

The 63rd European Forum Alpbach 2007 - EMERGENCE
Reform symposium “EMERGING MARKETS – EMERGING PARTNERS”,
20-22 August 2007, Alpbach, Tyrol, Austria

Panel: “POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES”

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PROMOTING MAIN PRINCIPLES OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN WESTERN BALKAN REGION THROUGH REGATTA APPROACH - VIEW FROM MONTENEGRO

1. “EUROPESATION” AS MOTOR OF CHANGES

The Western Balkans countries knocking on the door of the EU, including Montenegro, have defined EU association process as their strategic priority, so called „Europesation“ as the main instrument of all reform processes and positive changes in the society, expecting at the same time that the future enlargement policy will be equally motivating and open for new member states.

Inspired by the basic idea of this year Reform Symposium¹, this paper is aimed at presenting a small Western Balkan country's standpoint, on its way towards current integration after independence, which give character to our future European road.

Montenegro, along with all its neighbouring countries, deeply believes in the EU strength and perspectives. But, a future consolidated and enlarged Europe has also become a management challenge. Economic reform changing is the nature of economic power and we learn how to use that power through integration process. Through creation of our own European reform agendas, our Region wait for a new reform framework to keep Europe competitive. We define our development strategy. No doubt, it is European integration process which includes local development factors to improve competitiveness of our economy.

It is already written in Agenda for Economic Reforms (2005) that, in medium-term perspective of development, the Montenegrin economy will achieve *“high degree of conformability of domicile legislation, procedures and institutions with juridical system of EU in strategic process of EU association: the degree of transparency, the level of liberalization and level of competency of economy sectors in Montenegro which provide gradual integration on EU”*.

Developments goals of Agenda for Economic Reforms were further realized under rather changed circumstances. In whole Region, so-called European Agenda, Strategic plan for development of the state which will enhance association process to the EU, became strategic development agenda.

¹ “...Business-oriented development cooperation is aimed at promoting local growth and, as a consequence, local wealth. What changes in development policy does this goal require?...”(www.alpbach.org)

European Agenda for Montenegro was based on clearly defined way of European integration, which should provide stable political and good economic, development perspectives to all citizens of Montenegro: to participate, as politically stable country, in security integration, such as Partnership for Peace, and, as economically stable, attractive for investments and perspective country for development, to attract as strong new investments as it is possible in our economy, and, in that manner, to strengthen economic cooperation and to open new workplaces.

In the last few years, European Integration challenges weren't such an easy task. While the South-Eastern Europe was intensively preparing for membership in EU, and while majority of neighbouring countries completed important tasks in stabilisation and association process, Montenegro had to focus on re-gaining of its independence first, as a precondition for qualitative European and Euro-Atlantic integration. We can witness that it was not easy neither simple task to complete. "The battle" for the Montenegrin European perspective took place both in the country and abroad, with the key-motive, that it was the shortest, the most efficient and the most natural way for EU stabilisation and association process. Nowadays, we are inheriting good results achieved on that road until the summer 2007.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS IN MONTENEGRO

Creation of institutional relation of our country with EU, formally, is more than forty year old. Already in 1967 our ex-country, SFRY, signed the Declaration on relations, the first political act of the Community with a socialistic system state which defines political postulation of the future relations of SFRY in the frame of European regional integration². Unfortunately, in that context, we can't celebrate forty years of European integration, having in mind all happened in our region in hard transitional period during nineties of last century.

From SFRY, via FRY (1992) and State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (2003-2006), before independence, Montenegro has passed three institutional frameworks followed by deep economic recession. Economic recovering was gradual and slow.

After Feasibility Study in April 2005, finally negotiations on SAA between SCG and EU started in October 2005. All the time until the Referendum on State-Status, Montenegrin delegation

² In 1970 and 1973 SFRY signed the first trade agreements with EEC achieving the most-favoured nations status with reciprocal concessions. Since 1 July 1971, SFRJ became beneficiary of General Preference Scheme, trade policy instrument of the EEC/customs concessions, preferences, EEC gives to the country which is user of preferences for different goods/ . These agreements led to great growth of the trade cooperation with EEC countries during eighties (1/3 of SFRY export and Import). Two Protocols on Financial Cooperation were signed based on Agreement from 1980 - participation of the Community in financing of the projects in SFRJ of the mutual interest; means were provided by EIB from its loans /infrastructure projects/; The First Protocol went into effect in 1982; The Second Protocol went into effect in 1988; The Third Protocol on Financial Cooperation was signed in 1991 and never went into effect; (Djurovic G., »European Integration of Montenegro«, paper on International Conference: 50 years of the Treaties of Rome and future of the Western Balkans, KAS Foundation, Directorate for European Integration, Government of the BiH, Sarajevo, April 13, 2007);

successfully negotiated and fulfilled all obligations concerning regular reporting and preparations of individual proposals for certain parts of Agreement, which, according to *twin track* model, started to „exist“ as two different Agreements. Having enough confidence in its capacities, Montenegro was ready to offer even shorter transitional periods for implementation³ and to have always clear opinion on every issue related to SAA.

Table 1: MONTENEGRO – CHRONOLOGY OF SAA NEGOTIATION PROCESS WITH EU

7. 11.2005. Belgrade	First official round - Negotiated on preambula and following chapters of SAA: general principles, political dialogue, regional cooperation, cooperation policy.
20/21.12.'0 5. Belgrade	First technical round – Negotiation of chapter IV – free movement of goods (chapter I- industrial products, chapter II- agriculture and fishery, chapter III- common regulations) and on chapter VIII- cooperation policies
25. 1.'06.	Video conference on preparations for the second route of technical negotiations (Podgorica-Brussels).
22/23.2.'06 Belgrade	Second technical round - Negotiation of Chapter V- movement of employers, establishing of trade unions, providing of services, capital, on Chapter VI- harmonization of legislation, on Chapter IV- free movement of goods and on Chapter VIII- cooperation policy.
5.4.'06. Belgrade	Second official round – Recapitulation of previous negotiation routes was made and after that negotiations were about Chapter V- section I- movement of employers and Chapter X- institutional, general and final regulations (except Articles 123-130)
25/6.4.'06 Brussels	Technical Consultations on economic part of the Agreement and the Annexes
2.6.2006. Podgorica	Technical Consultations on procedure for getting a new negotiation mandate after the independence was declared (work on a new draft SAA)
24. 7.2006	NEW NEGOTIATION DIRECTIVE FOR SAA NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EU-MONTENEGRO
26.9.2006. Podgorica	Third official round –recapitulation of previous routes was done and then it was negotiated on Chapter VII- Justice, freedom and security, and on Chapter X- institutional, general and final regulations (Articles123-130). Third technical round – negotiation of SAA text in chapters IV,V,VI and VIII, such as about concessions on industrial and agricultural products
19.10. '06 Brussels	Technical consultations on customs agency capacity and negotiations on agriculture.
8. 11.2006. Podgorica	Fourth technical round – negotiations on transitional periods in SAA, confirmation of the protocols and annexes, administrative capacity, join to international organizations and conventions.
1. 12. '06. Podgorica	Fifth technical round – Final negotiations on SAA, mutual concessions and protocols- technical finalization of the negotiations.
14.12.'06- 12.3.'07	Brussels: Meetings of the Committee for the WB on conformation of Member States on SAA proposal with Montenegro (COWEB)
15.3.2007	Initialling of SAA in Podgorica (Prime Minister of Montenegro, Mr Zeljko Sturanovic and Commissioner for Enlargement, Mr Olli Rehn)
15.10.2007	<i>Official signing of SAA is expected on the Meeting of General Affairs and External Relations Council of Ministers in Luxembourg</i>

Source: 7th Quarterly Report for the MNE Parliament on MNE Government activities in stabilization and association process, Secretariat for European Integration, Podgorica, May 2007;

³ “The association will be progressively and fully realised over a transitional period of a maximum **of 5 years**” (Article 8 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and the Republic of Montenegro, initialled on March 15, 2007 in Podgorica)

SAA Negotiation process with EU was entirely integrated with the project of re-gaining of Montenegrin independence and it contributes to the strength of political idea. Finally, on 21 May, 2006, on Referendum on State-Status, by free will of citizens, Montenegro became «the youngest» state, immediately recognized by UN and by EU and in that way, speaking in language of integration, became the youngest „European country“.

The World reacts fast and positively, especially EU. Only ten days after Referendum, the first technical consultations on new negotiation mandate were held, that we received right after July 2006. Negotiations continued technical part was successfully finished on 1 December, 2006. New Government, as a Government of continuity, continues this important process without delay which was specially approved and greeted by all EU institutions.

By decision of EU Council of Ministries dating from 15 September 2006, regular political dialogue was established on minister's level. EU invited Podgorica to coordinate its future policy with foreign policy of EU. Political dialogue was established in order to promote full integration of Montenegro in *community of European nations* and its gradual association to EU. Also, the purpose of meetings Montenegro-EU Troika will be closer cooperation between EU and Montenegro, especially in relation to harmonization of positions of Montenegro with the positions of EU concerning international issues, foreign and security policy of EU, so as exchange of information of common interest, regional cooperation and the strengthening of friendly relations between countries. The first political dialogue between Montenegro and EU was held in Brussels, on 22 January 2007, when Minister of Foreign Affairs met with EU Troika.

Meanwhile, another important step on way to Euro-Atlantic integration was taken. Montenegro acceded Partnership for Peace programme on 15 December, 2006.

Finally, on 15 March 2007, with positive confirmation of all 27 EU countries, Stabilisation and Association Agreement was initialled, and that event concluded the first, for us the riskiest and the most difficult phase of integration process, and opens the new page in affirmation of independent Montenegro and its European perspective. Agreement will be signed in October 2007 in Luxembourg.

Important event also occurred at the beginning of April. On 13 April 2007, **Agreement on Readmission** and **Agreement on Visa Facilitation** were initialled, which are one more contribution to institutionalization of the relations between all countries of the region with EU, through which, different categories of WB citizens will be able to get visas for travelling to EU countries in less complicated manner. These agreements are planed to be signed on September 18, 2007.

3. TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF MONTENEGRO

On the basis of a referendum held on May 21, 2006 Montenegro has become a fully independent state and has assumed full responsibility for its political, security and economic system. As part of the process of establishing its independence, Montenegro became a member of the United

Nations, IMF, World Bank and great number of the relevant UN-related and other international organizations.

After elections held in September 2006 Montenegro constituted new Government in November 10, last year.

“Montenegro, as the newest UN member state, is at a turning point. Independence has put the spotlight on the country, and the government has a unique opportunity in the next period to shape perception of both investors and international community as a whole of Montenegro and the direction of the economy for many years to come.

Much is going well:

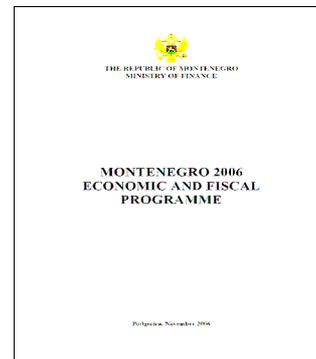
- The rediscovery of Montenegro as tourist destination has boosted the service industry
- Macroeconomic stability improved confidence in the banking system, strengthening deposit and credit growth
- Dynamic privatization and liberalization efforts have stimulated massive FDI – above 20% of GDP
- Growth has responded, and could reach 7% of GDP in 2007. More jobs have been created, and a large number of new firms have emerged, especially in tourism and trade”⁴

»Montenegro 2006 Economic and Fiscal Programme« (EFP)

is the first official submitted document on December 1, 2006, in recently initiated Economic dialogue between the EU and Montenegro, i.e. in the enhanced economic policy cooperation of Montenegro with DG Ecofin.

The EFP reflects the overall objective of the Republic of Montenegro planned for the period 2006-08 to maintain macroeconomic stability as a prerequisite to faster economic growth and development

Available on: <http://www.gom.cg.yu/files/1170154012.pdf>



Already in 2002, the Government of Montenegro adopted a broad reform document »Economic Reform Agenda for Montenegro, 2002 – 2007 – Report and Recommendations«. The document presents a comprehensive view on the reform process in Montenegro. In 2005, the Government updated this document by summarizing the results of the reforms implemented in 2003 and 2004, and by outlining key reform activities until the end of 2007.

Based on the Economic Reform Agenda, annual Economic Policy Programs are adopted in order to further define specific goals and measures for the reform implementation.

In 2005-2006 the Montenegrin economy benefited from a relatively high degree of macroeconomic stability. GDP grew by 4.3% in 2005 and advanced further by 6.5% in 2006. Retail price inflation (RPI) decelerated to 2% in December 2006. The unemployment rate

⁴ IMF, December 2006, Staff Visit Conclusions of the Mission;

decreased to 14.7% in December 2006. However, the current account deficit widened to around 31% of GDP in 2006, mainly driven by the continuous widening of the foreign trade deficit. The general government budget recorded a deficit of 2.4% of GDP while the preliminary budget execution points to a surplus of 1.2% of GDP in 2006.

Montenegro: Main economic indicators, 2000-2007

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 (IMF est.)
GDP u mil € (current prices)	1,022.2	1,244.8	1,301.5	1,329.0	1,565.1	1,690.0	1829	2,027
Population	612,496	614,791	617,085	618,233	620,706	623,189	624,963	
GDP/pc (current prices)	1.668	2.024	2.109	2.317	2.521	2.711	2.926	
Average wage (€)	150.00	176.00	193.00	271.03	302.81	326.50	377.36	
Real growth (% GDP)	3.1	1.0	0.8	2.5	4.2	4.3	6.5	7.0
CPI change (annual average)	-	22.8	17.8	7.9	3.4	1.8	2.8	3.0
Employed	195,271	197,388	192,901	190,417	192,501	194,426	203,546	
Unemployed	81,069	79,960	76,293	68,625	59,002	54,458	43,190	
Unemployment rate	32.7	31.5	30.5	25.8	22.6	18.4	14.7	12,3 *
General state balance (% GDP)	-	-1.6	-2.1	-3.3	-2.2	-2.17	1.2*	
Trade balance (% GDP)	-45.1	-49.4	-35.5	-26.1	-29.2	-30.8	-39.2	
External Public Debt (%GDP)	65.7	64.3	73.2	34.4	34.1	31.1	28.7	
External Debt (billion of euros)	0.671	0.674	0.894	0.472	0.502	0.513	0.524	
FDI (%BDP)	-	1.0	7.1	3.2	3.5	22.8	35.2	
FDI – net u billion	-	10.6	86.9	43.8	51.8	382.8	644	
Total tourism revenues (mil €)			144	151.2	179.7	217.0	320.0	

* Data for July 2007;

Source: Central Bank of Montenegro

The EFP and the European Partnership economic priorities⁵

The Council of Ministers adopted on 22 January 2007 a decision on the principles, priorities and conditions in the European Partnership (EP) with Montenegro. The Partnership identifies the short, medium and long-term priorities for Montenegro in order to move closer to the European Union and will be the key tool guiding the country's effort in this regard.

Some of the short-term priorities are already being met while the government is currently concluding an action plan outlining specific measures addressing the EP priorities.

The short-term priorities include some broad objectives like sustaining macroeconomic stability or continuing with the restructuring and privatisation process.

Other priorities include much more specific goals, some of which are already being implemented, like integrating capital expenditures into the government budget or adopting specific legislation such as the insurance law.

Some priorities are linked to specific processes and are also expected to be implemented swiftly, such as the adjustments to the trade regimes in order to render them compatible with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA).

The medium-term priorities included in the European Partnership are a natural continuation of the short-term ones. They put emphasis on continuing fiscal adjustment and consolidation to reduce external imbalances, ensuring a more flexible labour market or promoting the development of the private sector by improving the business environment. The EFP addresses these areas to a varying degree. The programme is more consistent with general priorities requiring longer implementation, like the reform of the labour markets, the pension system or measures for maintaining macroeconomic stability.

Overall, the policies outlined in the EFP are broadly supportive of the relevant parts of the European Partnership and its full implementation should therefore facilitate the accomplishment of the economic policies.

The fiscal scenario provides a good overview of Montenegro's medium-term fiscal strategy. Aware of the importance of conducting a sound fiscal policy in an officially "euroised" economy, the authorities aim at consolidating the fiscal stance by implementing budgets which are balanced or in

⁵ EC, DG Economic and Fiscal Affairs, 2006 Economic and Fiscal Programmes of Albania, BiH, Montenegro and Serbia – Overview and Assessments, March 2007;

surplus and reduce public debt relative to GDP by almost five percentage points by 2009. Improving the quality of public spending appears as the cornerstone of the program and is based on reducing public spending relative to GDP, changing the composition of expenditures and decreasing some distorting taxes. Reaping full benefits from the introduction of **the flat income tax** would require a reduction of the high payroll taxes and the acceleration of the pension system reform in order to limit the size of the informal labour market. The recent good performance of revenues and the envisaged deceleration of expenditures provide the necessary fiscal space to advance reforms, although several fiscal risks remain (costs of the restitution process).

4. POLITICAL CRITERIA AND SHORT TERM PRIORITIES IN THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR MONTENEGRO

<p>MONTENEGRO: Short-Term Priorities in European Partnership Document⁶</p> <p>Key Priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adopt a new Constitution based on broad consensus, in line with European standards, in particular in the areas of human and minority rights, organisation of the judiciary, audit, defence and security structures.2. Complete the establishment of the legal and institutional set-up required for an independent country including the signature and ratification of the international instruments to which the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro had adhered.3. Continue efforts to implement the reform of the public administration, including the civil service pay system, to ensure transparent recruitment, professionalism and accountability; continue, in particular, to strengthen the European integration structures at all levels (including in the relevant ministries and in the Parliament) and the mechanisms of coordination on EU matters.4. Finalise plans to reform the judicial system; remove recruitment and career management from the Parliament's powers and establish transparent procedures based on professional and objective criteria for selection and career advancement; rationalise the court system and modernise proceedings and improve administration; provide adequate and sustainable financing for the judicial system.5. Enhance the fight against organised crime and corruption at all levels, including by setting up efficient institutional mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation and enhancing the operational capacity of law enforcement bodies.6. Strengthen parliamentary control over defence and security structures.7. Continue ensuring full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).8. Strengthen the capacity to adopt and implement measures deriving from commitments negotiated under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, in particular upgrades the capacity of customs to correctly apply the rules of origin and the methods of administrative cooperation.

4.1. Constitution

Law on Procedure for Adoption and Proclamation of the Constitution of Montenegro, which was adopted by the Parliament on October 31, 2006 (OJ of Montenegro No. 66/06), establishes the procedure for making a Draft of the Constitution, public hearing, determining of the draft of Constitution and the procedure of adoption and proclamation of Constitution.

⁶ Council decision of on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Montenegro, 22 January 2007, (2007/49/EC)

On November 20, 2006, the Parliament has formed the **Constitutional Committee** of 17 members, whose structure proportionally corresponds to a number of party representatives within the Parliament. The Constitutional Committee has made a Draft Constitution ⁷ by general consent and submitted it to the Parliament on March 22, 2007. There are also some alternatives of certain MP clubs for some solutions from the Draft Constitution on which some members of the Constitutional Committee insisted.

On March 28 2007, the Parliament has confirmed the Draft Constitution and submitted it to a public hearing which lasted 60 days and ended on May 28, 2007. The Constitutional Committee received over 500 pages of text with different suggestions and opinions. During the public discussion many round tables were organized, with a participation of public authorities, professional associations, NGOs etc. Electronic and printed media also gave a great attention to a process of adoption of Constitution. International organisations present in Montenegro, Council of Europe, OSCE, NDI and others, also took part in the public hearing. The Venice Commission also submitted its comments on the proposed Draft Constitution.

Procedure of Passing of Constitution

According to the Law, the further procedure is the following: after the end of public hearing, the Constitutional Committee is obliged to consider propositions, suggestions and opinions given on the Draft Constitution and to take positions on each of them, after which the proposition of Constitution is established and delivered to the Parliament. The deadline for these activities is 15 days after the day of the conclusion of public hearing. Amendments on Draft Constitution can be submitted by clubs of Members of the Parliament, the President of the Republic and the Government. The Parliament decides on the Draft Constitution by a majority of votes of a total number of members of the Parliament and makes a decision on organising a referendum for confirmation of the Constitution. The referendum has to be held 10 to 20 days from the day of its announcement. The Constitution is confirmed on referendum if it gets a majority of votes of those who voted.

Law also envisages a possibility of avoiding a referendum, if the Parliament accepts the Draft Constitution by 2/3 of the total number of Members of the Parliament, in other words if a broader consensus is achieved. After the adoption of the Constitution, in any of these ways, the Parliament brings a decision on proclamation of the Constitution by a majority of votes of the total number of Members of the Parliament.

Contents of the Constitution

The Draft Constitution is conceived as a modern, constitutive, basic legal act of the State of Montenegro, with principles and norms which express basic constitutional and legal orientation of Montenegro as independent and sovereign, democratic, social and ecological state. Basic principles are: the rule of law, distribution of authority, respect and protection of human rights and freedoms, parliamentary democracy, free market and entrepreneurship and commitment to international legal order and the primacy of international law over domestic legislation. Draft Constitution contains 146 articles, for 17 of which alternatives were given.

⁷ [http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2007/CDL\(2007\)053-e.pdf](http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2007/CDL(2007)053-e.pdf)

During drafting of Constitution special care was taken of respecting the European standards. Council of Europe submitted to the Parliament a Proposal of Minimum of Principles which should be incorporated in the Constitution of Montenegro. The highest representatives of Parliament Member groups in Constitutional Assembly signed, on February 8, 2007, the Declaration on accepting of minimum of principles which need to be incorporated in the Constitution for entering of Montenegro into the Council of Europe. It is the opinion of the Constitutional Committee that all 7 principles were included in the Draft Constitution.

Parliament's Constitutional Committee approved **the draft Constitution on July 30, 2007**, and the draft Law on implementing the new constitution on August 7, 2007⁸. It is the final step before the constitution and accompanying legislation can be forwarded to the full parliament for debate.

4.2. National Program for Integration (NPI)

After the new Government entered into the office in November 10, 2006, it started immediately with the preparation of a new comprehensive economic development program fully harmonized with future SAA implementation plan. Montenegrin government program will be based on the existing strategic documents and will reflect new government's policy orientations, including its full commitment for intensified EU accession process.

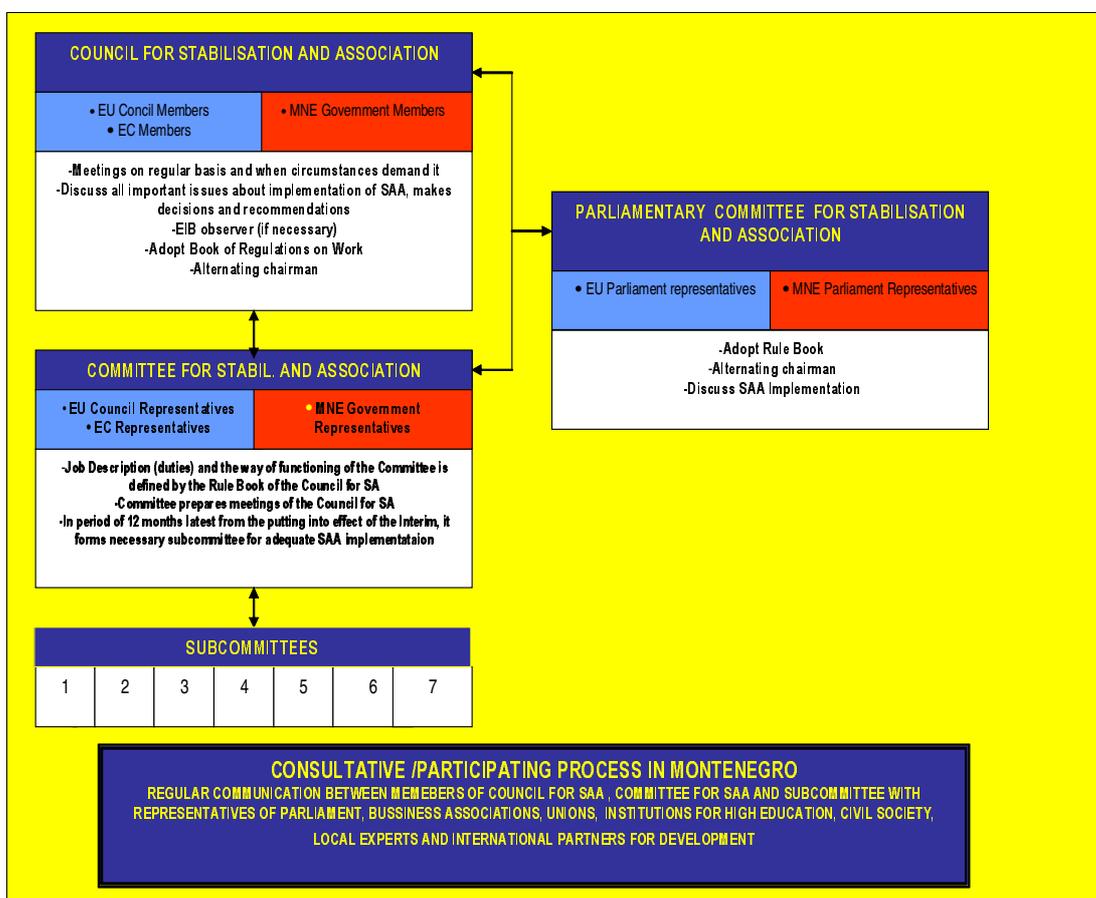
On 5 April 2007, Government of Montenegro adopted the proposal on **new organizational structures** which will follow implementation of the future SAA between EU and Montenegro and which will lead transparent dialogue in the country with all representatives of the society (Collegium for European Integration chaired by Prime Minister, Commission for European Integration chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and seven Groups for European integration). The team of the Government of the RMNE will be supported by international development partners, local partners, and it will also have significant technical assistance for IT support to the entire process and to the coordination of the process of translation, which means the work in EU program packages⁹.

In June, 2007, the Government of the RMNE adopted decision on preparation of the National Program for Integration (NPI), which will be prepared until March, 2008. NPI will be the key document of the Government in the years to come. It will serve not only as a tool for coordination of the reforms on the path to the EU and as a basis for annual Government work plan but also as transparent and well organized information to the European Commission and EU Member States on one hand and Montenegrin society on the other hand of intended reforms. NPI will cover the period 2008-12, in which key reforms necessary for internal readiness of Montenegro for taking on the obligations occurred from the future EU membership will be defined.

⁸ The main opposition parties boycotted the committee proceedings in the very final phase, on July 30th, after its request for an open TV session was ignored.

⁹ PROGRESS EDITOR for the legislation database and TRADOS for translation process.

EU – MONTENEGRO – Institutional arrangement for the SAA implementation process



At the same time, as it is shown in the previous scheme, new coordination structures for European Integration process were defined. They will be the basis for the participation of Montenegro in the **temporary joint bodies**, which will be established according to the institutional arrangement defined in the chapter X of the SAA.

What is also necessary to mention in this chapter are two important steps that Montenegro realized in European Integration process:

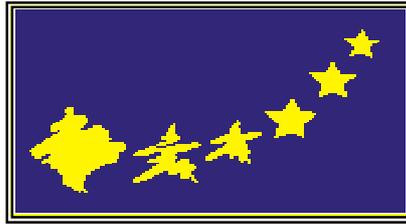
- separate **Action Plan for the Administrative Capacity Building for the Implementation of the SAA** was adopted in November 2006¹⁰,
- The First Report, for the period September 2006 – May 2007, on realization of measures from the **Action Plan for implementation of the Program for the Fight against Corruption and Organized Crime** was adopted in July 2007¹¹.

¹⁰ <http://www.gom.cg.yu/files/1176481368.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.gom.cg.yu/files/1186144468.doc>

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Montenegro, with SAA Agreement and clear vision for its democratic and economic future which will be defined in the new Constitution, is on the steady road to apply for candidate country status soon after signing, ratification and putting on force Interim SAA agreement. With that goal, and clear future vision, there is nothing more to say but the main message and the official motto of European integration process in Montenegro which has been adopted in spring 2004 - „**Let's go!**“¹²



ABSTRACT: Montenegrin SAA with EU, initialled on March this year, represents future main contractual relation which defines strategic roads of economic and global development of the country. It is result of a dynamic negotiation process, through which the capacity of Montenegrin institutions for association process also strengthened, along with the gradual adopting of key standards defined in European Acquis, especially those relating to the field of internal market and trade-related areas, financial sector legislation, as well as on Justice, Freedom and Security.

¹² Official **logo** of European integration process in Montenegro symbolises ascending transformational trend from the „map“ of Montenegro to one more European star.