



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO MONTENEGRO

Head of Delegation

Podgorica, 29 August 2025

Dear Ms Uljarević,
Dear civil society representatives,

Thank you for your email of 25 August.

As you are well aware, for the European Union civil society is a key element of a democratic system and should be recognised and treated as such by State institutions.

You have an essential role in improving transparency, accountability and citizen participation, bringing different voices into the public debate. Your scrutiny on public institutions helps ensure that policy-making reflects the needs and interests of all segments of society. Likewise, in line with the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990), lawyers must be put in a position to perform their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference.

Accordingly, instead of engaging in strongly worded public criticism and allegations, we expect the authorities to safeguard the space for the work of civil society and enable a constructive involvement of civil society organisations in policy making. We also expect that representatives of the Government and all public actors would refrain from making statements that link lawyers with their clients, and that they foster an environment in which lawyers can carry out their work in full accordance with the principles of professionalism and integrity.

As you know, the European Union follows closely all developments that are relevant for the Rule of law-related negotiating chapters 23 - judiciary and fundamental rights, and 24 - justice, freedom and security, and related closing benchmarks. A suitable legal, regulatory and institutional framework and an overall enabling environment for civil Society organisations in line with EU standards is certainly a primary focus of our scrutiny in this context.

May I wish you all the best in pursuing your activities. I look forward to receiving your feedback and updates on the situation, as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Riccardo SERRI
chargé d'affaires a.i.

