

NEWSLETTER

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GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Coordination Team for Implementation
of the Communication Strategy
on Euro-Atlantic Integration



3 November

Hungary: Your country is a success story



Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration **Milan Rocen** received **Bálint Ódor**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary.

Rocen expressed gratitude for the support of Hungary for the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Montenegro. Ódor said that Montenegro has made tremendous progress and is a success story, which should be further promoted.

We are confident in your future progress, Ódor said and conveyed his country's readiness to bilaterally, in the form of privilege partnership, help promote further progress of Montenegro towards the EU and NATO.

9 November

The School of Euro-Atlanticism opened in Bar



The third school of Euro-Atlanticism on "Globalization and NATO" was officially opened in the hotel "Princess", organized by the Humanities Studies, University of Donja Gorica (UDG) and the Municipality of Bar. The School was officially opened by the Dean of Humanities Professor Dr. **Djordje Borozan**.

Founder and director of the School of Euro-Atlanticism Prof. Dr. **Radovan Vukadinovic** stressed the importance of introducing the Euro-Atlantic integration.

- Euro-Atlanticism and Euro-Atlantic integration are our present and our future. Therefore, the sooner we are acquainted with these processes, the sooner we explain and discuss them, we will be easier to enter into what is expecting us – Vukadinovic said.

From 7 to 11 November, the best final year students from Bar, Podgorica, Belgrade, Zagreb, Skopje, Mostar, Banja Luka and Tirana will follow lectures given by eminent local and foreign professors, who will introduce them to the Euro-Atlanticism.

11 November

Police officers ready for peacekeeping missions too



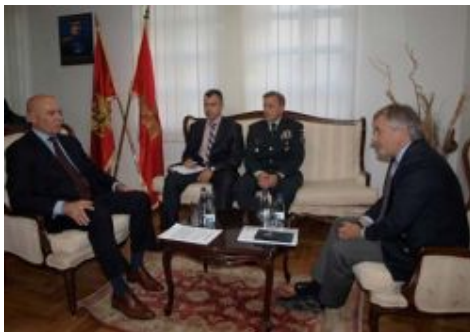
Sending police officers to peacekeeping missions is evidence of commitment of Montenegro to continue the process of Euro-Atlantic security integration through the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Action Plan for NATO membership, Minister **Ivan Brajovic** said during a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia, **Filip**

Dragovic, the Chief Directorate for European integration and **Goran Juric**, Head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Chief Directorate for European Integration and International Relations of the Ministry of Interior of Croatia, **Filip Dragovic** gave the certificates to the first group of officers of the Police Directorate of Montenegro who have successfully completed training for peacekeeping missions and professionally acquired the necessary knowledge for concrete action in conflict situations.

14 November

Slovenia – a reliable partner



Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic** and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration **Milan Rocen** met in separate meetings with the Ambassador of Slovenia to Montenegro **Vladimir Gasparic**.

The support that the Republic of Slovenia, as a NATO contact country provides to Montenegro and its integration process is very important, Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic** said.

Minister **Rocen** thanked the overall help and support of Slovenia for Montenegro's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Rocen highly rated Slovenia's active participation in regional initiatives and its Action Plan for the Western Balkans.

Ambassador **Gasparic** stressed that Slovenia, a NATO Contact Point Embassy for Montenegro, will support its further progress towards NATO membership.

18 November

U.S. strongly supports Montenegro's membership in NATO



The United States strongly support Montenegro's membership in NATO and the achievements that Montenegro has made in the defence sector are impressive, Head of the Pentagon Delegation, **Celeste Wallander** said during the annual bilateral defence consultations between Montenegro and the United States.

"Bearing in mind that Montenegro gained its independence in 2006, its achievements in the field of defence are impressive," she said, adding that despite progress, much remains to be done but the U.S. will help.

"During the meeting we discussed how can the U.S. help Montenegro in joining the Alliance. Our Ministry of Defence supports the reform of the defence system of Montenegro on a bilateral basis," she said, adding that the armies of the two countries have a great cooperation.

According to Minister **Boro Vucinic**, the United States strongly support Montenegro's strategic goals.

"We will also be able to resolve important issues in the area of security in the sea-protection issues and control of the sky with the help of our partners. They have supported us in the activities for the normative regulation of some issues through amendments to the Law on Defence and the Law on the Armed Forces, in order to arrange the system in line with NATO standards," Vucinic said.

ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION TEAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND ITS PARTNERS

7 November

Conference at FDES



The Faculty of Administrative and European Studies, with support from the Government's Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, on the occasion of European Day of Science, organized a Conference entitled "**NATO Program Science for Peace and Security - possibilities and opportunities for the Montenegrin institutions of higher education**".

The main objective of the conference is to foster dialogue in the academic community and raise awareness about the possible use of NATO funds for research, and it is dedicated to the celebration of the 7th November, the **European Day of Science**.

The Conference was opened by Prof. Dr. **Sanja Vlahovic**, Minister of Science, and opening statements were given by **Dragan Pejanovic**, Head of the Coordination Team and the Dean of the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies, Prof. Dr. **Djordjije Blazic**, host of the Conference.

Minister **Vlahovic** stressed the importance of including the academic community in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro and particularly strengthening the dialogue between the scientific community. Vlahovic said that NATO is a political instrument that increases the coordination and cooperation among its members and potential members, and that science is a factor of harmonization, connection and synergy.

Coordinator **Pejanovic** stressed the importance of harmonized support of all segments of the public sector for including youth in the development of Montenegro. There is a great number of NATO support programs that help young people from over the world to enhance their knowledge, particularly in regard to student population, and overall academic community, Pejanovic said.



Dean **Blazic** rated the conference as highly important because at such meetings the representatives of the academic community of Montenegro may get more familiar with the possibilities that will come with NATO membership.

After the introductory part of the Conference, a panel discussion was organized on "Recent experiences of Montenegro and the region in the implementation of projects supported by NATO Science for Peace and Security funds". Panellists were Ambassador of Croatia **Petar Turcinovic**, director of the Seismological Service of Montenegro, Prof. **Branislav Glavatovic**, and Prof. Dr. **Radovan Stojanovic**, Director of GEPSUS project for Montenegro.

7-11 November

Speaking Tour 2011



The third Speaking Tour on Euro-Atlantic integration was held from **7 to 11 November** in eight towns in Montenegro. Series of discussions began with the event in Podgorica on Monday, 7 November, at the Faculty of Administrative and European Studies.

Participants of the first panel discussion were Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic**, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro **Sue K. Brown**, Ambassador of Slovakia **Frantisek Lipka**, a representative of the NGO "Centre for Democratic Transition" **Milica Kovacevic** and President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission **Rastislav Kacer**.

Second day of the event, on Tuesday, 8 November, the series of debates continued in the northern Montenegrin municipalities, **Mojkovac** and **Kolasin**.

Hosts of the discussions were mayors of Mojkovac **Dejan Medojevic** and Kolasin **Darko Brajuskovic**, and the event was attended by the Chief of the Armed Forces of Montenegro Vice Admiral **Dragan Samardzic**, Ambassador of Slovenia **Vladimir Gasparic**, Ambassador of Slovakia **Frantisek Lipka**, Deputy Head of Mission of Slovak Republic to NATO, **Peter Bator**, Deputy Director for Security Policy in the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Radoslav Kusenda**, and Executive Director of NGO "Spona" **Sasa Radunovic**.

On Wednesday, 9 November, public debates on Euro-Atlantic integration were held in **Pljevlja** and **Bijelo Polje**.

Hosts of the debates were mayors of Pljevlja and Bijelo Polje, Dr. **Miloje Pupovic** and **Aleksandar Zuric**, and the event was attended by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development **Tarzan Milosevic**, Ambassador of Croatia **Petar Turcinovic**, Ambassador of Slovakia **Frantisek Lipka**, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, and Executive Director of NGO "Spona" **Sasa Radunovic**.



Ambassador of Italy **Sergio Barbanti**, Municipal Committee of the SNP in Cetinje **Slobodan Cavor**, and the President of the NGO Centre for Monitoring (CEMI) **Zlatko Vujovic**.

On the fourth day of the event, on Thursday, 10 November, discussions were continued in **Cetinje** and **Budva**.

The panel discussion in Cetinje was opened by the Mayor of the Old Royal Capital of Cetinje **Aleksandar Bogdanovic**, and the event was attended by the Chief of the Armed Forces of Montenegro Vice Admiral **Dragan Samardzic**, Ambassador of Slovakia **Frantisek Lipka**,



Host of the discussion in Budva was Mayor **Lazar Radjenovic**, and the participants were the President of the Municipal Committee of the SNP in Budva **Veselin Markovic**, Ambassador of Slovakia **Frantisek Lipka**, Ambassador of Italy **Sergio Barbanti**, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and the Secretary General of the NGO "European Movement in Montenegro" **Momcilo Radulovic**.

The last meeting in this Speaking Tour was held on Friday, 11 November in **Nikšić**. Host was Mayor **Nebojsa Radojicic**, and the event was attended by the Minister of Interior **Ivan Brajovic**, Ambassador of Slovakia **Frantisek Lipka**, Ambassador of Germany **Pius Fischer**, Head of the Nikšić Regional Unit of the Police Directorate **Dragan Blagojevic**, Advisor to the Director of the Police Directorate **Sead Frljuckic**, President of the Association of retired officers of the Interiors **Ivan Mandic** and Executive Director of NGO "ALFA Centar" **Aleksandar Dedovic**.

During the five-day event local and foreign diplomats, high officials, as well as numerous experts from the Government and NGOs took part in the event.

Public debates and other forms of direct communication with the public are aimed at providing relevant information to all structures of the Montenegrin society on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, informing the international public about this process, as well as increasing the level of awareness of citizens on the North Atlantic Alliance.

Organizer of the Speaking Tour was the Coordination Team of the Government of Montenegro for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to Montenegro, local authorities and local NGOs.

17 November

Panel Discussion in the High School of Economics in Podgorica

High School of Economics "Mirko Vesovic" in cooperation with the Student Parliament, the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, the Centre for International Security Studies and the Euro-Atlantic Youth Association on Thursday, 17 November 2011 organized a panel discussion on "**The future of Montenegro and the future of youth through membership in the North Atlantic Alliance.**"



The goal of the event was for the young high school students to learn more about our country's NATO integration, **Nikola Markovic**, President of the Student Parliament said.

Participants of the event were Head of the Coordination Team, **Dragan Pejanovic** who spoke on the Future of Montenegro as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, **Dragana Markovic**, President of the Youth Council at the Atlantic Club, on the Future of

youth through Montenegro's membership in NATO, **Marija Martinovic**, Coordinator of the Centre for International Security Studies, Faculty of Political Science, on the Role of students in the Euro-Atlantic path of Montenegro, and **Stefan Pizurica**, President of the Euro-Atlantic Youth Association, on the Future of youth in Montenegro.

The final word on this successful panel discussion was given by **Branislav Djukic**, the Principal of HES "Mirko Vesovic".

28 November

Panel discussion for high school students in Kolasin



Panel discussion for final year high school students was held in Kolasin on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro. Organizer of the event was NGO "Spona" from Berane, and the discussion was also participated by **Zorana Vlahovic**, professor of sociology in the Secondary School in Kolasin.

Questions were heard at the event about the functioning of NATO, its role in the world, the economic benefits of full membership in the Alliance, but also about the differences between the member countries in view of addressing some global issues.

According to members of "Spona", the decision on Montenegro's membership in NATO is not a decision on entry of its Armed Forces in the Alliance, or the current Government, but all the structures of the state will enter NATO, with no regard on who is at the head of the state," either representatives of the current or any future government".

- Being a NATO member is not an ideal solution for any country, including our own. After all, such a solution is not to be found anywhere in the world. Each process has its pros and cons, and we should not look at just one or the other, but the real view of NATO and the benefits of the NATO membership for the state, which are much larger than the objections to be heard on this topic, **Sasa Radunovic**, Chairman of the Board of the NGO "Spona" said.

29 November

Students of the Faculty of Political Science visit the Embassy of Slovenia

Students of the Faculty of Political Science, members of the Centre for International Security Studies, on Tuesday, 29 November visited the Embassy of Slovenia, NATO Contact Point Embassy.



Students were received by Ambassador of Slovenia **Vladimir Gasparic** and his associates, and in an informal atmosphere they spoke to the students about the role of a NATO CPE in one country.

Ambassador Gasparic said that Slovenia has taken this role on 1 January 2011, and was elected for a term of 2 years. In the past 11 months it has been organizing numerous events - meetings, visits, roundtables, conferences and workshops, but it is a pleasure to talk with young future diplomats – students of political

science, he said.



The meeting discussed various issues concerning the role of NATO CPE - regular meetings of ambassadors of NATO member countries, writing reports on the activities of Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path, and the organizational and logistical assistance in organizing activities.

Students were interested in numerous other topics - economic benefits of NATO membership, sending Montenegrin soldiers to peacekeeping missions and operations, youth internship opportunities in the

NATO Public Diplomacy Division, experience in the activities of Slovenian students in pre-accession period, NATO decision-making etc.

Students have shown an enviable knowledge and great interest in issues related to Euro-Atlantic integration of our country.

The visit was attended by the Head of the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro **Dragan Pejanovic** and his associates.

The meeting also concluded that students are the driving force of a country, and that it is necessary that they are the ones who are key contributors to the integration processes of Montenegro.

30 November

Round Table "Environmental Protection and NATO"



As part of activities on informing the Montenegrin public on scientific and environmental aspects of membership in the North Atlantic Alliance, the Agency for Environmental Protection and the Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro organized a **Round Table "Environmental Protection and NATO."**

The aim of the event was the exchange of experiences and further improving the quality of public information on Euro-Atlantic perspective, with special emphasis on environmental protection as one of the preconditions of security of citizens.

Ambassador of Slovenia, **Vladimir Gasparic**, emphasized the importance of environmental protection as one of the key challenges for small countries such as Montenegro and Slovenia, which are tourism-oriented.

Ms. **Ivana Vojinovic**, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism, during the opening statement said that the accession of Montenegro to NATO will open a real discussion, and strengthen the obligation to respect the Law on Environmental Protection, as well as the area of management of national natural resources.

Ms. **Daliborka Pejovic**, Director of the Agency for Environmental Protection said that in addition to military-political dimension, the Alliance carries a message about the importance of environmental protection, and that it is crucial for the development of Montenegro, referring in her speech to three important areas: climate change, destruction of surplus weapons and remediation of environmental hot spots.

At the end of the Round Table the following conclusions of participants were adopted:

- Security is a global goal, and therefore the instruments for its preservation must be global, and NATO is an instrument that can effectively deal with modern security challenges.
- Climate change, destruction of surplus weapons, capacity building and building a system of responses to natural and environmental risks and pollution, and preventive measures against eco terrorism are security challenges in the environmental field as well as an additional obligation of Montenegro.



- Cooperation with international partners, NGOs and the academic community is of great importance for the Western Balkans, and it is necessary to develop special methods for environmental protection in order to achieve long-term improvement of life of Montenegrin citizens.

- The process of protection of environmental standards should be continuous, consistent and systematic, in order to create conditions for sustainable and responsible management of national natural resources.

- Montenegro should be part of a broader regional response to the challenges of emergency situations.

Our experience shows that it is essential that the state gets support from NATO and other partners in developing systems, prevention and training, equipping, use of resources, models and information, as well as in the use of information for systematic alerts, but also in networking in the hydrological, meteorological and seismic systems of information exchange.

- The need for a prompt reaction in case of emergencies and informing and involving all structures of the society, and educating citizens in the event of natural and other disasters is of great importance.
- It is necessary to achieve high standards of NATO in this area as soon as possible, so that Montenegro could build an effective system of early warning, prevention and management of modern security and environmental threats.
- In the context of supporting the Euro-Atlantic integration, it is necessary to highlight NATO Science for Peace and Security Program, which has proved that the common work of governments, NGOs and the academic community can reach the ultimate goal of this process - working together and creating a successful model in environmental protection with assistance of international partners.

Participants of the event were **Zoran Begovic**, Deputy Minister of Interior for Civil Security and Emergency Management, **Ljiljana Djerkovic**, Counsellor at the Ministry of Defence, **Nada Medenica**, Director of the Centre for Ecotoxicological Research, **Luka Mitrovic**, Director of the Hydrometeorological Institute of Montenegro, **Branislav Glavatovic**, Director of the Seismological Bureau of Montenegro, **Veselin Mijajlovic**, Director of the Regional Centre for Divers Training in Underwater Demining, **Zoran Mrdak**, Director of the National Park Lake Skadar, **Aleksandar Dedovic**, Executive Director of the NGO ALFA Centar, Prof. Dr **Radovan Stojanovic**, Director of GEPSUS Project for Montenegro, **Raffaele De Amicis**, NATO GEPSUS Project Director (Italy), and **Doron Elhanani**, Co-director of the GEPSUS Project (Israel), who spoke about the experiences and activities on environmental protection and about increasing the awareness of citizens of NATO support in this area.

Attendees at the event were representatives of the Government institutions, NGO representatives, academics and students involved in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration and environmental protection, as well as diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Slovenia, NATO CPE for Montenegro.

30 November

Website Cuvaj.me goes online



Website of the Centre for International Security Studies titled Cuvaj.me was officially put online.

The Centre for International Security Studies has developed at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Podgorica, as an organization aimed at informing and involving young people in the security integration processes of Montenegro.

Students interest in this subject is important not only because of the elimination of possible confusion and stereotypes, but also because they have to participate in social events and to actively participate in processes that are of great importance for their future and which will possibly determine quality of their lives.

This website will be a channel of communication for students and other structures in the field of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, particularly security, and it will promote their activities, papers and events.



This portal will give the students an opportunity to learn about the work of fellow students and read the reflections on the subject of membership in NATO and the EU, and to read the facts and news on this topic.

This project is designed with the idea that it would encourage young people to continue to contribute to the further integration of our country in the global political and security alliances with their work and development.

In addition, the aim of the portal Cuvaj.me is to create a network of young people who will transfer and use the knowledge and experience gained in their further development towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

30 November

Training for state and local servants and employees and local parliamentarians on NATO



During **November** Training for state and local servants and employees and local parliamentarians was held through **5** seminars, 2 in Podgorica, and one each in Bar, Niksic and Herceg Novi.

Guest lecturers were: Ambassador of Croatia to Montenegro **Petar Turcinovic**, Ambassador of Turkey, **Emina Birgen Kesoglu**, Ambassador of Austria, **Martin Pammer**, and Head of the Sector for international missions and operations, Ministry of Defence of Slovenia and Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro **Aljosa Selan**.

The training will be held in future with the involvement of guest speakers from the diplomatic missions in Montenegro, as well as representatives of NATO, EU, OSCE and UN, in the following cities: Bar, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Herceg Novi, Niksic, Pljevlja, Podgorica. Lectures will be held by Colonel Dr. **Mehmedin Tahirovic**.

Interviews in daily Pobjeda

Within the Speaking Tour on Euro-Atlantic integration daily Pobjeda published in November four interviews with:

- President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission, **Rastislav Kacer**,



- Ambassador of Slovenia to Montenegro, **Vladimir Gasparic**,
- Ambassador of Croatia to Montenegro, **Petar Turcinovic**,
- Ambassador of Italy to Montenegro, **Sergio Barbanti**.

NGO New Horizon: Youth in Integration



NGO **New Horizon** within the project "Youth in Integration," in cooperation with the Coordination Team and the daily **Pobjeda** launched a series of five articles in the Albanian language, published by the weekly **Koha Javore**.

The project "Youth in Integration" is an activity planned in the VIII Action Plan for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration.

The fifth article titled *Mali i Zi në rrugën drejtë anëtarësimit në* was published on **17 November**. Original articles can be seen on www.nato-montenegro.me.

"NATO-Info" broadcasted on TVCG



"NATO-Info" is a short, informative journalistic form, which is usually broadcasted twice a month, and it deals with current issues from NATO, from NATO member states and partners, as well as from Montenegro on its way to NATO. There were four episodes broadcasted in November (Thursdays at 13:05h, replay at 17h), as follows:

3 November – Topics: interview of Ambassador **Gasparic**, a statement by judoka **Srdjan Mrvaljevic**, a story about the destruction of surplus weapons and signing the annex agreement between the MOD and the U.S. Embassy, and speech from the School of Rhetoric on the subject of Euro-Atlantic integration.

10 November – Topics: Speaking Tour on Euro-Atlantic Integration began in Podgorica, report from the Conference "Science for Peace and Education", a conversation with the analyst **Milos Besic**.

17 November – Guest of the programme was the President of the Socialist People's Party of Montenegro, **Srdjan Milic**.

24 November – Topics: cooperation between Montenegro and the U.S., training on gender equality in the security sector, Speaking Tour in Kolasin, Panel Discussion Youth and NATO in HES „Mirko Vesovic“ in Podgorica.

“NATO-Info” aired on Radio Crna Gora

"NATO-Info" is a half-hour program about NATO, aired on Channel 1 of Radio Crna Gora, and one of the information activities defined by the Action Plan which primarily discusses key NATO topics, with various and numerous guests, and with direct contact with the listeners. It is broadcasted twice a month, on Thursdays, at 10 am. In each programme, spokesperson of the MoD **Tamara Popovic** gives a regular report on the status of our soldiers in the 4th Contingent in the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan.



10 November – Guest of the programme was the ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Podgorica, Mr. **Vladimir Gasparic**; **Dragan Pejanovic**, Head of the Coordination Team spoke about activities realized within the Speaking Tour. The program aired a report on the project of reconstruction of the main military warehouse in Brezovik.

24 November – Guest of the programme was the Head of NATO Department at the Ministry of Defence, Captain **Dragoslav Pumpalovic**. The programme aired a report on annual bilateral defence consultations between Montenegro and the United States, led by the Head of the Pentagon Delegation Dr. Celeste Wallander, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia.

“Raport” aired on Radio Antena M



"Raport" is a program on Euro-Atlantic integration, defence and army. It is broadcasted twice a month, on Wednesdays at 16 h.