NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER
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Contents

- EDITORIAL
- NEGOTIATIONS ON EU ACCESSION
- IPA
- CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS
- COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR
- OTHER

Opening speech

Dear readers,

The twenty-second number of the Bulletin on European integration presents the most important events and activities in the EU accession process during the fourth quarter of 2022.

The Ministry of European Affairs is dedicated to coordination of the work of the negotiating structure and intensifying activities with the aim of creating tangible results in all chapters, partnership and cooperation with other bodies, as well as strengthening ties and relations with EU institutions and members so that Montenegro takes an equal place among European partners.

And during the previous three months, we continued to implement activities regarding the coordination of the negotiation process, IPA, cooperation with local self-governments and the civil sector, and the organization of appropriate activities and campaigns.

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

MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

SECTOR FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU AND THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS - GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

4. X 2022.

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, CUSTOMS AND TAXES

On the Montenegrin side, the meeting was opened by Acting Director General of the Directorate for EU Accession and EU Acquis, Marko Mrdak, and on behalf of the European Commission, Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DGNEAR), Barbara Hesus-Jimeno.

The meeting was an opportunity to consider the progress achieved in the areas covered by Chapter 1 - Free movement of goods, Chapter 16 - Taxes, Chapter 20 - Entrepreneurship and industrial policy, Chapter 29 - Customs and Chapter 30 - External relations, in relation to the previous meeting of the Subcommittee held on 5 October 2021

"Montenegro remains committed to fulfilling its obligations from the Stabilization and Association Agreement and making progress in the negotiation process, regardless of the political uncertainty in the country. Despite the current political situation and the changes in the Government during the past year, the public administration remained resilient and demonstrated that it has sufficient capacity to continue fulfilling the requirements and obligations within the framework of the EU agenda", said Mrdak. He said that the results achieved between the two meetings of this Subcommittee are a confirmation of the professionalism and clear dedication of civil servants who work diligently, even though changes in management positions make it difficult to implement reforms.

"Renewed political focus on enlargement gives Montenegro a chance to advance on its path to the EU. The pace remains in the hands of Montenegro and will be determined by the progress you make," said Jimeno.

She said that the EU welcomes the proactive and constructive engagement of Montenegro, both with the World Trade Organization and with the Common Regional Market. She also welcomed the measures taken by Montenegro regarding the prohibition of tobacco storage in the Bar free zone, but underlined that significant challenges remain in eradicating the illegal tobacco trade, including the destruction of confiscated property.

5. X 2022.

THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INNOVATION, HUMAN RESOURCES, INFORMATION SOCIETY AND SOCIAL POLICY

The meeting of the Subcommittee was opened on the Montenegrin side by the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, Aleksandar Mašković, and on behalf of the European Commission, the head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the General Directorate for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DGNEAR), Michael Miller.

"In accordance with the new methodology accepted by Montenegro, our key priority remains the achievement of measurable results in chapters 23 and 24, despite the current political situation in Montenegro," said State Secretary Aleksandar Mašković. He emphasized that the representatives of the relevant institutions are determined to advance the situation in the areas that are the subject of the Subcommittee, achieving credible results on the ground.

"With the support of the EU, especially through financial support within the IPA II and IPA III perspectives, as well as through Horizon 2020 and the Horizon Europe program, I am sure that we can do even better things in the coming period," Mašković said. He also pointed out that in the mentioned areas there are many challenges so it was very important to improve the policy of investing in human capacities, particularly providing young people with the opportunity to learn and specialize and most importantly to keep them in Montenegro.

Michael Miller said that the geopolitical changes had a negative effect on Montenegro as well, but that they also represented a strengthened momentum for the accession process. In this context, he remembered that EC President Von der Leyen, in her State of the Union speech last month, reiterated her commitment to the enlargement policy and reminded of the importance of Montenegro's compliance with the sanctions imposed on Russia due to its aggression against Ukraine.

6. X 2022.

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND EUROPE

Over the past period, Montenegrin institutions have continued to work towards fulfilling their obligations and reaching European standards in the areas of agriculture, food safety and fisheries. Progress in these areas is underway, but it is essential to continue strengthening administrative capacities, harmonizing legislation with EU rules and making the best use of EU pre-accession support for natural development, it was assessed at the fifteenth meeting of the Subcommittee for Agriculture and Fisheries between Montenegro and the European Commission, which was held today in a hybrid format in Podgorica.

Opening the meeting of the Subcommittee, acting Director General in the Ministry of European Affairs Marko Mrdak said that Montenegro is optimistic when it comes to messages from the highest EU

"Taking into account the current European security situation and the global instability caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Montenegro, as a NATO member and a candidate country for the EU, remains strongly committed to all EU positions when it comes to the EU's Common Foreign and Security addresses which confirm that the EU door is open for our country, perhaps more than ever, but that concrete progress on the way to EU membership can not be achieved only by political decisions, but through concrete implemented reforms.

Policy, as well as to fight against contemporary challenges brought by new and unconventional security threats, including cyber attacks, hybrid threats, terrorism, disinformation, climate change or artificial intelligence", said Mrdak.

12. X 2022.

VICE PRESIDENT MAROVIĆ ATTENDED THE PRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs Jovana Marović attended the presentation of the European Commission's Annual Report on Montenegro.

"The findings of the European Commission Report are a realistic and good guide for what needs to be done. It is necessary for all parties to take responsibility as soon as possible in order for the political situation to be stabilized," said Marović.

In the case of Montenegro, the priority for further overall progress in the negotiations remains the fulfillment of the interim benchmarks in the area of the rule of law, defined in chapters 23 and 24. In order to reach this milestone, Montenegro needs to intensify efforts to resolve open issues, including

critical areas of freedom of expression and media freedom, the fight against corruption and organized crime, and the credibility of the judiciary. This requires political stability and the constructive engagement of all actors, which leads to the establishment of a stable government and a broad political consensus in the Parliament on key reforms

18. X 2022.

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES AND STATISTICS BETWEEN MONTENEGRO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On the Montenegrin side, the meeting was opened by Bojana Bošković, co-chair of the Subcommittee and representative of the Ministry of Finance. On behalf of the European Commission, the meeting was opened by Michael Miller, head of the D2 unit for Montenegro and Serbia in DGNEAR.

The meeting was an opportunity to review the progress achieved in the areas covered by Chapter 17 Economic and Monetary Union, Chapter 18 Statistics, Chapter 32 Financial Supervision and Chapter 33 Financial and Budgetary Provisions,

since the previous meeting held on October 21, 2021.
At the meeting, it was assessed that in the previous period, Montenegro continued its activities in the field of economic criteria, which was also recorded in this year's Report of the European Commission, in the domain of the existence of a functional market economy, where good progress was noted.

24. XI 2022.

THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED NEW DECISIONS ON THE FORMATION OF TEN NEGOTIATING WORKING GROUPS

The Government of Montenegro adopted new decisions on the formation of negotiation working groups for ten negotiation chapters: Freedom of movement of goods, 2. Freedom of movement of workers, 5. Public procurement, 6. Commercial law, 7. Intellectual property law, 8. Competition, 19. Social policy and employment, 20. Entreprise and industrial policy, 22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments and 28. Consumer and health protection.
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs Jovana Marović explained that the negotiation structure is being transformed in accordance with the requirements of the New Methodology of EU Accession.
As she informed, the changes to the working groups were approached keeping in mind personnel changes in the institutions responsible for the implementation of the obligations arising from the negotiation process.

"Our goal is to operationalize the existing negotiation framework, by reducing the number of members of negotiating working groups and by better coordinating the complete process, to make negotiating working groups more operational and efficient in their work," said Marović.

5-9. XII 2022.

EXPERT MISSION ON THE SUBJECT OF INDEPENDENT SUPERVISORY AND REGULATORY BODIES

Closing the mission, Miloš Radonjić, head of the Working Group for Chapter 24, pointed out that the peer review mission was of extraordinary significance due to the fact that representatives of Montenegrin institutions, through direct communication with independent experts, managed to assess the current situation on the legislative and institutional level and identify shortcomings and weaknesses of the system through consideration of specific cases under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman institution, the Agency for Electronic Media and the Agency for the Protection of Personal Data and Free Access to Information.

12. X 2022.

EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY CELEBRATED IN NIKŠIĆ

The Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro marked the Day of European Cooperation by donating didactic toys to children who are beneficiaries of the Association for Helping People with Disabilities in Psychophysical Development in Nikšić.

Handing over the didactic toys, the state secretary and national IPA coordinator at the Ministry of European Affairs, Aleksandar Mašković, pointed out that 2022 is the European Year of Youth, which emphasizes the importance of young people for building a better future and a more inclusive society.

"Toys are an important stimulus for the psychophysical development of children. The support provided by Association in Nikšić to children with disabilities is truly priceless. Support is equally important for parents, as it helps them find a balance between childcare and obligations at work," Mašković said.

The donation is part of the activities carried out by the Ministry of European Affairs in order to mark the Day of European Cooperation 2022, and it was financed

from the IPA cross-border cooperation program Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro 2014-2020.

The delegation of the Ministry of European Affairs also visited the Municipality of Nikšić and held a meeting with the President of the Municipality, Marko Kovačević, and his associates in order to provide information on cross-border cooperation programs.

15. X 2022.

EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN BERANE

In Berane marked the Day of European Cooperation 2022, organized by the Ministry of European Affairs. The state secretary of the Ministry of European Affairs and the national IPA coordinator Aleksandar Mašković and his colleagues visited this municipality, as well as the head of the Department for Cooperation in the Delegation of the European

"The municipality of Berane is one of the best examples of how European funds are successfully managed, so it is no coincidence that we are celebrating this year's European Cooperation Day here," said Mašković.

Visiting the projects that are implemented in Berane through various cross-border cooperation

Union in Montenegro Ingve Engstrom.
They met with the President of the Municipality of Berane, Vuk Todorović, and his associates in order to discuss current projects financed from European funds, as well as the possibilities ahead through the new IPA III program period.

programs, Mašković emphasized that the Municipality of Berane had very good cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs, adding that he believes that numerous European projects will be implemented in this municipality in the future period.

23. XI 2022.

INFORMATION DAY ABOUT THE FIRST CALL WITHIN THE INTERREG IPA SOUTH ADRIATIC PROGRAM

The Ministry of European Affairs organized an info day in Podgorica about the first call for project proposals under the new Interreg IPA programme South Adriatic, which promotes cross-border cooperation between Italy, Albania and Montenegro. The Info Day, which was organized in cooperation with the Joint Secretariat and the Programme Managing Body, attracted a big number of institutions and organizations from all over Montenegro, which are interested in receiving support for the implementation of projects in cooperation with partners from the Italian regions of Puglia and Molise and Albania.
Opening the event, Acting Director of the Directorate for European Affairs at the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović, said that the countries in the South Adriatic region shared joint potentials and common challenges, which is why close cooperation was of key importance for the prosperity of this area. "Cooperation in the area of the South Adriatic has been significantly improved through the Interreg IPA cross-border cooperation programme between Italy, Albania and Montenegro 2014-2020, which is now coming to an end. Through this programme,

numerous projects in the field of competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, tourism and culture have been supported, as well as environment and energy and sustainable transport. I am convinced that these achievements will continue within the framework of the new programme, for which around EUR 81 million will be allocated for new projects in the programming period 2021-2027 ", Vujović said, underlining that all this would not be possible without the support of the European Union, whose funds are used to finance the majority of this programme.

30. XI 2022.

THE INTERREG IPA SOUTH ADRIATIC PROGRAMME OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN BARI

A formal conference, during which the new Interreg IPA South Adriatic programme that supports cross-border cooperation between Italy (Puglia and Molise regions) Albania and Montenegro was officially launched, took place in Bari.

In the programming period 2021-2027, the new programme will enable the financing of cross-border projects in the total amount of EUR 81 million through several calls, of which the European Union provides the largest part of the funds, while the rest will be co-financed by the territories participating in the Programme.

Talking about the strategic significance of the new programme, Irena Bošković, head of the Directorate for Inter-Regional Programmes and Macro-Regional Strategies at the Ministry of European Affairs, said that the South Adriatic was a region of great opportunities thanks to its geographical characteristics and cultural-historical diversity.

"The previous Interreg IPA cross-border cooperation

programme Italy - Albania - Montenegro 2014-2020 enabled connection of hundreds of institutions and organizations from three countries through projects with a total value of EUR 84 million. We are convinced that this cooperation will continue to be a driver of sustainable economic development and social innovation, and that it will contribute to the prosperity of the South Adriatic region and form a better future for everyone who lives in this area," Bošković said.

5. XII 2022.

EU APPROVES ADDITIONAL EUR 40 MILLION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN MONTENEGRO

Montenegro was granted additional EUR 40 million from the European Union for 3 new infrastructure projects, decided participants of the second meeting of the Operational Committee of the Western Balkans Investment Framework. Montenegro was represented at the meeting by Acting Director General for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović with his colleagues.

In the area of environmental protection, the project for improving communal infrastructure in the municipalities of Kolašin, Mojkovac and Rožaje projects was approved. With EUR 23 million, the EU, in cooperation with the European Investment Bank, will support the construction of wastewater treatment plants in Kolašin and Rožaje and the improvement of the water supply system and the expansion of the sewage network in Kolašin, Rožaje and Mojkovac with a total value of EUR 34.12 million.

In addition, through the education programme in Montenegro, the EU and bilateral donors of the WBIF have allocated EUR 11 million, which, in addition

to the already approved loan from the European Investment Bank, will co-finance the construction and adaptation of infrastructure in kindergartens, primary schools, gymnasiums and vocational secondary schools, in accordance with principles of energy efficiency.

In addition, EUR 6 million of grants were approved for supplementing the feasibility study, environmental impact assessment and preparation of the main projects for continuation of the construction of the Bar-Boljare highway, i.e. new sections of the road.

9. XII 2022.

MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORY IPA COMMITTEE

"Continuation of timely implementation of projects and good coordination of all actors in the system for managing EU funds is crucial in order to fulfil obligations arising from the part of the EU accession process that refers to pre-accession support" – said participants at the meeting of the Supervisory IPA Committee, which was organized in Podgorica.

On the Montenegrin side, the meeting was co-chaired by the Acting General Director for EU Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs and Deputy National IPA Coordinator, Bojan Vujović, with participation of representatives of line ministries, non-governmental organizations, European Commission and the EU Delegation to Montenegro.

In his opening address, Vujović recalled the most important achievements in the area of using EU pre-accession funds during 2022.

When it comes to further successful use of EU funds, he emphasized that, in order to face the energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, the European Commission has allocated EUR 30 million in grants, which will be intended for overcoming the identified challenges and mitigating the impact of crisis, with focus on vulnerable groups in Montenegro.

On behalf of the European Commission, the deputy head of Unit D2 for Montenegro and Serbia in the General Directorate for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Cindy van den Boogert, said that the European Union's funds were aimed at supporting the implementation of the most important reforms within the negotiating process, as well as further strengthening of institutional capacities.

13. XII 2022.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ALLOCATES EUR 117 MILLION FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN CROATIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO

European Commission has allocated twice the amount of funds for the new cycle of cross-border cooperation between Croatia, Bosnia and

Herzegovina and Montenegro when compared with the previous programme, thus support for the period 2021 - 2027 will be increased from EUR 57 to 117 million.

This was announced by Acting Director General of the Directorate for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović, at the official conference in Zagreb, where the new Interreg VI - IPA cross-border cooperation programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Montenegro was presented.

He pointed out that cross-border cooperation gave us the possibility of responding to common challenges, implementing common potentials and creating a better future for all people living in this area.

"Thanks to projects under the previous programme, together we managed to improve the quality of life

of citizens at the local level, including the areas of public health and social protection, environmental protection, prevention of risks and natural disasters, and energy efficiency. In addition, together we managed to enrich the tourist offer based on cultural and natural heritage in all three countries, and improved the business environment by strengthening competitiveness", Vujović said.

27. V 2022.

EQUIPMENT FOR MECHATRONICS AND ROBOTICS OFFICIALLY AWARDED TO SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FROM NIKŠIĆ AND GYMNASIUM "SLOBODAN ŠKEROVIĆ" FROM PODGORICA

Tehnopolis Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre organised the press conference regarding the official award of equipment for mechatronics and robotics to Secondary Vocational School from Nikšić and Gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović" from Podgorica, through the iNnovaNet project, which is implemented by Tehnopolis in cooperation with Zenica Development Agency Zeda (BIH), Industrial Park Nova Gradiška (CRO) and the City of Gradiška (BiH), and which is financed through the INTERREG IPA CBC programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro.

On this occasion, the Acting Director General of the Directorate for European Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs, Bojan Vujović, said that this project was a great indicator of how European Union funds can be used to work on very high-quality things: "This is exactly what you can see in this example of awarding valuable equipment for mechatronics and robotics to secondary schools. I would also like to point out IPC Tehnopolis as a good example of how projects funded by the European Union can significantly improve the service and what is offered to the community via organization like this".

CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

24. XII 2022.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAROVIĆ

PARTICIPATES IN FORUM "WOMEN, PEACE, SECURITY"

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani Sadria, Deputy Prime Minister Marović participated in the "Women, Peace, Security" forum in Pristina. Participants of the mentioned forum were high officials of the states of the region and beyond, as well as experts and civil society representatives.

It is essential to fortify gender equality and eliminate gender discrimination, with complete integration of women in decision-making process, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs Jovana Marović said.

In the context of current global events, the forum was an opportunity for participants to exchange opinions, experiences and lessons learned about position of women and girls in society, particularly during the period when peace and security are threatened due to war in Ukraine.

25. X 2022.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAROVIĆ PARTICIPATES IN THE CONFERENCE "REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS - CHANCES AND MISCONCEPTIONS"

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs Jovana Marović participated in the conference "Regional initiatives in the Western Balkans - chances and misconceptions", which was organized by the Centre for Civic Education - CGO.

"The government is open to all forms of regional cooperation, and MEA prepared an analysis of the Open Balkans from the aspect of European integration process and invited all relevant institutions to contribute within their jurisdiction. "We will soon send an invitation to civil sector representatives," Marović said.

3. XI 2022.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAROVIĆ PARTICIPATES IN THE FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND RESEARCH CENTRES 2022

Deputy Prime Minister Marović took part in online panel "Ensuring sustainable and resilient investments in infrastructure" within the framework of the "Civil Society and Research Centres Forum 2022", which was organized by the German Aspen Institute and the Association of Southeast Europe.

The purpose of the panel was to provide platform for exchange of best practices for civil sector networking, within which key messages were emphasized when it comes to the need to create favourable environment for development of non-governmental organizations, with strengthening of public administration capacities for effective participation of civil society in the entire process of proposing and implementation of infrastructural projects.

"Given that one of the most important strategic goals of Montenegro is to develop infrastructure in accordance with Economic and Investment Plan

(EIP), an important factor for solid investment planning, project preparation, as well as their successful implementation is the involvement of the civil sector in timely identification and implementation of the most important infrastructure projects, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs Jovana Marović said.

18. XI 2022.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAROVIĆ PARTICIPATES IN THE FORUM "BUILDING TRUST AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY"

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs Jovana Marović took part in the panel "Responsible public administration for stronger democracies in Eastern and South-eastern Europe and the Middle East and North Africa - focus on Ukraine", within the global forum "Building trust and strengthening democracy", which was held in Luxembourg.

Marović pointed to importance of consistent application of Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU, and the need to introduce sanctions against those who do not respect it but want to be a member.

As she said, the EU must speak with one voice and find more efficient models in order to preserve democratic assets inherited from its foundation. In

this context, she pointed out the importance of full integration of countries of the Western Balkans, through better and more efficient application of the new accession methodology and more specific benefits for the citizens of countries undergoing the accession process.

26. XII 2022.

MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ ĐUROVIĆ PARTICIPATES IN THE CONFERENCE "LBTQ, WOMEN AND GENDER

POLICIES IN THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS”

While opening the conference, the Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and coordinator of the work of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ana Novaković Đurović, said that this topic was very important because it showed how fundamentally we had transformed and matured as a society on the way to reaching European standards and values.

She recalled that, when it comes to the current composition of the Parliament of Montenegro, 27% of mandates are held by women. As regards the Government, she added Government ministerial positions are occupied by 3 women, i.e. 17% of the composition, which, as she said, showed that a lot of work still needed to be done in order for gender policies to substantially become a reality on the ground.

As regards the negotiating structure, Novaković Đurović mentioned its structure, highlighting the fact that out of 648 members, 422 were women and 226 were men. Out of 30 NGO representatives in the negotiating structure, 18 are women and 12

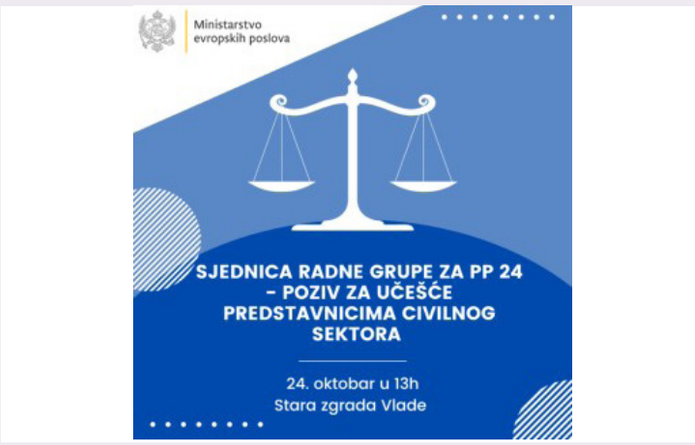
are men. Furthermore, out of 27 working groups with appointed heads of working groups, women are leading 17 working groups, i.e. making 63%.

“Working groups do most of the work, so it’s no surprise that most of them are women. However, the higher the positions and the higher the level of decision-making, the number of women decreases. Our goal is that, if we can’t achieve the goal of having more women at decision-making positions, at least we can create a balance, so that there are as many of them as men holding the aforementioned positions”, Novaković Đurović said.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SECTOR

24. X 2022.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SECTOR PARTICIPATE IN A PLENARY SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 24



The plenary session of the Working Group for Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security was held on 24 October. The Ministry of European Affairs invited all interested representatives of the civil sector to take a part in the session of the Working Group.

8. XI 2022.

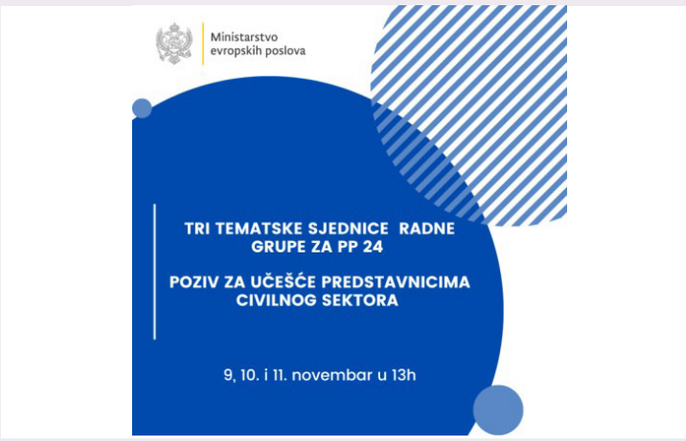
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SECTOR

PARTICIPATE IN A THEMATIC SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 24

The thematic session of the Working Group for Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security was held on 8 November. The Ministry of European Affairs invited all interested representatives of the civil sector to participate in the session of the Working Group.

9-11. XI 2022.

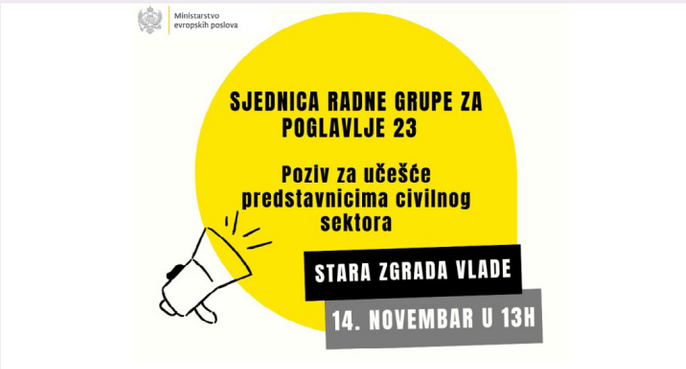
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SECTOR PARTICIPATE IN THEMATIC SESSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 24



Thematic sessions of the Working Group for Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security, on the topic of the European Commission Report on Montenegro, were held on 9, 10 and 11 November.
The Ministry of European Affairs invited all involved representatives of the civil sector to take part in the thematic sessions of the Working Group.

14. XI 2022.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SECTOR PARTICIPATE IN A SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR CHAPTER 23



The plenary session of the Working Group for Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights was held on 14 November and the Ministry of European Affairs invited all interested representatives of the civil sector to participate in the work of the Working Group.

OTHER TOPICS

9. XI 2022.

EUROPEAN DAY IN ULCINJ

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs, Jovana Marović, and the Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Ana Novaković Đurović, paid a working visit to Ulcinj with their colleagues.

The visit is part of the project called European Day in Your City, which also included a meeting with President of the Municipality, Omer Bajraktari, and his colleagues, as well as a visit to the Mixed High School Brotherhood - Unity and discussion with students about Montenegro's accession to the EU.

As part of the visit, a public debate was organised addressing the topic: Significance of Accession Negotiations for Local Self-Governments.

Furthermore, the Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of European Affairs, Jovana Marović, and the President of the Municipality of Ulcinj, Omer Barjaktari, visited the Native Museum - Ulcinj, which is being renovated under the Interreg Trilateral Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro.

16. XI 2022.

TWENTY-FIRST EDITION OF THE MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIR' BULLETIN PUBLISHED

The twenty-first Bulletin on European Integration presented the most important events and activities in the EU accession process during the third quarter of 2022.

13. XII 2022.

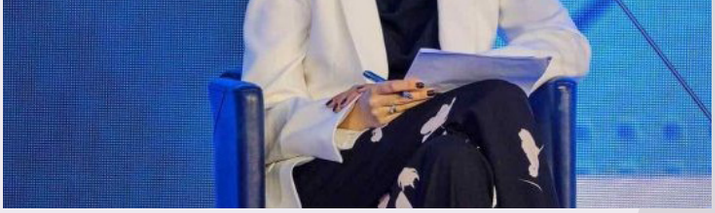
MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ ĐUROVIĆ: GREAT CITIZENS' SUPPORT FOR EU MEMBERSHIP IS A STRONG IMPULSE AND OBLIGATION TO GO FORWARD IN REFORMS

On the occasion of presentation of results of the public opinion poll Citizens' attitudes about European integration and the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU, Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and coordinator of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ana Novaković

Đurović, said that she was happy with the fact that the results of the latest public opinion poll clearly showed that a significant percentage of citizens of Montenegro wanted Montenegro to be part of the European Union.

Novaković Đurović underlined that the slight increase in terms of support for EU membership, which now amounts to 77.8%, confirmed that our citizens had recognised European integration as a project that provides better standards, better quality of life for each individual and that represents a benefit for the entire society.

She said that European integration and reforms were improving Montenegro, bringing the standard of living closer to the European quality of life, and



added that the Government had been regularly working to bring Montenegro closer to European standards.

"These results are also a clear message of what our citizens expect from all political entities. That is why all of us, without exception, must make additional efforts and implement necessary reforms in order to build a better society and ensure that Montenegro takes its place and becomes the next EU member ", Minister Novaković Đurović said.

14. XI 2022.

PRIME MINISTER ABAZOVIĆ AND MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ ĐUROVIĆ AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro, Dr Dritan Abazović, and coordinator of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ana Novaković Đurović, spoke with Šifra Oliri at the headquarters of the European Court of Human Rights.

What was highlighted at the meeting is that the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has been enjoying great trust of the citizens of Montenegro for years.

They agreed that proper and complete application of the Convention on Human Rights and the practice of the Strasbourg Court in the national framework represented a prerequisite for establishment of the rule of law.

During the meeting, Prime Minister highlighted that the existence of an effective national legal remedy, such as a constitutional appeal, was jeopardised by non-election of judges of the Constitutional Court.

"Citizens deserve to get justice in their home country. Since we have started implementing reforms in the Prosecutor's Office, which are already producing results, I believe that we are on the right track to reform the judicial system in the period ahead of us together as a society," Prime Minister said.

16. XII 2022.

ONLINE QUIZ HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EU

The General Secretariat of the Government, as part of implementation of the Strategy for Informing the

Public about Montenegro's Accession to the European Union for the period 2019-2022, traditionally organises an online quiz called "How much do you know about the EU?" every year in December.

The quiz aims at encouraging young people to research and learn as much as possible about the European Union and the process of Montenegro's Accession to the European Union.

Students of the eighth and ninth grades of primary school took part in the quiz.

The General Secretariat of the Government invited primary school students to register and participate in the research, obtain more information and improve knowledge about the EU, the process of Montenegro's accession to the EU, perspectives, chances and challenges on the way to the EU membership.

23. XII 2022.

WINNERS OF THE HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EU? QUIZ VISIT THE GOVERNMENT

Students from the eighth and ninth grades of primary schools who participated in the online quiz How much do you know about the EU? visited the Government. The quiz was organised by the General Secretariat of the Government - Sector for informing the public about the European Union and Montenegro's accession to the European Union, in which 60 students from all primary and secondary schools in Montenegro participated.

Secretary General of the Government, Boris Marić, Minister of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and Coordinator of the Ministry of European Affairs, Ana Novaković Đurović, and State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs, Milena Žižić, met with the three winners, as well as the ten best-placed quiz participants.

During conversation with the representatives of the Government, the students pointed out that the citizens of Montenegro already had been feeling the benefits of the accession process by means of IPA funds and numerous programmes, and that these benefits and opportunities would be much bigger when we become a member of the EU.

29. XII 2022.

ELEVENTH EDITION OF

EUROKAZ PUBLISHED

Through several columns, Eurokaz presented current events from the negotiation process, the results of reforms implemented by Montenegro in the process of accession, and successful examples of the use of EU funds.

The interlocutors of Eurokaz spoke about current topics from the negotiation process and about current events when it comes to the functioning of the EU.

Those who write and speak for Eurokaz are representatives of the Government of Montenegro, European Commission, journalists of Montenegrin printed and electronic media, as well as representatives of local self-governments, private sector and non-governmental organisations.

In the eleventh edition of Eurokaz, you can read interviews with the European Commissioner for Transport, Adina Valean, and with the Ambassador of Sweden, Anika Ben David.