



PARLIAMENT OF
MONTENEGRO



CETINJE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

***PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
DIMENSION OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE
CETINJE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
Cetinje, 26 April 2010***

The meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Dimension of Central European Initiative – Cetinje Parliamentary forum, was held in Cetinje, on 26th April 2010.

The general topic of the meeting was “Parliament’s role in Combating Corruption and Organized Crime”.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Mr Ranko Krivokapic, President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

The introductory speeches, with regard to general topic of the meeting, were delivered by Mr Drago Kos, President of the Group of States against Corruption – GRECO; Mr Ivan Brajovic, Montenegrin Minister of Internal Affairs and Public Administration; Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro; Mr Michael Ehrke, Director of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Office in Belgrade.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Miodrag Vukovic, Chairman-in-Office of the CEI Parliamentary Dimension and Head of the Montenegrin Parliamentary Delegation to the CEI-PD.

The meeting was attended by CEI delegations, representing the following Member States: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The meeting was also attended by guests from the Executive Secretariat of Central-European Initiative, European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, GRECO, as well as high representatives from the Diplomatic Corps.

The Working Session was addressed by Mr Miodrag Vukovic, Chairman of the CEI-PD; Mrs Ranka Carapic, Montenegrin Supreme State Prosecutor; Mr Ivo Vajgl, Member of European Parliament; Mrs Vesna Ratkovic, Montenegrin Director of the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative.

The Working Session was followed by presentations, delivered by participants of the meeting, with specific focus on developments in their respective countries, with regard to the issue of corruption and organized crime.

At the end of the meeting of Parliamentary Committee of the Parliamentary Dimension of Central European initiative – Cetinje Parliamentary forum, participants adopted -

Final Declaration

***Bearing in mind** that the European integration process is one of the key foreign policy priorities of all countries of Central and Eastern Europe region, which are in various stages of EU accession;*

***Highlighting** in particular the willingness of the countries on the territory of CEI, which in previous waves of enlargement have become EU members, in terms of offering and providing all forms of support to countries that are in the accession process;*

***Recognising** the efforts of EU to build its policy towards the countries in the accession process on a clear platform that will provide full and substantive regional cooperation, which is one of the key policies that is an integral part of the Stabilisation and Association Process;*

***Being fully aware** that the best way to maintain the stability of the region is to encourage and promote closer cooperation between the countries of the region, including a clear perspective of EU membership;*

***Highlighting** in particular the conclusions of the Thessaloniki Summit and the messages contained in the Thessaloniki Declaration and agenda, which promote the principle of open doors for candidate countries and potential candidate countries for EU membership;*

Aware of the fact that the approach which affirms the individual results and achievements of countries in the accession process is the most stimulative to the countries themselves and quality of reforms being implemented in order of the harmonization of legal, institutional and value system of the EU;

***Recognizing** the trend of strengthening the role of representative authorities, especially manifested through new institutional arrangements of the EU, founded by the Lisbon Treaty, with the enhanced role of the European and national parliaments in shaping and defining the various EU policies;*

***Expressing** willingness to act in compliance with the new, reinforced position of parliaments, in the direction of the continuous strengthening of their capacities, as to be fully prepared for the period after EU accession;*

***Highlighting** in particular the issues of corruption and organized crime as areas where additional efforts are needed to be met, the conclusion of which comes from the contents of all relevant EU documents, particularly the European Commission Annual Progress Reports;*

***Bearing in mind** the special delicacy of dealing with these phenomena, since the turbulent events of the end of 20th century, as well as the process of transformation of previous social system, served in creating an environment for increased presence of these deviations in our societies;*

***Recognizing** the need for better dealing with the problems of corruption and organized crime, the parliaments themselves, as being direct bearers of legitimacy, should establish closer cooperation and develop effective approaches, particularly in the context of strengthening its supervisory function of organs that are primarily responsible for the fight against these phenomena;*

***Perceiving** the increased EU focus on issues of corruption and organized crime, which particularly comes into play after the last wave of enlargement and the establishment of a special negotiating chapter devoted to justice and basic rights;*

***Appreciating** that the new EU approach to these issues is reflected in the tightening of conditions related to the negotiating process, within which the focus is particularly on the issues of justice and home affairs;*

***Underlining** that after the Lisbon Treaty, and in institutional terms as well, through the establishment of two separate Commissioners, one in charge of issues of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship and the other for matters of Home Affairs, an effective platform for more intensive dealing with these issues is built.*

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Welcomes the decisions of all European Union bodies in which the policy of enlargement and further identification is still identified as one of the basic European Union policies, which should result in integrating the entire European space in a unique institutional, legal and system of values;

Values in particular concrete steps made towards the approximation of candidate countries and potential candidate countries of EU, which is particularly reflected in the decision on visa liberalization for Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia;

Expresses its expectation that the visa liberalization process, which affirms one of four key freedoms on which EU is founded – free movement of people, will include, based on clearly defined criteria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries that have not been included in the first wave of establishing a visa-free regime;

Notes that EU demonstrates its enlargement policy commitment by the fact that the process of Assessment of the application of Montenegro for EU membership is entering its final phase, and that the consideration of the request for EU membership of Albania is in progress;

Welcomes the decision to begin the implementation of the Interim Agreement with Serbia, expressing the hope that EU Council is going to process soon the Application of Serbia for EU membership;

Welcomes the announcements for plans of conclusion of accession negotiations with Croatia, which will create conditions for this country to acquire the status of full EU member in the near future;

Expresses its expectation that in the future the institutional relations with other countries on the territory of CEI shall be intensified, in order to provide a clear European perspective for those countries;

Welcomes the willingness and concrete acts of those countries from the territory of CEI, which are EU members at the same time, to provide unconditional support to the European perspective of the candidate countries and potential candidates for EU membership and be the best promoters of the interests of these countries in all relevant institutions of the Union;

Notes that corruption and organized crime are serious obstacles to the principles of the rule of law, democracy, economic prosperity, regional stability and approaching to the European Union;

***Expresses** clear interest of parliaments of CEI PD member states to establish close cooperation in order to find effective parliamentary answers to challenges faced by countries in the fight against corruption and organized crime;*

***Calls upon** parliaments of CEI PD member states to pro-actively support, articulate and promote national responses to the fight against these deviations through instruments of evaluation of existing legislation in this area and implementation of effective parliamentary oversight and control;*

***Expresses** clear awareness that the problem of corruption and organized crime is a global phenomenon that has a clear transnational dimension, which implies the existence of optimal coordination between different institutions, both within the member states and the institutions of different countries;*

***Calls upon** all CEI PD Member States to consistently implement relevant international legal mechanisms and standards when it comes to the fight against corruption and organized crime, particularly those contained in the UN Convention against Transnational Crime and UN Convention against Corruption;*

***Demonstrates** a clear commitment in terms of full implementation of the principles of autonomy and independence of judiciary and provides full support for capacity building, and overall financial and personnel resources of these institutions, as essential elements for effectively dealing with the phenomena of corruption and organized crime;*

***Calls upon** Member States to consider improving the models of inter-state cooperation at all levels in terms of meaningful coordination between institutions that are directly involved in this issue;*

***Calls upon** Member States to approach to concluding bilateral agreements as part of more effective and coordinated fight against these phenomena, with which all the existing barriers will be removed when it comes to processing cases with elements of corruption and organized crime.*

***Adopted** the Amendment of the Head of the Montenegrin delegation to the CEI PD, by which the name of the Republic of Montenegro from the CEI PD Rules of Procedure is changed to Montenegro, due to Constitutional changes of the official name of the State.*