NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER ▪

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Introductory speech

Dear readers,

The twentieth issue of the Newsletter of the European Integration presents the most important events and activities in the EU accession process that took place during the second quarter of 2022.

The Ministry of European Affairs is committed to coordinating the work of negotiating structure and intensifying activities aiming at achieving tangible results in all chapters, partnership and cooperation with other authorities, as well as to strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and members in order for Montenegro to take equal place among the European partners.

Also, during the previous three months, we have continued with implementation of activities in terms of coordinating the negotiation process, implementation of IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, as well as the organisation of relevant activities and campaigns.

We believe that this newsletter also represents a contribution to improvement of informing, understanding and knowledge of citizens about the accession process and future membership of Montenegro in the EU.

THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ON EU AND EU ACCESSION PROCESS – SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

EVENT THAT MARKED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD

10. VI 2022.

REPRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPINION POLL – EU KEPT MAJORITY SUPPORT OF CITIZENS

The poll "Citizens' Attitudes on European Integration and Montenegro's EU Accession Process", conducted in May by the "DeFacto" agency for the needs of the European Union and the Government of Montenegro, sampled 1008 citizens across the country and according to the results the membership of Montenegro in EU is still supported by the vast majority of citizens, that has positive attitude towards this community and at the hypothetical referendum that majority would vote in favour of Montenegro becoming the next EU Member State.

The strong support to the European idea when presented in form of numbers states that 76% of citizens have positive attitude towards the European Union, and almost equal number of them 74.6% supports the accession of Montenegro to the European Union. If the hypothetical referendum on this matter would take place tomorrow, almost 90% of voters would vote at the referendum, and more than four fifths of them, i.e. 83.5% would vote in favour of the accession of Montenegro to the European Union.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of European Affairs, Jovana Marović, stated her satisfaction with results of research having in mind the fact that Montenegro has been negotiating for the last 10 years, as well as that the stable trend of support is something rarely seen in the countries that accessed the EU sooner. "When looking at the EU, the citizens see prosperity and improvement of life standard and that makes an obligation for us to implement reforms and make them closer to the EU", Marović said.

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

13. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, AND

THE MINISTER OF ECOLOGY, SPATIAL PLANNING AND URBANISM, ANA NOVAKOVIĆ ĐUROVIĆ, AT THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 27 – ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

"We are happy to see that the new Government initiates the acceleration of the European integration process with the very meeting of the Working Group for Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change. In this chapter, the results in part of national legislation harmonisation with the EU acquis are visible, but there is much work to be done when talking about the application of those laws in practice", the Deputy Prime Minister Marović said. "We are actively moving towards fulfilment of final criteria for Chapter 27. We are determined to achieve measurable progress in the area of environment protection and climate change, in which the citizens of Montenegro will be convinced", Minister Novaković Đurović said.

3. VI 2022.

THE EC PEER REVIEW MISSION ON FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME IN MONTENEGRO

Peer review mission of the European Commission on fight against corruption and organised crime in Montenegro was held in the period between May 30 and June 3 2022.

Justice, Freedom and Security, and it was headed by independent experts from Belgium, Germany, Italy and Austria.

The objective of this mission was the evaluation

Introductory meeting of the mission was opened by the Minister of the Interior, Filip Adžić, and the Minister of Justice, Marko Kovač, while the speaker from the side of the European Union was Riccardo Serri, Head of the European integration, political, press and information section of the EU Delegation to Montenegro in Podgorica.

The Mission is of particular importance in the context of negotiations of accession of Montenegro to the European Union in the Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and in the Chapter 24 – of capacities of Montenegro for facing high level corruption and organised crime, with particular focus on fight against money laundering, through consideration of concrete cases in this area with representatives of the judiciary, State Prosecutor's Office and the Police Administration of Montenegro. During the peer review mission, independent experts in direct communication with representatives of all segments of Montenegrin judicial chain took into consideration cases from the area of corruption and organised crime, from the moment of initiation of investigation until making finally-binding court decisions.

8. VI 2022.

THE 15TH MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND REGIONAL POLICY BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WAS HELD

The State Secretary of the Ministry of European Affairs, Aleksandar Mašković, emphasised that, in area of transport and trans-European networks, working focus is on updating Transport Development Strategy 2019-2035, pursuant to obligations referred to in Action Plan of Strategy for Smart and Sustainable Mobility in the Western Balkans.

He reminded that the Government since the last session of the Subcommittee proclaimed two more protected sea areas: natural park Katič and natural park Ulcinj Old Town, while the natural park Platamuni was previously proclaimed in April 2021.

"In the area of energy and internal energy market, the Parliament adopted the Law on oversight of wholesale market of electric energy and natural gas in compliance with the European Regulation on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency, and Montenegro made an important step forward with successful joining the European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange platform", Mašković said.

He reminded that in the area of regional policy and coordination of structural elements, Montenegro proceeded with activities regarding implementation of Action Plan for fulfilling requirements of EU cohesion policy, as well as with efficient use of available pre-accession support of the EU.

9. VI 2022.

THE 13TH MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE FOR INTERNAL MARKET AND COMPETITION BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WAS HELD

The representatives of Montenegrin institutions presented results achieved in areas of right for establishing companies and provision of services, movement of capital, public procurements, commercial law, law on copyright, competition, financial services, customer protection and health protection. At the thirteenth meeting it is stated that Montenegro made progress in area of competition and internal market, as well as that in the forthcoming period it is important to assure application of adopted legal solutions.

Head of D.2 Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission, Michael Miller, supported commitment of new Government to the European integrations and emphasised current good cooperation with Montenegrin colleagues. He commended the one-hundred-percent compliance of Montenegro with Common foreign and security policy of the EU regarding the Russian aggression to Ukraine, which represents major challenge for Europe. He emphasised the importance of regional cooperation and expressed his support to integration processes within the Common regional market.

The State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, Aleksandar Mašković, said that Montenegro is fully committed to meeting obligations originating from the Common Regional Market Action Plan 2021-2024, and through participation in this type of integration, our country shows readiness to make a step toward the common market of the European Union.

28. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT AT THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

When answering the questions asked by Members of the Parliament, the Deputy Prime Minister Marović said that imposing of sanctions to Russia is in compliance with principles of the international law, in compliance with the Common foreign and security policy of the European Union and in compliance with moral and human principles.

"Montenegro was never silent, it is a feature of Montenegrin citizens – to have delicate sense for justice and freedom. I am proud that Montenegro, together with 140 countries in the world, joined the Resolution respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine", Marović said.

IPA

4. V 2022.

GRANT AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED AFTER THE THIRD CALL WITHIN IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

PROGRAMME BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

IPA PROGRAM PREKOGRANIČNE SARADNJE BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA - CRNA GORA

The third call for submitting project proposals within IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2014-2020 resulted in agreeing five projects: two within the Thematic priority 1 – promotion of employment, labour mobility and social and cultural inclusion, as well as three within the Thematic priority 2 – environment protection, improvement of adjusting and mitigating climate changes, prevention and risk management.

13. V 2022.

OPEN CALL FOR THE DANUBE YOUTH COUNCIL

The call is open in the period between May 9 and August 15 2022, and applicants can be young people between the age of 18 and 28 who have ideas how to shape the Danube region – how to improve mobility, environment protection, competition, education and security in the Danube region?

26. V - 13.VI 2022.

WEBINAR SERIES WAS HELD ON SOURCES OF FUNDING WITHIN THE DANUBE REGION PROGRAMME

The Joint Secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme organised a series of webinars with intention to inform potential users about funding possibilities and priorities within future Danube Region Programme 2021-2027, which is in the process of approval by the European Commission.

There were eight webinars with the following topics: New financial assets for greening the energy and transport sectors; New financial assets for climate change adaptation and disaster management; New financial assets for water and sediment management; New financial assets for protection and prevention of bio-diversities in ecological corridors and eco-regions; New financial assets for accessible, inclusive and efficient labour markets; New financial assets for accessible and inclusive quality services in education, training and lifelong learning; New financial assets for socio-economic development through heritage, culture and tourism and New financial assets for increased institutional capacities for territorial and macro-regional governance.

28. V 2022.

FAIR ON EU PROJECTS WAS HELD

The Fair was organised by the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs, and the manifestation organised as a part of celebration of Month of Europe, was an opportunity for visitors to get familiar with projects implemented by institutions, municipalities, companies, universities and NGO sector, as well as for conversations with potential partners on invitations anticipated in the forthcoming time period.

The Fair was opened by the President of the Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Dr Nina Drakić, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of European Affairs, Dr Jovana Marović and the EU Ambassador in Montenegro, Dr Oana Cristina Popa.

Participation of 45 institutions, organisations and companies, who on more than 60 booths presented over 200 projects they implement confirmed that Montenegro has capacities to work on itself and meet set objectives while using available support of the European funds.

7. VI 2022.

THE FIFTH EXTRAORDINARY CALL FOR SUBMITTING PROJECT PROPOSALS WITHIN THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME (ADRION)

The Interreg V-B Adriatic-Ionian transnational programme 2014-2020 (ADRION) published the fifth extraordinary call for delivering project proposals. Deadline for submitting project proposals is July 8 2022.

The call was intended exclusively to universities, scientific-research institutions and organisations for supporting development of entrepreneurships. The objective of the call is strengthening competencies and skills in areas that are of strategic importance for Adriatic-Ionian region, such as blue economy, social innovations, renewable sources of energy and circular economy.

Within this call, support was provided to preparatory activities dedicated to development of transnational master study programmes in abovementioned areas, which will be realised during the financial perspective 2021-2027. The overall amount of 4 million EUR is allocated for realisation of the project activities by the European Union.

20. VI 2022.

THE INFO DAY WAS HELD ON THE FIFTH CALL FOR SUBMITTING PROJECT PROPOSALS WITHIN ADRION

PROGRAMME

The Ministry of European Affairs organised the info day on the fifth call for submitting project proposals within the Adriatic-Ionian transnational programme (ADRION).

Within the info day, thematic objectives and rules for submitting project proposals within this call were presented to the public and to the potential users.

The fifth call within the ADRION programme is intended exclusively to universities, scientific-research institutions and organisations for supporting development of entrepreneurships. The objective of the call is to strengthen competencies and skills in areas that are of strategic importance for Adriatic-Ionian region, such as blue economy, social innovations, renewable sources of energy and circular economy.

Within this call, support was provided to preparatory activities dedicated to development of transnational master study programmes in abovementioned areas, which will be realised during the financial perspective 2021-2027. The overall amount of 4 million EUR is allocated for realisation of the project activities by the European Union.

22. VI 2022.

ADDITIONAL 1.2 MILLION EUR TO MONTENEGRO FOR PREPARATION OF NEW INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS

At the third Operational Board Meeting of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) that was held in Rome, Montenegro was awarded, as a continuation of EU support in the context of implementation of economic and investment plan for Western Balkans, the amount of additional 1.2 million EUR in grants for the preparation and implementation of new infrastructure projects.

Montenegro, within the 27th call of the Western Balkans Investment Framework for preparation of project documents, submitted two proposals and they were both positively evaluated.

For the project referring to preparation of project documents for the second phase of improvement of waste waters management system in the municipality of Nikšić, through the construction of sewer network for four suburban locations (Rubeža, Oštrovac, Dragova Luka and Ćemenca) in the municipality of Nikšić, the budget is approved in the amount of 625.000 EUR.

Apart from that, the amount of 550.000 EUR supported the project of updating technical documents and preparing tender documents for the second phase of Development of infrastructure for broadband Internet access in Montenegro.

CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

9. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE ROUNDTABLE IN THE FRENCH SENATE WITHIN THE "BALKAN DIALOGUES" INITIATIVE

At the event entitled "Re-thinking the Western Balkans EU Integration in the New Geopolitical Context", Marović spoke at the panel "The impact of the war in Ukraine on the process of European integration".

She said that the aggression in Ukraine was a wake-up call for the whole of Europe, and especially for the Western Balkans, where the current circumstances have confirmed that the European path is the only guarantor of prosperity and security in the region.

"It is time after 10 years of negotiations to intensify substantial reforms in Montenegro in order to unblock the process of European integration, especially in the area of the rule of law where concrete reforms are still expected", Marović said.

17. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE SEVENTH EUSAIR FORUM

EUSAIR adds value and support to the accession process by facilitating the adoption of the EU acquis, strengthening administrative capacity, establishing and developing synergies with European Territorial Cooperation programmes and offering a framework in which different levels, processes, strategies and funds can strive for common results", the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of European Affairs, Jovana Marović said at the 7th EUSAIR Forum in Tirana.

While speaking at the panel 'The EUSAIR as a key tool to bring the European Green Deal in the Adriatic and Ionian Region and to facilitate EU enlargement in the Western Balkans", she said that the newly formed government remains committed and open to regional and macro-regional cooperation in various initiatives in order to make the accession of the EU - not only of Montenegro but also of the entire region - closer, more realistic and more successful.

"I hope that concrete EU initiatives such as the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans will be implemented and visible onsite for the benefit of our citizens. It is important that such EU initiatives are both politically and project-oriented, in order to help each country, region and macro-region to preserve, protect and develop its valuable potentials", Marović concluded.

20. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE QUEER MONTENEGRO

"It is required to enhance strategic framework, to strengthen law enforcement institutions, but also to improve cooperation of the Government and civil sector in order to improve the status of the LGBTI persons, overcome problems they are facing and raise awareness about the importance of tolerance in the whole society", Marović said.

She said that, although it is significant, it is not enough only to put rainbow colours on the building of the Government of Montenegro on the Day of fight against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia, but we all must work each day on full protection of

rights and freedoms of LGBTI persons.

"We will use the institutional position of the Ministry of European Affairs to continuously focus on open issues and problems that the LGBTI community faces, with the aim to overcome them", Marović emphasised.

27. V 2022.

THE EUROPE HOUSE IN PODGORICA IS OPEN

Europe House, formerly known as the EU Info Centre, was inaugurated in Podgorica, renovated, modernised, and adapted to the new needs of the wider community, dedicated to the promotion of the European Union in Montenegro. The ceremonial ribbon was cut by the Ambassador of the European Union, Oana Cristina Popa, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, David McAllister, and the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of European Affairs, Jovana

In her speech, the Minister Marović stated that Europe House would help Montenegro bring the European Union closer to citizens.

"Here, we will have the opportunity to talk, to understand each other better, and to learn from each other. Montenegro belongs to the European family because we share the same values, history and future. For this reason, Europe House should be a symbol of European identity," Marović said.

Marović.

30. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE CONFERENCE "THROUGH THE EYES OF DECISION MAKERS: LEARNED LESSONS AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE PATH TO THE EU"

The conference was organised by the The Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) within the project "Vox populi – Implementation of Better Choices", supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

Marović said that the polarisation in society needs to be reduced and that the key positions should be covered by persons of integrity recognised in its work and supported by all the political parties.

"The first thing we need is the agenda to appoint key functions and key positions in prosecutor's office and in judiciary in general. What is necessary is the perception that the judiciary is independent, that it is not under political influence of any party and that we finally have independent institutions that can ensure the rule of law", Marović said.

7. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE CONFERENCE "MONTENEGRO AND OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP) – TIME FOR ACTION "

The conference was organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and at the event it was stated that the new National Action Plan for Open Government Partnership (OGP), that should be concluded by the end of the year, will provide citizens with better access to public services, more inclusion in creation of policies for public funding, as well as inclusion of insufficiently represented groups in creation of policies.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of European Affairs, Jovana Marović, said that she believes Montenegro has the best legislative framework in the region in terms of participation of citizens in creation of public policies.

"The point where the problem emerged and where we should further work on is the implementation of legislative framework. We have obligatory public debate for all the laws. However, in many cases the public debates were shortened, reports were problematic, certain recommendations and suggestions provided by the civil society were not appropriately responded", Marović said.

20. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE #WORLDREFUGEEDAY2022

The event was organised in cooperation between the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Government of Montenegro and partners, on occasion of celebration of the World Refugee Day.

"Montenegro is a country that fosters the open door policy to displaced persons for 30 years. At a single moment, in our not so distant past, each fifth citizen in Montenegro had the refugee status", Deputy Prime Minister Marović said.

She stated that, since 24 February when the Russian aggression to Ukraine started, 24.000 citizens of Ukraine passed through Montenegro, and 8.400 of them found temporary sanctuary.

"We are obliged to foster European values and to work in accordance with the UN agenda, but even more important, to show solidarity and to be human beings. That is the message which we must recall today, on the World Refugee Day", Marović said.

23. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE PANEL HELD IN BRUSSELS ON THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2022

At the panel entitled "Economic and Investment Plans in EU's neighbouring regions; putting the Global Gateway into motion", Marović said that the strengthening of regional cooperation, economic consolidation and political support present key elements for further successful implementation of Economic and Investment Plans in Montenegro and for realisation of projects planned within it.

"Montenegro works with due diligence on strengthening democratic institutions, strengthening economic development and it is committed to the implementation of Green agenda. Thus, the Green growth and the connection agenda are priorities pursued by the current Government with dedication, with the objective to create preconditions for successful implementation of planned infrastructural projects and further prosperity of Montenegrin society", Marović said at the panel.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SECTOR

13. VI 2022.

THE PUBLIC INVITATION FOR NGOs TO PROPOSE A REPRESENTATIVE FOR A MEMBER OF THE RULE OF LAW COUNCIL

The Ministry of European Affairs, pursuant to the Decree on the election of representatives of non-governmental organizations to the working bodies of the state administration and conducting a public debate in the preparation of laws and strategies, published the Public invitation for NGOs to propose a representative for a member of the Rule of Law Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, CONGRATULATED THE CITIZENS ON EUROPE DAY VIA VIDEO MESSAGE

The Deputy Prime Minister Marović, via video message, congratulated the citizens on Europe Day, the day of remembering the beginning of establishment of the European Union, the day when we should remind ourselves of the values on which the EU is based and persevere along the path of unity, solidarity and respect for diversity.

"Happy Europe Day and Victory Day over Fascism, when we are reminded of why it is important to persevere along our path to the European Union. I hope that next year we will be one step closer to the family of European countries", Marović said.

Marović emphasised that, although we celebrate

9 May as the day when fascism was defeated, we still have to fight against everything that represents fascism, against all fascist outbursts, and that it is our obligation to the European Union and on the European path.

12. V 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, VISITED THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

Together with the Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Ana Novaković Đurović, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of European Affairs, Jovana Marović, visited the International Book Fair in Podgorica.

16. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, HELD THE SPEECH AT THE SESSION OF WOMEN PARLIAMENT AT THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

"Each woman who stood up for herself actually stood up for every woman in Montenegro", Marović said on that occasion.

She stated that gender-sensitive language, involvement of women in politics, prevention of violence over women and selective abortion and insisting that the position of women is improved present the key topics and responsibility for all of us.

2. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, AND THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, ALEKSANDAR MAŠKOVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE MARCH IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

The Embassy of Ukraine in Montenegro organised the march in support of Ukraine in Cetinje in order to mark 100 days of Russian invasion to Ukraine.

3. VI 2022.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, JOVANA MAROVIĆ, PARTICIPATED THE ACTION "LET MONTENEGRO SHINE" WITH HER ASSOCIATES

The action "Da zablista Crna Gora" was organised by the Airports of Montenegro, and in that manner, the company joined the initiative of the Coalition for sustainable development, during which numerous public areas were cleaned in Montenegro.

"We are glad to see that the Ministry of European Affairs, together with the Airports of Montenegro, joined the Coalition for sustainable development "Da zablista Crna Gora", and that through cleaning of space in front of the airport building, we symbolically sent the joint message about the importance of environment protection and preservation", Marović said.

"Just before June 5, the World Environment Day, we would like to, through this symbolic action, emphasise the importance of environment protection in the process of negotiations, as one of the most important and the most demanding tasks on path to the EU. I hope that such actions will become regular practice and that we will, through our own example, demonstrate to the citizens that this is the only country we have and that it is our duty to save it for future generations", Marović emphasised.