Editorial Dear reader,

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Minister of European Affairs **Maida Gorčević** talked

in Brussels with the European Commissionaire for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Oliver Varhelyi.

European Commissionaire said that Montenegro,

after a period of stagnation, had to use favourable

offers and overview of the key developments and activities in the EU accession process that took place in the fourth guarter of 2023. The Ministry of European Affairs is committed to

coordinating the work of the negotiation structure and intensifying activities aimed at producing tangible results in all chapters, ensuring partnership and cooperation with other bodies, and strengthening the

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OCTOBER - DECEMBER

2023.

European family as one of equal partners.

ties and relations with EU institutions and EU Member States so that Montenegro can take its place in the During the previous three months, we continued implementing the activities aimed at coordinating the negotiation process, IPA, cooperating with local selfgovernments and civil sector, as well as organizing appropriate activities and campaigns. We believe that this Newsletter contributes to raising the level of information, understanding and awareness among our citizens about the accession process and

together with the functional legislative and judicial branch of power, can intensify reforms in the field of the rule of law. It is in our common interest to speed up the negotiation process. We count on Montenegro and keep strongly supporting you on

internal and external circumstances to meet the that path," said the Commissionaire. key requirements and implement the necessary Minister Gorčević conveyed the message of full reforms. commitment and determination of the Government to work together with the other two branches of Varhelyi the expectation expressed that

Montenegro would manage to mobilize all its capacities in the period ahead to meet the interim benchmarks set in the chapters 23 and 24 that are crucial for further course of accession negotiations

with the European Union. Government to the obligations stemming from our "I believe that all prerequisites have been met so EU agenda," said Gorčević. that the stable and pro-European Government,

23. XI 2023

INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF THE RULE OF LAW WITH HIGH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE **EUROPEAN UNION**

Court Vesna Vučković, President of the High Court

in Podgorica Boris Savić, acting Supreme State

Prosecutor Tatjana Begović, and Chief Special Prosecutor Vladimir Novović represented the

judicial branch of power in the meeting.

In the meeting with high representatives of the European Commission, the Ministry of European Affairs brought together all the managers of relevant institutions in the field of the rule of law. The meeting was attended by the minister Maida negotiation chapters. Gorčević and the ministers of justice and interior, Andrej Milović and Danilo Šaranović. "The fact that in today's meeting we have managers of all relevant institutions in the field of the rule of Acting President of the Judicial Council Vesna Simović Zvicer, acting President of the Supreme law speaks for itself about our joint commitment, joint responsibility and strong awareness about

Ivan Jokić and Vukosav Ivanović. The meeting was attended also by Jelena Perović, Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption. On this occasion, the Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General of the European Commission for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Michael Miller said that Montenegro should focus on meeting the interim benchmarks in the chapters 23 and

16. XI 2023 16TH MEETING OF THE EU-MONTENEGRO SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL **ISSUES AND STATISTICS** Sixteenth meeting of the Subcommittee between European Union and Montenegro for economic and financial issues and statistics took place in Podgorica.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of

European Affairs **Maida Gorčević** who commented on the achieved progress and remaining obligations

in the chapters 17 – Economic and Monetary Policy,

18 - Statistics, 32 - Financial Supervision and 33

"Our economic priority for the period ahead is

Financial and Budget Provisions.

MICHAEL MILLER

public finances and economic diversification, which will result in a much better assessments in the next

with the heads of the negotiation groups to discuss Montenegro's progress on the European integration path. He emphasized the importance of high quality and professional negotiation structure in that process. The President informed the participants about the priorities in the internal and foreign policy, key meetings and summits he attended in the period behind and the strong support that numerous countries expressed regarding the acceleration of Montenegro's European path.

OF NEGOTIATION GROUPS

President of Montenegro Jakov Milatović met

13. X 2023

human resources, information society and social

policy took place on 13th October in Brussels

in a hybrid format. The meeting discussed the

results achieved within the negotiation chapters

2 - Freedom of movement for workers, 10 -

Information society and media, 19 - Social policy

and employment, 25 - Science and Research and

On behalf of the European Commission, the co-

26 - Education and culture.

MEETING OF THE MANAGERS OF ALL RELEVANT 24 in the field of the rule of law. In his opinion that would be a significant turning point in the process of Montenegro's accession to the European Union, and ensure that the country can speed up the accession process and start closing the remaining

the moment that we are in," said the Minister of

She underlined that the election of the seventh

judge of the Constitutional Court that happened the day before was a good signal in that context

and at the same time a strong encouragement to

our country on the path towards its membership in the EU. She added that having the complete

Constitutional Court would definitely open a new

Minister Gorčević emphasized that, in addition to these appointments, Montenegro was working hard

on the implementation of all necessary activities

that would lead to meeting the remaining interim

perspective in the accession negotiations.

European Affairs, Maida Gorčević.

benchmarks in the chapters 23 and 24, particularly in the fields of judiciary, combating corruption and organized crime, freedom of expression and media.

MAIDA GORČEVIĆ

EC Report," emphasized the Minister Gorčević.

The meeting was co-chaired by the State Secretary

in the Ministry of Finance Bojana Bošković and

Cindy van den Boogert, deputy head of the Unit for

Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia

in DG NEAR van der Boogert emphasized that the

enlargement process was high on the EU agenda

and that Montenegro should use the momentum to

speed up the reforms and stimulate the enlargement

process. She underlined the importance of the

new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans that

was designed to bring Western Balkans closer to

the EU through encouraging crucial reforms and

of the European Commission (DG NEAR).

supporting WB countries with a view to achieving stronger development of their economies.

State Secretary of the Ministry of European Affairs

Milena Žižić presented Montenegro's achievements

in the negotiation process, which was followed

by all participants presenting their work in their respective chapters and the key priorities and

challenges that they are faced with in their fields. In conclusion, President Milatović said that the

process of EU integration was a joint effort that

required connections and cooperation of all branches of power and all institutions since it was

the messages that are coming from the EU officials

about the right moment to speed up our efforts

in the integration process," says the Head of the

Mission of Montenegro to the EU Petar Marković.

He underlines that meeting the closing benchmarks

is a priority for the Government when it comes

to the open chapters within this Subcommittee,

but that Montenegro remains equally committed to implementing the appropriate education and

den Boogert underlined how important it was to

continue implementing the IPARD II as the highest

priority, to avoid further allocation of funds and to

start the implementation of IPRD III programme as

soon as possible because it could bring enormous possibilities to farmers and food processing

Rakočević underlined that Montenegro was fully

committed to working on obtaining the closing

benchmarks. She informed the meeting that

the Government of Montenegro had used the

period between two Subcommittees to adopt two

important documents for Montenegrin agriculture - Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development

with the Action Plan and IPARD III programme. She

emphasized that adoption of these documents

showed that Montenegrin commitment to meeting

She presented the achieved results and further

plans in the chapters 1 – Free Movement of Goods,

16 – Taxation, 20 – Enterprise and Industrial Policy,

29 – Customs Union and 30 – External Relations.

the closing benchmarks was absolutely clear.

the only way to achieve the desired results.



PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO JAKOV MILATOVIĆ

DISCUSSED MONTENEGRO'S PROGRESS ON THE

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PATH WITH THE HEADS



16TH MEETING OF THE EU-MONTENEGRO

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

business.





border area.

INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, MONTENEGRO WAS ALLOCATED ADDITIONAL 112.6 MILLION EUROS FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS. long superstructure in the Sozina tunnel, 17 km of The meeting of the Strategic and Operational Board the station tracks and 6 km of shunting tracks. of the Western Balkan Investment Framework took

possible time the proposal of the Reform Agenda, In addition to the existing support to the Western with concrete proposals of support measures Balkan countries, the European Commission in three priority fields: business environment, proposed an additional investment package of 6 billion euros, comprising 2 billion euros of grants, digitalization and innovation and energy. They said that the Government would propose 60 to 80 and 4 billion euros in form of favourable loans. reform measures that would be implemented in the Out of this amount, 413 million are planned for forthcoming 4 years, which would be a precondition Montenegro. for allocation of a part of the financial support. "In this way, EU wishes to encourage economic growth, reduce significant differences in the It was also underlined that a part of the reform agenda would include some of the crucial reforms in standard of living between Western Balkan and the field of the rule of law and public administration the EU and encourage the region to implement more intensive reforms in the European integration reform that are of particular importance for the process", says the EC. process of accession to the EU.

MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

The Conference that took place in Podgorica

promoted the results of the projects implemented during the financial perspective IPA II with a view

to improving the quality of living for citizens of

14 Northern municipalities in Montenegro and 3

It was noted that Montenegro and Serbia had

been cooperating successfully for 15 years already

within the programme of cross-border cooperation with the support of the European Union, and that

the cooperation would continue in the future as

"During the financial cycle that covered the period

from 2014 to 2020, we contracted 28 projects of the total value of more than 7.7 million euros.

Contribution of the European Union is 6.4 million.

Since the beginning of the cross-border cooperation

in 2008 until today, more than 15 million euros

were allocated for the projects implemented

by institutions and organizations from these

well, within the Programme Framework IPA III.

districts in Western Serbia.

FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE IPA II PROGRAMME

OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION SERBIA-

The meeting that took place in Podgorica was cochaired by the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs **Bojan Božović** and the Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Policy (DG NEAR) Michael Miller, while the participants were representatives of line ministries, European Commission, Delegation of the EU in Montenegro, and the civil sector. The message from the meeting was that the New Growth Plan for the Western Balkans envisaged a double increase in the funds to be allocated by the European Union to the states in the accession process in the forthcoming four-year period,

24. XI 2023 The meeting took place in Podgorica and was dedicated to the presentation of contents and expected results of the projects the contracting of

protection, sustainable tourism, social inclusion, strengthening administrative capacities and other specific goals. **CONFERENCE OF THE PROGRAMME INTERREG IPA** CROATIA - B&H - MONTENEGRO 2014-2020 Elvira Habota, Director of the national body of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Directorate for European Integration, emphasized that the purpose of the programme of territorial cooperation was inter alia to help everyone deal with the challenges that the states could not solve alone. The State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro Bojan Božović, said that the conference was a crown on the very successful

cooperation between the three countries, reminding

that the total support allocated by the EU for the 59

implemented projects amounted to more than 57.2

Deputy Head of the Sector for cooperation Liselotte

Isaksson greeted the conference on behalf of the

Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro.

She underlined that the European Union was proud

of having supported these projects because they

improved the lives of people living in the areas

In the Info-Day, that took place in Podgorica, potential beneficiaries were presented programme

priorities, as well as rules for submitting project

The second call for the Danube Region Programme is opened for state institutions, state-owned companies, local self-governments, civil society organizations and private companies interested in implementing projects in the field of environment

proposals within this call.

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO DISCUSSED THE GROWTH PLAN AND **AGENDA OF PRIORITY REFORMS WITH THE** REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The ministers said that the Government would

prepare and submit to the EC in the shortest

two countries," said Maida Gorčević, Minister of

Minister for European Integration of the Republic

of Serbia Tanja Miščević reminded that cross-

border area had benefited hugely from the funds

that actually were not so big, while beneficiaries were diverse, from local self-governments, non-

governmental organizations, new businesses,

Ambassador of the European Union in Montenegro

Oana-Cristina Popa said that European Union was

proud of having supported these projects because they significantly improved the lives of people living

start-ups, and vulnerable groups.

European Affairs.

Minister **Gorčević** underlined that Montenegro

highly appreciated additional EU support through

the new Growth Plan and expressed her belief that it would be an efficient mechanism for starting

reforms that were needed to bring the accession

process back to track and to improve the quality of

daily lives for citizens.

in the areas included in the programme. "Programmes of cross-border cooperation of the European Union build stronger ties between neighbouring countries and prove that cooperation can be powerful in dealing with common challenges. As such, they constitute a clear illustration of the EU commitment to the united, prosperous and peaceful Europe," concluded Ms Popa.

MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR THE Božović.

INITIAL MEETING WITH THE BENEFICIARIES OF **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROJECTS WITHIN** THE FIRST CALL IN THE DANUBE REGION **PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027** beneficiaries in the procedure of implementation of the projects. Within the First Call, Montenegrin institutions and organizations achieved exceptional success

MEETING OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE **DANUBE REGION PROGRAMME** The meeting that took place in Vienna decided that 60 projects would be conditionally approved for financing through the First Call for Project Proposals within the Danube Region Programme. Within the 60 projects that were conditionally

implementation. Danube Region Programme is the instrument of the European Union that promotes cooperation between institutions and organizations in the Danube region. In addition to Montenegro, the 37 institutions programme area includes 13 countries that are located in the Danube basin region: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Germany (Federal Provinces Baden-Wurttemberg and Bavaria), Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine.

future Montenegro's membership in the EU. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS MINISTER GORČEVIĆ MET THE EUROPEAN **COMMISSIONAIRE VARHELYI IN BRUSSELS**

> power on ensuring that the remaining obligations in the field of the rule of law are met as soon as possible. "I am here to convey the message about the consensus of political parties, but also to express strong commitment of all ministers in the

On behalf of the Police, the meeting was attended by the acting Director of the Police Directorate Nikola Terzić, and heads of the Division for Criminal-Intelligence and Group in the Special Police Division

certainly to implement fully the programme "Europe" Now 2", that will use improvements of economic and fiscal parameters to pave a clear path towards brighter and healthier economic future. That will have a strong effect primarily on the stabilisation of

18. XI 2023

16th meeting of the EU-Montenegro Subcommittee for agriculture and fisheries took place in Brussels with a view to getting an overview of the last year's developments in the sectors of agriculture, rural development, fisheries and aquaculture. Subcommittee was co-chaired by Cindy van den **Boogert**, Deputy Head of the Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General of the European Commission for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Policy and Director General of the Directorate for rural development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Industry, Andrijana

Rakočević.

European Commission invited Montenegro to

increase efforts, particularly on harmonization of

its legislation, since there were some important

draft laws, for example in the fisheries and

aquaculture, waiting in the Parliament since 2019 due to the political instability in the country. Van

Krunić, acting Director General of the Directorate

for international trade and economic cooperation

in the Ministry of Economic Development and

Call for

The conference "We shape the future together"

Herzegovina and Montenegro, with the support of

the European Union, constituted the foundation of

sustainable development and European integration

representatives of the three countries, presented

result achieved within the programme framework

IPA II, that included the financial period from 2014

Opening the conference, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Development and EU

Funds of the Republic of Croatia, Domagoj Mikulić,

congratulated to all beneficiaries on the achieved

results and emphasized that the implemented

projects contributed to the improvement of

infrastructure, increasing thus the economic

activities and generating new jobs in the cross-

place in Brussels, and Montenegro was represented

by the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević

The meeting decided that Montenegro would be allocated additional 112.6 million euros for the

reconstruction of the railway, including the 6.5 km

Delegation of the Government of Montenegro, comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development Nik Gjeloshaj, as well as the Minister of European Affairs, Maida Gorčević and Minister of Energy and Mining Saša Mujović, participated in the meeting dedicated to the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. In this

that

that

was

message

cooperation between Croatia,

proposals

Apply now!

cross-border

Bosnia

attended

by

million euros.

covered by the programme.

10. X 2023

IPA 14. XII 2023 MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ORGANIZED AN INFO-DAY ABOUT THE SECOND CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS WITHIN THE DANUBE REGION **PROGRAMME Danube Region Programme**

2021-2027

12. XII 2023.

conveyed the

of this region.

The

to 2020.

conference,

Tourism.

8. XII 2023 IN THE MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC AND **OPERATIONAL BOARD OF THE WESTERN BALKAN**

with associates.

28. XI 2023

meeting, with the representatives of the European Commission they discussed Growth Plan and Agenda of Priority Reforms. They presented plans of the Government in the implementation of the policies in the fields of business environment, digital transformation and innovation, reforms of the energy sector for encouraging green transition, and the rule of law.

27. XI 2023

24. XI 2023

approved,

there

are

were discussed as well.

which is expected by the end of the year. Activities that will be implemented by Montenegrin partners Beneficiaries were presented the news on the level of the Danube Region Programme, with an emphasis on the Second Call that was in progress at the time, as well as on the forms of support that the Ministry of European Affairs provided to the 25. X 2023

and that Montenegro was expected to be fully committed to the implementation of reforms in

the forthcoming period, particularly in the fields of the rule of law, strengthening of administrative capacities and strategic planning, so that the country could use the available funds. Opening the meeting, Bojan Božović said that the Growth Plan for Western Balkans is closely connected to the reform processes that this

organizations from Montenegro participating in 31 projects, which is two times more than the entire previous financial perspective 2014-2020. The total amount of funds allocated to Montenegrin partners amounts to 5.4 million euro. It is expected that the procedure of contracting projects will be finished by the end of the current

INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA) Government planned to undertake. "We are determined to put the reforms in the field of the rule of law as the key priority so that as soon as possible we could create conditions for gradual closing of the negotiation chapters," emphasized Michael Miller emphasized that the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans constituted a strategic shift in the way in which pre-accession support was allocated to the countries candidates for EU membership. Explaining the new strategic approach, Miller emphasized that the new Growth Plan was focused on reforms, particularly in the field of the rule of law, and that it was therefore necessary that the EU funds were used to speed up the reform processes. Participants commended the progress achieved so far in using the EU funds and implementing the projects funded therefrom. It was concluded that administrative and professional capacities had to be strengthened for the purposes of strategic planning, preparing mature projects and successful use of EU funds.

participating with 31 out of the total number of 60

projects that were conditionally approved, which is

two times more than the entire previous financial

Total amount of funds allocated to Montenegrin

partners amounts to about 5.4 million euro.

perspective 2014-2020.

year, after which the project partners will start their

The meeting of the Monitoring Committee of this cross-border cooperation programme between Italy, Albania and Montenegro, that took place in Shkodra, decided to support 40 projects through the First Call for Small Scale Project Proposals within the programme Interreg IPA South Adriatic. Institutions and organizations from Montenegro will participate in 36 of them. The approved budget within this call amounts to 6.8 million euro, while Montenegrin partners will have the total amount of 1.4 million euro at their disposal.

The meeting agreed on the key elements of the

standard call for submitting project proposals, the

announcement of which is expected by the end of the current year. Within this call, beneficiaries will

The meeting confirmed readiness for the beginning

of implementation of five strategic projects

that were approved within the South Adriatic

programme. Strategic projects will be implemented

through participation of institutions from all three

states, while the leading partners in two projects

will be from Montenegro - Ministry of Culture and

Media and Institute for Marine Biology.

have about 38 million euro at their disposal.

9. X 2023 DAY OF INTERREG COOPERATION MARKED IN KOTOR

Ministry of European Affairs, in cooperation with the support, including the Institute for Marine Biology, Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro, Maritime Faculty, Centre for Culture, as well as the Ministry of Culture and Media. As for the future

projects of cross-border cooperation achieved so far and future possibilities for financing projects by

the European Union.

participated in.

the EU funds.

marked the Day of Interreg Cooperation by a visit to the Municipality of Kotor. Delegation of the Ministry, led by the State Secretary and National IPA Coordinator Milena Žižić and the Head of the Sector for Cooperation in the Delegation of the EU Yngve Engstrom with associates, met with the President of the Municipality of Kotor Vladimir Jokić and talked about the results of the

Ms Žižić emphasized that organizations from

Kotor had an opportunity to apply for funds from

8 programmes of cross-border and territorial

cooperation, out of the 11 that Montenegro

"Let me remind that only within the Programme framework IPA II, that covered the period from 2014 to 2020, 23 projects of cross-border and territorial cooperation were implemented in the territory of the Municipality of Kotor. Institutions and organizations used EU grants in the amount of almost 7 million euro," added Ms Žižić. President of the Municipality of Kotor expressed gratitude for the continuous support that the Ministry of European Affairs and the Delegation of the European Union had been providing to the local self-governments and other actors in applying for

"Through EU funds for cross-border cooperation several beneficiaries from our municipality received

6. X 2023

In Zlatibor, certificates were allocated to 10 projects supported through the Third Call of the IPA II Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation Serbia-Montenegro 2014-2020, in the total value of 2.2

The projects will be implemented by the institutions and organizations from the programme area

Žižić and ambassador of the European Union

in Serbia **Emanuele Giaufret** signed financial

agreement between the partner states and the

energy efficiency and environment protection. Head of the Sector for Cooperation in the Delegation of the EU Yngve Engstrom emphasized that the cross-border cooperation was the basic idea of the united Europe, while programmes and people who implement them relentlessly worked on that goal. "In cooperation with the Ministry of European Affairs, in the last 15 years, we have successfully implemented hundreds of different projects all around Montenegro and we are committed to continue doing that in the future. New cross-border programmes will be aligned with the European priorities like the EU Agenda for Digital and Green Transition. These new projects have a goal to transform local communities into competitive, innovative, smarter, and greener areas. Such transformation will lead to the opening of new jobs, better services, cleaner environment, and many other conveniences for local population", said Engstrom.

projects that will be supported by EU funds, I would like particularly to mention the construction of the

water-supply and sewage grid in the municipality,

that is to solve the issue of the water-supply

systems and systems for discharging waste-

water permanently. Our intention is to secure

additional funds with the support of the Investment

Framework for the Western Balkans", said Jokić,

adding that, in the future period, the Municipality

will dedicate special attention to the projects of

European Commission for the implementation of

the Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation Serbia

- Montenegro 2021-2027 within the programme

framework IPA III. The Monitoring committee for

this programme was also established. It comprises representatives of the key institutions of these two

"I am exceptionally pleased to see continuation

of cooperation between Serbia and Montenegro

through the next Programme framework IPA III.

In cooperation with the colleagues from Serbia,

with the financial support of the European Union,

we managed to secure funds in the amount of 8.4

million euro for the Programme of Cross-Border

Cooperation Serbia-Montenegro for the period 2021-2027, which is a significant investment

into development of the territory included in this

She reminded that cross-border cooperation

between Serbia and Montenegro had started in

2008 and that since then, within the financial cycles

IPA I and IPA II 62 projects had been contracted, of

the total value of more than 13 million euros.

programme," said Ms Žižić.

CERTIFICATES ALLOCATED FOR 10 PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE THIRD CALL OF THE IPA II PROGRAMME OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION SERBIA-MONTENEGRO 2014-2020

that includes 10 municipalities in Serbia and 14 municipalities in Montenegro - mostly in the North of the state, while their implementation will contribute to increasing the employability and opportunities for employment, improved waste management and wastewater treatment, as well as to the improvement of capacities for using tourism potentials. On that occasion, Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia Tanja Miščević, State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs of Montenegro and National IPA Coordinator Milena

million euro.

CONFERENCES, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 7. XII 2023 MINISTER GORČEVIĆ SPOKE IN THE PANEL "EU

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF

MONTENEGRO PARTICIPATED IN THE MINISTERIAL

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević spoke in the panel "EU Enlargement: New Geopolitical Urgency " organized by the Institute Friends of Europe in Brussels. On that occasion, she said that the process of European integration was not an ephemeral political decision, but a choice of generations that was shaping our society. "Being a part of the generation that firmly believes in the idea of European Montenegro and European Western Balkan region, I will strongly advocate implementation of all the required reforms so that we can make the many-years-long wish of

our citizen come true, and that is to achieve the

MEETING IN SKOPJE

17. XI 2023

Upon the invitation of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Northern Macedonia, the Minister of Finance **Novica Vuković**, together with the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and Minister of Economic Development Nik Gjeloshaj, attended the Ministerial meeting that took place in Skopje.

The panel of the representative of the countries signatories to EUSDR that are in the process of joining EU was dedicated to the topics of strategic planning and financing of activities that can contribute to achieving the goals of this strategy on the national level. The Panel took place in Brdo near Kranj in Slovenia. European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) has a significant role in the process of European integration, regional cooperation and strengthening of the relations between EU Member States and candidate countries, said **Bojan Vujović**,

Funds in the Ministry of European Affairs.

and

appropriately integrated in the national strategies

and programmes, as well as in the priorities of the

goals

priorities

"EUSDR

24. X 2023

Director General of the Directorate for European

protection of the environment and development of transport infrastructure, particularly that intended for sustainable transport," emphasized Vujović. MINISTER NOVAKOVIĆ ĐUROVIĆ PARTICIPATED IN THE TWELFTH ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EU

In the meeting of the ministers of the countries in

charge of implementation of the Strategy, Novaković

Đurović said that macro-regional strategies played

thekeyroleintheEUenlargementprocess, promoting

regional cooperation, strengthening governance,

encouraging investment in infrastructure, and

strengthening regional cohesion. She reminded

that Montenegro had incorporated the priorities

and goals of the strategy into its national policies

and plans, and that the national strategies are

aligned with the goals of the Strategy.

Strategy for the Danube Region that took place in Brdo near Kranj in Slovenia. Within the Forum, the Minister also participated in the High-Level Panel "EU Strategy for the Danube Region and Process of Enlargement of the EU". "The Government of Montenegro is focused on the implementation of current reforms that will result in better quality of life of all our citizens. With that in mind, we put a significant emphasis on the environment protection and combating climate

Ministry of European Affairs Ana Novaković Đurović

participated in the Twelfth Annual Forum of the EU

ReSPA

Orlandić presented Montenegrin legal framework

and experiences from the process of strategic

planning, emphasizing the importance of the

7. XII 2023

The meeting that took place in Brussels was opened by the President of the European Economic and Social Committee Oliver Ropke, Vice-President of

the European Economic and Social Committee Aurel

Laurențiu Plosceanu and Minister of European

In the introductory part, the participants in the

meeting were welcomed by the co-chairs of the

JCC, Decebal- Stefanita Padure and Gordana

Members of the JCC considered the current state of

affairs in the relations between EU and Montenegro,

with a focus on the EC Report on Montenegro for

2023 and overview of developments within the

Within these two topics that refer to the situation of

the obligations within the Cluster 1: Fundamentals

of the accession process, with a focus on the public

administration reform and overview of the situation

THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS

Affairs of Montenegro, Maida Gorčević.

Đurović.

Berlin Process.

1. XII 2023

Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević talked the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. with the representatives of non-governmental organizations today in the first meeting with the representatives of the NGO sector. In addition to the minister, the meeting was attended by the State Secretary Bojan Božović and Director General of the Directorate for European Funds **Bojan Vujović**. The Minister announced that the Government

would establish regular consultations with the civil

sector about the negotiation process. "Process of

regular consultations with the civil sector has been

designed through thematic segments within which

you will be able to hear more concrete promises

from us. We have a lot of work to do, and we believe that, working together, we can meet expectations

of citizens and European partners," said Gorčević.

establishment of the new negotiation structure was under way and that the number of positions

for the representatives of the NGO sector would

Director General of the Directorate for European

Funds Bojan Vujović talked about the current

situation in the field of available European funds,

as well as about the possibilities provided by

schools participated in the competition. They gave

Nikolina Vojvodić, pupil of the 9th grade of the

Primary School "Vuk Karadžić" from Podgorica

MAGAZINE EUROKAZ

1950 answers to 15 questions.

ABOUT EU?"

Koliko

14. XII 2023

ON COOPERATION

Kviz za učenike/ce osmog i devetog razreda

18. XII 2023

Božović

said that

CEGAS.

State Secretary Bojan

not be limited.

Confederation)

meeting.

of Montenegro.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR ABOUT

Montenegro could expect significant funds within this instrument, if the conditions related to the key

During the consultations, representatives of the

civil sector emphasized that their criticisms were

always aimed at improving the situation. They

said that it was needed to change the attitude of

the state towards the non-governmental sector

that had to be respected and thus the mutual

trust would be restored. They underlined the need

to re-examine the way in which the state funds

were allocated to non-governmental organizations and said that they expected the new Ministry of

European Affairs to have a strategic approach and clearly defined expectations from the role of the

On behalf of the civil sector the meeting was

attended by the Centre for Women's rights, Centre

for Civic Education (CGO), Association of Parents,

Association of Youth with Disabilities (UMHCG), MMNE, Civic Alliance, Centre for protection of

consumers (CZIP), Analitico, CIN CG, Centre for

Monitoring of Elections (CEMI), Media Centre, FORS

MONTENEGRO, DP ZID, Uzor, NGO 35 mm and

civil sector in the negotiation process.

reform measures were met.

In its several columns, Eurokaz presents the news from the negotiation process, results of the reforms undertaken by Montenegro in the accession process, examples of success in using the EU funds. Collocutors of Eurokaz speak about topical themes from the negotiation process and about the news in the field of functioning of the EU. Correspondents and collocutors of Eurokaz

Stojanović.

PUBLICATION OF THE THIRTEENTH ISSUE OF THE

The prizes - vouchers for purchase of sports

equipment were awarded to them by the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević and Minister of

Education, Science and Innovation Andela Jakšić-

include representatives of the Government of Montenegro, European Commission, journalists of Montenegrin printed and electronic media, as well as representatives of local self-governments, economy, and non-government organizations.

Among other things, this issue of Eurokaz brings the text written by the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević, and an interview with the Ambassador of Belgium Cathy Buggenhout about the priorities of the Belgian presidency in the EU in

the first half of the next year.

evropskih

poslova,

The magazine is published every six months, and it is available on the website and social media of the Ministry of European Affairs and eu.me. 15. XII 2023 MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ORGANIZED ONLINE QUIZ "HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW

Ministarstvo

INTEGRACIJI CRNE GORE



representatives of municipalities to involve

OKTOBAR - DECEMBAR

24. X 2023

BILTEN .

16. X 2023

16. X 2023

Education.

BILTEN

MINISTARSTVA EVROPSKIH POSLOVA

Božović also presented the Call for municipalities to express their interest in cooperating through various projects that would contribute to better information and involvement of citizens into the European integration process. The ideas that are selected will be financed through the EU project EU4ME implemented in the Ministry of European

State Secretary Žižić said that by their excellent results in the quiz, Leonora, Nikolina and Radivoje confirmed how important it was to learn languages,

ENLARGEMENT: NEW GEOPOLITICAL URGENCY" European standard of living and membership in the EU," said Ms Gorčević and added that, in Montenegro, there was this new energy aimed at speeding up the accession negotiations with the EU.

Minister **Gorčević** emphasized that Montenegro

was the most eligible candidate to become the next member of the EU and that the Government

would dedicate its resources and capacities in

the political and technical sense to meet all the

accession requirements by the end of its term of

office. However, she said that it was very important

that the EU itself was more present in the region

convergence between EU and Western Balkans to

The meeting conveyed the message that the

Growth Plan for the Western Balkan showed a

renewed support and focus of the European Union

on the enlargement process, and that it would

programmes of territorial cooperation financed

by the EU. This is particularly important for the

countries that are candidates for membership in

the EU, in order to create a framework for using

As he says, each of the thematic goals and priorities

of this strategy should be considered important, since they are focused on dealing with specific

"As for Montenegro, directions of its development

are most complementary with the goals contained

in the first pillar of the EUSDR. Tourism is, namely,

the most important strategic branch of Montenegrin

economy and it is directly conditioned by the

challenges and problems in the Danube region.

European Union funds", said Vujović.

ensure accelerated integration in the EU.

and accelerated its full integration.

The topic of the Ministerial meeting was the Growth strongly support reforms and approximation of our Plan for the Western Balkan, with a particular region, providing significant financial and technical emphasis on strengthening social and economic support. 26. X 2023 DIRECTOR GENERAL VUJOVIĆ SPOKE IN THE PANEL WITHIN THE 12TH ANNUAL EUSDR FORUM IPA III/NDICI in the Danube Region Moderator: Andreja Jerina, former National Coordinator for



In addition to the representatives of the European change. We are dedicated to the implementation of Commission, the Conference was attended by the international measures that will brand Montenegro representatives of the governments of Hungary, FR as a genuinely ecological state, in line with our Germany, Czech Republic, Croatia, Bulgaria, Bosnia Constitution, and we are determined to continue and Herzegovina, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, developing our country in line with the principles Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, and Montenegro. 24. X 2023 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF **EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE ON EFFICIENT POLICY PLANNING** IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Head of the Direction for Sectoral Policies of the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the Ministry of European Affairs, Andrej Orlandić, European Union, coordination of preparations and participated in Vienna in the regional conference on monitoring of the implementation of this document challenges in the implementation of efficient policy that makes the basis of our country's European agenda. He said that the Programme of Accession planning in the Western Balkans. was the most comprehensive overview of the The Regional Conference "Challenges of Achieving obligations defining the scope and dynamics of Effective Policy Planning in the Western Balkans", the reforms that were needed so that Montenegro organized by ReSPA and OECD SIGMA, brought could align with the legal order of the European together representatives of the governments of the Union. countries from the region, officials of the Austrian Government bodies and experts in the field of The Conference presented the initial findings of developing and managing public policies. the SIGMA study about parliaments and legislation in the administrations of the Western Balkans, as Within the discussion dedicated to planning the well as the study from OECD SIGMA Programme obligations in the field of European integration,

January 2024.

COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SECTOR

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE EU – MONTENEGRO

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (JCC)

of the civil society in Montenegro, including the social dialogue, JCC could hear representatives of the civil sector from Montenegro who presented their views: Pavle D. Radovanović (Chamber of Commerce), Marina Vujačić (Association of Youth with Disabilities), Suzana Radulović (Union of Employers), **Tatjana Džudović** (Trade Union and Marko Sošić (Institute Alternativa). Maja Handjiska Trendfailova (ReSPA), Kristian Pirvulesku (ECOSOC Rapporteur),

Romon and Ana Mariguesa (Delegation of the EU

in Montenegro) also spoke about the topics of the

The meeting adopted a joint declaration that will be sent to the Stabilization and Association

Association Committee, European External Action

Service, European Commission and the Government

Committee, Parliamentary Stabilization

Tatiana

about challenges of aligning policies and financial

planning – the new study that will be presented in



Government and local self-governments – synergy on their citizens actively and to share with them the path to the EU - Ministry of European Affairs and the responsibility for success of the European municipalities signed a Memorandum on Cooperation integration process. Dušan Raičević, President of the Managing Board, Ministry of European Affairs signed a Memorandum spoke on behalf of the Union of municipalities on Cooperation with the local self-governments and Union of Municipalities of Montenegro with of Montenegro. He said that, in addition to new a view to achieving better information of citizens obligations, local self-governments would also on the local level about the process of European have new opportunities in the form of using cohesion and other funds, and that preliminary integration. That should indirectly lead to better utilization of EU funds, raising the quality of living assessment that after the accession Montenegro would have access to up to ten times larger funds and modernization of services in municipalities. than now was an additional incentive for the local The Memorandum says that almost 70% of self-governments to strengthen their project European legislation is implemented on the local teams, both institutionally and in terms of human level, which makes it necessary to include local selfresources, and to have an increasing number of governments in planning and implementing the technically mature infrastructural projects. activities together with the Government that leads State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs the accession negotiations. In her introductory Bojan Božović presented the Public Information word, the Minister of European Affairs Maida Gorčević confirmed that local self-governments Strategy on Montenegro's Accession to the EU had an irreplaceable role in the process of European 2023-2026 that will make the basis for the integration. She also reminded that a significant implementation of the Memorandum. portion of the EU financial support targets local

> to understand each other and overcome differences. State Secretary in the Ministry of Education Vukotić Jelušić emphasized that by creating inclusive, emphatic and solidarity environment, preconditions were created for cherishing the culture of differences and building the society of

Montenegro participated in the competition. Leonora Ladić, student of the ninth grade of the Primary School "Milorad Musa Burzan" from Podgorica won the first place, while Radivoje **Vučeljić**, student of the sixth grade of the Primary School "Olga Golović" from Nikšić was the second and Nikolina Rončević, student of the ninth grade of the Primary School "Dragiša Ivanović" from Podgorica was the third.

Within the EU-funded project "EU4ME", Secretariat

General of the Government, in cooperation with

the Ministry of Education, organized the quiz on the occasion of 26th September, European Day

of Languages. 479 primary school students from

IN THE ONLINE QUIZ FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL DAY OF LANGUAGES Leonora Ladić, student of the ninth grade of the Primary School "Milorad Musa Burzan" from Podgorica, Radivoje Vučeljić, student of the sixth grade of the Primary School "Olga Golović" from Nikšić and **Nikolina Rončević**, student of the ninth grade of the Primary School "Dragiša Ivanović" from Podgorica are the winners in the quiz for primary school student organized on the occasion of the European Day of Languages. Within the EU-funded EU4ME project, Secretariat General of the Government - Sector for Informing the Public about European Union and Montenegro's Accession organized today a competition for all primary school students that love languages and

Radivoje i Nikolina were the best and fastest.

me4 eu eu4 me participated in the quiz. Students of all primary schools in Montenegro were eligible to participate in this quiz and Leonora,

STUDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE EUROPEAN want to improve their knowledge. The quiz was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of

PUBLICATION OF THE NAMES OF THE WINNERS

social justice.

Prizes are prepared for Leonora, Radivoje and Nikolina.

This quiz that is traditionally organized on the occasion of 26th September, European Day of Languages, is an excellent opportunity to motivate primary school students to become interested in learning foreign languages, encouraging thus linguistic diversity, tolerance and cultural exchange.

TWENTY-FIFTH ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER ON **EUROPEAN INTEGRATION** The twenty-fifth issue of the Newsletter on European Integration presents the key events and activities in the accession process that took place in the third quarter of 2023. WINNERS IN THE ONLINE QUIZ FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES AWARDED THEIR PRIZES The awards - smart watches - were awarded to them by the State Secretary in the Ministry of European Affairs Milena Žižić and the State Secretary in the Ministry of Education Milijana Vukotić Jelušić.

sprovođenja Strategije informisanja javnosti o pristupanju Crne Gore EU 2023- 2026. godine, tradicionalno, svake godine u decembru organizuje online kviz "Koliko znaš o EU?" Takmičenje je realizovano u okviru projekta "EU4ME", koji finansira EU, a u kvizu je učestvovalo 130 djece iz cijele Crne Gore i dali su 1,950 odgovora. Cilj realizacije kviza je podsticanje mladih ljudi da što više istražuju i saznaju o Evropskoj uniji i procesu pristupanja Crne Gore EU. MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND LOCAL **SELF-GOVERNMENTS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM**

479 students from Montenegrin primary schools