

# NEWSLETTER

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ENGLISH



**VLADA CRNE GORE**

*Koordinacioni tim za implementaciju  
Komunikacione strategije o  
evroatlantskim integracijama Crne Gore*



**UDRUŽENI U EVROPI,  
BEZBJEDNI U NATO.**



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**July 1**

## **Bulgaria supports Montenegro's integration ambitions**

Prime Minister of Bulgaria **Boyko Borisov** on July 1 paid an official visit to Montenegro. On that occasion he was received, in separate meetings, by the President of Montenegro **Filip Vujanovic** and Prime Minister of Montenegro **Igor Luksic**.

During the visit, President **Filip Vujanovic** expressed his appreciation for the Bulgaria's support of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, with the expectation that the support will be continued. He rated this support as very important at this stage of Montenegro's integration, because this year Montenegro expects to have the starting date for EU membership negotiations and some improvement in NATO accession.

Prime Minister of Montenegro **Igor Luksic** informed Borisov during the meeting about the status of Montenegrin European perspectives, the status of Montenegro in the process of joining NATO and the plans it has in that field. He thanked for the support that Montenegro has from Bulgaria for both of these foreign policy goals.

Prime Minister of Bulgaria **Boyko Borisov** noted the significant success of integration of Montenegro, and assessed that there is a possibility of even quicker dynamics of integration processes. He stated a clear readiness of Bulgaria to further support the integration ambitions of Montenegro. He stressed that Montenegro is one of the fastest going countries to the European Union and NATO, and that Bulgaria wishes a successful integration of Montenegro to NATO and Europe.

**July 6**

## **More members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro in Afghanistan**

**The Parliament of Montenegro** adopted the draft Decision on sending five members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The decision to increase the number of members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro in the ISAF peacekeeping mission was evaluated as positive for further progress of NATO integration by the representatives of the majority parties in the Parliament.

By participating in the ISAF mission Montenegrin soldiers have been improving their skills, and they have shown willingness to participate in this mission equally with other NATO member countries. Sending troops is aimed at training and not participating in combat operations, it was heard at the Parliament session.

Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic** said that besides 36 members of the Montenegrin Armed Forces, who are already participating in the mission in Kabul, another four will be sent there, and this number will round up the maximum number of troops approved by the Parliament. Four members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro will assist the transition of ISAF to Afghan security forces as instructors in the US-Adriatic initiative.

**July 12**

## **Steinmeier: Contribution of Montenegro to global peace and stability**

Prime Minister of Montenegro **Igor Luksic** met with the Special Representative of Germany to Afghanistan and Pakistan **Michael Steinmeier**.

Prime Minister spoke to the former Adviser to German Chancellor and an expert on crisis areas, and discussed regional and global political and security issues.

Steinmeier welcomed the decision of Montenegro to participate in the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan, noting that it is a great contribution of Montenegro to global peace and stability.

**July 18**

## **Additional opportunities for cooperation with Russia**

Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic** received on 18 July Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Montenegro **Andrei Nesterenko**.

Minister Vucinic said that the meeting is the continuation of traditionally good overall relations between Montenegro and Russia. Since Montenegro aspires to NATO membership, and the cooperation between Russia and NATO is successfully achieved through the NATO-Russia Council, additional possibilities for cooperation in defence and security between Montenegro and Russia are opened.

Ambassador Nesterenko said that there is considerable scope for intensification of the cooperation, and the announced appointment of a Russian military attaché in Montenegro will greatly contribute to that.

**July 20**

## **Experience of Slovenia very helpful**

The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Montenegro Vice Admiral **Dragan Samardzic** on 19 and 20 July paid an official visit to Slovenia at the invitation of the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces General **Alojz Steiner**.

During his visit to the Republic of Slovenia Vice Admiral Samardzic also met with Slovenian President **Danilo Turk**.

Slovenian President **Danilo Turk** said that bilateral cooperation between the two countries is excellent in all fields and that Slovenia is closely monitoring the progress of Montenegro to Euro-Atlantic integration. He stated that Slovenia supports the EU and NATO enlargement policy, stressing a different role of NATO after the adoption of the new Strategic Concept and focusing of NATO on improving relations with all partner countries, especially Russia.

Vice Admiral Samardzic presented to President Turk what Montenegro has done in its Euro-Atlantic path and thanked Slovenia for the support given in order for Montenegro to achieve successful integration and to have its first annual ANP in Brussels evaluated very positively. He pointed out that Montenegro is very committed to the reform process and implementation of its commitments in order to be prepared for the forthcoming NATO summit.

During the discussion readiness for further expert support to Montenegro on its Euro-Atlantic path was expressed at all levels.

**July 29**

## **Successful cooperation with JFC Naples continues**

Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic** received on Friday, 29 July 2011 Rear Admiral **Joachim Rühle**, Knowledge Management Director Joint Force Command Naples.

Minister Vucinic informed Rear Admiral Rühle on the progress in defence reform which Montenegro has made on its way to achieve its strategic foreign policy goals - membership in the European Union and NATO - the end of the first cycle of MAP and other preparations for the Second Annual National Programme (ANP).

Minister Vucinic said that the visit of Admiral Rühle is a proof of continuing excellent cooperation with the NATO JFC Naples in sharing experiences and knowledge in the field of modernisation of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, through its expert staff meetings and participation in NATO exercises and activities that JFC Naples is in charge of.

Admiral Rühle said that Montenegro has achieved remarkable results in reforming the defence system and that its contribution to peacekeeping missions and operations, particularly in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, is very appreciated by the Allies.

"Given the size of the Armed Forces of Montenegro, Montenegro is one of the biggest contributors to this mission," said Admiral Rühle and encouraged Montenegro to continue the reform process of defence system, emphasizing that Montenegro can in the future count on full support of JFC Naples.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION TEAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND PARTNERS**

**July 1**

### **Panel discussion on NATO and environment in Andrijevisa**

The NGO "Spona" from Berane, organized in Andrijevisa a panel discussion on "NATO and impact on the environment" within the project "NATO Info Point for north-east of Montenegro".

Besides representatives of the NGO "Spona", the discussion was also attended by representatives of the Hiking Club "Kom" from Andrijevica and NGO "Montenegro herc" from Plav, partner organisations of "Spona" that formed a network of 48 NGOs two years ago, all from the north of the state, which support Montenegro's full membership in NATO.

As it was heard at a lecture, although the Alliance is primarily recognized as a military alliance, "one should not forget that the member states devote full attention to the preservation of environment and that NATO itself has projects on the protection of nature and resources such as water or air".

The audience was interested, above all, in possible opening of NATO bases in the territory of Montenegro, if it becomes a member of NATO, as well as how these facilities would affect environmental pollution of the Adriatic Sea or the mountains of Montenegro.

Reminding the audience that a few days Montenegro was visited by NATO Secretary General who said that NATO has no plans on building any military bases in Montenegro, **Sasa Radunovic**, Chairman of the Board of the NGO "Spona" emphasized that each state must approve such constructions, and the current government assures citizens that NATO bases will not be built in Montenegro if it becomes a NATO member.

"Even if it does happen, and if this or any other government permits base construction, it is certain that it would have to meet all environmental standards. If not so, would Italy, Greece, Spain or Turkey, all NATO members, have environmentally-preserved coasts and stay among the most developed tourist destinations, with preserved coastline and no pollution," concluded Radunovic.

## July 4-10

### ALIANTE 2011 and REACT 2011 finished

ALIANTE 2011 World Finals and the fourth Regional Euro-Atlantic Camp REACT 2011 opened on 4th July at Vucje near Niksic, in the presence of 120 participants from 14 countries worldwide.

The events were opened by the Montenegrin Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic**, Head of the Coordination Team for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration **Dragan Pejanovic**, President of the Municipality of Niksic **Nebojsa Radojicic**, representative of the Royal Norwegian Embassy **Esben Aass**, International Coordinator of the ALIANTE Competition **Zbinek Pavlacik**, and Executive Director of the ALFA Centar and President of the REACT 2011 Expert Committee, **Aleksandar Dedovic**.

Minister of Defence **Boro Vucinic** welcomed all the participants and declared the competition open. He said that the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro from its beginnings has been paying a special attention to cooperation with NGOs and unreservedly supports organizations and events aimed at promoting the idea of European and Euro-Atlantic integration as a process that will create a secure environment for the future of Montenegro. He pointed out that this institution intends to provide special support to activities that, through educational and competitive means, try to involve young members of the Montenegrin society in the process of building a Euro-Atlantic future of our country.

"This is an opportunity to contribute significantly to raising the awareness of our citizens, by presenting different views and opinions on the need for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, with eminent speakers from different countries. The above process is a topic for the whole Montenegrin society, and only with such an approach the best environment for the future of our state may be built," said Minister Vucinic at the opening ceremony.

Head of the Coordination Team **Dragan Pejanovic** expressed his satisfaction with the high level of interest of young people in Montenegro for the Euro-Atlantic integration, who have opened a number of questions on this subject and put forward their views, thus demonstrating the seriousness of their work to build their own better future.

"We are confident that lecturers will demonstrate that stability, security and progress are the bright future which we want to secure for young people in Montenegro as well as in the Western Balkans, and that these values are the basic vision of the EU and NATO integration processes of Montenegro," said Pejanovic.

Executive Director of the NGO ALFA Centar, organizer of the event, **Aleksandar Dedovic** said at the opening that although the participants differ in language, culture and views on the future of the region, the camp is an opportunity for them to learn together what life means. Dedovic said that all participants are invited to convey this experience to their countries, noting that previous camps were highly rated among the representatives of NATO.

After the official opening, the activities of the two events were continued up to 10 July.

Within the Euro-Atlantic Regional Camp REACT 2011 participants had the opportunity to hear different presentations and messages, and a common opinion was expressed that the Euro-Atlantic integration is an important challenge and opportunity for Montenegro. In particular, the organizers expressed their satisfaction with the active involvement of participants in the events.

Speakers and panellists at the Regional Camp were the representatives of Montenegro:

**Drasko Jovanovic**, Deputy Minister for Defence Policy; **Dubravka Lalovic**, Director at the Directorate for NATO at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; **Daliborka Pejovic**, Director of the Agency for Environmental Protection; Major **Mitar Klikovac** and Sergeant First Class **Branko Drobnyak**, members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro; **Koca Pavlovic**, "Pokret za promjene" political party; **Obrad Miso Stanisic**, "Democratic Party of Socialists" ; **Mirko Stanic**, secretary of the "Social Democratic Party" ; **Milan Radovic**, vice president of the "Narodna stranka Crne Gore"; **Ivan Jovetic**, Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognosis, Montenegro; **Dritan Abazovic**, Deputy Director of the NGO ALFA Centre; **Blagoje Grahovac**, a retired General; **Predrag Manojlovic**, Chemical Engineer and a retired Colonel, PhD **Radovan Stojanovic**, GEPSUS Program Director for Montenegro; **Nenad Ristic**, **Vukasin Pejovic**, **Viktorija Badza**, **Djordje Otasevic** and **Branko Aleksic** from Montenegro;

and representatives of other countries from the region and the world: **Catherine Sue Brown**, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro; **Tibor Csaszar**, Hungarian Ambassador to Montenegro; **Izmir Talic**, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Montenegro; **Arian Starova**, Albanian Deputy Minister of Defence; **Zsolt Rabai**, NATO PDD; **Primoz Savc**, Director General for Defence Policy

of the Slovenian Ministry of Defence; **Aljosa Selan**, a representative of the Directorate of Defence Policy of the Slovenian Ministry of Defence; **Mladen Nakic**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia; **Esben Aass**, the Norwegian Military Attaché in Serbia; **Jack Petri**, a retired U.S. Colonel; **Roger Batho**, a retired British Colonel; Colonel **Thomas Rois**, political advisor to EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Nenad Canak**, president of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina; **Aleksandra Jerkov** (LSV), member of the Parliament of Serbia; **Nadica Stosic**, Executive Director of the Initiative for Integration, Serbia; **Zoran Filipovski**, a professor at the Faculty of Security Studies, Macedonia; **Milos Solaja**, president of the Centre for International Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Oliver Andonov**, a professor at the Faculty of Security Studies, Macedonia; **Andrej Skraba**, the University of Maribor; **Natasa Kecman** and **Nadira Bosnjak** from Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Skender Pertesi** from Kosovo.

ALIANTE 2011 World Finals was completed on 8 July. Forty teams from 11 countries were competing during four days in disciplines such as overcoming manmade and natural obstacles, target shooting, orienteering skills, swimming and knowledge competition. Competitions were held at Vucje, in Kotor and in Danilovgrad.

The best results were shown by the team of Georgia, then the Montenegrin team, while the third place was taken by the team from Lithuania.

The top five teams won the journey during which they had the opportunity to raft the river Tara, visit Piva and Ostrog monasteries, and they were also received in the Government of Montenegro by **Ivan Masulovic**, Adviser to the Montenegrin Prime Minister.

**Aleksandar Dedovic**, executive director of the ALFA Centre after the competition said: "Besides competing, high school students also learned a lot by visiting Montenegro, and also learned and understood the need for mutual respect and understanding as a prerequisite for creating a secure environment in this part of the world. Of course, the main part of the competition was having military and NATO knowledge, but this year an important part was the cultural side of the competition as well. I am glad that all participants were unanimous in their assessment that ALIANTE 2011 was so far the best organized World Finals, especially considering the fact that we have for the first time organized such great and important competition."

ALIANTE 2011 and REACT 2011 Closing Ceremony was held on Saturday, 9 July at Vucje. The ceremony was attended by Colonel **Douglas M. Faherty** from the U.S. Embassy in Montenegro, **Bruce Murphy**, the newly appointed Military Attaché in Montenegro, **Zeljko Zegarac**, Colonel in the Armed Forces of Montenegro, **Mitar Klikovac**, Major in the Armed Forces of Montenegro and **Aleksandar Dedovic**, Executive Director of the NGO ALFA Centar.

**Aleksandar Dedovic** awarded diplomas to all REACT participants, emphasizing that the Euro-Atlantic integration will mostly affect young people, who are the driving force and the future of every society.

July 7

## **Training of state and local servants and employees continues in July**

In July, 5 lectures were held within the **Training of state and local servants and employees on NATO**, out of which 2 in Podgorica, and 1 in each Tivat, Niksic and Pljevlja.

The Training was conducted on the topic “Montenegro on its path to NATO”. Lectures were attended by a significant number of members of the Armed Forces of Montenegro and civil servants and employees.

The training was held by Colonel **Mehmedin Tahirovic**, Head of the Verification Centre for Arms Control at the Ministry of Defence and a member of the Coordination Team.

The Training is organized by the **Human Resources Management Authority of the Government of Montenegro** and the **Coordination Team**.

July 6 and 12

## **Conversations with retirees on Euro-Atlantic integration**

In order to implement activities under the Action Plan for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, **Conversations with retirees on Euro-Atlantic integration** were held on 6 July in Pljevlja and on 12 July in Bijelo Polje.

On these events, informal conversations were held with retirees with an aim to familiarize them with the current security situation in these two municipalities, and the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro.

Participants of the event in Pljevlja were **Sead Frljuckic**, Advisor to the Director of Police, **Filip Vukovic**, President of the Municipality of Pljevlja, **Darko Corac**, Head of Police Regional Unit Pljevlja, **Dragan Pejanovic**, Head of the Coordination Team for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration, Major **Sasa Jovanovic**, Commander of the I Contingent of the Montenegrin Armed Forces in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, and **Ivan Mandic**, President of the Branch of the Interiors Retirees (Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Security Agency, Police Directorate and Police Academy).

Participants of the event in Bijelo Polje were **Sead Frljuckic**, Advisor to the Director of Police, **Radovan Obradovic**, Deputy President of the Municipality of Bijelo Polje, **Petar Sestovic**, Head of Police Regional Unit Bijelo Polje, Captain **Dragoslav Pumpalovic**, Head of NATO and EU Department at the Ministry of Defence, and **Ivan Mandic**, President of the.

During their presentations, participants pointed out that a small country like Montenegro needs a special security system due to political and economic instability in the region, and that the prosperity of its citizens is the most important goal of integration into democratic societies and alliances.

The organizers of the event were the **Coordination Team for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro, the Police Directorate, Municipalities of Bijelo Polje and Pljevlja, and Branch of the Interiors Retirees.**

## July 11

### **ALIANTE and REACT - A good example of the driving force**

Prime Minister's Advisor on Security Integration **Ivan Masulovic** received on Saturday, 9 July winners of the **ALIANTE 2011 World Finals**, which was organized by the **NGO ALFA Centar** from Niksic, with the support of the Government of Montenegro.

Masulovic congratulated the participants on the results achieved and expressed confidence that their participation in the competition will be of great use in future phases of professional development.

He stressed that the Government of Montenegro will continue to support youth projects and which are aimed at acquiring knowledge, especially those that carry the idea Euro-Atlanticism and integration, as a strategic determinant of government policy.

"The common goal of Montenegrin institutions is to create an environment that will give everyone an equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and quality. In this regard, I sincerely welcome the good intention of the ALIANTE and REACT organizers, the NGO ALFA Centar, which gave a good example for youth relations – who represent the driving force and the future of every society," said Masulovic.

The participants assessed that these events represented a good opportunity to improve their knowledge about the Alliance, security issues and international relations, but also for an exchange of cultural diversity.

They also thanked the Government representatives for the hospitality in Montenegro, describing this event as important for further strengthening of relations among states in promoting the idea of cooperation within the Euro-Atlantic structures.

## July 28

### **Report and new six-month Action Plan adopted**

Placing particular emphasis on the processes of European and Euro-Atlantic integration and having in mind that the commitment to membership in NATO is the right model for achieving long-term stability, economic and social prosperity, the **Government of Montenegro** at its Session on 28 July, as part of the implementation of its foreign policy priorities, adopted the Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for implementation of the Communication Strategy on Euro-Atlantic integration for the period 1 January - 30 June 2011, with the Action Plan for the period 1 July – 31 December 2011.

The Government concluded that a number of activities on informing citizens about the essence of the political and security importance of the North Atlantic Alliance in global terms have contributed to increasing public awareness about this organization.

The aim of the new six-month Action Plan is continuing the process of informing and educating activities in the field of Euro-Atlantic integration, and representatives of NGOs, media and universities will take part in its implementation.

In order to achieve complete transparency, the adopted Report and the new six-month Action Plan are publicly available on the website of the Coordination Team [www.nato-montenegro.me](http://www.nato-montenegro.me).

## July 28

### Panel Discussion for citizens of Mojkovac

The NGO "**Spona**" from Berane and its partners, Hiking Club "**Kom**" from Andrijevica and "**Mreza 9**" from Plav on Thursday, 28 July, organized a panel discussion on the Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro for the citizens of Mojkovac.

The panel discussion was attended by fifteen citizens of Mojkovac, and the panellists were MPs **Koca Pavlovic** (PpP) and **Radojica Zivkovic** (Nova), Secretary of the SDP **Mirko Stanic**, and General **Blagoje Grahovac** and **Dritan Abazovic**, members of the Forum 2010.

The discussion lasted for more than two hours and the panellists exchanged their arguments on the necessity of full membership of Montenegro in NATO, but also on the reasons for their opposition to the integration process of our country.

After the panellists had their opening statements and had expressed their views on the topic, the citizens raised many questions, to which all the panellists gave their answers.

The Panel Discussion for citizens of Mojkovac was organized within the project "NATO Info Point for north-east of Montenegro", which is being implemented since May 2011 by the NGO "Spona".

Besides opening the Info Point, this project will include twelve meetings, panel discussions and lectures in seven municipalities in northern Montenegro.