

# European pulse

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## FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE

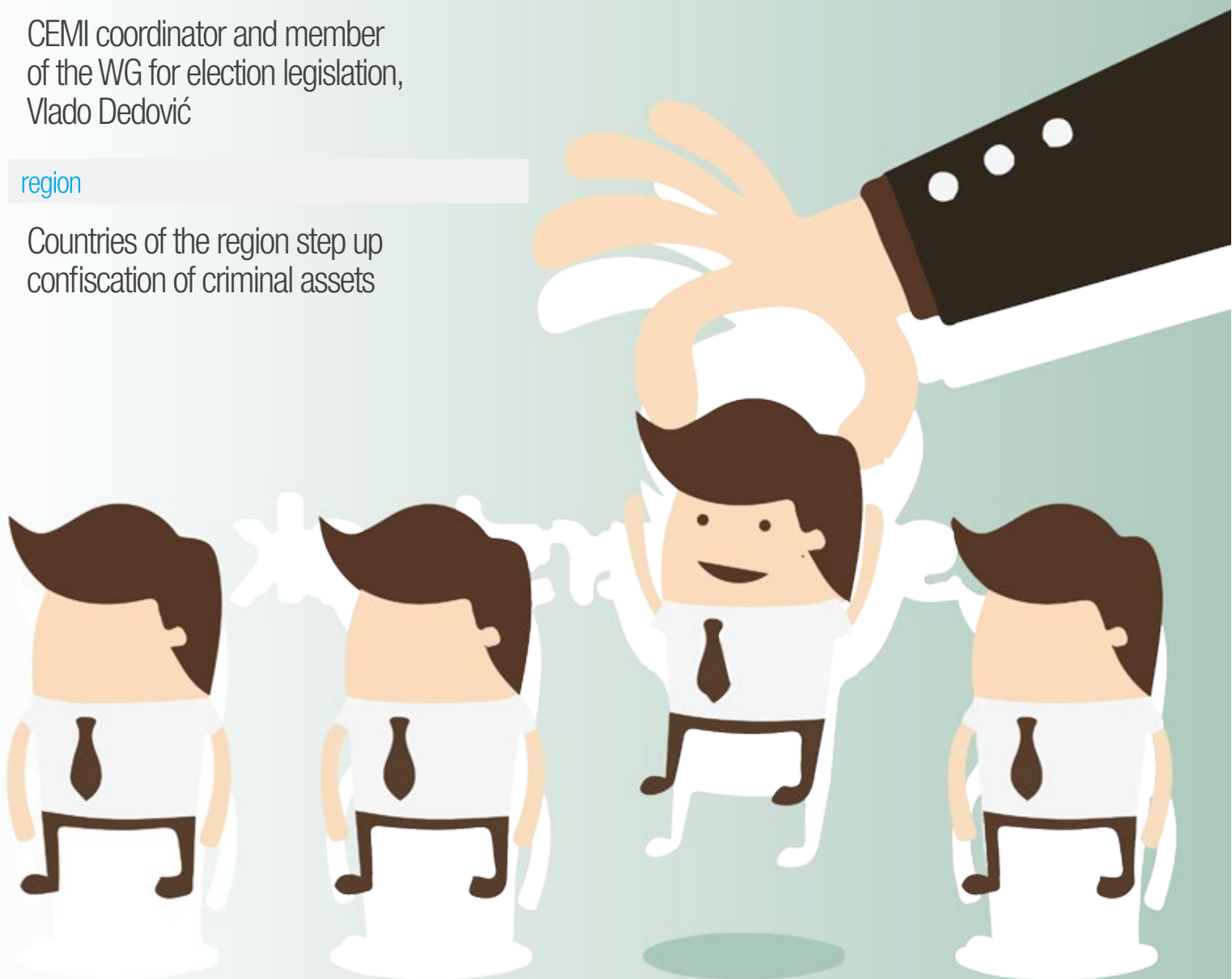
Problems in the work of the Anti-discrimination Council and how to fix them

### interview

CEMI coordinator and member of the WG for election legislation, Vlado Dedović

### region

Countries of the region step up confiscation of criminal assets



## Foreword: Blank resignations



Vladan Žugić

In late January, the Government of Montenegro grudgingly confirmed it had destroyed blank resignation submitted in advance by all heads of public institutions. Only three months earlier the Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović** called European Commission's insistence that he should return blank resignations a "gross error".

Đukanović asked for sealed letters of resignation in December 2012, at the very beginning of his Government's term. Parts of the opposition and the civil society called out this move as an attempt to discipline public officials who could otherwise turn out to be disobedient or otherwise fail to toe the party line.

The news that resignations had been destroyed was first published on the Government twitter page – probably to make sure that the European Enlargement Commissioner **Štefan Füle** will get the message in time, knowing his penchant for this social network.

There's no debating with Brussels, and the ruling elite knows this well. Some time back in 2011, Đukanović boasted that the Democratic Party of Socialists doesn't need to make sacrificial offerings to the EU. The time, however, has shown that if he and his party wish to stay in power, they will have to keep such boasts for local consumption, because this is a language Brussels doesn't understand

## Calendar

- 1 January **Greece takes over EU presidency** / Greece took over the task of EU presidency from Lithuania. Its priorities for the next six months will be growth, employment and cohesion, further integration and stability of the Eurozone, migrations and border control, and maritime policy.
- 9 January **EU will be stricter than ever** / European Commission (EC) will be a strict overseer and evaluator of negotiations with Montenegro, especially in the key chapters 23 and 24, said the European Parliament (EP) member and the former head of Croatian diplomacy **Tonino Picula**. "The number and type of verdicts passed by the national courts will be one of the indicators used to judge its progress".
- 13 January **EU expects a special prosecutor and confiscations of property** / Montenegro's chief negotiator with EU **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović** said that the country will face a more intensive period of negotiations as it begins to implement the new legislation in many areas, and the accession process passes from the planning stages to the ground level. Pejović explained that Brussels expects Montenegro to establish a special Prosecutor for the fight against organised crime and corruption, and to show a track record in confiscating property and convicting perpetrators in corruption cases, especially at the highest level.
- 21 January **EP adopts Resolution on Montenegro** / European Parliament adopted a Resolution on Montenegro, in which it expresses "continuing concern over verbal and physical intimidation of journalists", warns that the court actions in the case of "Recording" affair were "incomplete" and demands further measures to create a professional and efficient public administration. Also, the EP called on the country to strengthen the capacity and independence of the prosecution and take additional steps concerning the reports on unprocessed war crimes. The EP also expects Montenegro to increase transparency of political party financing and improve interaction with the civil society in order to ensure greater transparency in policy making.
- 23 January **Blank resignations destroyed** / The Government announced it had destroyed blank resignations submitted by the heads of public institutions, as requested by Brussels in the 2013 Progress Report.

## Montenegro – Wild West for the press



By: Jean - Paul Marthoz

Nestled between Croatia's Dalmatian coast and Albania, the small state of Montenegro evokes images of sandy beaches, pristine lakes, and gorgeous mountains. The „wild beauty“ advertised by its savvy tourist board, however, looks more like the Wild West for the Montenegrin press. In the past weeks a number of violent attacks against critical journalists have rocked the country. On December 26, 2013, a bomb exploded outside the office of **Mihailo Jovović**, the editor-in-chief of the independent daily *Vijesti*. On January 3, 2014, **Lidija Nikčević**, a journalist working with the other independent daily, *Dan*, was severely beaten by an individual armed with a baseball bat. On January 12, a device went off outside the home of author and *Vijesti* contributor **Jevrem Brković**. "As usual in cases of attacks against media, the police have been unable to identify the perpetrators," notes dryly *Vijesti's* director, **Željko Ivanović**.

To some, these incidents did not come as a surprise. Since its independence from Serbia in 2006, the country has hardly shone in the assessments of international human rights, press freedom, or anticorruption groups. In 2012, Montenegro was even included in an infamous list of "mafia states," alongside Myanmar, Venezuela, and Guinea Bissau, in a *Foreign Affairs* essay by **Moises Naim**. "In a mafia state," wrote Naim, "high government officials actually become integral players in, if not the leaders of, criminal enterprises, and the defense and promotion of these enterprises' businesses become official priorities."

Despite this dubious reputation, Montenegro is a candidate for membership in the European Union. Although the European Commission has played its conventional tune of reform through integration, this process has been fraught with doubts and second thoughts. "Montenegro's ills seem encysted in the system," a high-level EU official told the Committee for the Protection of Journalists. To the chagrin of the government in Podgorica, the shockwaves of these recent attacks have jolted the Brussels EU headquarters. European Enlargement Commissioner, **Štefan Füle**, called the recent attacks "unacceptable" adding that "Avoiding impunity for the perpetrators is the best tool to prevent such crimes in the future." But how can you avoid impunity in a

country where the rulers have nurtured a culture of impunity?

Behind its serene, tourist-friendly facade, Montenegro is a political Jurassic Park. Since the fall of communism 25 years ago, it has been dominated by Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović**, a former close ally of Serbia's ultranationalist leader **Slobodan Milošević**. Crime and corruption have prospered and press freedom has taken a beating. "In the past decade," Ivanović reminded, "the founder and editor of a daily newspaper has been killed, editors and journalists have been physically attacked, cars belonging to media companies have been set on fire, and defamation cases seeking hundreds of thousands of euros have been brought against critics."

The government has fostered a climate of hostility against independent media and fanned smear campaigns against its opponents in the press. In this tug of war it has ruthlessly used the resources of the state: public advertising has been refused to critical media and private companies have been persuaded under the threat of tax inspections not to place ads in media deemed hostile to the government. Tons of public money has also been poured into the lackluster national paper *Pobjeda*, which slavishly parrots the official line.

Press freedom is an essential requirement for EU membership. This time, Brussels officials have chosen not to shout too loudly. However, drawing from their bruising experience with Romania and Bulgaria, they will not easily let in more candidate countries unless they have solved all issues linked to the rule of law, corruption, or organized crime. "This year's elections to the European Parliament are likely to bring to the assembly a larger cohort of Euroskeptical deputies that will scrutinize any new entrant," the senior EU official told CPJ. "The Montenegrin government would be well-advised to heed Brussels' concerns if it does not want to be sent down the waiting queue."

*The author is a Senior Advisor in the international Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ)*

Problems in the work of the Anti-discrimination Council and how to fix them

## Not so rosy for everyone



By: Svetlana Pešić

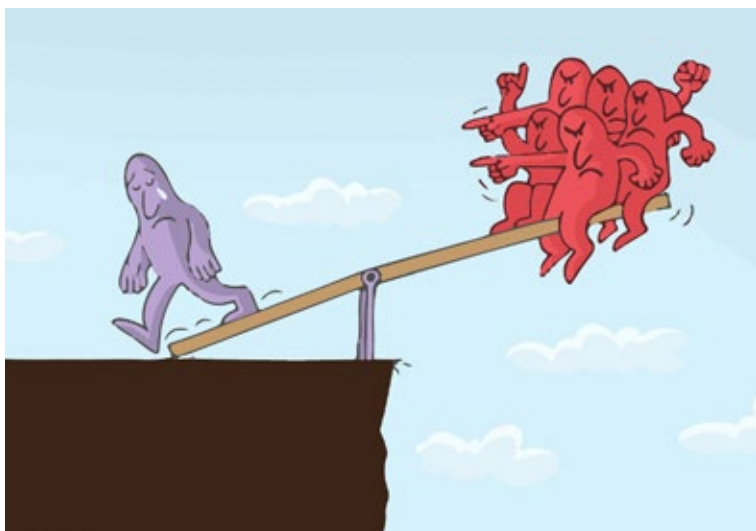
Montenegro's Anti-discrimination Council was established two years ago, with the goal of developing anti-discriminatory practices further and establishing the culture of human rights, in cooperation with civil society organisations and with direct participation of the members of marginalised and frequently discriminated groups. Now the Council members from the NGO sector are warning that the council has "turned into its opposite", due to lack of transparency, and the practice of selecting only some initiatives to discussion, while failing completely to include others in the agenda, avoiding the topics which the majority of members from the Government consider "inconvenient".

It all started well: with a constitutive assembly in March 2012, chaired by the then Prime Minister **Igor Lukšić**, during which it was announced that "Montenegro is committed to becoming a society which respects all human rights, *aware of the existing discrimination targeted at persons with different political affiliations, national identities, religious beliefs, age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, or social or other origin*". The head of the Council today is the current Prime Minister **Milo Đukanović**. Other members of the Council are: **Duško Marković**, Minister of Justice; **Suad Numanović**, Minister for Human

and Minority Rights; **Miodrag Radunović**, Minister for Health, **Slavoljub Stijepović**, Minister for Education, **Predrag Bošković**, Minister for Labour and Social Affairs; **Jovan Kojičić**, advisor to the Prime Minister; **Milan Šaranović**, director general of NGO Ekvista; **Daliborka Uljarević**, executive director of Centre for Civic Education (CCE); **Biljana Alković**, executive director of the Institute for Social Inclusion; **Stevan Milivojević**, executive director of LGBT Forum Progress, and **Slavica Jauković**, representative of the Confederation of the Trade Unions of Montenegro.

This unique and politically strong body, whose recommendations could have had a significant impact on the development of the human rights culture in Montenegro, meets relatively rarely: overall, it had altogether six meetings. So far, during these meetings it has paid uneven attention to various problems of discrimination, mostly focusing on the rights of LGBT persons, although occasionally it also touched upon other areas. In June 2013, on the initiative of the two members from the NGO sector: Daliborka Uljarević and Milan Šaranović, it also had one meeting on political discrimination. Not a single report was published on the work of the Council so far, and the minutes of the meetings are only available from the CCE website. In early November 2013, the Council also adopted a Decision on the expiry of the rules of procedure, against opposition by few members from the NGO sector. Together with the deepening divisions within the Council, this seems to suggest that its future is uncertain.

Uljarević and Šaranović warn that the rate of adoption of initiatives from the NGO sector is practically negligible, especially since the June 2013 meeting. "Everything that has been rejected until then by the Council members was, fortunately, accepted by the European Commission, and thus the "Recording" affair remains on the table. The Council had no interest





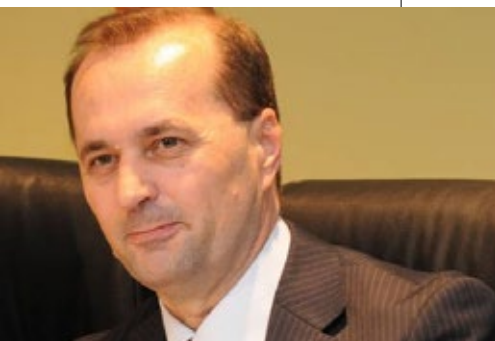
in discussing numerous other issues, such as the freedom of speech and discrimination against critical media, which are suffering continuous pressure and violence – which could have, perhaps, been prevented by the council”, said Uljarević and Šaranović recently in a joint communication. They added that they know of some initiatives from the NGO sector which had been registered by the Council secretary but were never forwarded to the members: thus, the Council itself discriminated against advocates of some concerns, and never bore any responsibility for it.

The public turned its interest to the problems in the work of the council on 20 January 2014, when the Council held a round table discussion titled “Human rights and anti-discrimination in the European Commission 2013 Progress Report on Montenegro”. Uljarević and Šaranović had just proposed an event of this kind, so that at least once a year the public can be informed about the results

of the Council’s work. At the round table, Minister of Human and Minority Rights Suad Numanović was the only one present from among the high government officials, while the other ministers-council members could not find the time to appear at the first public event of the Council since its establishment. The round table proceeded with long declarative speeches, and refusal of the moderator to allow open discussion upon part of these speeches. Representatives of the ten best known Montenegrin NGOs left the meeting, protesting that the organisations which represent the most discriminated groups in the country have been prevented from influencing the content and quality of discussion, and accusing secretary of the Council Jovan Kojičić of “ignorant and exploitative approach” to discussion.

“NGO representatives left out of protest against discrimination which was taking place at the meeting itself, and which continues an

### The Council can function even with disagreements between the Government and NGOs



Suad Numanović

Asked about the key problems with the current work of the Council, Minister for Human and Minority Rights **Suad Numanović** told *European Pulse*: “In case there is any problem in communication between the Government bodies and the NGOs, this is certainly reflected on the Council as well, but even if that were the situation, it doesn’t mean that the Council has not fulfilled its role as expected”.

He insists that the Anti-discrimination Council, as a working body which brings together all ministers with responsibilities in the areas of greatest relevance for the protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as the most influential NGOs in this area, and the Prime Minister himself, is a guarantee of an effective approach towards elimination of discrimination in our society.

He adds that, in principle, the Council does not deal with individual cases of discrimination, but with “identified manifestations of discrimination in a given moment, identifying the best measures to counter them, and recommending to the Government and the authorities the steps they should take to eliminate this form of discrimination... for these reasons, it is common for representatives of various groups which suffer discrimination to be invited to the meetings of the Council, in order to directly communicate their problems with discrimination” Numanović said.

Asked how the Council can help to improve the anti-discrimination legal framework and practice, Numanović explained that „harmonization of the current regulation with international standards, as well as initiatives opinions on the new laws aiming to ensure the respect for equality and access to fundamental rights and freedoms will all be discussed at the Council meetings. We also expect the Council to soon become involved in the process of selecting and developing the best model for the law regulating the rights of same-sex unions”, Numanović said.

increasingly obvious trend in the Government of discrediting and slandering those parts of the NGO sector it considers “inconvenient”. Our act of leaving the meeting was a legitimate one, and it fulfilled its purpose: now the public knows that inside the Council the things are not as rosy as the employees and members of the Council tried to tell us it is, instead of engaging in relevant discussions”, said the NGO representatives in a

joint communication after the event.

In the 2013 Progress Report on Montenegro the European Commission finds that Montenegro has continued with efforts to align itself with the norms and practices based on international conventions, but that more work needs to be done in order to improve the national legislation. Also, the EC pointed to the

### Council to open discussion on a range of topics in full cooperation with NGOs



Mitja Drobnič

Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro **Mitja Drobnič** told *European Pulse* that the Delegation has carefully followed the work of the Anti-discrimination Council, as it follows all other bodies in charge of anti-discrimination and the promotion of human rights. He said it was equally important for this Council to be headed by the Prime Minister and to have the relevant ministers in its ranks, as well as to allow NGO and trade union representatives full participation in its work.

*“We believe it is of essential importance for the Council to remain fully operational with all of its members, and to become more proactive in its advisory role. The Council is very dedicated to the problem of discrimination against LGBT persons and the Roma, and we would like to see the same level of commitment in other issues, such as discrimination against women in the labour market, domestic violence, discrimination against drug addicts and more emphasis on the worrying levels of discrimination against persons with disabilities. We believe the best way to tackle these outstanding problems is full cooperation with the NGO sector. While we are very eager to see tangible results on the ground, we also expect these results to be delivered in an open, transparent environment, which reflects the diversity of opinions in the living civil sector, whose roles in the process of negotiations should not be undermined”, Drobnič said.*

On its way to EU, he added, Montenegro must ensure that proper legal instruments are guaranteeing the protection of human rights for all. *“In order for law enforcement to take root, inter-institutional cooperation is essential. Since most institutions in Montenegro are struggling with the lack of capacities, we would strongly encourage more intensive cooperation among all bodies dealing with the human rights, as well as open and transparent incorporation of the civil society into these processes. Through joint efforts, the Council, together with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the relevant Parliamentary committee, Ombudsman and all other institutions in this field, and with a valuable contribution of their partners from the civil sector dealing with human rights and anti-discrimination, could multiply their impact and improve situation in the field of human rights. We encourage the Council to openly discuss a broad range of issues concerning the problems of discrimination – this is important for raising awareness and solving various social problems in cooperation with all relevant actors”, Drobnič said.*

He also stressed that it would be useful to introduce effective mechanisms to allow the Council to enforce its conclusions and recommendations.

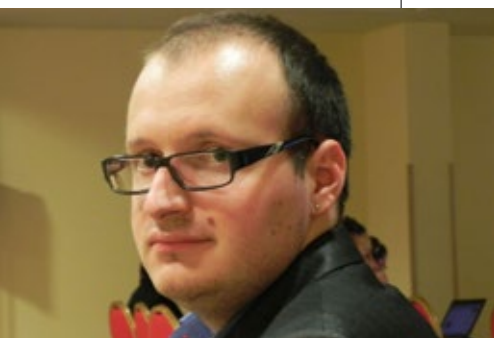
weaknesses of law enforcement by authorities, especially as concerns discrimination against vulnerable groups. “Administrative capacities and financial resources for the implementation of the relevant policies in this area remain limited”, EC said.

Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro **Mitja Drobnjč** earlier said that the EC expects that further alignment with EU acquis will be achieved with the adoption of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination and the Law on the protection of human rights and freedoms. He added that in that context the EC also expects that deputies and advisors to the Ombudsman will be granted functional immunity, as specified by the Action plan for Chapter 23, and that the current debate on



changes in electoral legislation should be used to solve the problem of underrepresentation of women in the Parliament.

### We are against demagogy



Milan Šaranović

Despite the good start of the Council, director of the Centre for anti-discrimination EKVISTA **Milan Šaranović** now says that its impact, except for minor advances in the area of LGBT rights, have been on the whole negligible. According to him, the Council did not live up to its potential as an advisory body, nor does it deal with the full range of issues under its responsibility. *“It became a body which describes the situation in the areas tackled so far – the rights of persons with disabilities, discrimination in education – as satisfactory, which is preposterous given the current situation. Recommendations to the authorities have been ‘lukewarm’. All of this creates an impression that the Council is but an empty shell, only there to improve Montenegro’s image in the eyes of the EU”*, Šaranović said.

Moreover, he believes that it would be necessary to create a practice where certain issues are addressed critically. The problem, he maintains, is that the Council embodies a clash of two approaches: demagogy and realism. *“Those who advocate a realistic approach are a minority, because they are refusing to behave in a way contrary to the principles of a genuine civil sector”*. Šaranović also points to the problem of „failing to take note of initiatives and proposals that try to put particularly sensitive issues on the agenda, and failures to invite outside experts to participate in the Council discussions about specific issues, which would have only improved the quality of its work”. Moreover, he says that the fact that NGO representatives are continuously outvoted speaks for itself: *„No less important, in my opinion, is the fact that many issues receive too little or no attention. Whether we admit it or not, some rights are „more important” than others”*, he said.

According to Šaranović, the decision to establish the Anti-discrimination Council allows it to expand its work, take a critical approach to all issues relevant to the problem of discrimination, and actively offer advice and opinions on Government activities. Unfortunately, this framework is not being adequately used.

Coordinator of the legal programme in the Monitoring and Research Centre (CEMI) and member of the Working Group for electoral legislation Vlado Dedović

## Without greater trust in the elections there can be no progress towards EU

Coordinator of the legal programme in the Monitoring and Research Centre (CEMI) and member of the Working Group for electoral legislation **Vlado Dedović** said that the failure to adopt amendments to the Law on the appointment of committee members and MPs could slow down the process of European integration in Montenegro. "The failure of this process, i.e. the failure to adopt the Law on the appointment of



Vlado Dedović

MPs and committee members could mean that Montenegro would receive another priority task to complete before it can move ahead in the EU integration process. The public trust in the electoral process is a fundamental tenet of democracy, without which we will be unable to move closer to EU. Not so long ago, in 2011, electoral legislation was among the seven priority conditions for the opening of accession negotiations between Montenegro and EU. There is some concern that by going back to the domain of political conditions would slow down the process", Dedović told *European Pulse*.

*» DF has left the Parliament after DPS, BS and HGI refused to accept amendments on the Law on the appointment of MPs and committee members in the Parliament, and in the meantime DPS referred some amendments to the Law on political party financing to the Constitutional court. Can we speak about a political crisis? Or do you believe the parties can still agree?*

The political crisis in Montenegro exists and has been brewing since the presidential elections. The recent months and the problems surrounding changes to the electoral laws confirm that the crisis is deep, and that differences between parties on some of these issues cannot be reconciled. The

*The recent months and the problems surrounding changes in electoral legislation confirm that the crisis is deep. The current political climate offers little reason to expect major progress regarding the Law on the appointment of MPs and committee members in the coming weeks.*

political climate following these setbacks offers little reason to expect major progress regarding the Law on the appointment of MPs and committee members in the coming weeks. The lack of trust in the electoral system is a systemic problem, which requires a completely new approach to electoral regulation and administration to be put in place before the next parliamentary elections in Montenegro.

*» How would you comment on the fact that the Working group of which you were a member could not agree on a set of electoral laws after eight months of discussion? Is this due to the lack of political will on the part of some actors, or to the lack of commitment, or even ability of some MPs?*

The Working group chose the wrong approach to the task of changing electoral legislation. The first thing should have been for the parties to agree on the problems in the implementation of these laws to date, and consequently formulate a set of priorities which require broad political consensus, and based on that develop the new electoral legislation.

Unfortunately, in the working group form was often more important than content, and a large number of draft amendments led to delays and to more meetings than were held by any parliamentary body in the history of this

*The problem of the implementation of the Law on political party financing can only be resolved through the establishment of an independent Anti-Corruption Agency.*



institution. In the end, the process yielded little result, and the public never learned even got to hear what are the main issues on which the political parties failed to agree, or which are the weaknesses in law enforcement.

» *The new Law on political party financing is much more demanding in terms of the scope of responsibility and the range of tasks required of the relevant authorities. Is the State Electoral Commission (SEC) in its current form capable of overseeing its enforcement?*

Political parties can't oversee their own financial dealings. SEC, which is made up of representatives of political parties cannot ensure independent and effective control of finances of political parties in Montenegro.

This is a very important issue in the context of the adoption of the Law on the appointment of MPs and committee members, which reinforces the existing, "party-based" model of SEC and other parts of electoral administration. In my capacity as member of the Working group I advocated professionalization of electoral administration and establishment of an independent and professional SEC. Unfortunately, this proposal was rejected by DPS as well as by most opposition parties.

It is clear that the parties do not want to lose control over electoral administration. One of the key steps towards building trust in the electoral process would be to create a new model of electoral administration, but at the moment there is clearly no political will for that.

» *DPS considers the Law on political party financing to be unconstitutional. Do you agree, or do you consider the law to be perfectly in line with the Constitution and other national legislation?*

Nowhere is the lack of a clear vision on the part of the state regarding the fight against corruption so glaringly obvious as in the matters of political party financing. In the last fifteen years, six different laws were adopted to regulate this area, each of which stipulated different institutional mechanisms of control and oversight. The result was a spate of improvisations and an inefficient system of control of political party financing.

Related to this, I must express my surprise at the fact that changes and amendments are being proposed to the Law on political party financing which were not previously envisaged by the official

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anti-corruption agenda of the Government, and which I also pointed out during the meetings of the Working group.

» *Could you clarify that last point?*

Amendments to the Law on political party financing were not envisaged in the Governments' strategic documents for 2013 and 2013 – the Action Plan for the fight against corruption and organised crime 2013/2014 and the Action plan for Chapter 23. These documents mentioned a new Law on the financing of political actors and electoral campaigns, which was to introduce new, sustainable solutions for this area. However, the Ministry of finance failed to act according to the strategic documents, and although it did form a working group to draft the new law, it never submitted this draft to the Parliament. The Ministry clearly tried to use the Working group to get rid of the responsibility for this important anti-corruption law. Thus Montenegro became a rare country to allow its political parties a free hand in regulating their own finances.

The proposed amendments should be tested for alignment with the Constitution. In my opinion, however, the more important test will come with the implementation. Montenegro has no institution that could effectively monitor political party finances. In its present form and with the current capacities, the SEC cannot guarantee the law's enforcement. The problem can only be solved through the establishment of an independent Anti-Corruption Agency, with sufficient capacity to conduct effective investigations in the area of political party financing.

V.Žugić



### Slovenia and Bulgaria to face ECJ because of trash

European Commission is taking Slovenia and Bulgaria to court because of their failure to comply with the EU requirements on waste, thus endangering the health of their citizens and the environment. Despite the promise to do so, Slovenia failed to clean up two landfills with dangerous materials from the metal and chemical industry Cinkarna in Celje. One site is only 500 metres from the centre of Celje, and the other in nearby Bukovžlak. As for Bulgaria, four and a half years after the deadline expired, the country failed to close landfills which are not run in accordance with EU standards. About 113 such landfills still exist in Bulgaria.



### Europe is short on bees

Europe lacks 13.4 million bee colonies or seven billion individual bees to be able to pollinate its crops properly, warn the scientists from the Reading University in the UK.

The total number of colonies increased between 2005 and 2010, but the crops area grew five times faster, mostly due to the expansion of oil crops used in biofuels. The study also shows that the number of colonies has been growing in the south of Europe, while the growth of the crop areas is especially concentrated in the north. The number of colonies per acre of crops is the highest in Slovenia, which is explained by the geographically limited space for crops, while the demand, in terms of the number of colonies needed per acre is the highest in the Netherlands, due to extensive orchards which require more pollination.

### When the doctor does not speak German



Germany is relying more on foreign doctors to fix shortages in its healthcare system but their lack of knowledge of the German language is increasingly becoming a problem in the communication with the patients. According to the German Medical Associations, the percentage of foreign-born doctors practising in Germany climbed to about 15 percent in 2012 from around five percent in 2007. High German wages, in combination with doctor shortages in small towns and rural areas have pulled in practitioners from Greece, Romania and Poland. However, while administrative procedures are being simplified to attract experts, the public concern over their knowledge is rising, with the pressure groups demanding checks on the knowledge of German language to ensure the doctors can communicate with their patients. At the moment, language requirements for foreign-trained doctors vary in each of Germany's federal states. Most require a certificate proving German ability at least at the common European "B2" or "upper intermediate" level, but not a separate test of medical terminology. Recent news reports have spotlighted stories of patients like **Volker Mikat**, 49, from the western German town of Guetersloh, who is suing the hospital where he received stomach surgery after claiming his doctor's explanation of the operation's risks was incomprehensible.

### Slovaks happy with the euro



Slovaks, who just celebrated the fifth anniversary of the introduction of the euro currency, are convinced that the euro helped them to avoid the worst effects of the economic crisis, and as many as 70% of those polled agree that euro is very useful for the EU as a whole. Slovaks are happy that the euro allows them to compare their prices with those in other member states more easily, and the foreign investors say euro was the decisive factor in their choice of Slovakia. One negative aspect of the new currency, according to the Slovaks, is the obligation to participate in the bailouts of over-indebted members of the Eurozone.

## Procurement in Montenegrin municipalities



Within the project “*Corruption on the local level – zero tolerance!*”, a study “**Procurement in Montenegrin municipalities**” written by **Jovana Marović** and **Stevo Muk** from Institute Alternative was published. The study is a summary of findings of a broader research on the corruption risks in public procurement practices in 14 Montenegrin municipalities.

The mapping of the situation in public procurement in Montenegro in 2012 and 2013, with a special focus on the local level, was compiled based on the official reports on the work of institutions in charge of public procurement system, Government conclusions, screening reports for Chapters 5 – Public Procurement and 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, as well as the European Commission Montenegro Progress Report for 2013. The authors then applied a set of criteria for transparency in public procurement to the experience of Montenegrin municipalities. Data was collected through requests for free access to information, questionnaires and interviews with officers for public procurement in 14 municipalities, as well as with the employees of public institutions and companies under municipal ownership.

According to the study, in 2012 EUR 323 million were spent on public procurement in Montenegro, which is 9.72% of GDP – a decline compared to the previous years. In the same period local self-governments spent little over EUR 17 million on public procurements. The number of corruption-related complaints in public procurement negligible, with only two complaints recorded in the course of 2012: one concerning corruption and the other the conflict of interest. The key challenge remains the weak capacity of the relevant authorities to enforce existing legislation.

The study concludes that the relevant authority, primarily the Ministry of Finance and the Public Procurement Administration, should introduce legal and institutional changes that would increase the transparency of public procurement and reduce the risk of corruption. To that end, the authors recommend involving the stakeholders in all phases of revision of public procurement legislation, as well as in the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy for development of public procurement system. They also call on the authorities to publish all public procurement contracts on the relevant website, including the contracts concluded by direct agreement, and to reduce further the number of parties obliged to adhere to the Law on Public Procurement. Furthermore, the study

recommends that future amendments to the law on Public Procurement should specify the legal liability of the contracting authorities who fail to submit reports on public procurement and reports on the violation of anti-corruption regulation, or submit incorrect or incomplete data. The Law also ought to ensure the prevention of conflict of interest in the State Commission for the Control of Public Procurement, and restrict the use direct agreements to exceptional circumstances, requiring obligatory justification. On the municipal level, it is necessary to revise local action plans for the fight against corruption in order to incorporate the measures of anti-corruption into public procurement. Local governments should also publish all reports on past procurements, as well as regular annual reports, on their own websites as well as on the website of the Directorate for Public Procurement. To improve the system further, the study recommends conducting a market analysis and assessment of the real needs of local self-governments, in order to adequately assess the value of public procurement, prior to drafting public procurement plans on the municipal level. Other recommended steps are: drawing up public procurement plans through cooperation between secretariats and other organizational units of municipalities and public procurement services; establishing units for public procurement in all local governments; providing professional training for public procurement officers on the realistic and timely planning of public procurement. Finally, the authors also recommend strengthening the capacities of the State Audit Institution and Directorate for Inspection Affairs in order to allow for greater frequency of inspections and revisions of municipal budgets.

The project “**Corruption at the local level – zero tolerance!**” is implemented by Centre for Civic Education (CCE) in cooperation with the NGO Institute Alternative (IA) from Podgorica, NVO Bonum from Pljevlja and NVO Nada from Herceg Novi, with support of the European Union through the EU Delegation to Montenegro via IPA 2011 and with co-financing of the Norwegian Royal Embassy.

The complete study can be downloaded from <http://media.cgo-ccce.org/2014/02/ProcurementinMNEMunicipality.pdf>

Prepared by Ž.Ć

## Chapter 13: Fisheries



By: Prof. Dr Milan Marković

As in the case of agriculture, the area of fisheries in the European Union is governed by a Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The EU acquis on fisheries contains regulations which do not require transposition into national legislation. However, it requires the introduction of measures to prepare the administration and the operators for participation in the CFP, which covers resource and fleet management, market policy, state aid and inspection and control. It can also require adaptation of the existing agreements and conventions with third countries and international organisations.

CFP consists of the following three areas:

- *management and preservation of the stock* of fish and other aquatic resources, which includes monitoring the impact of fishing on the environment and regulating permits, as laid down in the EC Regulation no. 2371/2002. Specific management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006;

- *market policy*, which involves common organisation of the fishing market, products and aquaculture, is defined by the regulations no. 104/2000 and 2318/2001;
- *structural policy*, which regulates state aid to the fisheries, and is based on regulations no. 2371/2002, 1198/2000, 498/2007, and 104/2000.

For the harmonisation with the EU law and their implementation, it is necessary to:

- intensify harmonization of domestic regulation with EU acquis;
- establish an authority in the field of fisheries capable of covering all aspects of the CFP;
- ensure there is a properly trained, equipped and effective inspectorate in place;
- create a fleet register and a functional fisheries information system in accordance with EU legislation;
- establish a functional monitoring centre, including satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in order to collect information and prevent illegal activities at sea;
- a functional system of data collection on the catch, delivery and sale of fish;
- implement the rules of the common market for fish and fish products, including market standards, classification and labeling;
- set up producer organisations in commercial fishing and mariculture in accordance with EU rules;
- create institutional framework for the management of funds from the European Fund for Fisheries, as well as a state aid programme compliant with the EU regulations.

Montenegro's 2006 Strategy for development of fisheries outlined several priority areas: improving the health conditions of fish products, creating mechanisms for increased investments in the sector, protection and sustainable exploitation of resources, boosting competitiveness, improving production efficiency and development of a partnership agreement for the exploitation of blue fish. The 2009 Law on Marine Fisheries and Mariculture sets the goals and principles





*Some could ask: is all this really necessary for less than 300 km of Montenegrin coast? Yes – even 1km of the coast obliges the member state to implement all measures of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.*

*Fishing is one of the most regulated sectors in EU!*

for sustainable management of resources and regulates the overall fishing policy. With support of the EU, a Fishing Information System has been created, which includes two sub-systems: a fleet register and an electronic logbook with daily information on catch.

As regards preservation and management of resources, since the adoption of the framework Law, a number of regulations have been introduced, concerning fishing vessels, catch logbooks, fishing tools and equipment, the timetable for fishing in certain areas, permits for small commercial fishing enterprises etc. The government is still working on detailed regulations of the satellite monitoring system for fishing vessels, sites for delivery and first sale, best production practices in mariculture, fishing resources and special technical regulations for fishing in protected areas. With support of the IPA funds, the efforts are also under way to set up the Fishing Information System for satellite monitoring of fishing vessels, register of fishermen, register of permits, control of sale, and a separate register for vessels of a length not exceeding 10 m. Also, a satellite monitoring system for vessels longer than 15 m is about to be introduced through a project jointly financed by the IPA funds and Agrobudget. To complete harmonisation of the national legislation with EU acquis, Montenegro is also expected to amend the Law on Marine Fisheries, adopt a Plan for the management of fisheries and a set of regulations following amendments to the Law on Marine Fisheries.

As regards market policy, further harmonisation of the national legislation with EU acquis will require amendments to the Law on Marine Fisheries and



Mariculture, Regulations on the organisation of producers, the conditions and methods of sale of fish and other aquaculture, and Regulations on the sites for the first delivery of catch, registers of buyers, information on the sales, and transfer of catch from foreign vessels.

As for the institutional framework for the protection and management of resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is in charge of drafting and implementing legal provisions, as well as monitoring their implementation. In early 2009, the Ministry set up a Fisheries Unit. The Unit currently has four employees, but needs further investments to bolster its administrative capacity. The Institute of Marine Biology in Kotor (IMBK) is in charge of scientific and technical aspects of policy. Inspections of the fishing and related activities is the task of the inspectors for marine fisheries and agricultural inspectors for freshwater fisheries. The trade policy still lacks a specific administrative basis in the Ministry, which is why it will be necessary to further strengthen the Unit for Fisheries. As regards structural policy, the Ministry is monitoring measures intended to stimulate development of the fisheries sector as part of the support for the agriculture sector overall. As of January 2008, trade in fish products between Montenegro and EU 27 has been regulated by the provisions of the Chapter II of the Interim Agreement. Articles 29 and 30 of the Agreement regulate mutual concessions on trade in fish and fish products, and eliminate most quotas and tariffs on the import of fish and fish products from Montenegro – with the exception of trout, sea bream, sea bass,



processed sardines and anchovies, which remain subject to quotas. Chapter VIII (Cooperation policy) also contains article 98, which regulates cooperation in the area of fisheries, and defines priority areas such as compliance with the international commitments on the management and preservation of aquatic resources.

European Fisheries Fund (EFF) supports the competitiveness of the sector in order to ensure its environmental, economic and social sustainability. The support targets five priority areas:

- *adaptation of the fishing fleet* – support for fishermen affected by measures implemented to combat overfishing. The support can also be granted for other purposes: to improve health and safety, working conditions, subsidise acquisitions of certain equipment, and help fund the activities of small coastal fishermen, or their early retirement or retraining.
- *diversification* to new species and environmentally acceptable aquaculture, measures for the protection of public health, processing and marketing of aquaculture products, and life-long learning;
- *measures of public interest* which cannot be provided by the private sector, such as those including the protection and development of marine flora and fauna, ports and shelters, as well as development of promotional campaigns;
- *sustainable development of fishing areas* – support to the activities of local communities on the coast and in vicinity of lakes to reduce their economic dependence on fishing, and help them to develop infrastructure for tourism, environmental protection, regional and cross-border cooperation;
- *technical support* – studies, reports, information campaigns and other activities related to the implementation of operative programmes.

*Source: publication "Europe in my town – what are we negotiating and what the negotiations with the EU are bringing to us?", published as part of the project "Europe in my town", which was implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) during 2011 and 2012, in cooperation with the Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) from Podgorica and Civic Initiatives (CI) from Belgrade, with the support of the EU Delegation in Montenegro*

*In addition to the task of meeting EU requirements, Montenegro should conduct a realistic assessment of the size and needs of its fisheries and tailor the capacities of its institutions and administration accordingly. It is necessary to strengthen the fishing fleet to enable it to use its own resources sustainably. The number of fishing vessels will be fixed on the date of accession and cannot be increased subsequently. Adaptation of the use of traditional fishing tools, and especially of the specifications of bottom trawl nets will be an important challenge during negotiations, and Montenegro should try to ensure a transition period or delayed implementation in these two areas. Since fishing in the Bay of Kotor is still largely conducted with traditional tool of small commercial fishing, which also has a strong social character, the outcome of negotiations should provide for the gradual phasing out of small commercial fishing as a form of side employment.*

Less than four months before EP elections the threat of a record number of Eurosceptics in the benches looms large

## Everyone has something against EU



dr Vera Šćepanović

There are less than four months left until the elections for the European Parliament, and the mood could not be worse. After five years of economic troubles, the discontent of European voters is tangible – and increasingly directed at the European Union. In this atmosphere, this year's election is likely to bring a record number of Eurosceptics to EP, threatening to block the legislative process altogether.

And all this after the pro-European parties put in unprecedented efforts to improve EP's standing in the eyes of the Europeans. The 2009 elections were a defeat: with a humiliatingly low turnout of 43%, the EU citizens have sent a clear message that they don't consider the European Parliament to be an important site of policy making. The years in between have been marked by much effort to change this. As the EU's only directly elected body, the European Parliament has always been perceived as the key channel for remedying the infamous "democratic deficit" of its institutions. Under the Lisbon Treaty, the Parliament was given more powers over the EU decision-making process, while the MPs became much bolder and more demanding in their exchanges with the European Commission and Council. Only in the course of 2013, the EP won popular acclaim by forcing the member states to introduce standardized caps on bankers' bonuses across the EU, and by resisting the budget cuts aimed at popular education and youth programmes. To add to the attractiveness of this year's elections, the European parties also decided to make use of another provision of the Lisbon Treaty, which allows them to nominate candidates for the European Commission president, through which these elections would effectively also become a vote for the European executive.

But now the seats of this stronger, more active European Parliament threaten to be filled by a growing number of people who don't even think this institution, or indeed any European institution, should exist.

*Only in the course of 2013, the EP won popular acclaim by forcing the member states to introduce standardized caps on bankers' bonuses across the EU, and by resisting the budget cuts aimed at popular education and youth programmes. But now the seats of this stronger, more active European Parliament threaten to be filled by a growing number of people who don't even think this institution, or indeed any European institution, should exist.*

After so many years of crisis, everybody has something against Europe. For the left wing voters, who generally tend to be pro-European, the EU's intransigent economic policy and the demand for austerity in countries already wrecked by the crisis have been a cause for much disillusionment. On the right, the economic woes have stirred demands for more sovereignty and less immigration, including from other EU member states. According to the Eurobarometer, the proportion of those who trust European Union has fallen from 50% in 2007 to about 30% in late 2013. At the same time, the recent opinion polls indicate rising popularity of anti-European parties, especially those on the right.

In France, **Marine Le Pen's** National Front is likely to win the largest share of French seats in the European Parliament, leading the polls with 24% of





the vote. The NF leader recently explained that the European system was impossible to reform and that all she wanted from it was to see it “explode”. In the Netherlands, the majority of the vote seems ready to go the the anti-immigrant, Eurosceptic Freedom Party (PVV), whose leader **Geert Wilders** had been calling for a Dutch exit from EU. The end of EU membership has also long been the main rallying cry of the UK Independence Party, which is now likely to come out as the second largest UK party in EP, ahead of the ruling Conservatives. On the other end of the ideological spectrum, **Beppe Grillo’s** green and anti-establishment 5-star movement leads the polls in Italy, with about 25% of the vote. The 5-Stars don’t want their country out of the EU, but they demand a referendum on Eurozone membership and are asking for more decision power to be given to the people instead of the “Euro-technocrats”.

Paradoxically enough, one way for the Eurosceptics to strengthen their impact in the European circles is to unite their forces. This is precisely the goal of negotiations between Greet Wilders and Marine Le Pen. Since November last year, the two have been trying to forge a new Eurosceptic group in the EP in order to push for a “common agenda”. To form

*A recent poll conducted by the VoteWatch found that the Socialist and Democrats are currently the most popular parliamentary group, and are likely to come out of this election with about 30% of the votes, slightly ahead of the European People’s Party, whose share of the vote stands at 27%. The rest of the vote is split between the liberals, the greens, the far left and several fractions of the far right, who are unlikely to forge a common front. This, however, is no reason to become complacent. A large proportion of Eurosceptics can still obstruct the decision-making process*

a parliamentary group, they need the support of at least 25 MEPs, from at least seven EU countries. So far Wilders and Le Pen have secured the support of the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ), the Flemish Vlaams Belang (VB), the Swedish Democrats and the Italian Lega Nord, and are also hoping to win over UKIP.

The news has been very unsettling to the pro-European forces, but it is not entirely clear whether the Eurosceptics can form a durable alliance, or indeed agree on a common set of interests. Some ideas, such as the immigration reform or the revision of the membership prospects for Turkey have been floated in the media, but it is clear that the parties disagree on many issues. Despite their sympathies towards the group’s anti-European stance, UKIP has so far declined to join the alliance, declaring itself “strictly anti-racist and libertarian” and therefore in disagreement with Le Pen’s economic policies and Wilders anti-Islamism. Differences are not only ideological: conflicts among the nationalists from different EU states have caused many such initiatives to fail in the past.

Moreover, despite their meteoric rise in a number of EU countries, Eurosceptics remain in a minority. The latest Europe-wide forecasts suggest the mainstream parties are still likely to win a comfortable advantage this May. A recent poll conducted by the VoteWatch, a transparency organization led by academics from the



London School of Economics and Trinity College Dublin, found that the Socialist and Democrats are currently the most popular parliamentary group, and are likely to come out of this election with about 30% of the votes, slightly ahead of the European People's Party, whose share of the vote stands at 27%. The rest of the vote is split between the liberals, the greens, the far left and several fractions of the far right, who are unlikely to forge a common front.

This, however, is no reason to become complacent. A large proportion of Eurosceptics can still obstruct the decision-making process, at a time when it will be essential to move ahead with new initiatives in order to respond to the challenges of a dismal economy. Some form of the “grand coalition”, or at least cooperation between the two largest party will be essential to keep Europe on track. An even greater danger comes from the fact that even if they lack a direct influence of policy making, the popularity of the Eurosceptics



has an impact on the behaviour of the larger parties. Chasing the disaffected voters who have turned towards the anti-European right, the mainstream parties have become more sympathetic to the calls to restrict immigration and to slow down the European integration process. Either way, a strong performance of the Eurosceptic parties in these elections will mean a difficult five years ahead for the European Union.

### Who will choose the president of EC?

One novelty in this year's EP elections is the possibility that the candidate of the winning party group will become the president of European Commission. Until now, the head of the EU executive was selected by the European Council, following negotiations among the member states, and were then officially confirmed by the Parliament. The parties hope that a more democratic procedure will increase the popular legitimacy of the Commission, and strengthen its position vis-à-vis the Council.

Unfortunately, the provision of the Lisbon Treaty on which the new procedure is based is somewhat ambiguous, and stipulates that the Parliament shall elect the European Commission president “on the basis of a proposal made by the European Council taking into account the European elections”. The announcement of the nominations has already raised opposition among the leaders of some EU member states, who do not seem too happy with the prospect of a stronger EC president. **Angela Merkel** and **Herman van Rompuy** have both insisted that “taking into account” the electoral result was not binding, and that the selection of the EC president will remain a prerogative of the Council.

None of this has discouraged the European party groups, who are determined to see their candidates in the EU's top job. The final appointment has to be confirmed by the Parliament, and the MPs said they were ready to confront the Council and deny their support to any candidate who was not elected through the democratic procedure.

The Party of European Socialists (PES), the European Liberals (ALDE) and the Party of the European Left (GUE) have already put forth their nominees: **Martin Schulz**, who is currently the Speaker of the Parliament, the former Belgian Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt**, and **Alexis Tsipras**, leader of the Greek left-wing opposition party Syriza. The Greens organized a pan-European online vote, which saw two candidates win the same number of votes: the famous French syndicalist **José Bové** and a young German MEP **Ska Keller**. The European People's Party is expected to elect its nominee at the upcoming party congress in Dublin on 7 March.

Countries of the region step up confiscation of criminal assets

## Criminals are losing even their cars



Police departments throughout the region are collecting houses, boats, money and other ill-gotten possessions as a deterrent against crime, corruption and fraud. "When you confiscate someone's house, a yacht and the money from the bank, then this is the best way to stop him to deal further with corruption and crime. This also serves as

an example to others who wants to deal with that," Sead Hodžić, an attorney from Sarajevo and a former judge of the Supreme Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), told *SETimes*.

The Federation of BiH is the most recent government in the region to adopt a law allowing confiscation of criminal property, having approved a measure in 2013. Republika Srpska (RS) and Croatia adopted such laws in 2010, and Serbia did so in 2009. In essence, the laws in all of the regional countries work on the same principle: The state temporarily seizes property from persons who are suspected of organised crime or corruption. If defendants are found guilty of the crimes, their property is confiscated permanently.

Last month, BiH seized 10 million euros worth of assets owned by **Zoran Čopić**, a close associate of Montenegrin drug lord **Darko Šarić**. On January 24th, the RS Supreme Court sentenced Čopić to four years in prison for money laundering, and the court ordered his property be seized because the prosecutor proved that it was obtained through criminal means. "It is so far the largest value of permanently confiscated property, not only in the RS, but also in the region. RS has temporarily blocked assets worth 25 million euros [since 2010]," **Mirna Soja**, a

*Last month, BiH seized 10 million euros worth of assets owned by Zoran Čopić, a close associate of drug lord Darko Šarić. It is so far the largest value of permanently confiscated property, not only in the RS, but also in the region*

spokeswoman at the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs, told *SETimes*.

"In the past two years, BiH has done much to develop the security sector and to create preconditions for the fight against crime and corruption. We need to show that crime does not pay. We must ensure that we have the mechanisms to effectively confront crime and corruption and to create mechanisms for the confiscation of illegally acquired assets. Although we have certain results, we must continue to improve legislation and institutions," said **Mladen Čavar**, deputy security minister in BiH.

*Croatia confiscated about 468 real estate properties, two yachts, 10 vehicles and about 450 pieces of art in the past three years*

The practice of seizing the property of criminal groups is also part of EU legislation. The first such law was introduced in Italy in 1982, after which almost all Union member countries adopted similar legislation.

The Union is currently conducting a two-year project to bring BiH law enforcement closer to the level required for the Union membership. **Aleksander Jevšek**, one of the leaders of the project, said the group will provide legislation guidance, which will provide a strong base for the state law. "The state law will be further enhanced in relation to the entities' laws and will give greater powers for investigators. There was a case when a felon who illegally acquired



assets, after being processed, prescribed the property posted on relatives. With new regulations, the ownership of property will be followed in those directions also, and will be confiscated if the investigator proves that it was earned illegally, regardless of who owns it," Jevšek said.

Croatia confiscated about 468 real estate properties, two yachts, 10 vehicles and about 450 pieces of art in the past three years. Officials said the state must secure the property and maintain its condition. "Confiscated cars are kept in specially designated warehouses, paintings in museums, money in a special bank account. If the property is permanently confiscated, the state can use the property. For example, cars are given to social welfare centres and the interior affairs ministry. Apartments and real estate are also allocated to the resident centres for social welfare, and for the accommodation of asylum seekers," explains Ivana Ivanković, a spokesperson at the Croatian Office for State Property Management.

*Kosovo authorities recently opened a new depot in Pristina as a storage facility for all seized property and illegal assets. Officials say they sold seized property valued at 500,000 euros in a recent month, with the money going back into the state budget*

Kosovo authorities recently opened a new depot in Pristina as a storage facility for all seized property and illegal assets. Officials say they sold seized property valued at 500,000 euros in a recent month, with the money going back into the state budget. Since 2009, Serbia has seized about 100 apartments, 30 houses, several office buildings, a hotel, more than 100 cars, artworks and a ship. The country rents most of the seized property, bringing in 90,000 euros a month to the state coffers, according to the justice ministry. "This practice is sending a clear message that crime does not pay. If it is proven that the person obtains property with crime activities, the property is, by a court decision, permanently taken away and becomes the property of Serbia," the justice ministry said in a written statement.

**Ivana Korajlić**, spokesperson for Transparency International BiH, said the law is an important tool for authorities. "Confiscation of such assets is of utmost importance in the prosecution of corruption and organised crime cases, because it prevents the 'viability' of these types of crime. However, the results are still insufficient and the judicial system needs to be much more effective," Korajlić told SETimes.

Source: SETimes.com.

## Agreement on the ways to conduct socially useful or humanitarian work

On 23 January 2014, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) signed the *Agreement on the ways to conduct socially useful or humanitarian work* with the expert unit of the Higher Court. The agreement is an expression of CCE's willingness to actively participate in the Ministry of Justice's programme *Implementation of educational instructions and special commitments: participation in certain sport activities, socially useful or humanitarian work*. In line with the Law on the treatment of minors in criminal proceedings, CCE undertook the demanding task to conduct a programme of rehabilitation of juvenile offenders that would help them develop in the right direction, and contribute to the strengthening of their personal capacities and responsibility, with the aim to eventually reduce the rate of recidivism.

## Final conference of the programme Education for human rights and active citizenship in the Western Balkans

On 21 and 22 January the final conference of the regional programme *Education for human rights and active citizenship in the Western Balkans* took place in Belgrade, under the title *Education for human rights and active citizenship in the Western Balkans – challenges and opportunities*. The programme was implemented since 2000 in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo, with the aim of contributing to reconciliation, sustainable peace and democratic development of region's societies, rooted in the culture of human rights. As part of the regional programme, partner organisations, including the Centre for Civic Education (CCE), sought to develop a concept of education for human rights, methodology and educational materials, and provide education on human rights to the young people through their *Human rights schools*. In addition to this, the regional programme included cooperation with educational institutions in order to foster exchange of good practices and important lessons, and to raise the level of civic education as a framework through which the issues of human rights and active citizenship will be incorporated into the formal education. To that end, CCE organised a conference titled *Implementation of civic education in the Montenegrin educational system* (2011) and a round table *Education for anti-discrimination culture* (2012) in cooperation with the Education Bureau and Ministry of Education of Montenegro. The two-day regional conference brought together civic society actors, teachers of civic education, professionals and decision-makers from educational institutions throughout the region, as well as representatives of international organisations and donors, in order to exchange ideas and experiences in this field, and develop recommendations for further advancement of civic education through regional networking and cooperation between the formal and the informal sector. **Mirela Rebronja**, CCE programme coordinator, spoke at the panel *Civil society and education for human rights – methods, achievements and challenges*. Among other representatives from Montenegro were independent advisor **Vidosava Kaščelan** and trainer for Civic education in the Education bureau, **Snježana Bošković**.



Centre for Civic Education (CCE), within the project  
 "Intergenerational Learning for an European Active Citizenship",  
 funded by the EU through the Europe for *Citizens programme*, announces:

# CONTEST

## ► Write and meet EU! ◀

► contest for the best story about the European Union ◀

*Are you inspired by the European Union, its culture and values? How do you see EU? What do you expect from the challenging process of Europeanization of Montenegro? How does that affect your life? What are your personal expectations?*

Share with us your perception of the European Union, tell us how it shapes your life, does it affect culture and values of your own community. Be creative and original in your expression!

► For the application it is necessary to submit the following documentation in electronic form:

- The text (essay, short story or interview);
- First and last name of the author, contact phone number and email together with brief biographical data;
- Consent that the story can be published as a part of the project activities.

The advantage, when evaluating texts, will be given to those texts that are related to intergenerational dialogue, conservation of memories, overcoming of stereotypes and prejudices.

The competition is open for all citizens of Montenegro. One author shall participate with one text only.

**Application deadline is 5 March, 2014 until 17:00h.**

Awarded stories from all participating countries (besides Montenegro, these are: Italy, France, Sweden, Bulgaria and Slovenia) will be translated into English and published in the final publication of this project, while six winners (one from each country) will participate at the final conference that will be held in Turin (Italy) in November 2014. Names of the winners, as well as the best texts will be published on the website of Centre for Civic Education (CCE): [www.cgo-cce.org](http://www.cgo-cce.org), and on the project website of ILEAC: <http://www.ileac.eu/>.

All interested candidates can send their texts via e-mail on [ana@cgo-cce.org](mailto:ana@cgo-cce.org) or by post on the address of Centre for Civic Education (CCE) – Njegoševa 36/1, 81 000 Podgorica.

**We are looking forward to your stories!**



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
 Centre for Civic Education



'Europe for Citizens' Programme

## International Mediterranean Youth Festival

The aim of the International Mediterranean Youth Festival is to bring to life and share artistic and cultural experiences in a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere. It will take place from 14 to 16 May 2014 in Antalya, Turkey.

*Eligibility:* The organizers are looking forward to applications from student clubs and teams who wish to attend the festival and whose applications have been approved by their authorities. *Costs and conditions:* Accommodation, food & beverage and public transport within Antalya city will be provided by Akdeniz University. Flight expenses will not be provided by Akdeniz University.

Deadline: **1 April 2014.**

More information on: <http://uio.akdeniz.edu.tr/17th-international-mediterranean-youth-festival>

## American Institute for Political and Economic Studies

Are you interested in a career in international affairs? Do you want to discuss complex contemporary issues in a diverse academic setting? Are you eager to visit Prague, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems (AIPES) is the program for you. AIPES is a unique program that brings together approximately 120 students from North America, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia to explore fundamental issues related to political philosophy, political economy, and conflict management.

The Fund for American Studies (TFAS) has organized international academic programs for more than 20 years with the objective to provide a rigorous academic experience, foster dialogues that cross borders, and create a global network of responsible future leaders. Its comprehensive package includes academic credit through Charles University, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities, as well as housing, most meals, a variety of notable guest lectures, cultural and social events, and opportunities for professional development and networking. Students who complete AIPES graduate into a global network of over 13,000 TFAS alumni.

The summer 2014 program will be held July 12 – August 4, 2014.

Deadline: **15 March 2014.**

More information on: <http://www.tfasinternational.org/programs/aipes/>

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