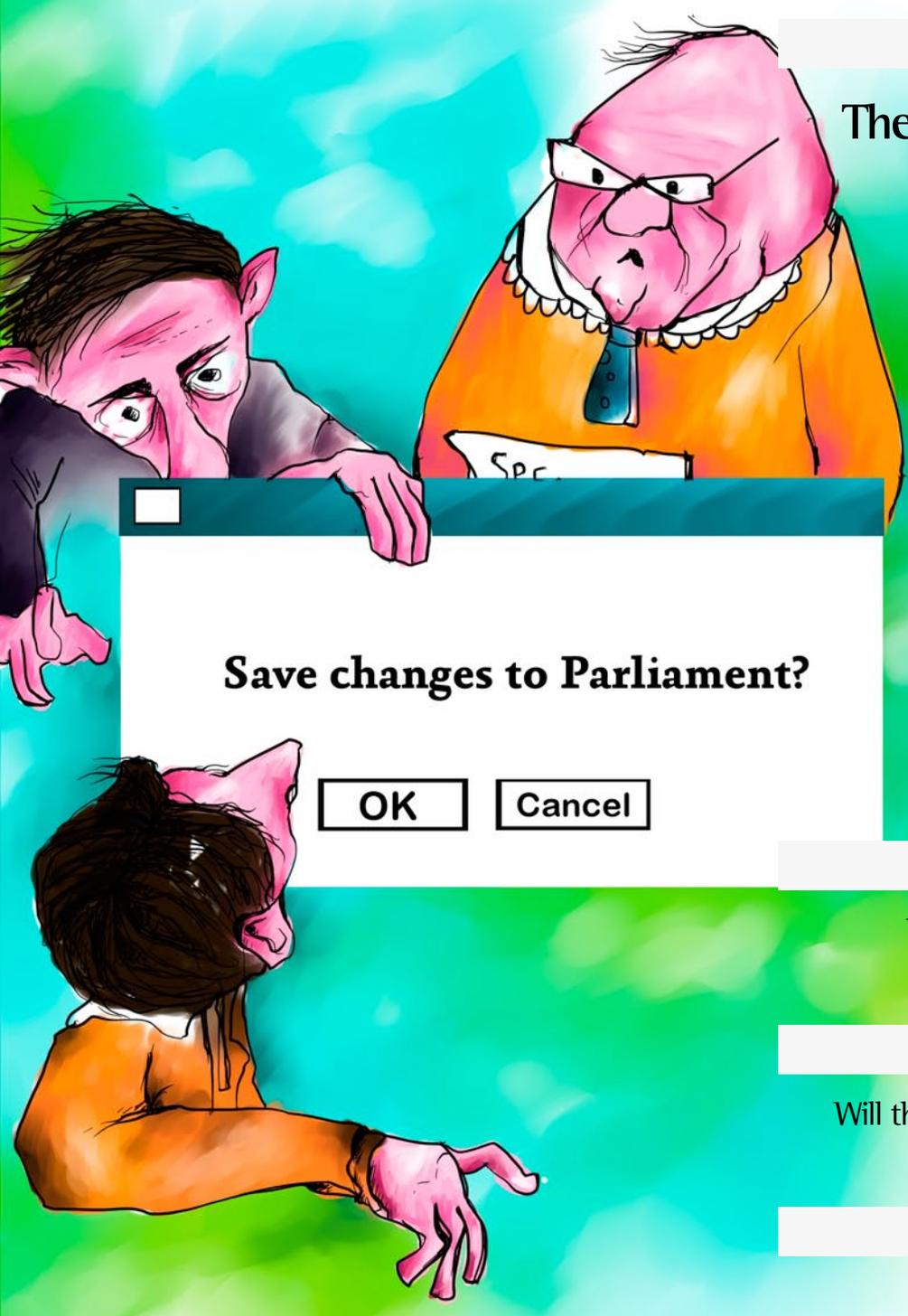


European pulse

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Foreword: **Rebalance**

Vladan Žugić

Budget rebalance isn't something terrible and it's been done in a number of European countries. Or so we heard from the young deputy Minister of Finance **Nemanja Pavličić**, who uttered the wise words with the calm of a great spiritual leader. Without batting an eye.

Budget rebalance wouldn't be a terrible thing if it didn't come so early, in April, only four months after **Pavličić's** boss, **Milorad Katnić**, boasted about the realistic budget projections in spite of the warnings from the experts and rare voices from the opposition, which is otherwise more concerned about the flag and the language than about the pockets of the voters.

As for the rest of Europe, only a handful of countries had to rethink their financial plans as soon as April. The closest example is Croatia whose governments have lately given up on painting a rosy picture for their voters, which seems to be the only goal of our government. What else can be said about the fact that the Government immediately announced that the rebalance will mainly hit the pockets of the officials. In reality, the total savings on this item are 400 000 euros. This is only three times the amount the Ministry of finance gave its employees last year as compensation for involvement in various committees, working groups, and for life away from the family (mom and dad).

The Greek governments were experts at painting the reality pink. Now the savings measures in this country have gone so far you can rent a policeman at an hourly rate. The Spaniards are not far behind, counting the number of pills you can prescribe to a patient, because in the past the elderly used to hoard them. Our government first introduced a ban on smoking in pubs, allegedly in order to protect the health of its citizens. Now it's introducing a 1 euro tax on the establishments which allow their customers to enjoy the benefits of nicotine. The southerners definitely don't lack in creativity!

Montenegro is in a serious economic trouble and only serious measures can patch up the holes in the budget. "Serious measures" mean inspections in the companies protected by DPS or owned by the informal donors of the ruling party, VAT for the services performed by lawyers and dentists, a wealth tax... Otherwise, the Greek scenario is becoming more and more likely.

Calendar

- 03 April **EU to open negotiations, authorities to tackle high corruption** / EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) called on the EU members not to "unduly and unreasonably delay the launch of talks" with Montenegro, but also urged the competent law enforcement agencies to comprehensively pursue their anti-corruption activities "including through prosecuting the high-level corruption cases up to convictions". The Committee also called on political parties to stop conditioning the reform of judiciary with other, unrelated political demands.
- 16 April **Clean under the carpet, like the Croats** / **Christian Schmidt**, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defence of Germany, said that on its way to EU Montenegro will have to also clean under the carpet, just like Croatia did.
- 23 April **Montenegrin ham too salty** / Head of EU Delegation in Podgorica **Leopold Maurer** said the European standards do not allow for more than 4% of salt in dry-cured ham, whereas Montenegrin "pršut" has up to 7%. He said similar limits may apply to other agricultural products before Montenegro can export them to EU.
- 25 April **Agreed committees for anti-corruption and European integrations** / Collegium of the President of the Parliament of Montenegro agreed on changes to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro, whereby a new committee will be established specifically to monitor progress in the fight against organised crime and corruption. Another change is the division of the Committee for European Integrations and International Relations, and establishment of two new committees – Committee for European Integrations and Committee for International Cooperation and Diaspora. Committee for Anti-Corruption and Committee for European Integration will have a chairman from the ranks of the opposition.

The Balkan Employment Crisis—an urgent appeal



Kori Udovički



Gerald Knaus

Leskovac is home to a textile industry that began in the 19th century, flourished under communism, and barely survives today. Socialist-era companies are bankrupt, their production halls empty, their machines dismantled and sold as scrap metal. At the heart of the town's plight, and that of so many other regions in the Western Balkans, is the impact of dramatic de-industrialization. Today the employment rate is down to about 45%, more than 20% below the EU average. Half of the young are unemployed. Labour markets in other countries of the region are similarly poor: the employment rate in Albania is also one of the lowest in Europe. Even during the periods of relative economic growth and high FDI inflows, the employment generated by the new, entrepreneurial private sector was not sufficient to offset the jobs shed by the slowly restructuring and privatized old industries. The financial crisis of 2008 has wiped out more than the jobs generated in the recovery period, even if informal job generation is taken into account. It is true that Europe's textile industry has been put on the defensive by the emerging Far East. However, it would be wrong to conclude that the Balkan textile industry's decline has been inevitable. In recent decades, the employment has shifted from Germany to Poland, from Hong Kong to China, from Italy to Hungary and Turkey, and then to Bulgaria and Romania. The question is: why didn't the jobs come to the Western Balkans? One answer is that the growth model adopted in the Western Balkans over the last decade has discouraged governments from asking such specific questions. Driven by distrust of the legacy of socialist planning, as well as by fear of state capture by corrupt businesses and corruption in the administration, the preferred economic policies have been hands-off, focusing not on specific sectors of the economy but on the general business environment. Policymakers have been praised for avoiding the temptation to shield declining areas of the economy from the discipline of the market. What would an alternative model of economic growth look like? It depends on the context. Comparative advantages are likely to be still hiding in the remnants

of the past. Declining industries have left behind redundant workers and educational institutions without the skills and resources needed to adjust to a new marketplace. Provincial cities like Leskovac lack foreign contacts. A competent industrial development agency, modelled, for example, on the Irish Industrial Development Agency (IRA) could help. The key word, however, is "competent". It would have to be able to offer support and advice – based on credible and painstaking sectoral analysis – to local administrations and companies. It would need to help educate local governments about ways of attracting investors, and offer grants for private sector management training. For this, however, it is necessary, that a new philosophy for the role of industrial policy in economic growth be embraced. EU could do more to support the countries' ability to develop and pursue credible multiyear strategies in a whole range of sectors, including agriculture and rural development, transportation, environment, and regional development. During the last enlargement wave, each candidate country integrated such strategies into a National Development Plan, which functioned both as a national roadmap and as a programming document for EU assistance. Such an approach would benefit the countries of the Western Balkans, where the public sector suffers from a dearth of planning capacity and resources for policy development. None of this is to suggest that there is a silver bullet for job creation. Reversing the long-term trend of employment decline is a generational project, made all the more difficult by the current cyclical conditions in Europe. But the lack of employment opportunities today in the Western Balkans is generating quiet despair, especially among the young. Without radical change, the sense of despair may become burning. There is, in fact, no greater, more urgent, social and economic issue in the Balkans.

Udovički is assistant secretary-general at the UN Development Programme responsible for Europe. Gerald Knaus is the founder of the European Stability Initiative

The role of the Parliament of Montenegro in EU membership negotiations

Weak like in Croatia or strong like in Slovenia



Esad Krcić

Montenegro is on the threshold of the last phase of accession to European Union. In spite of the modest results with regard to establishment of the rule of law and fight against organised crime and corruption, it seems poised to begin membership negotiations this summer. Before that, it has come through a long process beginning with a feasibility study and continuing with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, answers to the European Commission's Questionnaire, acquisition of the formal status of an EU membership candidate... The next step are the accession negotiations. They are not really negotiations, but rather a way to specify deadlines and methods for the fulfilment of certain conditions. Accession and negotiations are two parallel processes which require participation of all social actors, although primarily the Government and the Parliament, in order to harmonise legislations,

By the end of the spring session, the latest by 31 July, the Parliament will establish a new Committee for European Integrations that will exclusively deal with negotiating positions and control of the accession process.

strengthen institutions and implement new regulations. With the exception of Slovenia, the parliaments in all accession countries had exclusively a monitoring role. The Government acted as the negotiator, while the parliament monitored the preparations, the course and progress of the accession talks. When choosing the model for the role of its own Parliament, Montenegro has two options from the nearest neighbourhood: the Slovenian and the Croatian model. The Slovenian Parliament (Državni zbor) had the power to reject draft negotiating positions of the Government and

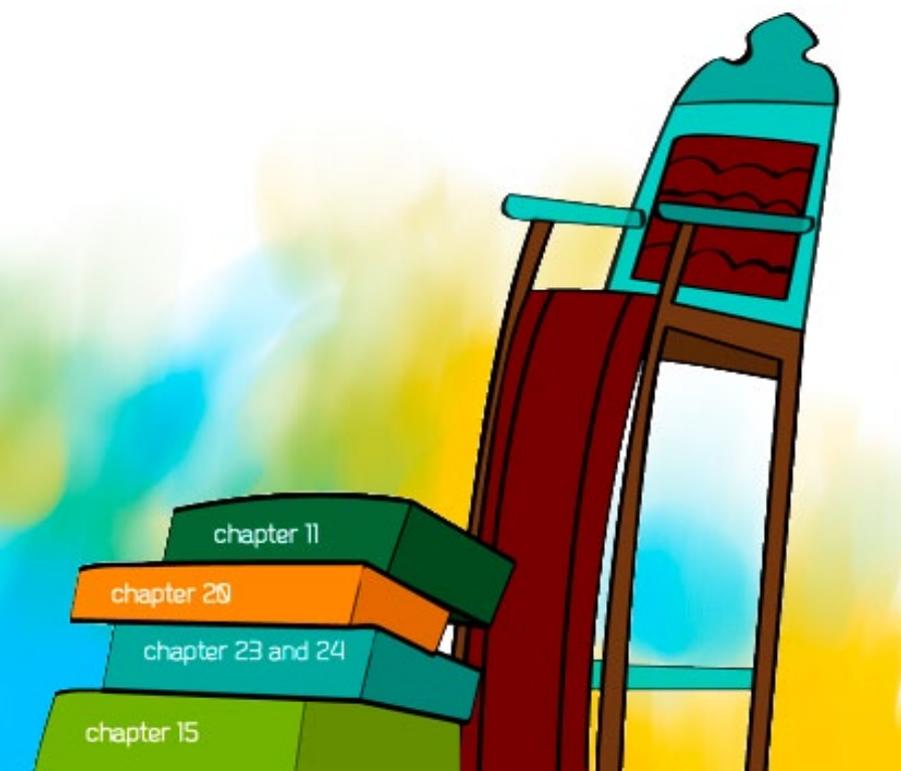
Chairman from the opposition, government in majority

Goran Danilović from New Serbian Democracy says it would be better if we implemented the full Slovenian model.

“However, I'm not sure this is possible with the current division of powers, and given the fact that we are to begin an important step in the accession process without ever having changed the party in power. In those circumstances, I would say we're doing extremely well. In the new Committee for Euro-integrations opposition will be entitled to the chairmanship, although the ruling parties will constitute the majority. If the Committee doesn't approve of something, it will have to be revised. That's already something”, Danilović said.

thus block the process. Croatia, on the other hand, used the model common among most new member states, where the Government was only obliged to submit progress reports to the Parliament. Montenegrin Government is occasionally accused of wanting to monopolise the process of Montenegro's integration into EU, which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations expressly denies. However, it is obvious that the government is feeling more comfortable when it's in a clearly dominant position.

“The Government signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and responded to the Questionnaire of the European Commission, and it carries the largest responsibility. The role of the Parliament is to control and warn the Government about possible errors, but I don't think there were any such errors



In Hungary, Parliamentary oversight meant setting up an expert team which offered guidelines for negotiations and had a consultative role. In the Czech Republic, a special committee in the Senate discussed already closed chapters and later acted through hearings of a significant number of representatives of the executive, experts, diplomats...

so far on our European path. We cooperate and everything is taking place according to the plan”, says **Obrad Mišo Stanišić**, MP of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and member of the Parliamentary Committee for International Relations and European Integrations in the interview for *European Pulse*. He said he feels closer to the Croatian model, where the Government has a lot of autonomy in the accession talks. The opposition, on the other hand, would prefer the Slovenian model, where each negotiating position should first be approved by the Parliament. MP of the New Serbian

Domestic issues can interfere with negotiations

Andrej Engelman, deputy director of the Office for Development and European Affairs in the Government of Slovenia says that without political consensus it is difficult to move on with the accession talks.

“Political consensus is probably among the most important preconditions. If there is no consensus, if some domestic issues keep coming up in EU-related discussions, things will move very slowly”, warns Engelman, who couldn’t say whether the lack of such consensus indicates immaturity of a political elite.

“I can’t say if this is the case. You are only now entering the process, and you’ll see how it develops in the years to come”, he said.

Democracy (NOVA) and member of the Parliamentary Committee for International Relations and European Integrations **Goran Danilović** says he finds encouraging the recent agreement in the Parliament’s Collegium to strengthen the oversight and control functions of the Parliament and to establish a new parliamentary working body.

“By the end of the spring session, the latest by 31 July, the Parliament will establish a new Committee for European Integrations that will exclusively deal with negotiating positions and control of the accession process. The Government will remain the most important player, but the point is to improve the disastrously bad treatment of the Parliament in this process. Seen that we have never had a change of power in elections, it is clear that it’s nearly impossible to make the Parliament superior overnight. Still, I believe that its influence, in spite of the many internal misunderstandings and cleavages, will grow by the day”, said Danilović for *European Pulse*. Montenegro has several models according to

which it can tailor the role for its Parliament in the accession process. In Hungary, Parliamentary oversight meant setting up an expert team which offered guidelines for negotiations and had a consultative role. In the Czech Republic, a special committee in the Senate discussed already closed chapters and later acted through hearings of a significant number of representatives of the executive, experts, diplomats... Polish Government informed the Lower House about the progress of negotiations, while the Parliament exercised oversight through the usual oversight mechanisms. In Romania, both houses of the Parliament exercised regular oversight of the Government's work through ministerial hearings and interpellations. The Lithuanian Parliament also had an important role in overseeing Government's negotiating positions and monitoring the process, while the Parliament of Cyprus, via its Committee for European Affairs, monitored EU negotiations through regular reports of the executive on the course of negotiations and the overall accession process. The Committee then responded to these reports by taking positions which, as a rule,

the Parliament of Cyprus, via its Committee for European Affairs, monitored EU negotiations through regular reports of the executive on the course of negotiations and the overall accession process. The Committee then responded to these reports by taking positions which, as a rule, the Government took very seriously

the Government took very seriously. Estonian Parliament followed a similar model, except the Government had to send draft negotiating positions for consideration to the Committee for European Affairs before adopting them. Unlike the Croatian, the Slovenian model gave primacy to the Parliament, so it's all the more interesting to hear the opinions of the Government "players" in Slovenia where

Kovačević: The farce of an anti-European government

"Negotiating teams created by a government which is steeped in corruption and organised crime networks, and which covers up its anti-European core by pro-European rhetoric are nothing but a farce", professor Kovačević told European Pulse.

He says these teams were formed to create an illusion of progress in European integration, but are led by the "party soldiers of the ruling oligarchy" whose task is to postpone and, if possible, prevent the arrival of the rule of law to Montenegro, in order to protect the monopolies and privileges of their party "commanders" Đukanović and Krivokapić.

"I fear that the NGO representatives in these teams will be harassed, humiliated and made to serve petty political goals of the ruling coalition, and I am sorry that they even accepted to be part of this farce", Kovačević said.

the Government could not act without explicit approval by the Parliament. "The Parliament always has to approve of the Government's negotiating positions. You can give the Parliament the final word, like we did in Slovenia, or have them discuss the positions but leave the final decision with the Government, as in some other countries", **Andrej Engelman**, deputy director of the Office for Development and European Affairs in the Government of Slovenia told *European Pulse*. Although he is a government man, he prefers a "strong" parliament. "To be honest, at first we were worried about giving so much power to the Parliament, but in the end it only helped us because we had a full consensus on all positions, and this made our negotiations with Brussels easier. In principle, I prefer a stronger parliament", he concluded.

An agreement between the Government and opposition on constitutional changes necessary in order to lay ground for independent judiciary

The show must end



Nedeljko Rudović

If Montenegro's achievements on the way to EU were to be measured only by the maturity of its political elite, all speculations about the possibility that the Council of EU will approve the opening date for accession talks with Montenegro this June would have to turn pessimist. EU's request for constitutional changes in Montenegro in the field of judiciary, which would ensure that the politicians cannot any more influence prosecution and the courts, can hardly be fulfilled by June – not because of disagreement over the constitutional clauses, but because of political tactic and manoeuvres. All this raises suspicion that the government is not really interested in genuine reforms, but the opposition has also shown little eagerness to move things forward. They conditioned two-third support for the amendments to the highest legal act by the so-called identity issues – restoring Serbian as the official language, replacement of the current flag with a tricolour and exclusion of the last two stanzas from the anthem as they were allegedly written by the war criminal **Sekula Drljević**. These conditions provoked criticism from the EU officials, but there was also little effort on the part of the Government to make the discussion more constructive. And just as DPS announced that an agreement is possible, this information was expressly denied, again by DPS. First the deputy Prime Minister and member of the DPS presidency **Duško Marković** announced compromise over the anthem and the flag, but only a few days later the head of the party **Milo Đukanović** rejected any such agreements. “DPS cannot accept the change of anthem and of the name of our language, and the question of flag can be resolved without constitutional changes, through specific legal sub-acts. We trust that the last thing Montenegro needs now are two sets of political symbols, as this would be extremely detrimental and destructive for Montenegro”, Đukanović said. Regardless of Đukanović's motives in blocking any compromise, it clearly shows he is unwilling to meet the demands coming from Brussels, first of all to ensure that Montenegro



Another in the series of examples of immaturity and suspicious calculations on the part of Montenegrin politicians happened in late April, demonstrating the lack of even minimum coordination in the ruling party and, even more importantly, the lack of any genuine intention to set the judiciary on a footing that might turn it into a truly independent branch of government.

gets a judiciary which cannot be governed either by him or by others in the political clique. This way he only confirmed the suspicion that the so-called negotiations over the constitution are but a smokescreen, intended to make Brussels believe we are working on something. In Montenegro, the long-term practice of simulated reforms is well established. In this performance, changes become part of the legal system, but not of everyday life. First it was intended for the citizens, and now for EU, but unlike the Montenegrin voters who have failed to use their power in the elections, Brussels is perfectly capable of punishing them for it. The Croatian scenario, which took root as soon as this country began its accession talks, clearly shows the dangers of playing with the fire. **Sanader** also said things the EU likes to hear, while doing whatever he wanted, but today all he can count are the years he will spend in prison.

Head of the Croatian negotiating team
for the chapter on agriculture and rural development Ružica Gelo

Our chance is in the local products



Ni hrvatskim, ni crnogorskim poljoprivrednim proizvođačima ulaskom u EU neće se dogoditi ništa što im se već ne događa. Oni su i sada pod pritiskom rastuće konkurencije i očekivanja potrošača

Head of the Croatian team for negotiations with EU on the chapter on agriculture and rural development **Ružica Gelo** advised agricultural producers in Montenegro to start preparing for the negotiations as soon as possible.

“The more time you have to prepare for membership in EU, the better”, she said.

Gelo added that the EU membership won't change much the situation of the Croatian or Montenegrin producers.

“They are already under pressure from rising competition and consumers' expectations. I believe the most important thing is to start preparing on time and find an optimal solution for your agriculture”, Gelo said.

» **What do you think is the best solution for our agriculture?**

Because of the average size of landholdings in our two countries, we can hardly hope to become leaders in some agricultural products. Simply, we don't have the natural foundations for something like that.

However, it is possible to find some specific products that will become competitive both on the national and international markets. The advantage in both Croatia and Montenegro is a strong tourist sector, so we have the chance to

boost these “quiet exports”, and a number of specific local products the foreigners will be interested in. In Croatia, these are the cured ham from Istra, sausages from Slavonia, some cheeses... It would be best to start preparing the producers of such products to slowly adapt to the EU standards and then work on the branding and marketing of these products – both at home and abroad.

» **Is Chapter 11 – Agriculture and Rural Development – one of those where the acquis is simply transposed into the national legislation and the negotiations only concern the deadlines for adoption and implementation of these rules?**

The biggest task is precisely to transpose the acquis into the national legislation. There is less space to fight for some specificities in agricultural productions. If there are problems in certain sectors, you can try to get the transition periods, but you must provide very convincing support for all such requests.

The most important question is how much assistance you can get for the agricultural sector. There is a certain methodology for it, and most of the work comes down to thorough preparations for EU membership, which is a very demanding process.

» **Apart from EU funds, what else is important in this chapter?**

The accession process is important on two levels. One is administrative: you have to prepare your administration to fulfil all requirements, to educate the people, you need the equipment, the space, and all that goes with it. The other level concerns the agriculture and food processing, and it means you have to prepare the producers to meet the standards imposed by EU. People in

the administration must know what the acquis is about, find out how to apply it to the national legislation, and enable the institution to do it. For Chapter 11, for instance, the most important thing is to train the Agency for Payments, to make sure it has enough staff, equipment, space, and the right accreditation. The agency will be checked by the European Commission because it handles the EU money.

» Montenegro still has to establish this agency. Does it only control the spending of EU money, or it also channels the part that comes from the national budget?

We had a very developed agricultural policy and we supported our agricultural sector quite extensively. The agency in charge of EU funding was built on the foundations which were created to distribute national assistance.

Today, a year before we formally join the EU, Croatian agricultural sector is a beneficiary of both EU pre-accession funds and the Croatian state support. Gradually the national funding will be phased out and only the EU assistance will remain.

» Can you calculate how much an average household or community will receive from EU funds?

That depends directly on the size of the farm. There are two pillars of the agricultural policy. The first consists of direct support whose goal is to guarantee the income of the farmer. In Croatia this will be some 300 euros per acre, on average. Apart from that, we have agreed on some specific terms in the sectors we consider especially vulnerable. Producers of beef, sugar beet, olives, and some others will be getting additional funding.

The other pillar aims to improve competitiveness in all aspects of agriculture. This means not only food production, but the development of the overall rural environment. These projects are financed from pre-accession funds and they require the farmers to write a proposal. If you wish to reconstruct your slaughterhouse or invest in the animal welfare or some environmental issues on your farm, you must apply for support with your project, and once it is completed you can receive up to 50% of the investment.

BIG INVESTMENTS

» What was the biggest challenge for Croatia during negotiations?

Maybe you won't have the same problems, because we had a very complicated agricultural policy. We had to adapt the first pillar to the EU requirements. Croatia had 200 types of support which we had to reduce to practically only one type.

It is very important for the producers to realise that they must invest in order to reach each EU standard in certain areas. For instance, look at the standards of animal welfare for the hens, which from 2012 must have bigger cage space. None of our producers could meet the requirements. We bargained for a transition period of one year for these producers after we join the EU, but they must invest to reach the standard.

Another problem was to improve the buildings where animal-based food is being produced. When we started the screening some 20% of the buildings could meet the EU standards. This concerns crossroads within the slaughterhouses and other issues related to the food safety. Now we have some 20% of the buildings which still don't comply with the requirements, while the others have improved through further investments.

This is very important: if you don't improve or you don't get a sufficiently long transition period, you must simply close down these establishments. We started the process in 2005-2006, and the transition period will end in late 2015. It takes almost 10 years to make these improvements and reach the EU standards.

One area where we didn't have any problems, although you might, because I don't know which phase you are in, are the requirements related to the quality of milk. We began to improve these standards already in 2003, and at time some 20% of our milk was in line with EU requirements. The latest estimates show we are at around 96%.

All this takes investments in the farms, in education of the farmers, food hygiene etc. Most countries asked for and received a transition period in these areas.

Policeman for rent



Policeman for rent, 30 euro per hour: recently, anybody in Greece who has enough money can rent the forces of law and order and their equipment. Greek Ministry for the Protection of Citizens, in charge of law enforcement, announced these measures intended to supplement the police budget in times of austerity. The prices range from 30 euro per hour for a policeman and 40 euro for a patrol car, to 200 euro for rent of a patrol boat and 1 500 for a helicopter. The Ministry announced that renting services are reserved for “special circumstances” and will not be approved if they threaten to diminish police’s operative capacities. Among the services offered are “securing transport of precious materials and art pieces”, “personal security”, as well as provision of security during film shootings, which so far have been “free”.

Compulsory minimum wage



European Commission will recommend introduction of a minimum wage in countries like Germany which still don’t have one, reports Brussels-based EurAktiv based on Commission’s recent proposal. The Commission also propagates lowering work-related taxes and subsidies for employment of vulnerable groups.

Currently, of the 27 EU member states, 20 introduced minimum wage, which varies drastically from one country to another: from 138 euro per month in Bulgaria to 1.801 in Luxembourg. According to the EU data, more than 8% of European workers live on a wage which keeps them under poverty line.

Dispute over sausage



Slovenia, which already has 11 products protected by EU’s seal of origin, is seeking to also register a type of smoked sausage known as “kranjska kobasica” (Kranje sausage). The problem arose because the same label is already in use in Austria, which challenged Slovenia’s bid – in case the bid is approved, Austria won’t be able to use its own name, “krainer”. Protected origin label means that all steps of preparation and processing of a certain agricultural product must take place in the same geographical area, as the quality and characteristics of the product result from the effects of the environment. Last year, Slovenia had a dispute against Croatia over kranjska kobasica, as it turned out that at least three Croatian meat producers produce and sell the sausage under this name. Currently the sausage is only locally protected in Slovenia, so as long as it doesn’t have EU’s seal of approval, others can safely produce it as well.

No cheap alcohol



British authorities announced the plan to introduce a minimum price on alcoholic drinks sold in the supermarkets in England and Wales, in order to reduce excessive consumption of alcohol motivated by cheap offers. Authorities in London proposed that the minimum price should be 40 pennies per unit of alcohol. A bottle of wine contains 10 units. Scotland was the first to undertake such steps. On the other hand, British producers of alcoholic drinks have announced they will take any such measure to court because it contradicts the rules on competition and free trade. The EU doesn’t have any regulations forbidding its members to set a minimum price for alcohol as long as it’s in line with EU rules, i.e. as long as it doesn’t discriminate against imports or limits the freedom of movement of goods.

How much and whom do citizens of Montenegro pay for advertising?



Damir Nikočević

On 19 April, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) presented the results of the research “*How much and whom do citizens in Montenegro pay for advertising*”, which is part of its programme “*Accountability and transparency of the Government*”, set up with a goal to raise awareness on the ways the national budget is being spent.

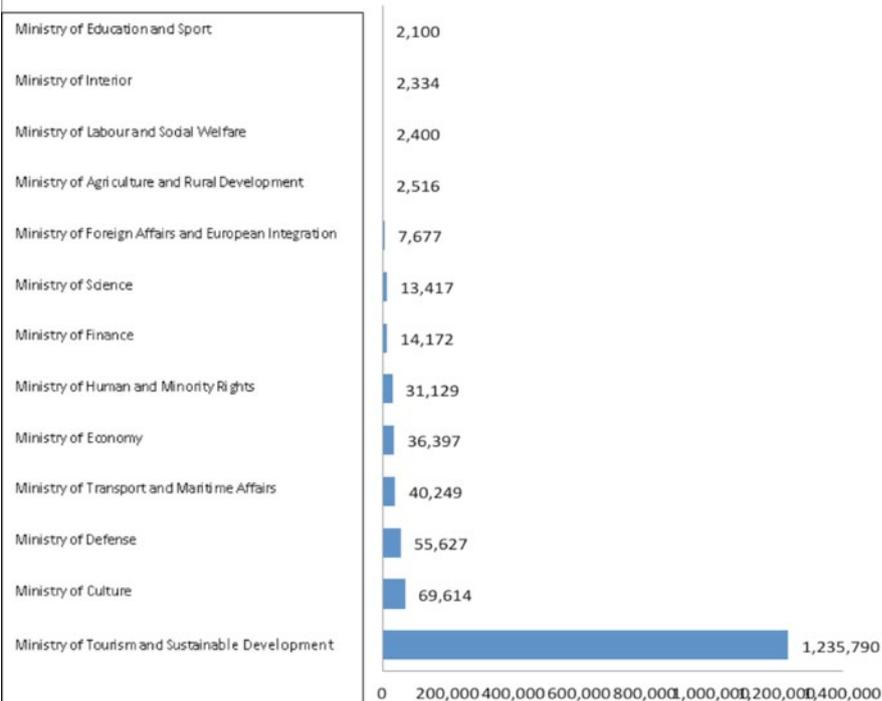
From late January to late March CCE has collected information on all media, agencies for public relations, agencies for public opinion research and production houses commissioned in the course of 2011 by the Government of Montenegro and its bodies, as well as by the Parliament of Montenegro, and paid through service contracts, special service agreements or other channels. The data was collected based on the provisions of the Law on Free Access to Information, and the analysis took into account the amounts paid by the Government and Parliament of Montenegro to these entities and the types of services provided by them. The study covered 57 units of public administration, and

it also included the Parliament of Montenegro in order to gauge the ratio of such expenditures between the legislative and executive branches.

In the course of 2011, institutions of executive and legislative powers on the national level spent **€ 1 830 344, 83** on advertisement-related items, out of which the Parliament spent € 79.461,18, and the executive € 1 750 883.65. The largest advertiser among the ministries is the Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development, which spent **€ 1 235 789,73**. The distant second is the Ministry of Culture, with **€69.614,32**. It should be stressed that the Ministry of Culture spent most of its funds on the projects submitted to the Ministry.

As for other public administration bodies (agencies, directorates, secretariats, bureaus and cabinets), the biggest advertiser is the Real Estate Agency, which paid **€50.921,30** to the media for advertising purposes. The Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative came second with **€40.554,33**, followed by the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro, which spent **€39.161,80**.

Parliament of Montenegro spent a total of **€79.461,18**. Out of this sum, the largest amount was paid for the services of the company M.A.M.A, which specializes in press clipping and audio-video services, and received **€42.406,06** in 2011. The biggest amount of money for advertizing of ministries' activities on TV and radio stations went to TV Montena (23%), i.e. **€19.720**, followed by Radio Antena M (little above 16%, or **€14.112**). The next in line are RTV Nikšić, TV Vijesti and Radio Berane. RTCG received a total of 1.39% of all advertising funds spent by the ministries. Interestingly, Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development paid CNN **€500.000** as part of its promotional campaign. Among other public directorates





and institutions, the Real Estate Agency spent the largest amount on advertising – **€22.520**, followed by Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative with. The least amount of funds for advertising in radio and TV was spent by the Directorate for Maritime Security. On the other side, the biggest recipient was TV IN, with close to **€22.000**, RTCG with **€14.087** and Radio Antena M (**€8.875**).

In addition to the electronic media, the study also focused on the printed media, websites and news agencies. The largest recipient among the printed media is the daily “Pobjeda”, which received **€128.248**, or 70.51% of all funds earmarked for these services. Next came the magazine “Media dialogues” with **€12.801**, followed by the daily „Vijesti“ with **€9.981**. Daily „Dan“ received **€7.500**, or a little more than 4%. Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development spent almost **€59.000** on advertisement in these media, followed by the

Ministry of Defence with a little more than **€53.000**. Ministry of Culture spent **€31.502** for the promotion of its activities and support of other projects in the printed media. Ministry with the smallest expenditure on advertisement in the printed media was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations, which only spent **€4.162** for these purposes.

Real Estate Agency is once again the biggest spender among other public institutions: in 2011 it spent **€18.884**, or 27.15%, on advertisements in printed media. Second came the Directorate for Transport with **€12.875**, while the Directorate for Public Procurement spent the least. „Pobjeda“ was again the largest recipient of public advertisement funds, with **€61.121** or 88% of the total. „Vijesti“ followed with 8.39% or **€5.824**, whereas „Dan“ received only **€2.252** or 3.24%.

Internet portals are increasingly the means for promotion for the Ministries and public institutions. Portal „Analitika“ received the largest amount of advertisement money – **€20.329**, the largest single source being the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs (**€6.815**).

CCE recommends making all expenditures related to the marketing services public, posting them on the websites of the relevant institutions. It is extremely important, according to this organisation, to have clear and generally understandable criteria of selection of certain media, agencies and other providers of advertising services, which means rigorous compliance with the Law on Public Procurement wherever it is applicable to advertising. Moreover, CCE suggested that the process of advertisement of public institutions should be regulated by media laws.

Shed the illusions



Tamara Milaš

The author is a graduate of the Legal Department of the University of Montenegro. She is a volunteer in the Centre for Civic Education (CCE)

At the 1948 Congress of Europe, the UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill offered his famous plea for unity: “We hope to see a Europe where men of every country will think as much of being a European as of belonging to their native land, and that ... wherever they go in this wide domain, they will truly feel 'Here I am at home'”

And yet, today, in Montenegro, it is hard to even grasp the extent to which the young people are intolerant towards the process of integration into the European family, especially compared to their peers abroad. The reasons mostly lie in the difficult overall situation of our country in the last few decades. We can't travel, so we can't see or compare ourselves with other places in so many important aspects.

This is why we often have illusions about the ways of life or work in certain European Union members. The image we get from the media and from parts of the local political elite is entirely focused on manipulating the citizens who don't have any opportunity to experience first hand the workings of the systems in some better-off countries. The illusions such as: no coast is as beautiful as the Montenegrin one, no air is as fresh as that on Durmitor, in Europe there are no people on the streets because everyone is as work all the time, they only eat flat bananas, they hate us, they don't like us, etc. all very far removed from reality.

Most Europeans have no idea what Podgorica is or where to find Montenegro, and it's pointless to talk about whether they hate us or whether we are “humiliating” ourselves bowing to EU's demands.

It's time to understand that standards are important, for instance, in order to improve the educational system, to regulate the market so that it will create new jobs, to ensure that the laws and the rights they guarantee don't just remain on paper.

If every day we hear that this is something European Union guarantees but our political elite doesn't promise, I see no reason we could lose anything by joining the European family.

The citizens should understand that there are not only universal membership criteria, but also specific requirements. By fulfilling them, we are hoping to become part of a system whose original idea about a union of states to prevent international conflicts and destruction has grown into an idea of common prosperity and interdependent development, together with individual growth.

People are often afraid of changes, of the unknown. Does the reason lie in our social and economic dissatisfaction? What have we done the past few decades to end up with such illusions? We lack the climate of trust and the awareness of what the EU really is. An entire generation has allowed itself to get tired, but we can't just blame the time and growing up in the midst of too many problems. We allowed our heritage to outweigh our ambition. We gave up on changes without having changed anything. We live in the conditions we ourselves had made or have allowed to be made. Now is the time to change ourselves and stop giving up, because maybe there is still a chance to change the world around us.

I still firmly believe in the idea of social and civic activism, I believe we are responsible for the world around us, and that we have the power to change it. Nobody will do it instead of us.

It is sometimes good to go over one's mistakes, because only that way we can move forward towards Europe, into Montenegro's brighter future.

Presidential elections in France reveal complex links between domestic and foreign policy in EU

Not only a French problem



In the first round of French presidential elections, **Francois Hollande** came ahead of the current President, **Nicolas Sarkozy**. Although his margin is slim – Hollande won 28,63% of votes compared to Sarkozy's 27,08% – it awoke the hopes that after 20 years the French left could again come to power. But this is not the only thing that makes these elections so special. They are perhaps the clearest example to date of the complicated links between domestic and foreign policy in European Union, and of the extent to which the question of French presidency ceased to be a problem of the French people alone. It is also unsurprising that Germany is following this race with most interest. In the years after the financial crisis, German-French leadership team Merkel-Sarkozy constituted the core of the European economic policy, often against the wishes of other EU members. This policy was largely based on the conservative German model of tight budgets, culminating in the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (aka "Stability Pact"), which was signed on 2 March this year. According to the treaty, a member state seeking assistance from the European Stability Mechanism must a legal "break" on deficit triggering savings measures at 0.5% GDP "structural deficit", and accept a detailed programme of restructuring reforms proposed by the European Commission. The Stability Pact is entirely in the spirit of German economic philosophy, but it also reflects the superior position and competitiveness of the "German

block", which also includes the Netherlands and Austria, vis-à-vis the weaker economies of South and South-Western Europe. The treaty is not only unpopular in Greece, Portugal and Ireland. **Mario Monti**, otherwise known for his fiscal prudence and a person appointed to the helm of the Italian government precisely after the wish of Germany, made it clear that he considers the rigid budget targets dangerous and that jointly-

Although the European left is mostly in the opposition and Hollande has few "natural" allies in key positions, the current economic situation could easily bring the governments in Spain, Italy and Belgium to his side

backed Eurobonds constitute a better solution. But the most dangerous enemy of the German plan for the resolution of the Euro-crisis is France itself, where Hollande already vowed to block ratification of the Treaty, which is necessary in order for it to come into force in January 2013. It is no secret that **Angela Merkel** and Hollande disagree on nearly all aspects of economic policy-making. Hollande is an old-fashioned socialist

The campaign is one thing, and it doesn't mean that after the elections Merkel and Hollande could not work together. After all, by temperament and cautious political approach the two politicians are much more similar than Merkel and Sarkozy, and France and Germany have a thirty-year record of excellent relations, regardless of the political profile of their leaders

who, in addition to his opposition to the Stability Pact, also announced higher public spending to stimulate the economy, higher taxes on the rich, and a reform of the European Central Bank. Although the European left is mostly in the opposition and Hollande has few "natural" allies in key positions, the current economic situation could easily bring the governments in Spain, Italy and Belgium to his side. This would make Germany's position

in the EU a lot less comfortable, and it is small wonder that Merkel's CDU, according to *Spiegel* "is expending a similar amount of energy on this election as it might on an important regional election in Germany". The usual diplomatic considerations have been thrown to the winds, and the German Chancellor made it abundantly clear where her support lies, making unambiguous statements to the press and appearing at the party rallies alongside Sarkozy. The campaign is one thing, however, and it doesn't mean that after the elections Merkel and Hollande could not work together. After all, by temperament and cautious political approach the two politicians are much more similar than Merkel and Sarkozy, and France and Germany have a thirty-year record of excellent relations, regardless of the political profile of their leaders. Hollande already said that, if elected, his first trip would be to Germany, and that Europe needs a Franco-German partnership in times of crisis. The head of German diplomacy **Guido Westerwelle** said that Germany will continue to cooperate closely with France on European issues. Regardless of what Hollande does at home, he will need to work with Germany if he wants anything done on the European level. But the problem is precisely in the complicated links between domestic and European policy: the French elections don't only have repercussions on the European level, but could impact the German political situation directly. Merkel's government stands on a fragile coalition with the ultra-liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), which is far more radical when it comes to economic policy. **Alexander Graf Lambsdorff**, chairman of the FDP in the European Parliament already warned that Holland's victory could be "a large problem for the German government". Should Merkel prove ready for compromise on the euro or the Eurobonds, the coalition could easily break up. Even without it, the popularity of the current government continues to slide. A victory for the Socialists in France would boost the chances of the German Social-Democratic Party in the next elections, resulting in a completely different balance of powers on the European political scene. The question of the French presidency will be decided on 6 May by the 45% of the voters who did not vote for either of the two candidates. But the question of whom they elect is anything but their own business.

Schengen part of the campaign

An additional complicating factor is that a good deal of those who did not vote for Sarkozy or Hollande in the first round – some 20% – gave their vote to the extreme nationalist right. Hollande is clearly trying to woo some of them to his side, by emphasising social ills and promising a war on the financial globalisation, but Sarkozy is probably in a better position, as a representative of the right, to shift the ball to the court of identity politics. His most recent interviews are swarming with references to Islam and immigration problems. The result is a paradox: in order to help the candidate whom it believes alone can help her rescue the European currency, and perhaps even the EU, Germany ends up supporting explicitly anti-European, nationalist policies.

The most recent example is the joint letter sent to the Danish presidency by the French and German Ministers of Interior, Claude Gueant and Hans-Peter Friedrich, in which they call for the right of member states to impose border controls for up to thirty days in case of an extraordinary influx of refugees. This is not the first such attack on Schengen – a similar initiative was put forth by France last year following the Arab spring, when the states on the outer border of EU – Italy, Greece, Malta – proved unable to control the flows and accommodate all refugees, so they simply let some of them continue to other EU countries. Interestingly, at the time Germany opposed this move. Now both claim that they want a long-term solution to the shortcomings in the Schengen agreement, but the timing is clearly suspicious. In a recent interview to *Spiegel* Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn directly accused the two ministers of pandering to the far-right ideology in order to boost Sarkozy's chances in the elections.

Declaration and Recommendations of the European Union - Montenegro
Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee

Verdicts for high corruption



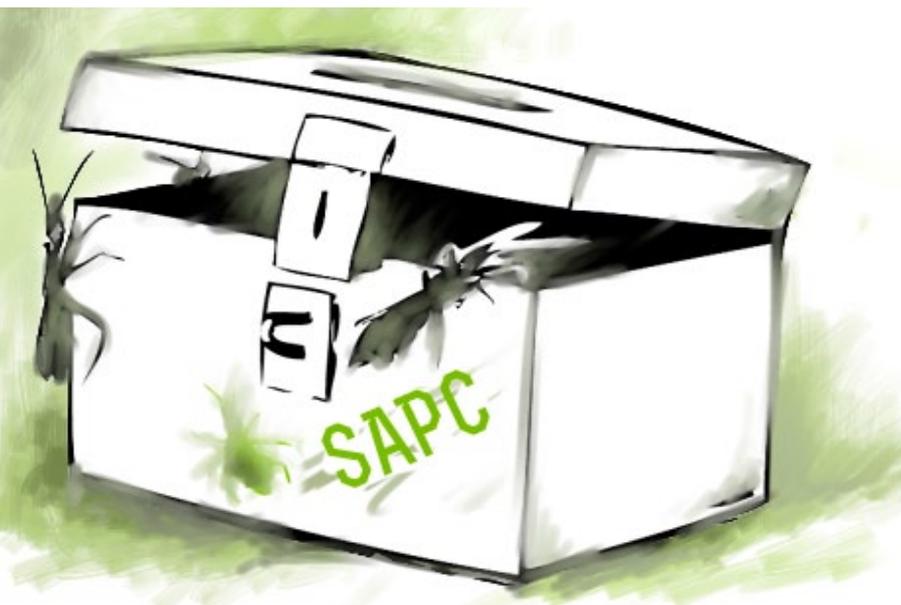
EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC) called on EU Member States not to “unduly and unreasonably delay the launch of talks” with Montenegro, but also urged the competent law enforcement agencies to comprehensively pursue their anti-corruption activities “including through prosecuting the high-level corruption cases up to convictions”. These are some conclusions of the Declaration and Recommendations adopted by SAPC in its 4th session, held in Podgorica on 2 and 3 April. The document will be forwarded to the relevant institutions in EU and Montenegro. SAPC is a body made up of representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro and European Parliament, which meets twice a year in order to assess Montenegro's progress. The results of these meetings are declarations and recommendation adopted by unanimity or high degree of consensus. This year's recommendations are unusual in that they for the first time mention high-level corruption. “SAPC welcomed further good progress in adopting the anti-corruption legislation and initial results in its implementation; observing the lack of track record in this field, including high-level corruption cases, invited the competent law enforcement agencies to comprehensively pursue their activities including through prosecuting the high-level corruption cases up to convictions”, states the Declaration. It also recalled the need to reconsider

SAPC called on EU Member States not to “unduly and unreasonably delay the launch of talks” with Montenegro

the implementation of the law on financing of political parties; called on the Government to implement in a consistent manner the anti-corruption legislation and to shed more light on allegations of corruption, especially concerning cases of privatization and political corruption, and to ensure enforcement of decisions of the judiciary in cases at a municipality level; called the Government to respond adequately to recent protests in Podgorica. “SAPC welcomed the decision of the Parliament to launch a parliamen-

SAPC welcomed the decision of the Parliament to launch a parliamentary inquiry and form the Inquiry Committee for investigating corruption during the privatisation of the Telecom, and expected full cooperation of all institutions and individuals with the Inquiry Committee

tary inquiry and form the Inquiry Committee for investigating corruption during the privatisation of the Telecom, expected full cooperation of all institutions and individuals with the Inquiry Committee; emphasised the importance of transparent procedures both in processes of privatisation and in public procurements”, states the Declaration. The Committee further underlined the need to intensify the fight against organised crime, in particular with regard of strengthening the administrative and investigative capacities of police and prosecution, in order to improve the efficiency of these bodies, increasing the independence of the Commission for Prevention of Conflict of Interest, and allowing for verification of assets declared by the state officials: “The Committee is concerned that



Law on Internal Affairs has not been adopted yet, which in practice slowed down the process of police reform, including full training for an effective fight against organized crime and corruption”, states the document. Declaration also invited the Montenegrin Parliament to speed up the work of its Working Group established in order to adopt constitutional provisions which would reinforce the legal independence and accountability of the judiciary. “Due to the highest importance of that reform, called upon all political parties to stop conditioning the pre-agreed reform with other, unrelated political demands, to renew the dialogue and reach a compromise”. The document also calls on the authorities to take further steps in order to ensure good governance and optimal size of the administrative structures. The Committee, it is said, noted alleged cases of intimidation and physical violence against journalists and a reported limitation of media freedom: “SAPC called on the media to report professionally, objectively and with higher editorial independence, regardless of ownership structures, and highlighted a special responsibility of the public broadcaster to improve professional standards in the media; stressed that a media self-regulatory body must represent all the relevant media”. SAPC also “recognised the initial steps to fight the discrimination of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, noted that additional measures should be taken to improve their living conditions, access to social security, health, education, housing and employment ser-

The Committee called upon all political parties to stop conditioning the pre-agreed reform with other, unrelated political demands, to renew the dialogue and reach a compromise

vices”. The Committee noted the good work of the office of Ombudsman, but expressed concern about a largely unequal position of women in the Montenegrin society and urged for more efforts to safeguard their rights and freedoms, in particular through combating the domestic violence and trafficking. The declaration urges full implementation of the legal provisions and elimination of all forms of discrimination, be it based on religious, national, political, gender or any other ground, and calls upon the authori-

The Committee continues to be concerned about significant level of informal employment and informal economy

ties to do their utmost to prevent attacks on the LGBT community. The Committee said it was still concerned about significant level of informal employment and informal economy, which poses serious challenges to the economy and society. With regard to the current reform and accession processes, it stressed the importance of strengthening social dialogue as well as dialogue with trade unions and civil society organizations. The document invites the Government to intensify its activities in order to establish the national structures necessary for managing the EU funds and controlling their use “SAPC called for progress to advance with agriculture and rural development policy, also by pursuing efforts on policy formulation and on using the available financial assistance in a much more efficient manner; called for the implementation of policies that will lead to balanced regional development”, states the declaration, which also reiterates the need to draft a national energy strategy, which should take into account the different renewable energy sources including hydropower at small scale. V. Ž.

Different groupings of the Balkan countries might be better suited to the varying levels of development and changes in EU

Is the notion of Western Balkans outdated?



Institute for Regional and International Studies, in cooperation with the Balkan Trust for Democracy, presented the findings of its research which suggests that countries in the region are diverging in terms of their progress on European integration and democratisation of their societies. In this context, the question is whether it is time to abandon post-conflict agendas and consider different groups of countries. The term “Western Balkans” was introduced in the late 1990s to describe a region which comprised, above all, the countries of former Yugoslavia, and contained a post-conflict agenda. It enabled the policy-makers in Brussels to approach this region as a whole and treat it as one unit in relation to certain priority issues. Director of the institute for Regional and International Studies in Sofia and a collaborator of the Balkan Trust for Democracy Ognjan Minčev now wonders whether the conception of the “Western Balkans” isn’t already outdated. “There has been almost a decade since the last inter-ethnic conflict, and there is no reason to keep the whole region in this post-conflict framework, given that there are so many new challenges and processes which have been obscured by the conflict-related agenda inherent in the concept of the Western Balkans. This concept is bound to fail, among other, because different countries in the

More difficult for Montenegro than for Croatia

Montenegro is in the group of more promising countries with regard to EU integration. If it fulfils the outstanding commitments on the rule of law and fight against corruption and organised crime, it will begin negotiations with EU in June 2012.

Unlike BiH, Serbia, and Kosovo, this country seem to be safely sailing after its other neighbour, Croatia, said Stefan Raičev, but adds that the sail will be more difficult for two reasons: “The EU changed the terms of negotiations after Croatia signed the agreement. So far the practice was to leave the most difficult chapters for the very end, such as the rule of law, judiciary and corruption. The negotiations usually began with the easiest ones. Now the Commission wants to open the most difficult ones first, in order to be able to follow them through. This will make the process more difficult for Montenegro than it was for Croatia. Another external factor is the issue of neighbours, who are lagging behind, and Montenegro will also bear the consequences of these negative developments”.

region have different records, different degrees of success in relation to European integrations. Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro are expected to develop faster in this direction; Macedonia, BiH, Albania and Kosovo have their political and institutional problems”, Minčev said. He added that the same approach could do a lot in other parts of the world undergoing rapid changes. One, according to him, could be “the region of North Africa, which is experiencing the so-called “Arab Spring”, and where the results and experience of our transition process could prove useful for further social and political reforms”. With the excep-

tion of Croatia, which is way ahead of everyone else, countries of the region can be divided into two groups according to their perspective in terms of European integrations. Every one of them has many problems that set it apart from all others. As for Serbia, although it made some progress with the candidate status and with regard to dialogue with Prishtina, it will still have to make the final decision “Europe or Kosovo”, because it risks to end up with the much less appealing one “neither Europe nor Kosovo”. According to one of the authors of the study, **Stefan Ralčev**, this will be an important task for the government which takes the helm after 6 May elections: “Will they try to prolong this dual policy? At the moment, it is not giving any results, the agreement on the footnote has been made and it’s a good thing, but at some point the motto “Both Kosovo and EU” will prove impossible and Serbia will have to make a choice”. As Serbia progresses towards membership in EU, Kosovo will progress towards UN and its own European road. According to **Goran Stojkovski**, Institute’s associate from Skopje, in spite of all objections from Belgrade, as well as its own internal issues, Kosovo is progressing towards full independence without international presence. “Citizens of Kosovo believe that five governments – KFOR, EULE, Prishtina, Belgrade and UNMIK – are only creating political and institutional confusion on the ground... as long as Prishtina doesn’t resolve its relations with Belgrade, the presence of international forces will remain necessary. Kosovo will get rid of the foreign presence only once its government finds a way to integrate Serbian enclaves and improve its relations with Belgrade. Relying on balanced politics, Kosovo could in the medium turn achieve a fully sovereign status without international presence”, Stojkovski said. The authors deem the situation of BiH as stagnant, even declining in terms of European prospects after the elections of 2010, and warn that this comes in the times of EU’s greatest crisis, when the Union has very little time for the potential candidates for membership. Stefan Ralčev therefore warned that the Bosnian politicians ought to start behaving more responsibly towards their voters and re-initiate the reform processes or the country might suffer a “perfect storm” in light of EU’s internal problems. “BiH

Better as a region than as individual countries

President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence Sonja Liht is one of those who challenged the notion that the time is ripe to rethink the region. “The context is indeed changing, but if we look at the individual contexts, they are all except promising. All of these countries still suffer to some extent from the weakness of political system, political culture, weak economy, institutions, and it is fairly hard to speak of any real success. If we look at the region as a whole, it appears to be a lot more successful than each of its countries. Compared to other post-conflict regions, WB is nearly a success story, and I would be careful about abandoning this concept. The reconciliation process is in fact yielding tangible results. The relations between Serbia and Croatia, with all the tensions, are becoming an example of how to overcome the recent past. This is clearly also important for BiH and we should bear it in mind. Without this framework and EU’s insistence on good neighbourly relations, we wouldn’t have gotten where we are now”, said Liht.

is still and ethnically motivated society, and every attempt to move towards civic democracy might prove futile in this moment... If the EU wishes to see more progress in this country, it might be necessary to abandon its current approach and pay more attention to the lower levels, perhaps municipal clusters, joint projects by municipalities in both entities” Ralčev said. Macedonia and Albania have very different problems on their road to EU. Macedonia is in trouble because of the name dispute with Greece, and Albania because of the breakdown of dialogue between the two largest parties. Nevertheless, Goran Stojkovski says their troubles are somewhat similar: “Insufficiently mature civil society, insufficiently mature and stable political elites, corruption, clientelism, unemployment and organised crime”.

Source: *Radio Free Europe*

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.

Was there an increase in consumer prices in the new member states after EU accession?

Prices depend on a range of economic factors, such as the level of economic development and structure of production, price of labour, tax rate etc. which cannot be changed over a short term. Therefore the accession itself does not result in a rise or fall in prices. EU accession revealed a number of positive trends for consumers in new member states, among other a fall in prices in certain sectors. Of all transition countries, only Slovenia recorded a price hike in the first year after EU accession, although the wages in the private sector also increased, just like in other new members.

Which companies, and under what circumstances, qualify for state aid in EU?

State aid which in any way advantages certain entrepreneurs or products is incompatible with fair competition in EU's single market. This is why state aid is only allowed under specific circumstances, to alleviate or remove damages caused by natural disasters, to support economic development in high-unemployment

Among the largest penalties for non-compliance with EU law was handed out to Microsoft, which was fined 899 euro for violation of the Union's competition law

regions, to protect cultural heritage, environment, support small and medium enterprises and encourage research and innovation. State aid must be approved by member state institutions according to the rules and criteria stipulated by EU.

According to the Eurostat 2008 data, out of a total of 3 million migrants in all 27 EU member states, 1.2 million came from another EU member. Among them, the most numerous were citizens of Poland and Romania

What penalties follow if a company or a state does not comply with EU law?

Every member state is responsible for implementing EU laws within its jurisdiction, and so are all private persons. According to the Treaties, European Commission is the executive branch of EU. It can interfere when a law is being violated and refer the case to the European Court of Justice. The procedure for violation of EU regulations consists of several phases. In the first phase, the Commission will allow the state or the company to voluntarily comply with the laws in a certain period, and ask the other party for their position on the issue. If the other party continues to violate the law, the Commission can decide whether to refer the case to ECJ and demand the fine or compensation, which depends on the severity of violation, the importance of the law as well as on the effect and duration of non-compliance. Even if the state or the company in question complies with the law in question before the end of procedure before ECJ, the Commission can still demand that it pays the fine.

What happens to pre-accession funds when a country joins EU?

Countries which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 could use the pre-accession funds for another 3 years after accession. Also, as soon as they join EU, they gain access to other forms of assistance.

Are there any EU taxes?

In principle, tax policy is the prerogative of the member states and only those taxes are harmonized which affect the common market, to ensure that all economic actors from across EU have equal chances on the free market. There are two types of taxes in EU, direct and indirect. Direct taxes are collected from taxpayers in each member states and consist of the income tax, profit tax and property tax. Indirect taxes comprise excise tax and value-added tax (VAT). Direct taxes are the responsibility of the national governments, while the indirect taxes are regulated by EU tax policy. The minimum VAT rate, for instance, is set at 15%. Member states can have one or two lower rates, none of which should be below 5%.

What are the criteria for health and safety at work in EU?

Health and safety at work is among the most important social policies in EU. The EU set the goal of reducing the rate of injuries at work by 25% until 2012, especially in small and medium enterprises. Already in the period before accession, the future member state must harmonize its legislation with the binding EU directives in this area. EU also offers financial support for health and safety at work through its PROGRESS programme which received 743.2 million euro for the period 2007-2013.

What is EU's view on railway liberalization, and what are the benefits of it for the citizens?

Liberalization of transport services is the basis of EU's inner market, which requires non-dis-

France, for instance, has been fined for non-compliance with EU regulations for unauthorized sale of under-sized fish between 1984 and 1987. In order to ensure that the fish reserves are maintained and renewed, EU prescribes the size of fish which can be sold, and smaller specimens must be returned to water. France ignored the said clause of the fishing policy, and the European Court of Justice ruled it will have to pay 20 million euro in fines, plus additional 57.7 million for every next six months until it complies, resulting in a total fine of 77.7 million euro

crimination of competition and protection of consumers, i.e. cheaper and more quality services. However, liberalization mainly depends on the financial consolidation of the railway companies. This means rationalization of the number of employees, replacement of old vehicles, and establishment of new institutions. All of this takes time and resources, so railway liberalization does not automatically follow membership in EU.

Was there a significant inflow of foreign workers or an outflow of domestic workforce after EU accession?

EU workforce is famous for its low mobility. Only 2% of EU population today works in another member states. Studies from 2006 and 2008 show that only 1% of the population from the "new" Europe decided to migrate to another EU member states. After 2004, fears of the "Polish plumber" who will move to France and steal the work of his French colleague turned out to be completely unfounded.

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

EP's views on Montenegro's accession process?

On 2 April, in Podgorica, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) organised a panel discussion with support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, titled “*European Parliament's views on Montenegro's accession process*”.

The speakers at the panel were: MEP **Doris Pack** (European People's Party), MEP **Jelko Kacin** (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) and MEP **Ulrike Lunacek** (European Green party) and MEP **Tanja Fajon** (Social-Democratic Group). The discussion was moderated by **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE.

The panel discussion brought together close to a hundred participants, among them representatives of Montenegrin institutions, NGO sector, trade unions, students and political parties. In the introduction, Daliborka Uljarević gave a short overview of the challenges Montenegro is facing and will have to face in the future. She stressed that “the opening of Chapters 23 and 24 will affect two interlinked goals: the building of de-politicised and professional institutions in Montenegro, and the establishment of the rule of law”. Doris Pack said there is a big chance that Montenegro might lose its date for the opening of accession talks if there is no agreement on the constitutional changes related to the judiciary. Tanja Fajon stressed the importance of freedom of expression, saying she was familiar with the attack on the journalist of *Vijesti*, and expressed her concern that even after seven years investigation of the murder of the editor of daily *Dan* brought no results. **Jelko Kacin** said it was necessary to open up the issue of media responsibility, because, in addition to the politicians, the media have their share in stirring hatred on the political scene. **Ulrike Lunacek** welcomed the Parliament's decision to introduce quota for women, but stressed that in many other areas it must step up its efforts to prevent discrimination and fight against domestic violence.

Grand prix for the video “We're part of the team”

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and LGBT Forum Progress have been working for many years to raise awareness and understanding of human rights in Montenegro. “*It's OK to be different*”, a project supported by the Canadian Embassy, was also part of these efforts. The results of the campaign conducted by CCE and LGBT Forum Progress are quite positive, and the video “*We're part of the team*” which promotes LGBT rights and was produced as part of the project, won accolades at the Festival of Creative Industries FORFEST 2012, organised in Budva between April 19 and 21 2012.

“*It's OK to be different*” aims to improve the capacities of human rights protection in Montenegro, with a special emphasis on the rights of LGBT minority. The video produced by the Centre for Civic Education and LGBT Forum Progress, in cooperation with Koala Production and directed by **Danilo Marunović**, helps to raise awareness of this topic in the public and to suppress current prejudices against the LGBT population in Montenegro. “***We're part of the team*” won the Grand Prix in the competition of 110 companies from 8 countries, winning regional and international recognition and strengthening the goals of our project and organisations on a much broader terrain.** In addition to Danilo Marunović, **Zdravko Cimbalević** from LGBT Forum Progress and **Daliborka Uljarević** from CCE attended the award ceremony.

XXI generation of the Regional Human Rights School completes the programme

Between 20 and 26 April in Miločer, as part of the programme “Education for human rights and active citizenship in Western Balkans”, Centre for Civic Education organised the XXI Regional Human Rights School. The School brought together 23 participants from Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo who studied and discussed about *Intercultural dialogue and understanding* through interactive lectures and workshops. Intercultural dialogue and understanding in Balkan multicultural societies is a challenge for all those looking for the possibilities of sustainable coexistence based on understanding, mutual respect and dialogue between members of different cultures, while offering all of them equal opportunities and protection against discrimination. During the theoretical introduction the participants had a chance to learn about the challenges to the concepts of multiculturalism and interculturalism in the contemporary global, EU and local contexts; about possibilities to achieve a better, higher quality inter-cultural dialogue and understanding of diversity which permeates the Balkan societies, and consequently improve their cooperation and coexistence. A frequent obstacle to understanding and cooperation is the lack of political will, manipulation with differences by the political and other social elites in order to protect some particularistic interests at the expense of the public interest. Often this means recourse to political violence in various guises, rekindling animosities and conflicts between different ethnic and religious groups, and against all those who are in any manner considered to be different. How to fight this model of political and social thinking and acting, which suffocates the possibility for growth of modern societies in the broadest sense, was the key question posed to the participants of the school. Among the lecturers were: Dr **Vladimir Pavićević** from the Political Science Department of the University of Belgrade, Dr **Filip Kovačević** from the University of Montenegro, **Aleksandar Saša Zeković**, human rights expert, **Dragoljub Vuković**, journalist, and psychologists **Tamara Milić** and **Tamara Tomašević**, who worked with the young participants to help them find the way to fight the most common underlying factors of misunderstandings and lack of dialogue among various groups in a society, which eventually lead to human rights violations. **Petar Đukanović**, CCE programme coordinator, participated in the organisational team of the School on behalf of the Centre for Civic Education.

Premiere of the documentary “Europe in my town”

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) organised on 24 April the screening of the documentary “*Europe in my town*”, produced as part of the project CCE is running in cooperation with the Monitoring Centre (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiative (CI) from Belgrade with support of EU Delegation in Montenegro and co-financing of the Commission for distribution of revenues from lottery games. The film talks about the new rules, the new system of values, the new world Montenegro will be joining with the accession to European Union. It was made in Godinje, Njeguši, Herceg Novi and Ulcinj, in the lively Montenegrin towns and villages. It has the flavour of mentalities of these areas, and it shows the perceptions, fears, prejudices, as well as hopes Montenegrin citizens have for integration. The film introduces us to their private dilemmas concerning their intimate relationship with the integration process and reveals how much, or how little, we actually know about this process. The film brings together two extremes: a painful, stressful break with the elements of our tradition on the one hand, and the glamorous celebration of the accession to European community on the other. Through a cynical, humorous, honest approach “Europe in my town” revisits certain values our mentality has held very dear for centuries, confronting them with the values inherent to the European community we strive towards. The message: European affairs are our home affairs... The topics discussed in the film have been selected based on an earlier opinion poll conducted in a number of Montenegrin municipalities, and they concern the knowledge of and understanding of EU’s policies and standards. Specifically, the documentary focuses on the production and distribution of wine, hard liquor and other homemade alcoholic drinks, preparation and sale of cured meat and meat products, especially the national brand, prosciutto; fishing methods and sale, cultivation of olives and the production of olive oil. On the one hand, it shows the attitude of the local administrations towards the novelties inherent in integration process, but it also shows examples of good practices, encouraging other municipalities and demonstrating the possibility of using EU funds to improve the situation in local communities – as well as the personnel change this might require. Before the screening, the organisers held a press conference for the media and the guests who supported the project. The speakers were: His Excellency **Leopold Maurer**, head of EU Delegation to Montenegro, **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of CCE, **Danilo Marunović**, director of the film, and a character from the documentary **Filip Leković**. Following the screening, “Europe in my town” had its TV premiere on 28 April 2012, on the prime time of the 1st channel of RTCG.

18th CEI International Summer School "Beyond Enlargement. The Wider Europe and the New Neighbourhood"

Venue: Cervia (Italy) Period: Sep. 2-15, 2012

The 18th edition of the CEI International Summer School "Beyond Enlargement. The Wider Europe and the New Neighbourhood" will take place in Cervia, from Sunday 2nd to Saturday 15th September 2012. The overall objective of the Cervia Summer School 2012 is to promote the CSOs Network consolidation, through sustainable transfer of scientific know how, and through a permanent interaction stemming from both formal and informal learning. The School offers its participants a unique international arena where the problems of the Enlarged Europe can be analysed in depth through the active participation of a prominent and well experienced International Faculty and a select, widely differentiated group of CSO activists from various countries.

The 2012 Summer School will be articulated into 2 courses: Course A: Diversity Management, Governance and the Role of Civil Society Networks Course B: Sustainable Development, Green Economy and the Role of Civil Society Networks Participants will attend the courses split in two groups, one per area. Courses will include 70 hours of lectures, seminars and workshops. Moreover, both courses will be supplemented by some interdisciplinary events. The subjects of these meetings will concern topics of politics, international dimension and the role of the European Institutions, potential cooperation with New Neighbourhood Eastwards and inter-regional relations in South East Europe.

The School admits young CSO's and NGO's activists and graduate men and women, with a background in Politics, Economics, Law, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Agrarian Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Literature and Communication Sciences. The minimum qualification required for participating is a bachelor degree.

Application deadline: June. 3, 2012

For more information please visit:

<http://www.pecob.eu/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/EN/IDPagina/3560>

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