe in my town” aims to strengthen the capacities and the role of local communities and civil society organisations in Montenegro and enable them to make a long-term, effective contribution to the process of EU integration. More specifically, the project aims to raise the level of understanding and support to EU accession process among the citizens of Montenegro by providing a forum for public discussions and by setting up platforms for cooperation between local governments, local civil society organisations and citizens of 9 Montenegrin municipalities: Podgorica, Nikšić, Cetinje, Ulcinj, Budva, Herceg Novi, Bijelo Polje, Pljevlja, Kolašin.

Among other, the project includes 18 public discussions in 9 Montenegrin municipalities, discussing the matters which the citizens themselves brought up as relevant and indicated them as the issues they would like to know more about, in terms of harmonisation with EU policies, regulations and standards.

The eighth public debate was organised on 2 February 2012 in Cetinje, in the building of the local parliament, and concerned education and youth policy in EU.

The speakers at the discussion were: **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE, **Ana Nikolić**, deputy Mayor of Cetinje, H.E. **Petar Turčinović**, Croatian ambassador to Montenegro, Dr **Vladimir Pavićević**, professor at the Political Science Department in Belgrade, **Boris Marić**, senior legal advisor in CCE and **Ana Mijanović**, representative of the local NGO “Today for tomorrow”.



3rd national conference on corruption in education

Only knowledge is a title



On 29 February 2012, at the Faculty of Law in Podgorica, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) organised, with support of the German Embassy in Montenegro, the 3rd national conference on corruption in education “Only knowledge is a title”.

CCE and CEMI have been working for many years against corruption in all areas of the Montenegrin society, especially in higher education. The goal of the conference is to open up a discussion at the highest level, in presence of the most competent experts in this field and all interested parties in Montenegro, on the challenges brought by corruption in education, and to offer proposals and solutions for this devastating phenomenon in one of the pillars of societal development. The conference was opened by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE, **Zlatko Vujović**, president of the Managing Board of CEMI, **Pius Fischer**, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and **Duško Marković**, deputy prime minister of Montenegro in charge of the political system.



After the introductory speeches, the conference continued with the panel “Challenges for higher education institutions”, with presentations by Prof Dr **Andelko Lojpur**, provost of the University of Montenegro, **Dragica Anđelić**, secretary general of the University Mediteran and Dr **Maja Drakić**, dean of the Department for International Economics, Finance and Business of the University Donja Gorica.

During the panel “Engagement and behaviour of the teaching and administrative staff”, the participants had a chance to hear the opinions of **Mubera Kurpejović**, deputy Minister of Education and Sports, **Drenka Knežević**, independent advisor in the department for labour relations of the Ministry for Social Work, **Boris Marić**, senior legal advisor of CCE and Prof Dr **Blagota Mitrić**, lawyer.

The third session summarised the key findings of the study on the perception of corruption in education, as well as the publication: “How much is the exam?” compiled by a group of students from all Montenegrin universities.

EU Information Assistant Internship in Brussels, Belgium

Interface Europe, a company of experts specialised in European strategies and projects in the field of RD&I, is currently looking for a highly motivated individual for a traineeship as EU Information Assistant.

Tasks: monitor EU information (calls for proposals, events, etc.) and R&D related sectoral information (biotechnology, energy, transport, etc.) using an economic intelligence tool; participate in the drafting of the Interface Europe newsletter "Brussels in Brief"; prepare, manage and update Interface Europe website, databases and mailing lists.

Requirements / profile:

- University degree in political science, EU affairs, journalism or equivalent.
- Good communication skills both written and oral.
- Good knowledge of research and innovation ecosystem and programs (FP7, CIP, etc.) at EU level.
- Previous experience in managing newsletters and websites.
- Basic knowledge of HTML and experience with Photoshop is highly appreciated.
- Open-minded, team player (able to communicate, plan and work within an international team as well as independently to a high standard), hands-on, alert, stress resistant, multitasking, and good eye for detail.

Languages: Fluency in both English and French is required. Other EU languages would be an asset.

Remuneration: During the internship salary is provided.

The deadline is 15 April 2012.

To apply, send CV and cover letter in English to interface@interfaceurope.eu

For more information, please visit:

http://www.interfaceurope.eu/interfaceurope/job_opportunity_eu_information_assistant

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