

# NEWSLETTER

OF THE MINISTRY OF  
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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## Introductory speech

Dear readers,

Welcome to our Newsletter for the period July-December 2017. The Ministry of European Affairs published the Newsletter, with the aim to present the most important events and activities of this Ministry in the process of EU accession in the second half of 2017. Montenegro has made great success, with 30 opened negotiating chapters and 3 provisionally closed, and with reforms which already gave visible results in many areas.

The 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 understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

*Ministry of European Affairs*



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- Rad na početnim mjerilima

## EVENTS THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD



11. XII 2017

### MONTENEGRO OPENS THE NEGOTIATING CHAPTERS 2 AND 3

Montenegro opened two new negotiating chapters, chapter 2 - Freedom of movement for workers and chapter 3 – Right of establishment and the freedom to provide services, at the Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels. It was stated that by fulfilling obligation from the EU accession process Montenegro had confirmed its strong pro-European commitment and continued its path towards the EU membership. This confirms steady progress of Montenegro in the accession process, as well as that Montenegro remains a leader in negotiations with the EU and a reliable partner of the EU and the Western Balkan region.



10. XI 2017

### STRATEGY FOR WESTERN BALKANS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, said the European Commission will announce on February 2018 its Strategy for the Western Balkans, followed by reports on candidate countries. "Then, during the Bulgarian presidency of the Council, in May 2018, the EU will organize a summit for Western Balkan countries – first time since the Thessaloniki summit in 2003", Hahn said, noting that the EU has a lot of expectations and goals in 2018.

## CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

5. VII 2017

### MINISTER PEJOVIĆ AT THE TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović attended the Trade Policy Committee meeting on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Participants discussed thirteenth review of the EU trade policies. Minister Pejović pointed to positive aspects of reforms of the unified EU market and financial sector development after the financial crisis. He welcomed new regulations that improve transparency, identify risks and provide market stability. Minister Pejović reiterated that the Government of Montenegro was committed to integration process, noting that that this process is condition for inclusive economic growth.



7. VII 2017

### ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY GIVES FULL SUPPORT TO FURTHER CONTINUATION OF MONTENEGRO' NEGOTIATIONS

Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović participated in a meeting of 28 Member States, European Commission and the Council of the European Union with the Chief Negotiators of Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey which was held under the Estonian Presidency in Tallinn. In conversations with the representatives of the EU Member States, Minister Pejović presented the past results in the implementation of reforms, as well as the future plans and activities in all areas, with the focus on the rule of law. The European partners commended the accomplished results in the European integration process and encouraged Montenegro to continue as successfully as before with the implementation of obligations in further phases of the European path.



25. IX 2017

**JUNCKER’S INITIATIVE IS A GOOD SIGNAL FOR MONTENEGRO**

Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović participated in the 13th Conference of European Regions and Cities, organised by the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE) in Salzburg, Austria. Speaking of the EC President Juncker’s initiative for the European Commission to create the Strategy for successful accession of Montenegro and Serbia by the end of 2018, Minister Pejović pointed out that this is the first time, after a long period, that the European Commission gives a time frame within which two countries are expected to implement the necessary reforms and join the European Union. In this context, the Minister emphasised that the Juncker’s initiative is a good signal for Montenegro and Serbia, but also for other countries in the region, adding that each country is progressing according to individual results. Commissioner Johannes Hahn pointed out that the EC President Juncker’s initiative further strengthens the European perspective of the region, stressing that the time frame by 2025 is a moving target and, in fact, there is no speed limit, and it may happen that some countries can access earlier and some later.



29. IX 2017

**ENLARGEMENT POLICY AS AN IMPORTANT DRIVING FORCE**

A group New Leaders for Europe held its meeting named “Transformation of Europe”, in Milan, Italy. A Group for European policies, which is preparing a document for the future of Europe, also met in Milan. Participants of the meeting addressed events on the European political scene, as well as the state of play and challenges regarding economy, security and defence, migration and borders, democracy and governance, and energy and sustainability. Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović noted that the integration processes, when it comes to Montenegro, proved to be the best framework and the path towards development of Montenegrin society and the most effective mechanism for a successful implementation of European and international standards that lead to improvement of life quality.



14. X 2017

**SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS IMPORTANT FOR SUCCESSFUL ENLARGEMENT POLICY**

Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović attended the conference named “Public dialogue in Europe - connecting EU with citizens and neighbours”, held in Berlin, Germany. Minister Pejović pointed out that European institutions and EU Member States need to make additional efforts in order to ensure understanding and support of European citizens to the project of the united Europe. “We need to ensure trust and support of European citizens for projects of common interest for the future of the entire European continent, in order to permanently and soundly trace the pro-European course of all Western Balkans countries”, Pejović said.



16. X 2017

**THE SAA IMPLEMENTATION BRINGS MONTENEGRO CLOSER TO THE EU**

On the occasion of celebrating the tenth anniversary of signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Montenegro and the EU, the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro organized the conference “Tenth anniversary of the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement – the future of European integration of Montenegro”. The event was opened by the President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, and the introductory part was addressed by MEP Eduard Kukan and Director for the Western Balkans in the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Genoveva Ruiz Calavera. Participants expressed their satisfaction with results and progress made so far in the process of EU accession, stating that Montenegro was trying to be an example for other regional countries which were preparing for EU membership, and that the implementation of the SAA was the best frame for that.



18. X 2017

**MINISTER PEJOVIĆ MET WITH EU AMBASSADORS**

Minister for European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović met with ambassadors of EU member states. They pointed out a good dynamics of reforms Montenegro was making in accession process, noting that results were visible in all areas. The meeting was organized by Estonian Presidency in cooperation with the EU Delegation in Podgorica, in order to discuss following steps in accession process and preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference in December. Minister Pejović stressed that all Montenegrin institutions, as well as the negotiating structure, were devoted to fulfilling obligations, both in terms of opening and closing chapters. EU ambassadors noted that EU Member States will continue with their support to Montenegro's European integration, through concrete technical and expert projects.



20. X 2017

**MONTENEGRO IS THOROUGHLY PREPARING FOR EU MEMBERSHIP THROUGH REFORMS IN RULE OF LAW**

Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović met with representatives of EU Member States, Enlargement Council, European Commission and the European External Action Service, in Brussels, Belgium. Representatives of EU Member States said that Montenegro has made visible progress in the area of rule of law, expressing their expectation that progress will lead to opening new chapters by the end of the year. Minister Pejović pointed to the importance of new space for actions when it comes to the enlargement policy, as well as the ability to create new strategic framework for future accessions in line with the messages from the EC.



11. X 2017

**REGION MUST COOPERATE WITH MORE SUCCESS AND DYNAMIC ON INTEGRATION**

Regional Convention on European integration of Western Balkans, organized by European Movement in Montenegro, was held in Skopje. According to the Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, continuation of regional cooperation, successful use of IPA funds for implementation of overall reforms and strengthening administrative capacities for meeting obligations from the accession process was strategic priority of the Government of Montenegro. He stressed that Western Balkans should work together and in a more dynamic way to fight for their place within the EU.



20. XI 2017

**PUBLIC DEBATE ON CHAPTER 3 RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES**

Public debate on Chapter 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to provide services was held in Podgorica. Participants stressed that implementation of activities regarding this chapter will open up significant opportunities, such as the right for Montenegrin business entities to establish a business and work in a stable and continuous way in one or more EU Member States, mutual recognition of professional qualifications, establishment of the single market for postal services, as well as strengthening purchasing power and facilitating international trade. As it was stated, this is the first chapter, after the rule of law, with successfully fulfilled benchmarks for opening negotiations.



4. XII 2017

## TAJANI: WE WANT WESTERN BALKANS TO BE PART OF THE EUROPEAN FAMILY

The final event of the Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Program was held in Aquila. The conference brought together representatives of eight countries in the region, and Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović participated on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. Minister Pejović said that only through coordinated and strategic action, while providing support to concrete, visible activities and projects adapted to local and wider needs, we can ensure further development of the Adriatic basin. European Parliament President Antonio Tajani said that Western Balkan countries must be motivated to complete their work and achieve everything they need to become part of Europe. "We must help politically through projects and send a message that we want the Balkans in the European family", Tajani said.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

3. XI 2017

### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS OF MONTENEGRO IN 5 NEGOTIATING CHAPTERS

Tenth meeting of the Subcommittee on industry, trade, customs, taxes and cooperation with other candidate countries took place in Brussels. European Commission representatives noted that Montenegro has made significant progress during the past year in five negotiating chapters: 1 - Free movement of goods, 16 - Taxation, 20 - Enterprise and Industrial Policy, 29 - Customs Union and 30 - External Relations. They praised Montenegro for the recent success closing chapter 30 - External relations. They pointed out the importance of negotiation process in other negotiating chapters under this Subcommittee for further economic development of Montenegro.



6. XI 2017

## PROGRESS OF MONTENEGRIN AGRICULTURE ON EUROPEAN PATH

Subcommittee on Agriculture and Fisheries held its tenth meeting in Brussels, stating that Montenegro has made progress in the EU accession process in the area of agriculture. Participants of the meeting emphasized the need to pursue a common dedicated work, because of upcoming more intensive phase of further alignment with EU policy, implementation of adopted regulations, with the aim of preparing institutions and agricultural producers for the EU.



10. XI 2017

## EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COMMISSION MEETING

The fifth meeting of the European Integration Commission was held in Podgorica and chaired by the Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović. He emphasized good dynamics in implementing obligations from the Accession Program, which is confirmed by the fact that 76% obligations were implemented during first three quarters.



21. XI 2017

## SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES AND STATISTICS

In the Subcommittee Meeting on economic and financial issues and statistics held in Podgorica, the representatives of Montenegrin institutions informed the European Commission about the progress accomplished during the period between November 2016 and November 2017 in the areas of macroeconomic stability, public finances, financial sector, strengthening economic competitiveness, statistics, internal financial control and external audit. General

Director for Accession to the EU of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ms Jelena Burzan, pointed out that the continuation of implementation of reforms resulted in opening additional four chapters and provisional closure of one chapter.



7. XII 2017

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

The seventh meeting of the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Committee was held in Podgorica. The meeting was opened by the Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović on the Montenegrin side, and on behalf of the European Union, Head of the Unit for Montenegro at the Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Thomas Haglaitner. Minister Pejović pointed out that since the previous Committee meeting Montenegro had made considerable reform progress confirmed by the opening of two additional EU acquis chapters and provisional closure of one chapter. Haglaitner pointed out that the principle of individual accomplishments and progress made by each country in the EU accession process would still determine the pace of accession to the EU.



**VISITS OF THE EU EXPERT MISSIONS IN MONTENEGRO**

20. VII 2017

**FINAL DAY OF THE EU EXPERT MISSION FOR THE AREA OF FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The final meeting of EU expert mission for the area of trafficking in human beings which started on 17 July was held in Podgorica. During this mission independent experts from Belgium, France and Romania had a set of meetings with the representatives of the Montenegrin institutions from the system for fight against trafficking in human beings. Closing the mission, Director General for Accession to the EU of Ministry of European Affairs, Jelena Burzan expressed the expectations that the report of independent experts would provide impartial estimation of current state of affairs in the area of trafficking in human beings and ascertain progress in this area in comparison to the previous expert visit, as well as identify issues in which further effort would be needed in regard to achievement of European standards.



11. IX 2017

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE MEDIA SECTOR SIGNIFICANT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT TOWARDS THE EU**

The opening meeting of the expert mission on the freedom of expression and media was held in Podgorica. Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović said that Montenegro was aware of the existing challenges, but also entirely dedicated to the mutual work on the efficient implementation of commitments which would bring our media sector closer to the European standards, and also con-

tribute to the fulfilment of benchmarks in chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. Head of the EU Delegation in Podgorica, Aivo Orav noted that freedom of press is important for the progress towards the EU membership, but also pointed out that a strong, coherent and efficient self-regulation was the best way of protection of the freedom of press.



IPA

28. X 2017

**THROUGH JOINT ACTIONS TOWARD BETTER ADRIATIC REGION**

The conference related to the financing of the implementation of the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy took place in Cesenatico, Italy. At the conference which gathered high representatives of member states of the region of the two seas, they discussed the challenges and possibilities of the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy, funding of its implementation and the role of the private sector in its development. The Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović noted the common priority of the countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy was to create through synchronised action a "smart region" attractive for financial investments, as well as to ensure through the enhancement of attractiveness, competitiveness and connection, the economic and social growth and progress and stimulate integration of the Western Balkan in the EU.





12. IX 2017

## COMPETITION FOR HIRING THE FINANCIAL OFFICER IN THE JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

The Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro and the Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the operational structures for the implementation of IPA II cross-border cooperation programme Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2014-2020, have called all the interested candidates to apply to the competition for the following vacancy: financial officer in the Joint Technical Secretariat of the cross-border cooperation programme Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro 2014-2020, in Sarajevo.

15. IX 2017

## THE INTERREG IPA CBC ITALY-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO: COMPLETION OF THE FIRST PHASE IN THE PROCESS OF ELECTION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

The control of the eligibility of project proposals sent in the first call under the cross-border cooperation programme Italy –Albania -Montenegro 2014-2020 has been completed. Out of overall 185 project proposals which were sent via electronic application, 137 met the eligibility criteria.

20. IX 2017

## MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EU FUNDING PROJECTS IN MONTENEGRO

In the EU Info Centre, the National IPA Coordinator's Office – Ministry of European Affairs organised a coordinative meeting dedicated to discussing the current issues in the realisation of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). The participants talked about the instrument programming for the remaining three programme years 2018-2020, with a focus on IPA 2018, as well as defining assistance priorities for the following period. Besides the chair of the meeting, Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, other participants of the meeting were Head of EU Delegation Cooperation Section Hermann Spitz with the associates and high programme officers in charge of the implementation of IPA: the national authorising officer and representatives of the Directorate for Financing and Contracting of the EU Assistance Funds of the Ministry of Finance.



21. IX 2017

## EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY MARKED IN PODGORICA

The European Cooperation Day was ceremoniously marked in Podgorica. On this occasion the hosts organised the fair of projects realised under bilateral and trilateral cross-border cooperation, as well as in the Adriatic-Ionian, Danube and Mediterranean transnational programme. They also organised an exposition of photographs which illustrate the results of certain projects successfully implemented in the territory of Montenegro. Visitors of the fair had the opportunity to obtain information of the realised project, as well as the possibilities provided by the European regional and territorial cooperation.



9. X 2017

## THE LAST CYCLE OF TRAININGS FOR INCREASING THE NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE HORIZON 2020

The sixth cycle of trainings for development and implementation of project ideas under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) organised by the Ministry of Science and the European Commission has begun. The training was realised through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), under the project "Increase of the National Participation in the Horizon 2020", and it is attended by the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Centre of Excellence BIO-ICT, Institute for Public Health, Ingispekt, Secretariat for Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection and the Faculty for Food Technology, Food Safety and Ecology. The programme covers the entire process of the preparation and development of project ideas, creation of consortiums, and manner of applying, drafting budget, administrative and contractual procedures as well as the management of concrete project.



24. X 2017

## CLOSING CONFERENCE FOR IPA CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME CRO - MNE, CRO - B&H, AND CRO - SRB FOR 2007-2013

A closing conference was held in Zagreb to present the results achieved under three IPA cross-border co-operation programmes: Croatia – Montenegro, Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia – Serbia for 2007 – 2013. Director of the Directorate for European Territorial Cooperation in the Ministry of European Affairs Miodrag Račeta recalled that as early as 2008, when implementation of the Cross-Border Co-Operation Programme Croatia-Montenegro 2007-2013 started, there was a strong interest in cooperation of organisations and institutions from both countries, and that the amount of requested funds in three public calls was six times greater than the available Programme budget. He pointed out that 18 projects were contracted, totalling EUR 6.8 million, and stressed excellent cooperation between the operating structures of the two countries.



2. XI 2017

## OPENED SEMINAR OF BEST PRACTICE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS

A two-day seminar was opened in Podgorica titled “Best practices in Implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds”. The workshop, which was organised with the support of the project Strengthening the Capacities of the Montenegrin Authorities for the EU Accession Process and IPA II instrument and the Development Co-operation Programme of Slovenia, brought together representatives of institutions involved in the negotiating process for Chapter 22, as well as representatives of the civil sector and IPA management structures in Montenegro. Director-General for European Funds Ivana Glišević Đurović pointed out that Montenegro was committed to the negotiating process and key measures and activities covered by Chapter 22.



10. XI 2017

## MEA REPRESENTATIVES TOOK PART IN A MEETING OF FINANCIERS' GROUP OF WBIF PROJECT

In the organisation of the European Commission and German Development Bank, the 24th meeting of the Financiers' Group of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was held in Sarajevo. Project Financiers' Group, as a regular co-ordination mechanism under WBIF, discussed the information on project proposals submitted by the beneficiaries under the XVIII call for technical support for projects preparation. On behalf of the Ministry of European Affairs, the meeting was attended by Head of the Division for IPA Programming Milica Abramović Radivojkov and independent advisor I Bojan Vujović. Significant progress was noted as regards preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects in the region.



15. XI 2017

## MEA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE CO-ORDINATION MEETING OF MULTI-BENEFICIARY INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)

In the organisation of the European Commission, a regular semi-annual coordination meeting of Multi-Beneficiary Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) was held in Brussels. The meeting presented an opportunity to present enhanced versions of actions proposed for support through the Multi-Beneficiary IPA programme for 2018, whose drafts were presented for the first time at the previous coordination meeting of Multi-Beneficiary IPA meeting held in June 2017 in Sarajevo. The proposed programme for 2018 covers 14 actions, whose total indicative value is EUR 104.1 million, and in the forthcoming period they will be further synchronised and defined. Their adoption is expected to take place in mid-2018.



15. XI 2017

**NEW CALL FOR PROJECTS FUNDING UNDER CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME SERBIA - MONTENEGRO 2014-2020**

A formal conference was organised in Vrnjačka banja for the purpose of announcement of the First call for submission of project proposals under the Cross-Border Co-Operation Programme Serbia – Montenegro 2014-2020. The new call opens the door to additional strengthening of cooperation of people and institutions. Under the call, EUR 2 million is available for the areas of employment and environmental protection, was noted at the formal conference held today in Vrnjačka banja.



around EUR 5 million (initial budget of the call amounted to EUR 25 million), thus enabling more Montenegrin, Italian, and Albanian partners to use IPA funds, acquire additional experience and improve the areas within which project activities will be implemented. Through the joint work of all three countries, the ranked list of projects was established and its funding will depend on the availability of budget, by priorities.



20. XII 2017

**MONTENEGRO LEADER AMONG THE WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES IN ATTRACTING WBIF FUNDS**

The Conference Western Balkans Investment Framework – experiences and opportunities was held in Podgorica, organised by the Ministry of European Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, with the financial support of the EU. It was indicated that a timely and careful planning of investments in the infrastructure, with the support of international partners and the EU, through instruments such as the Western Balkans Investment Framework, presents one of the main preconditions for the development of the economy of Montenegro and the region. Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović pointed out that the EU support to preparation and implementation of projects through the Western Balkans Investment Framework is important for the development of infrastructure in the areas of transport, energy, environmental protection, social activity, and development of the private sector.

8. XII 2017

**MONTENEGRO MAKING THE MOST OF IPA FUNDS**

At the meeting of the Supervisory Committee for Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) held in Podgorica, it was noted that successful use of IPA funds in the previous period serves as a testament to the ability of Montenegrin administration to assume ownership over the pre-accession assistance management and its resolve to make the most of much greater funds that will become available upon the EU accession. On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, the meeting was opened by the Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, and on behalf of the European Commission, Head of the Unit for Montenegro at the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Thomas Hagleitner.



14. XII 2017

**IPA CBC ITALIA-ALBANIA-MONTENEGRO: BUDGET FOR THE FIRST CALL INCREASED BY AROUND EUR 5 MILLION**

The Joint Supervisory Committee adopted the decision to increase the budget of the First Call of Intereg IPA programme of cross-border cooperation Italia-Albania-Montenegro by

## COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

2. XI 2017

### PANEL HELD AT THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCES: “PERSPECTIVES OF EU AND WESTERN BALKANS SIX DECADES AFTER THE TREATIES OF ROME”

The Ministry of European Affairs and the Faculty of Political Sciences organised a panel debate at the Faculty of Political Sciences on the topic “Perspectives of EU and Western Balkans six decades after the Treaties of Rome”. When opening the event, Dean of the Faculty Prof.Dr. Saša Knežević recalled the historical course and development of the European idea and explained that the belief that the strengthening of European partnerships will contribute to the economic development guided the leaders of Western Balkans countries on the integration path. Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro Aleksandar Andrija Pejović pointed out that the Treaties of Rome were the basis and platform on which the European Union and its almost 200 thousand pages of legal texts had been created in the last six decades.



19. VII 2017

### MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND NGO EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IN MONTENEGRO

Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović and President of the European Movement in Montenegro Momčilo Radulović signed the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of European Affairs and the European Movement in Montenegro. The cooperation will be based on the principles of partnership, transparency, and exchange of information, as well as preparation and implementation of the programme for strengthening the capacities of public institutions and civil society in this area, and will be reflected in the implementation of projects of common interest.



28. VII 2017

### NGO ACTIVITIES STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH IN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

A consultative meeting was organised with interested non-governmental organisations that implement activities in the area of European integration. It was pointed out that, on the basis of established good cooperation with the civil sector, the Ministry of European Affairs recognised the importance of participation of NGOs in the process of informing the citizens about the process of accession of Montenegro to the EU, improvement of the capacity of potential candidates for the use of EU funds and Union programmes, drafting of analyses, studies, and quantitative surveys of public opinion on the process of EU accession. The comments of NGO representatives who were present were related to the identification of priority areas and amount of funds allocated for programmes and projects of NGOs.



26. XII 2017

### RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

“Rights of persons with disabilities are important for development of the society. The fact that in EU negotiations as many as 14 chapters in some way deal with rights of persons with disabilities best illustrates the importance of this area”, said Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović at the panel discussion Fundamental Rights and Persons with Disabilities, as organised by the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro and the Ministry of European Affairs. Minister for Human and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka pointed out that the area of human rights keeps us awake and constantly prepares us for a greater and more serious engagement. Executive Director of AYDM praised the partnership relation between the Ministry of European Affairs and AYDM, expressing the expectation that other public authorities will also join this practice. The panel debate is organised with a view to informing the public about the importance of the negotiating chapter 23 for exercising and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.



## COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

22. IX 2017

### EUROPE DAY ORGANISED IN ANDRIJEVICA

The State Secretary of the Ministry of European Affairs Marina Vujačić and Director General for Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development paid the working visit to Andrijevica together with their associates under the project "Europe Day in your city". During the meeting with representatives of the local government, they indicated the importance of using EU funds for realisation of capital and strategically important projects in the interest of citizens and local community. They also agreed on the need for strengthening capacities of the local self-governments for attracting larger amounts of funds that will lead to EU membership.



22. IX 2017

### EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES MARKED IN NIKŠIĆ

Celebration of the European Day of Languages was organised by the Ministry of European Affairs, Municipality of Nikšić and Faculty of Philology and took place in Nikšić theatre. The gathering was opened by the Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović, President of the Municipal Assembly of the Municipality of Nikšić Radivoje Nikčević and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Philology for international cooperation Jelena Knežević. Minister Pejović stated that opening of Montenegro towards the EU could not be successful without language skills. He indicated that the European Union had 24 official languages, which enabled all the people living in it to have access to the entire legislation in their official languages.



6. XI 2017

### EUROPE DAY IN GUSINJE: USE EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT

During their conversation, Minister Pejović and the president of the Municipality of Gusinje Anela Čekić concluded that the local self-governments were supposed to fulfil a number of obligations under the accession process, and that they may seize numerous opportunities provided by European funds, whose efficient use represents prerequisite for the improvement of quality of life of citizens. Minister pointed to substantial possibilities from EU funds that can be used for development of Gusinje and recalled the past projects in this region that were aimed at strengthening rescue service, environmental protection and diversity of the NP Prokletije, village tourism, waste collection and many others.



22. XI 2017

### EUR 2 MILLION ALLOCATED UNDER THE FIRST CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS AIMED AT EMPLOYMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Participants of the info session in Rožaje stated that the beneficiaries would be able to use EUR 2 million for projects in the field of employment and environmental protection within the First call for submission of project proposals under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020. Representative of the Ministry of European Affairs Anita Beriša recalled that cooperation with Serbia started in 2007 and that 34 projects in the amount of EUR 6.2 million were supported through three calls for submission of project proposals opened thus far.



24. XI 2017

**INFO SESSION IN NIKŠIĆ**

At the info session that took place in Nikšić, regarding the publication of the First call for submission of projects within the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020, possible beneficiaries had the opportunity to obtain required information on available funds, eligibility of beneficiaries and costs, possible activities, as well as the method of applying for calls.



28. XI 2017

**SETTING UP THE PLATFORM FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE**

At the info session, which was organised regarding the publication of the First call for submission of project proposals in Prijepolje, representative of the Ministry of European Affairs Anita Beriša stated that the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Serbia-Montenegro 2014- 2020 brought together people and institutions in the border area, while projects led to establishment of platforms for long-term cooperation in the field of culture, education and health care. President of the Municipality of Prijepolje Dragoljub Zindović emphasised the readiness of the local self-government to participate in this call and offer quality project proposals, which will contribute to creation of new workplaces and protection of natural resources.



8. XII 2017

**GOVERNMENT'S GOAL IS TO PREPARE THE STATE FOR EU MEMBERSHIP IN QUALITY MANNER**

The ninth meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee between the EU Committee of the Regions and Montenegro took place in Danilovgrad. Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović stated that the Government's goal was not only to complete the negotiating process, but also to prepare the state for future membership obligations in quality manner. He emphasised the partnership between the Government, negotiating structure and local self-governments, as well as individual municipalities and Union of Municipalities of Montenegro. Other speakers at the meeting were: President of the Municipality of Danilovgrad Branislav Đuranović, Mayor of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje and Co-Chairman of the Committee Aleksandar Bogdanović, Head of the Unit for Montenegro in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Thomas Hagleitner and member of Huddinge Municipal Council in Sweden Jelena Drenjanin.

**OTHER**

25. X 2017

**DECLARATION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE OFFICIALLY SIGNED**

The Declaration of intent to establish the International Scientific Institute in South East Europe was officially signed in CERN (Geneva) by eight countries of the region. Addressing the participants of the meeting, Minister of European Affairs Aleksandar Andrija Pejović expressed the belief that today's signing of the Declaration and the establishment of the Institute will provide additional financial support from the European Union in the field of science and research for improving the education of young scientists, technological transfer from the most prestigious European laboratories and strengthening cooperation in the field of science.



7. XII 2017

### MEA PUBLISHES THE NON-PAPER FOR CHAPTERS 23 AND 24

The Ministry of European Affairs published the Non-paper of the European Commission on the state of play in Chapters 23 and 24, with the aim of providing quality and comprehensive information to the public regarding the process of accession of Montenegro to the EU. By publishing this document that provides the overview of the situation in the field of judiciary reform, fight against corruption, human rights, police cooperation and fight against organised crime, the Government continues to demonstrate a transparent and proactive approach in conducting the negotiating process, and the intention to share with the public its results and intensify the dialogue concerning the current and imminent challenges and commitments in the field of the rule of law.

13. XII 2017

### MORE THAN 100 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AN ONLINE EU QUIZ

The total of 115 senior students of elementary schools took part in an online quiz "How much do you know about the EU?". Cana Bulatović, student of the eighth class of elementary school "Savo Pejanović" from Podgorica won the first place in the competition. The second place belonged to Jovan Popović, student of the ninth class of elementary school "Vuko Jovović" from Danilovgrad, while the third place belonged to Relja Savić, student of the ninth class of elementary school "Sutjeska" from Podgorica. They were awarded valuable prizes – lap top, bicycle and electronic book reader Kindle. The quiz was organised by the Ministry of European Affairs under the project "EU4ME" which was financed by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP.

