



Government of Montenegro
Ministry of European Affairs

Conference

“Tenth Anniversary of Signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement – the Future of the European Integration of Montenegro”

Podgorica, 16 October 2017



Signing of the SAA, Luxembourg, 15
October 2007

Prime Minister Željko Šturanović,
Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn
and Luis Amado on behalf of the Portuguese
Presidency



OVERVIEW

Context

On 15 October 2007, Montenegro signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) in Luxembourg, thus establishing a legal foundation for relations with the EU. On the basis of the SAA, Montenegro has successfully developed institutional political dialogue with the EU, which is being undertaken through a joint structure for monitoring the implementation of commitments.

Following the ratification in all EU member-States, the SAA entered into force on 1 May 2010. The ratification process took two years and seven months, and in the meantime the Interim Agreement was in force, which was associated with trade and trade-related issues within the Commission remit.

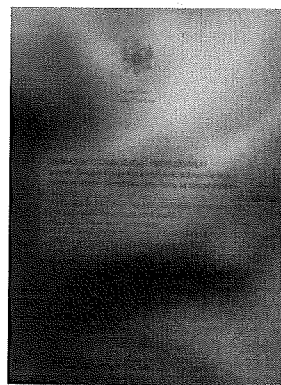
The SAA is an international agreement between the signatory State and the EU which sets up a legal framework for cooperation and gradual alignment with European standards. The SAA's entry into force marked a new phase of integration, which made it formally binding on Montenegro to align its legislation with the EU *acquis*, as well as to align positions and policies in all areas of cooperation. The quality of SAA's implementation was one of the criteria for receiving the Commission's positive opinion as well as for receiving candidate status, launching negotiations, and the pace of the EU accession process.

The institutional framework of cooperation between Montenegro and the EU is comprised of the following bodies:

1. Stabilisation and Association Council, which monitors the SAA implementation,
2. Stabilisation and Association Committee, which aids the Council,
3. Seven Sectoral Sub-committees,
4. Special Group for Public Administration Reform

5. Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee

6. Joint consultative committees



Main topics for discussion:

- Tenth anniversary of signing SAA between the EU and Montenegro: Key challenges and achievement;
- The importance of the SAA for the WB countries;
- Relations between the Western Balkans and the EU and the attitude of the EU and Member State towards enlargement;
- Reforms in the WB countries - Progress made in the past 20 years (whether reforms are sustainable, whether there are results in the field, how the slowdown in the accession process influences the implementation of reforms);
- The results of the Trieste Summit and informal Western Balkans (WB6) Prime Ministers' meeting in Durres; Shortcomings, further challenges and solutions.
- The future of the EU (Rome Declaration, March 2017 - the two-speed or multi-speed Europe or the Europe of concentric circles, priorities, the position of WBs countries);



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-President Juncker's "Letter of Intent" and plans to create the "Strategy for successful accession of Serbia and Montenegro to the EU - Which chances and which setbacks does this initiative offer?

Preliminary Programme

Monday, 16 October 2017 - Conference "Montenegro and the EU: Tenth Anniversary of Signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement"

12:30-12:35 - The formal opening of the Conference

12:35 - 13:00 - Introductory remarks:

H.E. Mr **Filip Vujanović**, President of Montenegro

Mr **Eduard Kukan**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the European People's Party

Mrs. **Genoveva Ruiz Calavera**, Director for the Western Balkans at the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

13:00 - 14:30 - Panel: "the Western Balkans and the EU: membership perspective"

Participants:

H.E. Mr **Frank Bakke-Jensen**, Minister of EEA and EU Affairs of Norway

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Mr **Igor Crnadak**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania H.E. Mr **Ditmir Bushati** - tbc

Minister of European Integration of Kosovo, H.E. Mrs **Durata Hoxha**

Minister of European Affairs and Chief Negotiator of Montenegro H.E. Mr **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović**

State Secretary for EU Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office of Hungary H.E. Mr **Sabolcz Takacs**

Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU Mrs **Tanja Mišćević**

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. **Iztok Mirošič**

Assistant to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Mr. **Boris Grigić**

Moderator: Mr. Momčilo Radulović, President of the European Movement in Montenegro

14:35 - A family photo (speakers)

14:35 - 15:35 - Cocktail

Who is taking part

Prominent representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, as well as representatives of the Member States and candidate countries in charge of the European issue.

Logistics information:

Where will the conference take place?

The Conference will take place in the Hotel Hilton, Podgorica.

Where will I stay?

No block hotel reservation has been made and you are kindly asked to arrange your own accommodation.

What is the working language of the Conference?

The official languages of the conference are Montenegrin and English.

When do I need to confirm participation?

We would appreciate if you could confirm your participation before **10 October 2017**.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact Nada Vojvodić DG for Informing and IT support in the Ministry of European



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Affairs, at nada.vojvodic@mep.gov.me or
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