

## Contents

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH	1
EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD	3
CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS	3
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT	4
VISITS OF EU EXPERT MISSIONS TO MONTENEGRO	6
IPA	7
COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR	8
COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS	11
OTHER	12

## Introductory speech

Dear readers,

You have in front of you the first issue of the Ministry of European Affairs Newsletter, with the aim to present the most important events and activities of this Ministry in the process of EU accession in the first half of 2017.

In the year of marking eleven years since regaining the independence, Montenegro continues forward towards its future within the EU. A good integration result has been reflected in twenty-eight chapters opened, three of which have temporarily been closed, and reforms that are already beginning to produce visible results in all areas.

Ministry of European Affairs, as the coordinator of the EU accession process, has been committed to the successful and responsible management of European affairs in partnership and cooperation with other authorities, and aimed at strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and its members in order for Montenegro to take equal place among European partners.






The past six months have been marked by the dynamic activity of the Ministry, both in terms of coordination of implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, implementation of IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, and organisation of numerous conferences, regional and international meetings.

We are convinced that this newsletter is a contribution to improving the information, understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

*Ministry of European Affairs*



25. Science and research	14. Transport policy	32. Financial control
26. Education and culture	15. Energy	33. Financial and budgetary provisions
30. External relations	16. Taxation	2. Free movement of workers
1. Free movement of goods	18. Statistics	3. Right of establishment and freedom to provide services
4. Free movement of capital	19. Social policy and employment	17. Economic and monetary policy
5. Public procurement	20. Enterprise and industrial policy	27. Environment
6. Company law	21. Trans-European networks	8. Competition policy
7. Intellectual property law	22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments	34. Institutions
9. Financial services	23. Judiciary and fundamental rights	35. Other issues
10. Information society and media	24. Justice, freedom and security	
11. Agriculture and rural development	28. Consumer and health protection	
12. Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy	29. Customs union	
13. Fisheries	31. Foreign, security and defense policy	

-  Provisionally closed chapter
-  Opened chapter
-  MNE Negotiating position submitted
-  MNE Negotiating position being finalized
-  Work on opening benchmarks
-  Chapters are not negotiated

## EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD



20 JUNE 2017

### MONTENEGRO OPENED CHAPTERS 1 AND 22 AND TEMPORARILY CLOSED CHAPTER 30

At the Intergovernmental Conference in Luxembourg, Montenegro has opened two new negotiating chapters, Chapter 1 – Free Movement of Goods and Chapter 22 – Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments, and has temporarily closed Chapter 30 – External Relations.

It is jointly assessed that, by completing the final benchmarks and closing the chapters in the field of external relations, Montenegro is starting a new phase of the negotiation process. The perseverance of pro-European politics and the continuity of reforms has been commended, as a result of which Montenegro, after five years of negotiations, has opened 28 out of 33 negotiating chapters, the negotiations of which are being conducted, and has temporarily closed three of them.

the region, further commitments from the accession process, as well as the expectations of the upcoming Summit of the Berlin process, which would be held under the Italian Presidency over the Initiative. Minister Pejović pointed out that the Berlin process has provided many new ideas and opportunities to the regional perspective, and that EC reports proved to be a good tool for candidate countries in the process of accession regarding the readiness of taking over future membership commitments.

15 MARCH 2017

### CONFERENCE HELD ON “TRANSLATION OF THE EU ACQUIS, MONTENEGRIN LEGISLATION AND OTHER EU-ACCESSION RELATED DOCUMENTS”



Significance and results of the project were presented by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aivo Orav, Head

of the EU Delegation to Montenegro and Ms Valentina Ščekić, project coordinator from the Educo Center. Minister Pejović pointed out that in the framework of the project “Translation of the EU acquis, Montenegrin legislation and other EU-accession related documents”, we have translated 17,000 pages of the Acquis and documents from the negotiation process. He said that the Ministry of European Affairs was starting to implement the second, much more extensive cycle of translating the EU acquis into the Montenegrin language as of the following week, which was expected to encompass translating 30,000 pages of EU regulations within a year, pointing out that the plan was to have a quarter of the EU acquis translated into Montenegrin by June 2018.

## CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

25 JANUARY 2017

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD ON “EC REPORTS – ACCESSION REFORMS OF WESTERN BALKANS”



Conference was opened by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs and Mr Hans Ginter Matern, Ambassador of Germany to Montenegro. Participants of the Conference exchanged

views on this year’s EC report estimates for the countries in

27 MARCH 2017

### CONFERENCE ORGANISED ON “SIXTY YEARS AFTER THE TREATIES OF ROME: FURTHER PATH OF EUROPE”



On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome, the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, in cooperation

with the Embassy of Italy and the Delegation of the Eu-

European Union, with the support of the EU funded technical assistance project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Montenegrin Authorities for the EU Accession Process and IPA II Instrument”, organised the Conference “Sixty Years After the Treaties of Rome: further path of Europe”.

The conference was opened by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs and Mr Carlo Lo Cascio, First Deputy Director General of the DG for the European Union of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

Within the two panels, where representatives of governments, parliaments and the civil sector of Montenegro, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia spoke, there was the discussion on the Treaties of Rome and their importance for the development of the idea of a united Europe, as well as the future of the EU and the enlargement policy.

**5 APRIL 2017**

**PANEL DISCUSSION HELD ON “EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE FACILITATES EU MEMBERSHIP: HOW CROATIA HELPS MONTENEGRO”**



Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, member of the European Affairs Committee and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy of the

Croatian Parliament, Mr Joško Klisović and Croatian Ambassador to Montenegro, Mr Veselko Grubišić, spoke about the importance and achievements of cooperation in the process of accession to the European Union.

Minister Pejović pointed out that experiences of colleagues from Croatia were very important for the institutions and negotiating structure of Montenegro, and that they have helped to fulfill the obligations in a significant number of areas in a better way.

**29 JUNE 2017**

**CONFERENCE HELD ON “FIVE YEARS OF ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS – WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED”**



On the occasion of marking five years since the official beginning of the accession negotiations, the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro organised the Conference “Five years of accession negotiations

– what we have accomplished”. The Conference was opened by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs of Monte-

negro, and Mr Aivo Orav, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro. Minister Pejović pointed out that the number of people and institutions involved in the negotiations was the best indicator of the scope of the process and how significant it has been for Montenegro. He also said that the last five years have been a period of important and fundamental changes for Montenegro, thanks to which we had made an enormous step forward.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT**

**14 MARCH 2017**

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY HELD IN PODGORICA**



Meeting was opened by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro and Mr Thomas Hagleitner, Acting Head of the Unit for Montenegro in the European Commission’s Directorate General for Neighbourhood

Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. In his opening remarks, Minister Pejović pointed out that the assessment of Montenegro’s progress was based primarily on the quality of implementation of the measures set out in the action plans for chapters 23 and 24, stressing that their implementation has been largely running as planned. He said that the high level of implementation of these strategic documents has been noted, and added that the implementation of measures over the past period has resulted in notable reforms in the legislative area, their implementation and institution-building, stressing that the future work in the field of the rule of law would be very intense as well.

**7 APRIL 2017**

**SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA WAS HELD IN THE CONTEXT OF ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**



The second meeting of the Joint Committee for the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation between the Governments of Montenegro and Albania in the context of accession to the European Union was

held in Tirana. The meeting was opened, on behalf of the Montenegrin side, by Ms Jelena Burzan, Director General for Accession to the EU at the Ministry of European Affairs, and, on behalf of the Government of Albania, Ms Klajda Gjoshaj, Minister for European Integration. The subject of

the second meeting of the Joint Committee was presentation of current and planned activities from the accession process, as well as considering possibilities for intensifying cooperation in areas of mutual interest that would contribute to faster progress towards membership.

**24 AND 25 APRIL 2017 .**

### **SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, HUMAN RESOURCES, INFORMATION SOCIETY AND SOCIAL POLICY HELD IN BRUSSELS**



The meeting was opened by Mr Thomas Hagleitner, Acting Head of the Unit for Montenegro in the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and Mr Jovo Pajović, Director of Directorate for Pension and Disability Insurance, Veteran and Disability Protection at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

The participants discussed the progress achieved in the fields of education, culture, science and research, information society and the media, the movement of workers and social policy and employment.

**7 JUNE 2017**

### **TENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL POLICY HELD IN PODGORICA**

The meeting discussed progress achieved in the areas of climate change, environment, energy, regional policy, and transport. Representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented the accomplishments, current activities, and planned measures and exchanged views with colleagues from the European Commission regarding future challenges, best and most efficient solutions in terms of the implementation of the Acquis and strengthening administrative capacity in these areas.

The meeting was opened by Ms Jelena Burzan, Director General for EU Affairs in Ministry of European Affairs and Ms Maria Fernandez, representative of the Montenegro Unit in the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

**8 JUNE 2017**

### **EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INTERNAL MARKET AND COMPETITION BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HELD IN PODGORICA**



The meeting discussed progress made in the area of competition, state aid, consumer protection, and health, as well as reforms in the banking, insurance, and other financial services. In

his opening remarks, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs, recalled that since the beginning of the negotiation process, Montenegro has made significant progress in the areas covered by this Subcommittee, which was confirmed by the fact that negotiations on Chapter 4 – Free Movement of Capital, Chapter 5 – Public Procurement, Chapter 6 – Commercial Law, Chapter 7 – Intellectual Property Law, Chapter 9 – Financial Services, and Chapter 28 – Consumer and Health Protection have been opened.

**9 JUNE 2017**

### **MINISTER PEJOVIĆ OPENED THE NINTH MEETING OF THE EU-MONTENEGRO CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**



Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and Mr Thomas Hagleitner, Acting Head of the Unit for Montenegro in the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement

Negotiations opened in Budva the Ninth meeting of the Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) between the European Economic and Social Committee and Montenegro.

Minister stressed the importance of civil sector participation in the negotiations, highlighting their contribution to the work of working groups, as well as to the preparation of documents crucial for the negotiation process. In this context, he pointed out that meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee have been valuable contribution to the affirmation of cooperation between state authorities and the civil sector, as well as the support of the civil sector to the accession process.

**20 JUNE 2017**

### **EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL HELD IN LUXEMBOURG**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro. Ms Helena Dalli, Minister of European Affairs and Equality of Malta, headed the European Union Delegation. Mr Christian Danielsson, Director General for Enlargement Negotiations and European



Neighbourhood Policy, represented the European Commission. The meeting was the opportunity for the review of Montenegro's progress in its preparations for accession and consideration of priorities for further work within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

-----

**23 JUNE 2017**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COMMISSION HELD**



The first meeting of the new European Integration Commission was held in Podgorica, with the realisation of commitments from the 2014-2018 Montenegro's Programme of Accession to the European Union and plans for improvement of the quality of strategic documents.

**VISITS OF EU EXPERT MISSIONS TO MONTENEGRO**

**3 FEBRUARY 2017**

**EU RULE OF LAW EXPERT MISSION IN MONTENEGRO COMPLETED**



The final meeting of the EC expert mission on combating corruption and organised crime was held in Podgorica, which stayed in Montenegro from 30 January. During their visit to Montenegro, independent experts from Italy and Belgium had meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Police Administration, Public Prosecution Office and Judiciary, Public Property Administration, Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Centre for Judicial Training and the Central Bank of Montenegro.

**7 APRIL 2017**

**EU RULE OF LAW EXPERT MISSION IN MONTENEGRO COMPLETED**



Expert mission led by an expert from Italy visited Montenegro in the period 3-7 April, in order to assess the progress in the functioning of this institution by direct insight into its work, as well as by adding to the recommendations given after last year's mission related to this area.

During her stay in Montenegro, the expert met with the representatives of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Ministry of Education, Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, Fund for Protection and Exercising of Minority Rights, Centre for Preservation and Development of Culture of Minorities, as well as national minority councils.

**9 JUNE 17**

**EU RULE OF LAW EXPERT MISSION IN MONTENEGRO COMPLETED**



The final meeting of the EC expert mission was held in Podgorica, which was dedicated to assessing the fulfillment of provisional measures related to the area of prevention of corruption from Chapter 23, for the implementation of which the Agency for Prevention of Corruption has been in charge. The mission, which

stayed in Montenegro from 5 to 9 June, in order to assess the progress in this area, was led by Slovenian and Latvian experts, who had on this occasion a series of meetings with representatives of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and representatives of the State Audit Institution.

**29 JUNE 2017**

**EU EXTERNAL BORDERS EXPERT MISSION COMPLETED**



The expert mission was an opportunity to consider the results achieved during the previous year and to examine the current situation in the area of external borders. An independent expert from Finland, had the opportunity to gain insight during the mission into the procedures

of controlling cruisers in Kotor, to visit the border crossing with Croatia – Debeli Brijeg, the joint border crossing with Albania – Sukobin - Muriqan, and the regional Command Center in Bar, as well as to look at the procedures for controlling the feribot on the Bar-Bari line.

**IPA**

**8 FEBRUARY 2017**

**INFORMATIVE EVENT HELD ON THE OCCASION OF ISSUING OF THE 2ND CALL WITHIN THE INTERREG MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2014-2020**



An informative event was held, organised by the Ministry of European Affairs and the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg MED Programme, presenting the possibilities of the 2nd Call for the Mediterranean Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. Addressing the participants of the event, Minister Aleksandar Andrija Pejović reminded that the European Union has been trying to reduce existing differences between the European regions, with its cohesion policy, in terms of their economic and social development and ecological sustainability, taking into account their specific territorial characteristics and conditions. He added that one of the instruments for implementation of this policy was precisely the Mediterranean Programme, which has supported the transnational cooperation of partners from countries, i.e. the EU region and the IPA beneficiary countries, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the Mediterranean area.

**10 FEBRUARY 2017**

**BILATERAL AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND KOSOVO SIGNED – EUR 8.4 MILLION WORTH**



Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to Montenegro, Mr Skender Durmishi, signed in Podgorica the Bilateral Agreement related to the IPA II 2014-2020 Montenegro-Kosovo Cross-border Programme, as well as the Partnership Agreement.

Minister Pejović emphasised that the signing of the agreements represented the continuation of the good cooperation that the institutions of Montenegro and Kosovo had started in 2010, within the framework of the EU enlargement policy.

**28 FEBRUARY 2017**

**INFO DAY/FORUM FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE 2014-2020 MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME HELD IN ROŽAJE**

Info Day on the establishment of project partnerships was held on 27 February 2017 in Rožaje, organised by the



Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro, the Ministry of Local Government Administration of the Republic of Kosovo and the Joint Technical Secretariat. The event was organised as part of the preparation for the issuing of the First Call for the submission of project proposals under the IPA 2014-2020 Montenegro-Kosovo Cross-border Cooperation Programme.

**17 MARCH 2017**

**CEREMONIOUS CONFERENCE ORGANISED ON THE OCCASION OF ISSUING OF THE FIRST CALL WITHIN THE INTERREG-IPA 2014-2020 CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAM FOR ITALY, ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO**



Addressing the conference participants, Ms Ivana Glišević Đurović, Acting Director General for European Funds of the Ministry of European Affairs, reminded that successful cooperation of the three countries has been continued with the new program, which have jointly implemented 78 projects of total value in the previous seven-year period of EUR 250 million, through the Adriatic Cross-Border Program and two transnational programs - South-east Europe and the Mediterranean Programme. She added that these projects have enhanced the activities in the field of culture, tourism, transport, energy efficiency, environment protection, as well as competitiveness and entrepreneurship, and it has been expected that the cooperation of the three countries would be further developed through partnerships within the new trilateral program, with the total budget of EUR 93 million, including co-financing.

20 MARCH 2017

## CEREMONIOUS CONFERENCE ORGANISED ON THE OCCASION OF ISSUING OF THE FIRST CALL UNDER THE 2014-2020 MONTENEGRO-KOSOVO CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME



In his opening remarks at the Conference, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs, reminded that the successful cooperation between Montenegro and Kosovo, that started in 2010, has

been continued with the new Programme. He emphasised that the projects contributed significantly to the realisation of specific program goals, including the economic development of the program area, protection of its biodiversity and promotion of sustainable use of natural resources, with particular emphasis on the agriculture and forestry sector and the sector of development of tourism.

21 MARCH 2017

## INFORMATIVE EVENT HELD WITHIN THE 2ND CALL FOR THE 2014-2020 INTERREG DANUBE CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

Within the 2nd Call for the 2014-2020 Interreg Danube Co-operation Programme, which will be opened in May this year, EUR 60 million will be allocated for projects



aimed at strengthening transnational cooperation between regions and participating countries, primarily in the areas of innovative and socially accountable action, ecological and cultural activities and a better integrated and energy-responsible region, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs, said in his opening remarks. He reminded that the Danube Transnational Programme supported the transnational cooperation of partners from countries, i.e. the EU region and IPA beneficiary countries, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the Danube Region, with 114 million inhabitants presently. Nine EU Member States and three IPA beneficiary countries have been participating in the Programme, including Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as two beneficiary countries of the European Neighborhood Instrument, Ukraine and Moldova.

30 MARCH 2017

## INFO DAY DEDICATED TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2014-2020 INTERREG DANUBE CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME HELD IN PLJEVLJA



Ministry of European Affairs organised the Info Day in Pljevlja on which the 2014-2020 Interreg Danube Transnational Programme was presented, as well as the conditions for submitting proposals for projects within the

forthcoming 2nd Programme Call, which has been expected to be published in May 2017. Representatives of the Ministry of European Affairs informed there present representatives of local institutions, organisations and the civil sector that within the framework of the 2nd Call, EUR 60 million would be allocated, out of the total program budget of EUR 263 million. The projects to be supported will have the aim of strengthening transnational cooperation between the regions and participating countries, primarily in the areas of innovative and socially accountable actions, ecological and cultural action and a better integrated and energy-responsible region.

## COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

19 JANUARY 2017

### CONSULTATION MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SECTOR ON THE OCCASION OF DRAFTING OF 2017 – 2018 MONTENEGRO'S PROGRAMME OF ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION



Ministry of European Affairs, following consultations of the interested public and collected comments, organised a consultative meeting with representatives of

the civil sector on the 2017-2018 Montenegro's Program of Accession to the EU. The meeting was opened by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs. The meeting was organised in cooperation with the EU funded technical assistance project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Montenegrin Authorities for the EU Accession Process and IPA II Instrument".



**6 FEBRUARY 2017****MEA ISSUED A PUBLIC INVITATION TO NGOs FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WORKING GROUPS FOR CHAPTERS 23 AND 24**

Ministry of European Affairs has issued a public invitation to non-governmental organisations to nominate a member for participation in working groups for the preparation of negotiations on chapters 23 – Fundamental Rights and 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security.

**21 FEBRUARY 2017****MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND THE MONTENEGRIN PAN-EUROPEAN UNION**

Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and the President of the Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Ms Gordana Đurović, signed the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of European Affairs and the Montenegrin Pan-European

Union. The cooperation will be reflected in the implementation of projects of common interest in the field of European integration, such as the organisation of joint conferences, workshops, public debates and similar events of public importance.

**4 APRIL 2017****MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS OF MONTENEGRO**

On the occasion of 4 April, International Students' Day, Minister Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and Dean Nikola Milović signed the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of European Affairs and the University of

Montenegro Faculty of Economics. The Memorandum defines principles and goals of cooperation, as well as activities aimed at its realisation.

Cooperation between the Ministry and the Faculty will primarily be focused on the organisation of joint events, such as conferences, lectures for students and public discussions, as well as on opportunities for joint candidacy for projects aimed at improving information and education, and for encouraging more active participation of student population in the EU accession process.

After the signing of the Memorandum, Minister Pejović delivered a lecture to the students on "European Integration of Montenegro".

After the signing of the Memorandum, Minister Pejović delivered a lecture to the students on "European Integration of Montenegro".

**15 MAY 2017****MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND THE NGO CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION**

The Memorandum was signed by Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs and Ms Milica Kovačević, President of the Center for Democratic Transition.

The signing of the Memorandum is the basis for initiating and implementing joint initiatives aimed at increasing the openness of the European integration process, as well as greater involvement of civil society and citizens in the process of Montenegro's accession to the European Union. The signatories agreed that cooperation would be based on the principles of partnership, transparency and mutual informing. Cooperation will be reflected in the implementation of projects of common interest, such as increasing the transparency and openness of the European integration process, increasing the transparency and openness of the Ministry, improving the cooperation of the Ministry with civil society, improving the process of development and coordination of public policies, and improving citizens' information on accession.

**4 MAY 2017****KOTOR – PUBLIC DEBATE HELD ON "PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SECTOR IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS"**

Director General for Coordination, Monitoring of Compliance and Implementation of Strategies for Determining Public Policies in the Ministry of European Affairs, Ms Zorka Kordić, participated in a public debate on the participation of the civil sector in the negotiation process, organised by the NGO Center for the Development of Non-Governmental Organisations, that was held today in Kotor.

Ms Kordić pointed to the openness and readiness of the Ministry of European Affairs to intensify cooperation with local self-government and non-governmental organisations, especially in the direction of better introduction of the process of EU accession to citizens, as well as informing about the possibilities for realisation of EU funded projects. With regard to this, she reminded of the established mechanisms and significant projects of cooperation with the civil sector, as well as of the activities of the Ministry aimed at informing about the programs of cross-border cooperation and other EU programs, such as Europe for Citizens and Creative Europe.



**5 MAY 2017****EUROPEAN INDEPENDENT LIVING DAY MARKED IN PODGORICA**

Joint task and the need for all of us in the coming years is to work more and better on building European standards and to ensure equal rights for everyone, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European

Affairs said at the ceremony of marking the European Independent Living Day, which was organised today at the Independence Square in Podgorica.

President of the Association of Youth with Disabilities, Ms Marina Vujačić pointed out that the European Independent Living Day was the opportunity to remind ourselves of the importance of self-acceptance and self-determination of people with disabilities.

**11 MAY 2017****PUBLIC DEBATE ON “PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SECTOR IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS” HELD IN PLJEVLJA**

EU-NGO Day was held in Pljevlja, organised by the Center for the Development of Non-Governmental Organisations, with the aim of informing NGOs and citizens about the role and opportunities for civil society organisations in the process of EU accession, attended by Ms Ana Savjak, representative of the Ministry of European Affairs.

The public debate is part of the project “Stronger Civil Society Organisations - Stronger Democracy”, supported by the European Union. In the following period, CRNVO will in cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs organise two more public debates, in the northern and southern regions of Montenegro.

**5 JUNE 2017****EU-NGO DAY ON THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL SECTOR IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS WAS HELD IN BUDVA**

Within the project “Stronger Civil Society Organisations - Stronger Democracy”, implemented by the Center for the Development of Non-Governmental Organisations, with the support of the European Union, public debate on “Participation of Civil Sector in the Negotiation Process”



was held in Budva, with the speech delivery by Ms Ana Savjak, representative of the Ministry of European Affairs. Reminding of the openness of the European integration process in Montenegro and previous cooperation with civil society organisations within the negotiating structure, Ms Savjak pointed to the possibilities of improving joint activities in the field of informing the public about the accession process, as well as about the support provided by the Ministry of European Affairs in submitting the project proposals towards the European Union.

**16 JUNE 2017****PUBLIC INVITATION ISSUED FOR NGOs FOR SECTORAL WORKING GROUPS FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF THE 2014-2020 INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE FOR THE SECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION**

Ministry of European Affairs issued an invitation to non-governmental organisations dealing with topics from the sector of Environment and Climate Action to submit a proposal for the selection of three representatives to the Sectoral Working Group for the Planning and Programming of the 2014-2020 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for the Environment and Climate Action.

**22 JUNE 2017****WORKING BREAKFAST WITH JOURNALISTS HELD**

Working breakfast with journalists was held today, organised by the Ministry of European Affairs and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, on the occasion of opening of negotiations on Chapter 1 – Free Movement of Goods and Chapter 22 – Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments and temporary closing of negotiations on Chapter 30 – External Relations.

Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, talked to the representatives of the media, Mr Goran Šćepanović, Head of the Working Group for Chapter 30 and the

Director General for Multilateral and Regional Trade Cooperation and Economic Relations with Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Economy, Ms Ivana Vujošević, Head of the Working Group for Chapter 22 and the Head of the Directorate for European Affairs Coordination of EU support in the Ministry of European Affairs, and Ms Ana Martinović, Head of the Directorate for Quality Infrastructure at the Ministry of Economy.



be an integral part of all strategic plans and activities and partners in their efficient and qualitative implementation, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs, stated at the Conference “Lo-

cal Self-governments and European affairs”. The Minister stressed that, within the negotiating structure, the local self-governments have been represented in the negotiating chapters in which the implementation of legislation at the level of municipalities was of great importance, and that there were representatives of theirs in working groups for chapters 13 – Fisheries, 14 – Transport Policy, 19 – Social Policy and Employment and 22 – Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments. The conference was organised by the Ministry of European Affairs, in cooperation with the EU funded technical assistance project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Montenegrin Authorities for the EU Accession Process and IPA II Instrument”.

## COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

13 JANUARY 2017

### EUROPEAN DAY IN CETINJE: MINISTER PEJOVIĆ AND HIS ASSOCIATES VISITED THE OLD ROYAL CAPITAL



During his stay in Cetinje, Minister Pejović had a meeting with Mr Aleksandar Bogdanović, the Mayor, and his associates, visited the Wine House and the Protection and Rescue Service of the Old Royal

Capital, as beneficiaries of IPA cross-border projects, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, he participated in the presentation of the EU Program Creative Europe, together with Minister Ljumović.

28 MARCH 2017

### EUROPEAN DAY IN HERCEG NOVI



For the previous two years, the Municipality of Herceg Novi has significantly improved the capacities for dealing with European funds and thus provided additional million

euros for various activities in the field of European affairs, it was assessed during the meeting of Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, Minister of European Affairs, with Mr Dragan Janković, Deputy President of the Municipality of Herceg Novi. The Minister said that for the following seven years, the opportunities for cross-border and transnational connection of the Municipality of Herceg Novi with the regional and European partners were numerous, and pointed out in particular to the opportunities offered within the program with Italy and Albania, where EUR 25 million have been available and future programs such as the Danube and Adriatic-Ionian.

20 FEBRUARY 2017

### EUROPEAN DAY IN NIKŠIĆ



Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, paid a working visit to Nikšić with his associates. As part of the visit, Minister Pejović had a meeting with Mr Veselin Grbović, President of the

Municipality of Nikšić, and his associates, had a tour of successful EU funded projects at the airport in Kapino Polje, as well as locations for building a Senior Home that will be financed from the Regional Housing Program and visited the Gymnasium “Stojan Cerović”.

12 APRIL 2017

### EUROPEAN DAY IN DANILOVGRAD



During his visit, Minister Pejović had a meeting with Mr Branislav Đuranović, President of the Municipality, and his associates, participated in the public debate on European integration of

### CONFERENCE HELD ON “LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS”

The process of European integration brings benefits, but commitments as well, both at the central and the local level, and it is therefore important that local self-governments

Montenegro and presentation of IPA financing opportunities, and visited the Utility Company of Danilovgrad and the Center for Culture who were beneficiaries of the EU funded projects.

Minister pointed out that Danilovgrad has been conceived as a European city in its core, and that it was an example of innovative action towards the European Union. He emphasised that Danilovgrad proved to be very successful in attracting European funds and realisation of projects worth EUR 11 million and expressed pleasure that in this Montenegrin city there have been several institutions headquartered, important for the EU accession process, such as the Asylum Center, Foreigners' Refugee Center, Forensic Center, Police Academy and the Regional School of Public Administration, but also that the Municipality has shown with its activities and projects in the field of culture that it has been getting closer to Europe every day.

9 MAY 2017

## EUROPE DAY MARKED IN ULCINJ



Europe Day was marked in Ulcinj, in the organisation of the Ministry of European Affairs, the Cabinet of the President of the Municipality of Ulcinj, the EU Delegation to Montenegro and the NGO European Movement in Montenegro, with the support of the EU funded technical assistance project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Montenegrin Authorities for the EU Accession Process and IPA II Instrument", and with the organisation of a series of informative and cultural-artistic events.

Minister Pejović said at the public debate on "Europe Day in Ulcinj: an European idea in action in Montenegro," that Montenegro and the Municipality of Ulcinj have been striving for EU membership, while preserving their particularities.

At the central event, held in the Center for Culture, with the cultural artistic program and artistic competition of elementary school pupils, Minister Pejović said: "Today, we are here to mark this day with the young ones, who will tomorrow live, study and work in the EU and enjoy all the benefits that the membership will bring."

29 MAY 2017

## EUROPEAN DAY IN BERANE



Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, paid a working visit to Berane with his associates. During the

visit, Minister Pejović had a meeting with the Mayor of the Municipality, Mr Dragoslav Šćekić, visited the Gymnasium "Panto Mališić" and talked to students of the school about Montenegro's EU accession, took part in a public debate on "The role of the civil sector in the process of EU accession", and visited the Regional Business Center and Incubator.

## OTHER

25 MAY 2017

## NEGOTIATED POSITIONS FOR SEVENTEEN NEGOTIATING CHAPTERS PUBLISHED



In order to improve the transparency of the negotiation process, the Ministry of European Affairs published negotiating positions for the

seventeen chapters on its website that were opened in a dialogue with the European Union in the previous period.

These are the chapters that Montenegro opened negotiations of and with no requests for transitional periods or permanent exemptions: Chapter 4 – Free Movement of Capital, Chapter 5 – Public Procurement, Chapter 6 – Company Law, Chapter 7 – Intellectual Property Law, Chapter 9 – Financial Services, Chapter 10 – Information Society and Media, Chapter 14 – Transport Policy, Chapter 18 – Statistics, Chapter 19 – Social Policy and Employment, Chapter 20 – Enterprise and Industrial Policy, Chapter 21 – Trans-European Networks, Chapter 28 – Consumer and Health Protection, Chapter 29 – Customs Union, Chapter 30 – External Relations, Chapter 31 – Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, Chapter 32 – Financial Control and Chapter 33 – Financial and Budgetary Provisions.

2 JUNE 2017

## MINISTER PEJOVIĆ HOSTED THE INTERNS OF DG NEAR



Minister of European Affairs, Mr Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, hosted the interns of the EC Directorate for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. Fifteen interns, coming from EU Member States, have

been visiting Montenegro as to get acquainted with the process of European integration and preparations for EU membership.

Minister Pejović informed the guests about the process of European integration of Montenegro, implemented reforms and readiness for opening the remaining chapters, as well as the plans for the beginning of the phase of their temporary closure.