



**European  
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**Evropski pokret  
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## **EMI MONTENEGRO CONGRESS**

### **Fostering Civil Society in the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries**

**21-23 November 2013 - Budva, Montenegro**



### ***Final Report***



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## 1. Introduction

The aim of the EMI Montenegro Congress was to follow up on the achievements of the Istanbul Congress, a successor of the Ljubljana Congress (16-18 April 2009), which took place on 11-12 February 2011. We met again in Budva, 21-23 November 2013, in order to further explore the possibilities of enhancing the quality developments and perspectives of civil society in the candidate and potential candidate countries.

In this age of crisis and apparent decreased faith in the European project, fostering civil society in the candidate and potential candidate countries has grown to the rank of top priority task for the European Movement International. The EMI believes that a strong union between civil society and the European institutions will help persuade national governments in the region to undertake reforms. A positive evolution of the democratic transformation process in the Western Balkans and Turkey in recent years now needs to be pushed further, and followed up with the introduction of bodies, laws and regulations which stimulate the strengthening of civil society.

The respective sessions were scheduled around the following frameworks:

### **Introductory Session: The EU accession process as a framework for national reforms and strengthening of cooperation of governments and NGOs**

The accession criteria all candidate and potential candidate countries have to fulfill on their way to the European Union can be perceived as a unique opportunity for implementing democratic reforms on the national level and consequently, enhancing the quality of government – NGO cooperation. Local authorities have an opportunity to establish principles for their engagement with Civil Society Organizations, not to mention the opportunity to set standards for open governance, whereby citizens and CSOs actively and independently participate in public sector reform or development. Appropriate structures must be created within the national governments to ensure proper contact and orientation points for the NGOs, whilst their close cooperation should be grounded in the framework agreements or compacts, modern instruments of organizing the relations between civil society and local authorities.

### **Thematic Session 1: Overview of the situation of the countries towards enlargement / Reflection on the Enlargement Package 2013**

2013 was the final year of providing the Western Balkans with financial aid under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), which aims to build up the capacities of the candidate and potential candidate countries, making them ready for the accession process, and creating the means for a positive and progressive structural development in the region. A brief overview of the situation in the beneficiary countries shows that rule of law still remains the core of the enlargement process, followed by the strengthening of economic governance, implementation of democratic institutions, insurance of democratic processes and human rights protection. Despite Macedonia still encountering the problem of polarized politics and a serious standstill in the European Integration process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the general situation in the Balkans faces positive trends: There are calls for Albania to received candidate country status, provided it continues to fight organised crime and corruption; Serbia opened accession negotiations; Montenegro moved onto a new phase in its relationship with the EU by implementing a new approach to chapters 23/24, whilst SAA

negotiations have already started in Kosovo, marking a new chapter in the history of the region. In addition, European Union governments have recently restarted entry talks with Turkey after a three-year pause, which constitutes a milestone on the country's path to strengthening civil liberties.

### **Thematic Session 2: Civil Society development**

Ahead of the next round of EU enlargement round, we need to continuously emphasise the importance of creating a strong Balkan Civil Society network. This network should be capable of liaising between the European Institutions and local governments, building a coalition which will be crucial for the proper functioning of the entire network, and pushing institutional dialogue. Once again we need to affirm the significance of Civil Society Organisations in the reform process of candidate and potential candidate countries, reinforcing the European citizens' Initiative and being and promoting a transparent and open participatory democracy. Development of civil society is synonymous with increasing the role of CSOs in decision making processes and opening up government services.

### **Thematic Session 3: The EU enlargement in times of economic crisis**

The global economic crisis and the problems within the Eurozone continue to significantly influence or even slow down the integration of the Western Balkans. Nationalist discourses, resulting from the negative impact of the crisis on an average citizen, are also a factor to bear in mind. Despite this apparent negativity, one can reflect that the European Union itself came into being on the back of a deep economic crisis, and the current crisis may actually be the most suitable time to initiate radical counter-steps. The current economic crisis and its impact on European society (growing support for extremist parties, increasing populism, social exclusion, limitations on human rights, unemployment and poverty) requires deep engagement with CSOs in order to avoid social, local and racial tensions as well as the spread of so called enlargement fatigue. Contrary to this, some voices suggest we should first enhance the effectiveness of the existing members, and pessimists even question the overall effectiveness of the European integration. Nonetheless, the European Union is a living organism with its enlargement coming as an inevitable step; hence, improvement of the Western Balkans accession preparations should go hand in hand with actions undertaken to resolve the crisis. More importantly, we should remember the precedence of Greece, Spain and Portugal back in the 1980s and of the eastern EU states in the 1990s, to remind ourselves that enlargement can be used to foster economic development and implement democratic reforms.

### **Concluding Session: Regional Cooperation as a Framework for Fostering of European Integration and Protection of Human Rights**

With multiculturalism endangered by the impact of crisis in Europe and populism a growing presence, it is crucial to bring into existence a strong Balkan Civil Society network. Balancing the local and national problems and solving ethical issues within the framework of regional cooperation could work as a way to boost the adaptation process to the Copenhagen criteria, mainly the rule of law and human rights protection. The individual states' positive contribution to regional cooperation should include stepping up high-level contacts with neighbouring countries, fighting social exclusion, activating citizens' participation, common accountability and implementing reforms towards freedom of information.

## 2. Minutes of the Sessions

### Welcome words and opening speeches

**Mr Milo Đukanović**, Prime Minister of Montenegro

**Mr Diogo Pinto**, Secretary General of the European Movement International

**Mr Momčilo Radulović**, President of the European Movement in Montenegro

Moderated by: **Ms Bisera Turković**, Secretary General of the European Movement in Montenegro



**Ms Bisera Turković**, “Good morning, respected Mister Prime Minister, respected Ministers, dear Excellencies, dear representatives of the governments and parliaments, dear colleagues from the civil society from all over Europe, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the EM-EMI Congress on the European Movement and civil society in South-East Europe, Montenegro 2013, entitled “Fostering Civil Society in the Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries”.

This is the third congress of European Movement which is following the successful footsteps of the previous congresses held in Ljubljana 2009 and in Istanbul 2011.

We are happy to have you all here today for what we hope will be two days of very fruitful and political discussions, together with our great speakers that we have gathered here for the Congress. Without further delay, I would like now to call on stage Mr. Milo Đukanović, Prime Minister of the Republic of Montenegro, to officially open the Congress”.

**Mr Milo Đukanović**, Prime Minister of Montenegro, delivered the original speech in Montenegrin, summary in English can be found below.

*The Prime Minister of Montenegro opened the Congress emphasizing the role of the European Movement International’s contribution to building a united Europe in the past 7 decades. He then proceeded to paint an exhaustive image of Montenegro on the European and Balkan stage as the factor of stability in the region.*

*Mr Đukanović pointed out that Montenegro expresses a strong wish to become a full member of the EU and accede to the system of European values.*

*The most important reform process in the country on the road to the EU integration – economical, political – has already started with full speed and, therefore, there is no need to slow it down, despite the crisis Europe is currently undergoing. Montenegro is the 1<sup>st</sup> country to start negotiations on chapters 23 and 24, which constitutes a green light for the opening of other chapters. This leadership position in the region’s accession comes along with a great responsibility and requires adjusting the*



*institutional framework, but also liaising in the economic situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and political issues between Athens and Skopje.*

*Given that, since July 2013, following Croatia's ascension to the EU, Montenegro has had a land border with the European Union, the EMI Congress was scheduled at the right time in the right place. With their expertise and recommendations, civil society organisations play a strategic role in the Montenegrin integration process. The civil sector has a special role to play in keeping Montenegro's multi-ethnic population together in the only Balkan country that escaped war destruction of its territory. Regional cooperation and regional stability remain the top priorities for Montenegro; Montenegrin CSOs can be put in the front line of the debate as they are closely linked to these contemporary trends.*

**Ms Bisera Turković**, “Thank you Prime Minister for officially opening the congress. And now, for a word from the organizers, the European Movement International, the initiator of these congresses on fostering the civil society in the European Union but also in the countries which are aiming at becoming member states of the European Union. I would like to invite the Secretary General of the European Movement International, Mr Diogo Pinto, to the stage”.



**Mr Diogo Pinto**, Secretary General of the European Movement International,

“Good morning; your Excellency, Prime Minister, Dear President of the European Movement in Montenegro, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, Participants, Colleagues, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen. Let me start by conveying you all on behalf of Mr. Leinen – his apologies for not being here today. Mr Prime Minister, Mr Leinen is very sad that he cannot be here today with us, but he asked me to thank you for your government’s general support and for honouring us all with your presence today. He also asked me to thank the European Movement in Montenegro and to congratulate you for making this event possible and for testifying, once again, for the wonderful work that the national councils of the European Movement in South-East Europe have been doing and the contribution you all have been making for the success of the European integration of this region. It’s my honour and my privilege to speak on his behalf at this opening and I will do it with a lot of pleasure.

For the last 4,5 years of my turn as a Secretary General of the EMI, I have had the privilege of observing the achievements and the progress made by the region on its way to the European Union. From the process of visa facilitation and visa exemption that brought freedom of mobility to the citizens of the region, granting the status of a candidate country to Serbia, the negotiations with Montenegro, and, of course, the recent accession of Croatia, there are many signs of the positive steps that we know they all have been taking. Since the Thessaloniki summit, over 10 years ago, it became clear that indeed the future of the Balkans is within the European Union. Of course, many challenges remain, ranging from security issues, the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, to economic development and regional cooperation.



Today and tomorrow, we will together have the opportunity to discuss how far we have come, but will also discuss the remaining challenges, not just for the candidate countries, but also for the EU. The topic of this event expresses almost perfectly what the European Movement is about. The European integration, of course, but also fostering civil society. We are proud of our deeds and of our contributions which, since 1949, for 65 years already, the European Movement has made to the realization of the dream of united Europe. In spite of all the problems and of all the doubts that so many of the European citizens have, doubts that have been fueled and driven by the present crisis, the truth is that when we look back, we can only be proud of how far we have come. As we predicted in 1948, the united Europe of today is undoubtedly better than the one we had before. But the European Movement, from the very beginning, dreamt of a united Europe that would be based on the values of democracy, freedom, equality and solidarity. A Europe that would put at the core the people. All people who share this beautiful continent.

And that is why, 60 years on and in spite of all the achievements, we are still around. Because this is not yet accomplished, not for every country, not for every person. This region has been through our times the field for many battles. Today it is a battlefield where the future of the project of European integration is being defined. Let's not overdramatize it, but let's not ignore it either. The success of the European integration of the Balkans will, in many ways, define whether there is a prospect for other regions too, or whether the words we say about the enlargement has killed the project. You all know what the European Movement thinks of this issue.

But thinking is not enough. More concrete progress and further real achievements are needed. This will only happen if we manage to work together in the countries of the region and in the European Union itself. Civil society can – and indeed plays a crucial role in this process. It is our responsibility, as civil society leaders and activists, to play our part. But this can only become so if the public authorities of all levels, in the countries and in the EU, practice what they preach and show openness for serious and constructive cooperation with civil society organisations. This is absolutely necessary.

This congress will be a space for a dialogue, to continue the dialogue in some cases, to start it in others. We will try to show some good examples and to put forward some best practices, hoping that they will be forwarded by others. We will talk and we will listen. And hopefully, we will all learn something new, something useful. And we will leave Montenegro equipped not only with good souvenirs and the views of a beautiful landscape, and the kindness of the people, but also comforted in our beliefs and encouraged to go back and keep fighting for the united, peaceful, democratic and wealthy Europe, for the sake of all the people who live in the continent. Thank you very much.”

**Ms Bisera Turković,** “Thank you Mr. Pinto. Well, the European Movement in Montenegro, despite being one of the youngest of the 42 national councils of the European Movements, got this amazing opportunity to be the host of one of the congresses on the European Movement and civil society, such an important event for all the civil society in Europe. And I think that despite all the limitations we have, we proved to be up to the task and I hope that we will fulfil the expectations you have on this congress today and tomorrow. In the name of the European Movement Montenegro I would like to call on stage the President of European Movement in Montenegro, Mr. Momčilo Radulović.”

**Mr Momčilo Radulović**, President of the European Movement in Montenegro,

“Respected Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro, Mr. Djukanović, respected Vice-president Lukšić, respected minister Ružić, respected representatives of governments and parliaments of the countries of the region; Your excellences and representatives of the diplomatic corps, respected representatives of international organisations, speakers, dear colleagues from the civil sector of the countries of the region and the European Union, ladies and gentlemen, respected and dear guests,



To all of you I want to say a special and sincere, „Welcome“.

Welcome to the third, already traditional Congress of our International European Movement and civil society of the South East Europe, which we organise this time right here in Montenegro, in the moment when our country intensifies its negotiations with the European Union and when, at the same time, the role of civil society in that process of negotiations, but also in the process of realisation of reforms in general is being strengthened.

Simultaneously, slowly but steadily, relations between institutions, organisations and individuals from civil society in all countries of the region are being strengthened. However, this process is not followed with the same intensity of development of relations between public institutions and the civil sector, so that we have a significant discrepancy between situations within the countries of the region in this respect.

We are facing very different practices, from the very positive ones that are completely or significantly including civil society in the reform processes, as well in processes of European integration, while the other end of this story includes some of the countries in which are still facing a lack of trust towards NGOs and civil society and exclusion policies in many aspects of the public institutions activities.

This is the clear signal for all of us, from all parts of this regional spectrum and both parts of our social institutions, public and private, to continue with joint efforts that will lead to resolving of accumulated problems in some countries of the region and to start with installing the processes and methods of standardisation of practices and methodologies. Nevertheless, whatever the future and prospects of these efforts, the primary mission of NGOs of the region has to be a significant introspection – introspection of our assignments, our missions, our potentials and our capacities.

Who we are and what we work for, how do we perform our duties, what is the level of our credibility as individuals and civil society organisations, which methods do we use to fulfil our goals, what is our knowledge and capacities for the work we performs and how do we differ from other subjects from civil society and public opinion in general? Analysis of the situation in relation to the above mentioned questions has to provide answers alongside our daily realisation of activities, but also with finding new models and methods of the civil sector’s activities in the area of European integration in our countries.



Therefore we hope that during this Congress, we will be able to provide at least part of the answers to these questions, but also to questions on how to help the governments and other public institutions with executive powers in the region to become more efficient in the realisation of reforms and obligations in the area of European integration. At the same time, we ask ourselves also how civil society can efficiently help the parliaments of the region to adequately monitor harmonization with EU acquis, and, at the same time, to strengthen their control over the work of the governments.

Last, but not the least, we have to pose the question on how civil society can initiate, facilitate or concretely contribute to the implementation of reforms in the area of rule of law, judiciary and protection of human rights. We are aware that this Congress cannot fully provide answers to all the questions that are posed before us, but we have to continue to define problems and offer certain solutions, or at least propositions and suggestions on how these solutions ought to look.

Furthermore, I think that the time has come to intensify connections between structures and civil society organisations, and that this cooperation shouldn't only be stipulated from the EU, but that it is us from the region that need to provide initiatives for establishing full and open cooperation in all aspects of work of the civil sector. We have to show that we work both faster and more efficiently than other structures, even public institutions, because only that can represent a true recommendation in order to obtain recognition for our work both in our counties and abroad, as well as opening the door for future joint activities. Non-governmental organisations and other civil society structures have to become lighthouses of cooperation, to strengthen and accelerate many already existing and successful initiatives and to start new ones, on the national level, but also on regional and international level, meaning first and foremost with our partners from the European Union counties.

For the sake of this positive trend that we feel and which we should strengthen, allow me to tell you about good examples of cooperation between the civil society of Montenegro and all its public institutions, from local self-Governments to the Government and the Parliament. We can proudly say that our gathering here in Budva is as well a result of that established trust and cooperation, and I want to use this opportunity to personally thank the Prime minister of the Government of Montenegro, Mr. Milo Djukanovic, and his team of advisers, for recognising the European Movement, both this one in Montenegro and the European Movement International, as their long-term partners both on the national and international level.

I would also like to thank the Municipality of Budva and its President Mr. Lazar Radjenovic, for, besides being the example of the new wave of successful managements of local self-governments, they have also become a reference point for cooperation between public and civil sector. In the end, allow me to also send a personal message to all of you who are here with us today, who are our colleagues and our guests, but also our friends – Montenegro is a small country, but it has a big heart and good will, which we give especially to our friends. We hope to leave a part of that heart and good will in your memories in the next two days as a modest, but sincere present for you.”

**Introductory session: the EU accession process as a framework for national reforms  
and strengthening of cooperation of governments and NGOs**

**Mr Branko Ružić**, Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia

**Mr Igor Lukšić**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro

**Ms Tanja Mišćević**, Chief Negotiator for the Accession of Serbia to the EU

**Prof. Franz-Lothar Altmann**, Associate Professor, Bucharest University

Moderated by: **Mr Gledis Gjipali**, Executive Director of the European Movement in Albania

**Mr Gledis Gjipali**, Executive Director of the European Movement in Albania, opened the session emphasising that what was achieved in Montenegro was bringing together high profile politicians, technicians and representatives of academia, which henceforth guaranteed the fruitfulness and fullness of the debate.

**Mr Igor Lukšić**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, began by complimenting the European Movement for the organisation of an important event which created a wide space for experience-exchange and which also proved that Montenegro plays a key role in the inclusive approach on reforms and enlargement sector in the region, including the activation of the civil sector. He also emphasised the role of the European Movement's reinvention, which still after over 60 years continues to provide an excellent framework, new spirit and motivation to drive the process of European integration even further. Following the words of Mr Diogo Pinto, once again he underlined that the process of European integration will indeed remain unfinished until the Balkan region has joined the EU and the Eastern partnership has been stabilised. The process itself is not about bringing any government to the EU, but about bringing the local society, which assumes the responsibility regarding liability and success of the EU integration process. This represents the important role of civil sector engagement – in the case of Montenegro, all the working groups have the representatives of civil sector, representing 1/3 of the negotiating structures, and consisting of people who contribute with their expertise to boost the process. This is yet another, pragmatic reason, in support of the inclusive approach we are talking about. The road to the EU makes it easier for public authorities to communicate with the public about their assets and liability, and whilst talking about the "public" we do not mean the civil servants exclusively, but society as a whole. There is of great significance on the national level as government meets with the civil society to provide solutions to the challenges Montenegro is still facing. Current - as well as future challenges - revolve around agriculture, food security, ecology, regional development and structural funds. Yet, the recent screening of the EU standards' introduction brings about a very optimistic picture regards the Montenegrin reform progress. The new approaches which have been adopted include ways to deal with building fundamental capacities. There have also been two action plans adopted which Montenegro wishes to share with other countries on the way to opening the chapters 24 and 25 opening.

Mr Lukšić drew a brief picture of the Montenegrin way to European integration. In 2006 Montenegro's parliament declared independence from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. In 2008, the new country applied for EU membership. In 2010, the Commission issued a favourable opinion on Montenegro's application, identifying 7 key priorities that would need to be addressed for

negotiations to begin, and the Council granted it candidate status. In December 2011, the Council launched the accession process with a view to opening negotiations in June 2012. The accession negotiations with Montenegro started on 29 June 2012, right now chapters 23 and 24 constitute a key for the country's future in the EU. Montenegro needs to deal with the fundamentals and core aspects of what the EU brings, and implement all the standards in different fields. Having provisionally opened chapters 25 and 26, Montenegro is about to open 5 more (*inter alia*: intellectual property, information society, public procurement, entrepreneurship policies), most likely during the December 2013 IG conference. After another 4-5 years of talks and 3 of applying the benchmarks, Montenegro is likely to join the EU in the first decade of 2020. After the entry of Croatia it will take at least another 7 to 8 years before other countries can join. This time should be used for cooperation and consultation to accelerate the regional joint work - regional cooperation as a crucial aspect of every country aspiring to join the EU, as there are still many things to learn from one another, this cooperation joined by the common European spirit. Countries of the Western Balkans who are aspiring to join the structures of the European Union should think of adopting common mechanisms – not some “superstate” joint bodies responsible for general negotiations on behalf of all the participants, but sustainable cooperation to accelerate the process, to help all the countries become members and facilitate the Thessaloniki agenda, which opened the true European perspective for the Balkans.

And next year 2014 is going to be symbolically significant: 100 years since 1914 – 75 years since 1939 - 25 years after the fall of Berlin Wall and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Big Bang enlargement of 2004. From the regional point of view the momentum is great to join the efforts and accelerate the process of moving towards the Balkan enlargement.

**Mr Branko Ružić**, Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia, also mentioned the role of the European Movement in the promotion of democratic dialogue in the region and congratulated the Montenegrin team on the organization of a successful event. The role of civil society organisations was yet again stressed as one of great importance, as emphasised by all the governments. Following the remarks of a full capacity engagement of CSOs in Montenegro, Mr Ružić presented the example of Serbia with its fully-fledged CSO-government cooperation model, best expressed in the person of Serbian Chief Negotiator to the EU, Ms. Mišćević, who comes from an NGO background. There is a balance which needs to be kept between fulfilling the EU demands to maintain the enlargement in making, and to keep the citizens' happy with the outcome of the reforms. It's the government's role to reform the local societies; only once it's done, the progress on the EU path is possible. Many challenges and obstacles still remain to be faced, one of the major ones being the mentality: even of the politicians directly involved in the European issues sometimes do not understand that the reforms which need to be taken are up to the authorities, up to themselves. Among other challenges there is the financial burden to progress and reform our societies. The other challenge is the finances, namely the financial burden the country needs to carry in order to implement the necessary reforms and to progress. For example, only for environmental issues in Serbia the budget of 10.6 billion EUR has been dedicated. Putting aside all the political issues which will be resolved or are being resolved, there are still many challenges ahead. Every Balkan country faces its own issues during the normalisation process; regards this, the accession of Serbia will be a novelty because of two parallel processes interjecting at some points; one process is the EU accession, and on the other - normalisation of the relations between Belgrade and Pristina. Due to progress made recently, the EU negotiation framework with Serbia is expected to be adopted

in December, no later than the end of January 2014. Another challenge is the regional cooperation and the importance of the joint actions for every country's accession process, as well as the overall Balkan enlargement strategy. Consequently, it's important to find out how to resolve the internal issues first. Reverting to the role of civil society in Serbia, Mr Ružić described the Serbian model concerning the role of CSOs in the process of European integration. This is similar to the Montenegrin plan, where there is an agreement involving all the CSO representatives, so that their voice can be collectively heard on the national level. This is based on the Slovakian example and perceived as one of the best solutions to include the Civil Society sector in the European integration process. According to Ružić it is much better to have the CSOs engaged in a full capacity on the national level, than to hear their voice from Brussels. In Serbia the civil society is already engaged in the screening process – three have been conducted so far. When we talk about public opinion, we need to mention that 51% of society is in favour of the European integration, but almost 68% is in favour of the reforms, which means that the society is conscious about the urgent necessity of reforms, not only as a tool to become a EU member country, but to reform and evolve the society. Mr Ružić argued that the Serbian politicians need to bear this in mind – there is strong support and political commitment towards EU integration, with the specific issue of normalisation between Belgrade and Pristina. As for the Parliament, there is only one party legitimately opposing the EU idea, but the majority of MPs are in favour of the European integration process. There is one more crucial reason to strive to join the EU: 63% of Serbian foreign trade is conducted with the EU and 13% with the SEFTA region. “We in Serbia, we like to say that will be the 29<sup>th</sup> EU member country. Of course, Montenegro also likes to say that.”, as for Serbia there's a hope it will happen before 2020, for many reasons, *inter alia* the enlargement process, the European strategy. “All the countries from the region are progressing and it is in our best interest that all countries: Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina with their own specific issues progress even more towards the EU, because it will be a main benefit for all our citizens.”

**Ms Tanja Mišćević**, Chief Negotiator for the Accession of Serbia to the EU, widely introduced the role of the civil society organizations within the enlargement and accession process. Ms Mišćević started by posing a question, “What constitutes the civil society organisations in the region?” Following the statement of Minister Lukšić she underlined that when talking about the “civil society”, we do not only target the NGOs, but a much wider scope of institutions (associations, trade unions, universities, entrepreneurs) which organise citizens. Hence, by definition CSOs mean everything that goes beyond the public administration as such. The second very important element of the definition which has already been covered by the previous speakers is the definition of the process of the European integration and the accession negotiations. Is it only to become a member of the European Union, or should the European Union be here as the instrument of the internal reforms, as Minister Ružić said. We all agree that these reforms are needed in terms of changing the local societies, cultures and values in order to establish stable and democratic developed countries. The question which arises at this point is what then is the role of civil society from this perspective of the EU integration process? The three crucial concepts which appear in this context are: inclusiveness, transparency and synergy. They do not translate into Serbian so they are used in their English version in the Balkans; still whenever we use them, we know what we're saying, namely, that the society needs to be included in the reform of the society, which is a logical and normal process for that type of change. In order for the society to be included, the government and the public administration have to be very transparent and work with synergies across all these processes. The achievement of

this status is an issue where there is no alignment in the region. There are two models of including the civil society in the integration process; one is the Montenegrin one whereby representatives of CSOs are directly included into the core negotiation team and the other is the Serbian, where the CSO-representatives create the negotiation framework and participate in trainings. Yet different models were adopted in Slovenia and in Macedonia, whilst we are not in the position to judge which one is the best as each one is adapted on the basis of a respective country's structure. To further discuss the Serbian model, CSOs' representatives and MPs are working together in clusters to discuss the proposed enlargement steps. The role of the parliament and the role of the political side in the negotiation process should not be neglected as it is equally important as the role of the citizens on the other side of the negotiation process. This is the role of the changes and reforms on the society level which will lead the Balkans to the membership in the European Union, and we should not forget about this crucial inclusiveness. One last thing which should yet be emphasized is the role of the civil society organizations, especially NGOs, in the local communities. The local communities, municipalities and the local self governments, especially the administration, are the eminent part of the negotiation process because the implementation lies there. And we all agree that implementation is the most important part of the negotiation process, with regard to all the chapters to be fulfilled.

**Prof. Franz-Lothar Altmann**, Associate Professor, Bucharest University, widened the definition of the civil society organisations presented by the former speakers by adding journalism – the press should reflect the opinions which are expressed in the society. Hence, a real free press is needed to discuss the issues in relation to the accession process and to the reforms, without the criticism of the authorities or political bias. For the civil society the accession process is a very important task which actually gives much more weight to its role, as CSO actually gain their importance in the public sphere through this process. What does the accession mean for the reforms? Countries adapt to the EU rules, as those basic policies and structures are urgently needed. The integration process gives a very clear structured framework – what is needed, where are the deficiencies, where are the challenges of respective countries - this skeleton provided by the EU are the 35 negotiation chapters and the *acquis communautaire*. There is a very substantial support from the EU for these national reforms, facilitated by the EU as such, but also being a response to what the countries also need. Still, we face omnipresent scepticism in the EU and in the region with regards to the accession process – whether the membership is needed or even wanted. Speaking from the EU side, Prof. Altmann pointed out that accession does not necessarily guarantee the right development path, recalling the example of Hungary; every country has a different pattern of performance and this raises scepticism. How to argue in favour of the EU then? The core reforms cannot happen in the first 10 or 15 years. Of course, there is certain enlargement fatigue which should not be neglected. What results is a strong cooperation between the EU organs, governments and those NGOs which are pro-European and spread this idea among the societies via conferences, teachings, publications etc. Another important factor is regional cooperation, strongly fostered by the Commission's support for the RCC, not only as one of the chapter's good neighbourhood demands. Here the EU provides a very strong push for the Balkans to make the negotiations in Brussels possible, not to mention the pressure put on the parties to stabilize the situation between Serbia and Kosovo, with a positive involvement on the issue. What you need and what you want is not necessarily the same, but what you get is defined by the EU legislation. As long as the scepticism is present, we have to fight it through extensive talks, good examples and explanations.

**Floor:**

- Two questions to Ms Tanja Mišćević – one regarding the mentioned homogenization and changing of local cultures and values. Cultures and values are deeply rooted in the society, therefore an expected result can be the society's resistance to change. The second question placed concerned the rationale lying behind the choice of the Serbian model of CSOs engagement in the society.

*Ms Tanja Mišćević: Harmonization does not equal homogenization. Local culture is our added value, it is what we are going to bring to the EU. What was meant by the values' homogenization was the return to those values which are common for all the European citizens and which have been neglected in the course of the 90s' – solidarity, stability, rule of law, values crucial to us being European citizens. As for the choice of the model, there are differences which are country – related, this one was worked out as the best solution for Serbia.*

- Prof. Franz-Lothar Altmann mentioned the importance of press freedom in the civil society development and EU integration process. Why the Balkan countries are not doing so well in this area?

*Prof. Franz-Lothar Altmann: There is still overwhelming press dependence on subsidiaries from the state which does not allow full press freedom of expression. In addition, the advertising market is underdeveloped and often controlled by local tycoons who themselves are close to the political power structures. Finally, qualitative, independent journalism needs special costly education and training which is provided only in a very rudimentary way in the Balkans. The print press only plays a secondary role in the Balkan countries since dailies and weekly journals are too expensive, information is mainly taken from TV which is controlled to a large extent by the state authorities.*

- A question to Mr Igor Lukšić: As the negotiating team in Montenegro consists 1/3 of CSOs' representatives; how did the Montenegrin government manage to diversify their input in the political and economic processes and include the Civil Society-expertise in the structure?

*Mr Igor Lukšić: The point of CSO inclusion is to assume responsibility along with civil servants. A successful cooperation is only possible when fully absorbing expertise from NGOs. One should not undervalue or overvalue the expertise from the civil sector and NGOs. There were dilemmas with this regard in Montenegro, but in the end they were crowned by a success in the political and economic area; among 33 working groups, 1/3 of their members are representatives of CSOs. There was no particular pressure of the EU on Montenegro to create those groups, it was an own, national initiative to facilitate the communication on the European agenda. The government's responsibility is not only to apply the necessary legislation, but to encourage the society. More focus should be put on the implementation than on the legislation.*

- Questions to Mr. Branko Ružić: When Turkey started its negotiations to the EU, the support towards the EU equaled around 80%, now being at the level of 39% or even less. The support in Serbia is surprisingly low for a country which has recently started the



negotiations. How would you suggest is best to keep the process alive? Also, what is the influence of Serbian media on the EU integration?

*Mr Branko Ružić: As for the inclusion of the civil society, there's no need for EU encouragement in this field, but of course it's welcomed. On the other hand, we all share the same values, so the civil society is on a very high playing field in the region. As for the media, its freedom is very important for each and every society, as it's not government's role to influence them or impose any perspective. In Serbia both criticism and approval of the EU integration process are present. The last question – the falling approval of the EU integration is not rooted in the wide-spread euroscepticism, but in the hardships of the economic situation. We should rather look at the numbers showing the readiness of the society to undertake the reforms, which indicate a readiness to join the EU. On top of this, there's huge support and promotion of the European idea from the political parties.*

- Comment (Kosovo): One of the most vulnerable civil groups are businesses. There is nothing like a good or bad CSO-engagement model, no best model can be implemented due to the country-cross differences.
- Comment (Bulgaria): Political recommendation of a “failed member state” – it is crucially important for the government to recognise the role and expertise of NGOs. Governments change whilst NGOs stay the same with their expertise – this is the essence of democracy. The candidate and potential candidate countries should not repeat Bulgaria's mistake which was based on neglecting this core issue.

### **Summary:**

**The introductory session indicated the situation of the respective candidate and potential candidate countries and their general attitude towards the enlargement, which can be described as positive. Despite this there are many challenges remaining to be faced, both on the governmental, media and CSO level. Joint cooperation of the civil sector and public authorities, namely the inclusive approach was determined as the crucial factor for the acceleration of negotiation processes all over the region. It was agreed that suggestions from Brussels cannot replace the local expertise provided by the Balkan NGOs and other civil society actors. Active implementation on the community level was indicated as another mark of successful negotiations. European integration processes also need to be perceived as a tool to foster regional cooperation in the Balkans.**



**Thematic session 1: Overview of the situation of the countries towards enlargement/  
Reflection on the Enlargement Package 2013**

**Mr Srđan Bogosavljević**, Director of IPSOS Adriatic and board member of Open Society Initiative For Europe – OSIFE

**Mr Leon Malazogu**, Founder and Executive Director of Democracy for Development (Kosovo)

**Prof. H. Gül Turan**, President of the European Movement in Turkey

**Ms Maja Bobić**, Secretary General of the European Movement in Serbia

**Mr Alqi Puli**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania

Moderated by: **Ms Bisera Turković**, Secretary General of the European Movement in Montenegro

**Ms Bisera Turković** opened the first thematic session, “Overview of the situation of the countries towards enlargement and the Reflection on the Enlargement Package 2013” focusing on the situation of the “most problematic region of Europe” of the 1990s, which has now set itself on a path to become part of the solution not only of a united Europe, but also of the united world. Whilst different countries in the region find themselves at different stages of this process, it is clear that all the countries are pretty close to one another and will continue this progress over the next few years. After the accession of Croatia, which also used to be a part of the “problem”, Montenegro has proceeded successfully to become the next EU candidate. Other countries, such as Serbia, will likely join this group soon, whilst others, such as Turkey and Albania have also noted recent progress. The 1<sup>st</sup> thematic session aimed to provide an overview of the different aspects of the regional issues.

**Mr Srđan Bogosavljević**, Director of IPSOS Adriatic and board member of Open Society Initiative for Europe – OSIFE, provided a thorough presentation on the Western Balkans, attempting to answer the question, “What is our region?” by showing off its differences and complexity, thus presenting a view which opposes the common perception of the area, often seen as an entirely homogenous region. The Balkans consist of 8 countries, 24 million inhabitants, 7 nationalities, 7 official languages, 6 currencies, 3 official religions and 2 alphabets. In the current economic crisis, none of the countries of the region are operating under optimum conditions, and all are focused on the small interplay between GDP and overall efforts to get out of the crisis. Something that has been observed recently is the democratization of poverty and corruption – in the Balkans anyone can be poor or corrupted. The growing unemployment in the Western Balkans is affecting entire families and at the same time enhances overall willingness to join the EU. These are also the most important issues in Montenegro: unemployment, corruption, the economic situation.

No uniform relation between opinion about the EU and willingness to join the EU has been observed, and the support for the European idea is rather event-driven; it was noted to decrease rapidly in Serbia (normally oscillating around 50-55%) during Chancellor Merkel’s visit to the country. At the same time, the only alternative for the EU in the region is Russia and there is a definite reluctance to turn in that direction. The Western Balkans is a region of interrupted growth; all the countries have noted a lack of development or even a decrease this year, with Slovakia and Croatia finishing 2013 with a negative GDP. Sadly, corruption has also become a common denominator of the entire region. We are facing a completely new phenomenon in post-communist countries – fear of unemployment.

Due to the current situation described above, the EU is becoming an ever more rational choice for everyone.

**Mr Leon Malazogu**, Founder and Executive Director of Democracy for Development (Kosovo), started his intervention by describing the successful transformation which Montenegro has undergone with regard to minority groups – minorities are now perceived as part of the solution. Kosovo is now the second country to implement a successful strategy to foster the potential of civil society in developing communities, largely as a result of the recent conflict. In this way, there is an already strong interconnection between the European Union and the Balkans, and it is hoped the region will be seen in a positive light as an area that can bring benefits to the EU, rather than becoming another burden in the times of economic crisis. Nowadays the EU faces many issues regards competitiveness (competition from China). The countries of the Western Balkans need to find a way to be part of the EU to provide a successful answer to the global economic crisis; what they can provide the EU is cheap labour and healthy demographics. Thus, the Western Balkans joining the Union will make Europe a faster moving organism. Mr Malazogu stated “We need to earn our way to the EU, but we already are European”. Even though the Balkans are used to constant change, the region still needs to accelerate the reform processes.

Kosovo has undergone multiple transitions, possibly the most in the region, with 2 leading ones: from war to peace, from international administration to self-governance. The EU is a large part of the Kosovar state building exercise, which brings with it another dimension impacting the EU integration of Kosovo - mediation with Serbia, which also wishes to join the same European club. Kosovo is very supportive of the dialogue and wishes to resolve the issues with Serbia as it is clear Kosovan development is dependent on this. Still, as long as Kosovo’s agenda is completely subjugated to the dialogue emanating from Brussels, it will be hard for the country to complete the transformation process in order to earn some maturity in democracy. The Kosovan democracy seems to be sacrificed for practical purposes (*inter alia*, administration), whilst the initial hopes were drastically different.

We would expect pressure to foster the processes of Europeanization, democratization and civil society to come from below, from the Kosovan people, but this pressure is not coming, it is directed from Brussels. Deindustrialization of the country, due to the war and the consequent lack of economic drive, has resulted in the state remaining the biggest employer in Kosovo, meaning the middle class is a bureaucratic class. To develop the middle class, more support is needed from outside the country. More is expected from Brussels, *eg.* creation of a critical mass which asks for more from the local governments. Despite this, the future direction of this region is not set in stone: if the region fails to integrate with the EU, there will be a likely inevitable turn towards Russia.

Civil society in Kosovo still has higher expectations for the future than the EU does, it is asking for more, hence there is a discrepancy in expectations – low expectations of the EU towards the Balkan countries versus the great aspirations of the local people. The Western Balkans have more expectations for their own future than the EU does, whilst the actual demands are reduced in line with the EU’s low expectations from the region. With this in mind, there needs to be a more dynamic relationship between Kosovo and the EU, with more emphasis placed on the need of the country. The EU cannot currently work with Kosovo as a working partner as Kosovo is still not recognized by 5

EU Members States. Consequently, Kosovan people find it hard to trust the EU to be a proper mediator.

**Prof. H. Gül Turan**, President of the European Movement in Turkey, stated that the Annual Enlargement Strategy Paper and the Progression reports were prepared at a time when enlargement fatigue, doubts about the economic future, fears for the euro, unsolved unemployment concerns, lower growth rates and fears of deflation were casting their shadows on the EU. She explained that we live at a time when anti EU, anti-immigrant parties were on the rise as exemplified by various nationalist parties in the UK, in France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Greece who have an increasing say in the making of politics and on which all have one point of agreement: a dislike of the EU. This led Professor Turan to ask the following question: Will these developments make further enlargement more difficult for the three potential candidates and 5 candidate countries? Looking at the current EU map, Professor Turan said she saw an enclave within the EU where Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia were in, which was proof that even if their membership could be postponed to a later date such as 2016 or 2017, they would inevitably and with no doubt become future members of the EU. Within this enlargement package two more countries need to be considered she said: Iceland way up north acting more like Norway, and Turkey in the deep East which will remain on the waiting list for some more undetermined time. Not wishing to reflect on the annual enlargement strategy paper nor on the progress reports, she said she would discuss and question two aspects of the EU which she called the enlargement enigma and the EU enigma. Prof. Turan said that the expansion confronts the EU with an enlargement enigma since, as it expands, the EU becomes more heterogeneous. Yet the vision of ever deepening integration calls for homogenization on the economic, political and even if it is not always openly said on the socio-cultural front. On the political front regimes should be democratic. It is a regime where freedom of expression and other individual liberties exist without impinging on the rights of others. On the economic front, economies operating in a liberal economic order are wished for and it falls on the countries wishing to become EU members to work to achieve these goals under the guidance of the EU institutions. Prof. Turan explained that on the economic front the adjustment seems to be quicker than on the political front. Referring to the ratings on political rights and civil liberties as measured by Freedom House, she explained that if aspiration to the highest possible democratic standards and practices are the goal, then much has to be done in both the candidate and potential candidate countries. She then stated that on the socio cultural front it was her opinion that all EU members should accept cultural differences as such and not expect homogeneity. Existing values and beliefs should be respected and understood as the cultural richness of the countries in question. Viewing the EU for example as a Christian club she said was discriminatory since it implied differentiation on the basis of religion and national origin. Prof. Turan went on to say that the EU itself could be viewed today as an enigma since what awaits it, where it goes, where the six Balkan countries will fit into the system, what will happen to the membership of the UK, Iceland and Turkey were as yet unanswerable questions. She went on to discuss how a closer look at the present day EU, in the aftermath of the economic crisis, showed that the EU did not, as yet, have a true political union, did not have strong supranational institutions, nor an empowered European Parliament. She quoted Jürgen Habermas who had said that the EU was a technocratic federal system with the reins held by the European Commission. She said we faced an EU to which transferring more power was contested. She stated that a multi-tier Europe existed. Members of the Euro-area group seemed to operate on their own, mostly through intergovernmental treaties with limited role given to EU institutions, and we have one group that shares a single currency with others not expected to join as the result of the pre-ins and outs. Not all participate in the Schengen area of borderless travel, military missions are run by just a small group of EU countries, smaller countries cluster together to have a greater say in meetings such as the Benelux countries, the Visegrad group. She added that if most of the political differences existing among the 6 west Balkan countries were to be resolved it would be to their advantage to do the same.

Why the clustering, why the three tier EU? She explained that, in times of crisis, trying to solve problems by changing the EU treaty is not a likely situation since you need the agreement of all members. Some of these members need to hold a referendum and most probably reaching a consensus would prove difficult. This is why a second way of doing things has developed. By using the clause of enhanced cooperation that allows for decisions within what the EU treaty allows, new policy tools have developed. These enabled the EC to scrutinize national budgets, and give guidance and penalties to members violating budget or debt criteria's. Since these decisions would be binding for all they are not en vogue she said. Thus, a third way of doing things has developed in the EU: intergovernmental treaties signed among members of the euro zone.

Prof. Turan concluded her talk by asking one final question: What do these developments result in and what are their implications for the applicant countries? She pointed out the following:

1. A deepening integration within the EU zone where the euro zone becomes the central actor will be considered as a de facto exclusion for those that are not in.
2. That this would lead to a separation by thicker walls between the euro zone and the non-members of the euro zone and the applicants. The greater the deepening integration the more difficult for candidates to become members of the zone. This will imply harsher conditions to be required from candidate countries and greater disillusionment for second class marginalized members and applicants.

Prof. Turan finally wondered whether the supranational dream of a European federation would be replaced by greater intergovernmentalism and whether the rift between the ins, the pre ins and the outs would become deeper causing greater differentiation between core euro zone members and the others. She said that time would tell.

**Ms Maja Bobić**, Secretary General of the European Movement in Serbia, focused mostly on the Serbian cause. She emphasized the importance of year 2013 – the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thessaloniki summit, 20 years from the setting of Copenhagen criteria that every Balkan government is now trying to fulfill, the year of Croatia joining the EU, Montenegro finalizing the screening process and Serbia about to start negotiations. Although not all the countries noted a significant progress, this year can be called a positive one in the history of the region. Still, if you ask the Serbian citizens about any progress noticed, they will be pretty negative about it as they have not noted any significant enhancement to the quality of their lives. The government has shown political will, but sectoral policies and obligations coming from the membership brought little progress in the end. The last progress report has shown that a lot of time was lost last year as there were other issues than reforms to deal with, e.g. Kosovo's elections took a lot of the reform focus and capacity from the government. Consequently, the time has come to implement the chapters important for the citizens and crucial reforms. At the crucial phase of the accession negotiations in Serbia, there is a framework to test regional capacities, including administrative capacities, and to reform the country. The negotiation process forces Serbia to face and deal with the local problems; the question arises, how open, inclusive and transparent this process can and will be? There is a widespread willingness to involve civil society, but still no prescribed way on how to do this. And this state of affairs poses a significant test for civil society en masse – how deeply engaged they will become with their own contribution in taking part in the debate, shaping the negotiation talks, and then monitoring, and scrutinising what has been done and what is missing? The European conditionality policy has to be

credible, thus not revolving around single issues. For the first time emphasis has been placed on economic priorities lately, but the instruments given are not really adequate to support what needs to be supported. The new assumptions and instruments within the Europe 2020 framework exist in the local rhetoric, but none of the Balkan governments has its agenda internalised in the national development plan. In Serbia things are moving, but moving slowly, not as dynamically as it was assumed and expected in the beginning. Another big concern is the populist rhetoric's wave in Europe nowadays, where some predictions suggest that 1/3 of the incoming European Parliament will be "occupied" by populists. At this point a crucial role of the European Movement and other CSOs should be emphasised, especially in the context of enlargement policy. The civil society expresses strong will to be involved in the policy making process, but still does not have the necessary capacities – and definitely should be enabled to do so. There is also a necessity to communicate the enlargement policy in the EU member states, creating a positive image of the Balkans.

**Mr Alqi Puli**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, emphasized the importance of focusing on the lessons learnt from previous enlargements and the necessity to take into consideration some new subjects which arose in the lead up to the economic crisis - financial management, economic governance and reforms in various areas. We need to notice that nowadays, due to its internal struggle, Europe is afraid of the new countries and their problems. Enlargement fatigue is omnipresent. Mr Puli posed a question: does Europe really want and need the black sheep of the region, the Balkans? Do we ourselves need Europe? The answer is obviously a positive one.

As the recent political developments in Albania show, the local situation is evolving in a positive direction – 3 months ago there were governmental elections followed by a smooth transition of power and adoption of new foreign policy. Albania is also heading towards completion of three big missions involving justice and the fight against corruption. The economic crisis has brought about new conditions, seriously affecting all of the Balkan economies, which need to be discussed and solved. On the other hand, the region is on starting to fulfill new criteria: rule of law, fight against organised crime, corruption and reform of public administration. Albania has already started administrative reform, capacity building programmes set in critical areas, as well as the launch of a high level dialogue with the European Commission represented by Commissioner Füle and the Albanian Prime Minister, Mr Sali Berisha. The general dialogue should be a parliamentary one, Mr Puli claimed. He then stated how important it is for the Albanians to be a part of Europe, especially concerning the fact that 1/3 of Albanians are European citizens, already therefore very well integrated into the European societies. Some Albanian citizens are also already working within the EU administration in the offices of the European Commission and international organizations. Mr Puli ended his speech by calling for joint efforts in Europe to support Albania on its way towards the integration, "bring us your experience, contacts, lobbying and real knowledge".

- Comment (Bulgaria): The enlargement situation is quite complicated, also with the perspective of the new EC programme Europe 2020. How are the countries supposed to achieve significant results? The core of the common road towards the EU is a lack of internal competition, which proved to be wrong in case of Romania and Bulgaria. What the region should "compete" on is the coverage of the European criteria. Also, the remark concerned Prof. Turan's speech as presenting the outsider's point of view, which emphasised only the



scale of present right-wing wave, but missed the answer of pro-European courses; e.g. a document issued by over 200 federalists, including Mr Leinen, giving answers to some of the issues raised by Prof. Turan. Pro-Europeans always seek solutions, whilst nationalists stick to their rhetoric.

- Comment (Serbia): What the enlargement consists of are the EU factors and Balkan factors, namely interregional communication, which needs to be strongly supported. During the historical course of EU development there has always been some progress and achievement, whilst right now what we are facing are hectic actions and searches for solutions on how to overcome the crisis. In the end, integration and accession is all about money, whilst the statistics on the Balkan economies are far from being positive. Consequently, we should wonder how these countries are supposed to find money for immediate reforms imposed by the EU right here right now, with their falling revenues and increasing debt. The Kosovan issue has disappeared from the agendas lately whilst it has remained one of the most sensitive issues for Serbia. Maybe it means we have finally managed to overcome the biggest burden of the European integration process? Truly, in Serbia we would like to live in a boring and predictable country.
- *Tanja Mišević (comment):* We need to ask ourselves a crucial question, who cares about the EU on the local level? What we care about are our children, our jobs, our country. We do need to reform our society. That is before us. Here, at the Congress, we see no European Commission representatives. In the previous enlargement rounds it was the EU pushing the reforms, now it is pushing the political solutions. The crucial issue we fail in is the issue of communication.
- *Prof. Altmann (comment):* We are long over the enlargement euphoria, there are huge differences when compared to the previous enlargements, but also new pressures and issues.

*Mr. Leon Malazogou: The EU is not changing fast enough, and is too complacent. In the Balkans the transition process has been present since 1989. We need to have a more strategic approach. The EU should adapt more to the global changing environment. The progress needed should be expressed in a more strategic approach in the region, such as the Balkans already being recognised as a part of the European debate.*

*Mr Alqi Puli: The paradox of “pro-European” nationalists is over emphasised. The omnipresent scepticism is not about the economic crisis but about our society.*

*Prof. Turan: Euro-scepticism will continue to exist since, by nature, people are sceptic and like to ask questions and put forward doubts about the future. Pro-European discourses will continue too and only time will tell which group will have the last say. The acceptance of the above mentioned papers (see: Bulgarian comment) is doubtful.*

**Summary:**

The comments gathered during the first thematic session indicated that the European Union's image in the Balkans ceases to be the one of the "land of milk and honey". What is significant in this view is that the candidate and potential candidate countries of the region need to look forward to undergoing a complete transformation process, and not just to meet the deadlines imposed by the EU Institutions. Concurrently, we are facing a couple of EU Enigmas regarding the Union's future, one of them being the question of whether the Balkans needs to work as one cluster to have their voice heard on the international arena. The regional civil sector does not always use the opportunities given to it to implement more capacity building and encouragement amongst the citizens. However, it is citizens who need to express strong willingness to become a part of Europe; in the process of integration, CSOs provide the immediate bridge between governments and society thanks to their vast knowledge, policy making experience and expertise.

## **Thematic session 2: Civil Society development**

**Ms Blerta Hoxha**, Policy Researcher at the European Movement Albania

**Mr Romain Boitard**, Task Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

**Mr Taulant Hoxha**, Director of Civil Society Development Programme, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation

**Mr Bernd Hüttemann**, Secretary General of the European Movement in Germany

**Mr Goran Djurovic**, Resident Advisor for Montenegro, Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)

Moderated by: **Ms Nataša Owens**, Board member of the European Movement International and Vice-Chair of the Political Committee on Enlargement and Eastern Partnership, board member of the European Movement Croatia

**Ms Blerta Hoxha**, Policy Researcher at the European Movement Albania

The first challenge Albania has been facing is the historic legacy of communism which has had to be dealt with during the transition years, and was previously responsible for a complete detachment of civilians from public life. As a result, there is still a very low level of volunteering or general civic involvement in public affairs. The second challenge that, for the past 30 years, society in Albania has been dealing exclusively with grass-root issues on the local level, and has somehow been isolated from the larger European playground, lacking this international dimension, which really entered the country's agenda only a couple of years ago. There are a number of technical issues Albania is currently facing: small organisations focused mostly in Tirana, with no country-wide spread, integration or influence on the most demanding regions, lack of transparent procedures. It somehow does not match with the EU policies, which are not tailor-made for small NGOs. Also, what the EU requests is tight cooperation with state institutions, which is a big demand when we take into consideration the situation in a country with no democratic traditions. There is also a need for stronger involvement of trade unions and business representations. The role of CSOs in the public sphere has much to do with trust; CSOs need to gain the trust of citizens, which they still lack nowadays, trust of state institutions, and trust and consolidated relations with the EU institutions. Of course, there are more and more meetings between EU officials and civil society – the issue of communication is still pending in terms of institutionalising these relations. The EU is not always fully sincere in its dialogue with civil society; thus there is a call for transparency of institutional activity, free access to information (currently agendas are published last minute), and inclusiveness of all NGOs, not just those favoured by governments.

**Mr Romain Boitard**, Task Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro

*“EU's Perspective on Civil Society” –Power Point Presentation- technical overview of the current situation of the civil society in the Balkans (please see attached).*

**Mr Taulant Hoxha**, Director of Civil Society Development Programme, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation, emphasized that Albania is similar to Kosovo in many respects. There are some features specific to Kosovo such as it still being perceived as a crisis country, maintained by two major sources of support, EU and state, with a lack of domestic founding. However, Balkan NGOs act as information multipliers, liaising between the authorities and citizens. The relationship with the EU is very demanding, on the other hand, and disregards the individual features of respective countries whilst

setting generic expectations towards for civil society involvement throughout the region. Hence there is a need for more of a case by case approach from the DG Enlargement.

**Mr Bernd Hüttemann**, Secretary General of the European Movement in Germany, and EMI Board Member, drew a historical picture of a Europe still emerging from the catastrophe of war, back in 1949. He described a time when the interconnection of civil society, politics and the movement towards European integration was based on establishing long term friendships, especially between France and Germany, and not just between governments but between diverse interest groups. Consequently, he suggested this experience should be built on in order to strengthen horizontal cooperation between civil societies in different countries. The international system of civil society is multi-level and pluralistic; it is important to know the friends of your friends and maintain sustainable communication. If we don't get the interconnection between state level and civil society initiatives, it will not be sustainable in the future; we need very diverse organisations, representative and democratically organised. The horizontal cooperation between NGOs on the European level might give some momentum to the reform process, hopefully with the help of a new "European Public Diplomacy".

**Mr Goran Djurovic**, Resident Advisor for Montenegro, Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO), raised a list of important issues which still need to be fixed within the IPA2 process. There is an adequate participation in the decision making process resulting from the lack of data. Financing, especially received from the governments, is yet another issue, that's why a full cooperation with businesses is needed. Still, the main obstacle in cooperation between government and CSOs is mutual distrust. The answer to all the questions and issues is mutual cooperation.

#### **Interventions:**

- Mr Diogo Pinto: Civil society work is not all about money. Public funds are not state funds (state is just a manager of these funds), public funds belong to the public. Funds given to civil society are "given back" for the public interest. Civil society is paying twice: performing an important role the state is not able to perform; on the top of that, the state is keeping the money that should be given to civil society to perform its role. It's a question of democracy.
- Mr Bernd Hüttemann: The sustainability of the CSOs is not as much about money as about networking in order to strengthen existing capacities. Also in "civil society" *nomen non est omen*: Some NGOs are actually profit-organisations. Some business organisations have a great impact for civil society. Representativeness is the crucial point of democracy.

#### **Summary:**

**Thematic session 2 underlined the importance of learning from one another and sharing the nongovernmental experience amongst the Balkan states. Depending on individual respective factors, CSOs are totally included, partially included or totally excluded from the decision-making process. Regional cooperation in the Balkans is crucial for the development of the civil society sector.**

### **Thematic session 3: The EU enlargement in times of economic crisis**

**Dr Corina Stratulat**, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC)

**Mr Predrag Praštalo**, President of the European Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Dr Istvan Gyarmati**, Director of International Centre for Democratic Transition

**Ms Maria Prohaska**, Director, Center for Economic Development in Bulgaria

**Ms Stanka Parac Damjanović**, SEE Regional Programmes coordinator of ALDA

Moderated by: **Mr Vlastimir Matejić**, President, European Movement in Serbia

**Dr Corina Stratulat**, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC), opened her presentation by stating that after the Croatian accession and crisis which has overwhelmed Europe, the enlargement has reached some sort of an “autopilot” mode. The enlargement process is often derailed, whilst the European Commission has lost its position as driver of the process, with the member countries’ national parliaments gaining power in shaping the enlargement procedures, with the German Bundestag being the leader in this field. Never before have so many interventions and blockages been noted, as we have witnessed lately in observing the debates between Slovenia and Croatia, Greece and Macedonia, or Cyprus and France vs. Turkey. This makes the enlargement much more dependent on politics in the member states rather than progress made in the enlargement process, as indicated by the Brussels-based institutions. The lack of a united policy and strategy towards the region, as took place with the previous enlargements, creates significant distinctions among the countries in the region and consequently, there is no constructive competition. There is no common point of reference and no standards for the countries to compare with one another. Consequently, it is difficult for them to help each other as they remain with their own internal, local challenges to face. The EU’s approach to enlargement is not extended to its best potential and is not working for all the countries in the region. Democracy needs to be consolidated in the region but it is time to move more concretely from talk to action. The EU needs to demonstrate its added value to the people on the ground, mostly through initiatives that engage all the countries of the Balkans. The sooner that steps are taken, the greater the chance of recalibrating the Balkans and smoothing their path towards the EU.

**Ms Maria Prohaska**, Director, Center for Economic Development in Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, the most visible impact is still on the economy. Bulgaria has already achieved a lot in structural terms and in human capital investment, but a lot of challenges and problems remain ahead of the country. It is difficult to measure achievements and the real impact of reforms, especially regarding coordination programmes and measures related to EU membership. Civil society in Bulgaria is not as actively involved in policy implementation as perhaps it is in other Balkan countries.

**Mr Predrag Praštalo**, President of the European Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the most common citizens’ answers for the question, “Why do you want to join the EU?” are “good salaries, secured life, freedom of movement” etc. Consequently, there is no other alternative for BiH than joining the EU and continuing the process of European integration, as the alternative is to go back to the mid-90s. BiH is like a volcano ready to explode at any time, still undergoing some kind of transition period, but, at the same time, there is huge potential and capacity in the country.

One of the dangers the country is facing is that of internal conflict between the Bosnian leaders – there are local animosities among parties, with three of them actually having a cold political war. We are now witnessing a new kind of nationalism arising, with demonstrations where mothers use their children for political goals. There is no sincere consensus on the European integration process; none of the politicians will say they wholeheartedly support Europe, but all want to use all means to reach the EU. Another problem is actually the local mentality, through which compromises are perceived as weakness. And the EU does not have ready made solutions for the local politics.

In 2014, 100 years will pass since the Bosnian assassination of the Austrian Prince, which means that 2014 is going to be an anti-European electoral year. In BiH we have three nations, 3 presidents, 3 groups of people leading the country which means constant blockages of new reforms and legislations. In the Balkans, the Croats have set a positive example in showing that EU membership is not mission impossible. Consequently, a quick integration of Serbia, Turkey *et al.* is needed for BiH to see the advantage of joining the EU. So far, in BiH we have the best record of cooperation with Turkey because of shared common interests – that is why from the local perspective it is so important for Turkey to continue the accession process. Summing up, the EU remains the only alternative for BiH, mostly for security reasons. Not a single country in the EU could experience any well-being if we have another war in the Balkans, whilst BiH does not have many opportunities to speak and is hardly mentioned in any discussions.

**Ms Stanka Parac Damjanović**, SEE Regional Programmes coordinator of ALDA, presented a Serbian NGO practitioner's point of view. She noted that "crisis" nowadays is a buzz-word in Europe, whilst nobody really seems to notice that social and economic crisis is the situation which has been permanently lived since mid-80s in the Balkans. Crisis in the EU, on the other hand, seems to be quite a novel phenomenon; some of the older EU countries are also in severe crisis right now. The example of Slovenia shows how EU funds were directed more at supporting the infrastructure rather than economy and enterprises. There is some institutional support provided to the countries to overcome the crisis, yet the civil sector still lacks sustainable financing, with only ad hoc funds provided to CSOs. CSOs in Serbia are increasingly becoming middle-aged organisations, with less and less young people attracted to work in the NGO sector, whilst in general less than 5.000 people are employed on in this sector on a full time basis. To compare and contrast, around 2 million people today are engaged with political parties as they offer much more than NGOs can- professional careers, jobs, and a sustainable future for young people. Moreover, some people tend to overestimate NGOs' role in the region, their potential and administrative capacity to address all the relevant issues that have to be dealt with. Despite this there are opportunities arising for NGOs to perform their role and be part of the solution; local governments are a natural partner for the NGO sector, with possible memorandums of cooperation.

We should learn from the others: NGOs have the capacity for networking at European, national, regional and intra-municipal level, as issue-based networking appears a very viable solution to many.

#### **Floor**

- *In the age of crisis, enlargement is not anymore on the list of top priorities at council meetings. Are there ideas in the countries to cope with the crisis? A kind of resignation to economics can be sensed.*



Mr Predrag Praštalo: There are currently no solutions in BiH to lead the country out of the crisis. For every 100 € invested in employment, only 20 is used for investment in new jobs - 80% of this amount goes to loans, interests and bureaucracy. "We turn to the past very much, look at ourselves too much." The most important thing is to prevent any new war. There is also a lot of euroscepticism in the SEE region.

**Summary:**

**The session focused on the urgent need for the European Union to shift its focus to a narrative based on economics and to increase the support for CSOs working in that field. Given their already advanced integration into the EU market, most of the candidate and potential candidate countries face the same economic problems as the EU, but to a larger extent. The experience of 'crisis' is relatively new to the EU member States, whilst nobody really seems to notice that social and economic crisis is the situation which has been permanently lived from the mid-80s in the Balkans. This state of affairs demands a quick reaction from the EU, but also the implementation of the necessary reforms by the local authorities (in cooperation with civil society).**

### Round table with Parliamentarians

**Mr Halid Genjac**, Chair of the Joint Committee on European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Mr Hajrula Misini**, Chair of the Macedonian Parliamentary Committee on European Issues

**Mr Lutfi Haziri**, Chairperson of the Kosovan Parliamentary Committee on European Integration

**Mr Slaven Radunović**, Chairman of the Montenegrin Parliamentary Committee on European Integration

**Mr Ercan Candan**, Member Of EU Harmonization Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Moderated by: **Damir Davidović**, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro

**Mr Hajrula Misini**, Chair of the Macedonian Parliamentary Committee on European Issues, stated that all the Balkan countries currently share the same objective: full membership in the European Union. The event in Montenegro was scheduled in a very timely fashion - just ahead of the EU council in December. It is very important to monitor the harmonisation of legislation in all the countries. The Macedonian EU-accession process is conditioned by the conflict between Greece and Macedonia – the foreign affairs minister is currently engaged in resolving the ‘name problem’ with Greece. Mr Misini emphasized the need for Macedonian public authorities to have greater cooperation with civil society organisations, as they offer additional contributions and expertise. The issue of regional cooperation was also raised; there is a need for a shared approach towards European integration in the Balkans, although each country is at a different stage in the EU association process.

**Mr Lutfi Haziri**, Chairperson of the Kosovan Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, underlined that Kosovo is a particular case on the track towards the EU integration due to a specific mechanism of negotiations with Brussels. It took 5 years to find the appropriate legal tools to launch the process and it still remains difficult and challenging to solve the legal issues. The post-conflict situation in Kosovo is held under UN administration, no critical role of the EU can be noted. Consequently, “we need to reform ourselves because UN administration did wrong policies and wrong administration”, Mr Haziri said. A political consensus regarding the European agenda has already been built in the national parliament, by all ethnic and political groups, and without any involvement or mediation from the Commission’s side. The National Council on European Integration is constantly damaging the above mentioned process because not all political parties are part of it, thus it is not all-inclusive by definition, whilst in Kosovo the role of political parties and Prime Minister still remains crucial. The normalisation process with Serbia is still continuing in order to resolve issues and compensate for “the lost years”.

**Mr Slaven Radunović**, Chairman of the Montenegrin Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, introduced his intervention by stating that parliaments must have their say in dialogue with the EU because they represent a society as a whole; as it’s composed of elected members, they are bound by an obligation to defend the interest of the negotiating country and the primary interest of its people. The previous year (2012) witnessed a considerable shift within the Committee on European Integration in the Parliament. The Montenegrin committee is equipped with huge competences - it oversees the negotiations and gives guidelines on the process and issues. He then briefly described the decision making process in Montenegro: What happens with the decisions parliament and committee make? There is a tight relation with the government in this process - in

case the committee decides on a negative decision, the government is obliged to make a new decision within 30 days. The Parliament has a considerable role as an oversight body, hence there is a need for mechanisms enabling dispute resolution of some things and resolutions. Montenegro, as such, is a small society with very limited resources. Therefore, there is a need for transparency to involve all those who can bring a significant contribution. There is not only the need for political will but also of a very large amount of money to implement the necessary reforms, which altogether constitutes an immense challenge. The EU experience of Croatia – a suitable comparison given that they share a similar culture and the same language make it very easy to communicate and learn from them – and, moreover, should serve as a flagship example in the region, given it is the first state to gain EU membership. Mr Radunović closed his speech by emphasising that the EU will never reach its intended shape unless all the countries of the Balkans become part of it.

**Mr Ercan Candan**, Member of EU Harmonization Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, stated that considering its regional role, Turkey is a key country for the EU; also according to last year's EC progress report. Turkish businesses are flourishing in Europe whilst the country itself is a transit region for European energy supply. Mr Candan described the relation between the EU and Turkey as one of ups and downs since the Agreement in 1963. 5 chapters of the Turkish EU accession were blocked by France, 6 by "Greek Cyprus" – and, in spite of all these blockages, in Turkey there is no doubt that the EU accession process is a motivation for reforms towards the country's democratisation and the respect for human rights. This transformation process will bring with it other large scale reforms.

**Floor:**

- *Montenegro and Serbia: two eyes, one head. They are moving hand in hand towards EU integration.*
- *In Turkey: post-Sarkozy era: President Holland visited in January and there is expectation of a review of blockages of other chapters. Mr. Candan explained, however, that future blockages are not in the hands of Turkey, but of the EU. The blockages on the chapters decrease the optimism for EU-membership among citizens of Turkey. On the other hand, optimism can be regenerated towards EU integration process following the aforementioned review. There are also very good examples of regional CSO cooperation.*

Mr Ercan Candan: There are too many reasons for losing hope. Time should be taken as a serious factor - deadlines are important but it is not good to try to gamble with time. "Maturity means we have to accept the standards."

**Summary:**

**The Parliamentarians of the region emphasised the role of the Parliament not only as a legislative body, but also as representative of Balkan people. The completion of the EU enlargement process will not be possible without the Balkans joining, thus it is crucial to proceed along the path of European integration and inclusion of the region. MPs also voiced their willingness to include CSOs directly in the negotiation process due to the range of expertise and valuable insights they can offer.**

**Concluding session: Regional Cooperation as a Framework for Fostering of European  
Integration and Protection of Human Rights**

**Mr Gazmend Turdiu**, Head of Expert Pool, Regional Cooperation Council

**Mr Predag Simić**, Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade

**Mr Dubravko Miholić**, *President of the European Movement in Croatia\**

**Ms Vjollca Meçaj**, Executive Director of the Albanian Helsinki Committee

**Mr Amil Kamenica**, Economic Expert and Consultant, BiH

Moderated by: **Mr Erik Csernovitz**, Deputy Secretary General, Central European Initiative

*\*Mr Dubravko Miholić, President of the European Movement in Croatia needed to cancel his participation.*

**Mr Gazmend Turdiu**, Head of Expert Pool, Regional Cooperation Council described the EU standpoint on the situation regarding human rights, communication from the European Commission, European Parliament and Council. He noted that the enlargement process is much more complex, built on a strict but fair conditionality. The EU is founded on common values and principles; respect for human rights should be self-evident but should not be taken for granted. The current implementation is not always satisfactory - further reforms needed to protect human rights.

**Mr Predag Simić**, Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade, gave an overview of the chronology of crisis and the EU integration. Between 2008 and 2009, being tightly connected to the European market, the Balkans were seriously affected by euro crisis. In 2011 the second wave of euro crisis struck. This period was marked by a growing rate of euroscepticism and accompanied by the crisis of public finances, crisis of national debts, and crisis of unemployment.

**Ms Vjollca Meçaj**, Executive Director of the Albanian Helsinki Committee said that civil society constitutes a bridge between the citizens and the state. She further stated that a lot still needs to be done regards the matter of corruption, and that there is a need for joint civil society – government – citizens' action. In addition, there is also a need to monitor the rights of citizens with limited freedom.

**Mr Amil Kamenica**, Economic Expert and Consultant, BiH, emphasised that what is currently missing in the region are common projects. There is a big need to intensify cooperation on national projects because everyone together is stronger, and will lead to better results. However, it is highly unlikely that any Balkan country will join the EU before 2020.

**Mr Gazmend Turdiu**, Head of Expert Pool, Regional Cooperation Council discussed the issue of the fruitless growth in the region - politicians from the region claim there is growth, but this is a jobless growth. 800 000 citizens have lost their jobs in the region during the past 5 years. 2020 is not the membership date for accession, but the year when the Balkans intend to reach the targets. The RCC tries to make the process as easy as possible – but the relevant structures are still in the making.

## **Closing remarks by Mr Diogo Pinto, Secretary General of the European Movement International**

“As we draw to a close on what has been a wonderful congress, in a fabulous setting, I want us to consider again what we have learned, where we have come from, and where we are headed – together.

The Montenegro Congress has built on the success of previous congresses in Ljubljana and Istanbul - in 2009 and 2011 respectively. It was organised under the framework of the EMI Political Committee on Enlargement, neighbourhood, foreign affairs and security policy – that was represented yesterday by Natasa Owens, and the aim has been to explore the development and perspectives of civil society in the candidate and potential candidate countries.

We have learned that there is a strong support for EU integration among the people in the Balkans region, and that they do want to share their culture, expertise and friendship with their European neighbours. We have also learned that, as National and EU budgets dwindle, more is being demanded of civil society to bridge the gaps in the public sphere...but also that, as it develops, better communications are needed to increase transparency, improve trust and involve more actors in this process.

We have learned that empowerment and enlargement fatigue are issues that the Western Balkans face, and that this is exactly the same in the EU member states. And I would like to remind you all that, as Bernd Hüttemann yesterday taught us, if we close our eyes, even just for one moment, we are still as engaged and passionate as ever to fight for the development of civil society that we all full heartedly believe in.

As Chapters of the negotiations are opened and candidate status granted, allow me to make a brief personal remark that, speaking as a native Portuguese, we too shared some of the hardships of the accession process, which led eventually to economic development. Today, many Portuguese citizens ask themselves whether it was worth it. And for me, yes it was. And Portugal today is better than Portugal was before joining the European Union. As I said at the opening, the success of the European integration of the Balkans will, in many ways, define the success for others still hoping to join this ongoing project. More concrete progress and real achievements are needed, and civil society is set to play a crucial role in the continuance of this democratic process. This will come from CSO activists, and leaders – like you – but will need the support and understanding of Governments and parliaments, who must also play their part.

So - What can we do? What do we need to do? And, perhaps more importantly, what will we do to ensure this process receives the full support and impact it deserves. We will continue to work together as a European Movement to support one another in this dynamic region and across Europe to foster the development of civil society. We will continue to work with other actors to build dialogue and create a sustainable democratic path that encourages ground-up support. And we will continue to work via EU and National channels to ensure there is a voice for civil society in the future development and policies of this region. And we will meet again somewhere, sometime.

So, whilst there is much to be done, as it was just now reminded by our colleague from the Association of youth with disabilities, we should be grateful for the progress made so far.

And speaking of being grateful, I want to give my thanks to our gracious hosts - and organisers of this ‘Splendid’ venue – our colleagues from the European Movement in Montenegro. The conference has been amazing, and I know that I speak on behalf of all the participants, when I thank you.

Our collective thanks go also to the government of Montenegro and to the Municipality of Budva, for their hospitality and support for this Congress. And of course, to the European Commission, that despite its absence, made possible the participation of many of you. Thanks go to all the distinguished speakers and guests who have come through these doors in the past two days. And of course, last but not least, I have to thank also my colleagues from the European Movement International, the ones who are here; Alex, Laetitia and Joanna, but also Nicolas who worked for a great deal for the success of this event but was not able to come.

Lastly - Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends – I thank you all for staying with us until the very end. I trust you have all got just as much out of this Congress as I have, and I look forward to working with all of you to foster and to promote the work of civil society in this fascinating region long into the future. I shall now hand over to my colleague Mr Momcilo Radulovic, President of the European Movement in Montenegro, our hosts, for the final words of this Congress.

Thank you.”

*Mr. Momcilo Radulovic ended the conference by thanking all the participants and speakers for their presence, his own team; the European Movement Montenegro and the European Movement International. Moreover, he hoped that everyone has learned from the conference and told the audience that he hopes that “we will see each other soon again.” Lastly he emphasised that regional cooperation is very important in all fields, ranging from human rights to protection of minorities, in order to comply in the future with European legislation and standards.*



## Annex 1: Programme



## EMI Montenegro Congress

### Fostering Civil Society in the Candidate and Potential Candidate countries

21-23 November 2013

Budva, Montenegro

### Programme



This event is organised with the support of the People 2 People Programme, Civil Society Facility, DG Enlargement, in the organisational framework of the TAIEX Instrument of the European Commission

	<b>21 November 2013</b>
8.00pm	Arrivals at Hotel Splendid, Budva
8.30pm	Welcome reception, Hotel Splendid, Budva
	<b>22 November 2013</b>
9.30am	Registrations
10.30am	Welcome words and opening speeches
	<b>Mr Milo Đukanović</b> , Prime Minister of Montenegro <b>Mr Diogo Pinto</b> , Secretary General of the European Movement International <b>Mr Momčilo Radulović</b> , President of the European Movement in Montenegro
Moderator	<b>Ms Bisera Turković</b> , Secretary General of the European Movement in Montenegro
11.00am	Introductory session: The EU accession process as a framework for national reforms and strengthening of cooperation of governments and NGOs
Keynote speech	<b>Mr Branko Ružić</b> , Minister for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia <b>Mr Igor Lukšić</b> , Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro
Speakers Discussants	<b>Ms Tanja Mišćević</b> , Chief Negotiator for the Accession of Serbia to the EU <b>Prof. Franz-Lothar Altmann</b> , Senior Research Fellow, Alexander S. Onassis Foundation, Athens, Associate Professor, Bucharest University, University of Munich
Moderator	<b>Mr Gledis Gjipali</b> , Executive Director of the European Movement in Albania
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Thematic Session 1: Overview of the situation of the countries towards enlargement / Reflection on the Enlargement Package 2013
Speakers	<b>Mr Srđan Bogosavljević</b> , director of IPSOS Adriatic and board member of Open Society Initiative For Europe – OSIFE <b>Mr Leon Malazogu</b> , Founder and Executive Director of Democracy for Development (Kosovo) <b>Prof. H. Gül Turan</b> , President of the European Movement in Turkey <b>Ms Maja Bobić</b> , Secretary General of the European Movement in Serbia <b>Mr Alqi Puli</b> , deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania
Moderator	<b>Ms Bisera Turković</b> , Secretary General of the European Movement in Montenegro
4.00pm	Thematic Session 2: Civil Society development
Speakers	<b>Ms Blerta Hoxha</b> , Policy Researcher at the European Movement Albania

	<p><b>Mr Romain Boitard</b>, Task Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro</p> <p><b>Ms Taulant Hoxha</b>, Director of Civil Society Development Programme, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation</p> <p><b>Mr Bernd Hüttemann</b>, Secretary General of the European Movement in Germany</p> <p><b>Mr Goran Đurović</b>, Resident Advisor for Montenegro, Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)</p>
Moderator	<b>Ms Nataša Owens</b> , Board member of the European Movement International and Vice-Chair of the Political Committee on Enlargement and Eastern Partnership
6.00pm	Closing of the first day
8.30pm	Ceremonial dinner offered by Municipality of Budva, Welcome address by Mr Lazar Radjenovic, Mayor of Budva
	<b>23 November 2013</b>
9.00am	Thematic Session 3: The EU enlargement in times of economic crisis
Speakers	<p><b>Dr Corina Stratulat</b>, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC)</p> <p><b>Mr Predrag Praštalo</b>, President of the European Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p><b>Ms Maria Prohaska</b>, Director, Center for Economic Development in Bulgaria</p> <p><b>Ms Stanka Parać Damjanović</b>, SEE Regional Programmes Coordinator of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)</p>
Moderator	<b>Mr Vlastimir Matejić</b> , President, European Movement in Serbia
10.45am	Roundtable with Parliamentarians
Speakers	<p><b>Ms Majlinda Bregu</b>, Chair of the Albanian Parliamentary Committee on EU Integration</p> <p><b>Mr Halid Genjac</b>, Chair of the Joint Committee on European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p><b>Mr Hajrula Misini</b>, Chair of the Macedonian Parliamentary Committee on European Issues</p> <p><b>Mr Lutfi Haziri</b>, Chairperson of the Kosovan Parliamentary Committee on European Integration</p> <p><b>Mr Slaven Radunović</b>, Chairman of the Montenegrin Parliamentary Committee on European Integration</p> <p><b>Mr Ercan Candan</b>, Member Of EU Harmonization Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey</p>
Moderator	<b>Mr Damir Davidović</b> , Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro
12.30pm	Concluding session: Regional Cooperation as a Framework for Fostering of European Integration and Protection of Human Rights
Introduction Speaker	<b>Mr Gazmend Turdiu</b> , Head of Expert Pool, Regional Cooperation Council

Speakers	<b>Mr Dubravko Miholić</b> , President of the European Movement in Croatia <b>Ms Vjollca Meçaj</b> , Executive Director of the Albanian Helsinki Committee <b>Mr Amil Kamenica</b> , Economic Expert and Consultant, BiH
Moderator	<b>Mr Erik Csernovitz</b> , Deputy Secretary General, Central European Initiative
2.00pm	Closing remarks
Speakers	<b>Mr Diogo Pinto</b> , Secretary General of the European Movement International <b>Mr Momčilo Radulović</b> , President of the European Movement in Montenegro
2.30pm	Closing of the Congress
2.30pm	Lunch

## Annex 2: EMI Press Release and Press Coverage

### 25.11.13 10:51, EMI Press Release

#### **EMI Calls for more action in the development of civil society in the candidate and potential candidate countries**

November 25, 2013

In a joint Congress, held in Budva, Montenegro, November 21-23, the European Movement International and European Movement Montenegro have called for more action to be taken in the development of civil society in the candidate and potential candidate countries. Participants included Mr Milo Đukanović, Prime Minister of Montenegro and Mr Igor Lukšić, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European integration, as well as other representatives from Governments, parliaments and civil society organisations.

The EMI Montenegro Congress builds on the success of the EMI Ljubljana Congress and the EMI Istanbul Congress - held in 2009 and 2011 respectively. Each Congress has aimed to bridge the gap between national governments, the EU, and civil society actors in the candidate and potential candidate countries.

The EU accession process requires the candidate and potential candidate countries to make significant reforms in sectors from human rights to trade and a strong basis of civil society will ensure this process remains democratic, transparent and accountable.

**Mr Momčilo Radulović, President, European Movement Montenegro, said:**

*“The EMI Montenegro Congress involved participants from every country in the Balkans region and from all levels of government, including EU representation. This sends a clear message of improvement in relations between Governments and civil society actors, which is crucial to the continued process of EU integration. In addition, we received direct messages of support from all the states of the Balkans region that they are committed to EU membership.”*

**Diogo Pinto, Secretary General, European Movement International (EMI), said:**

*“The EMI Montenegro Congress was a huge success with over 150 high-level delegates from all over Europe coming together to show their support and commitment to the EU enlargement process. It is important we continue with our efforts to develop civil society in these countries, whose future lies within the EU. This can be done if we work with all the actors in the region to ensure civil society is given a strong and central voice in the accession process. ”*

## **Foreign Press Coverage**

### **1. Articles published in English:**

<http://balkancsd.net/index.php/bcsdn-news/1758-emi-calls-for-more-action-in-the-development-of-civil-society-within-the-candidate-and-potential-candidate-countries>

[http://news.silobreaker.com/emi-calls-for-more-action-in-the-development-of-civil-society-in-the-candidate-and-potential-candidate-countries-5\\_2267266600803500036](http://news.silobreaker.com/emi-calls-for-more-action-in-the-development-of-civil-society-in-the-candidate-and-potential-candidate-countries-5_2267266600803500036)

### **2. Balkan media (local languages):**

<http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/archive/news/latest/500/500.html?id=25176583>

<http://www.naslovi.net/2013-11-22/slobodna-evropa/budva-kongres-evropskih-pokreta-i-civilog-drustva/7875297>

<http://www.rtcg.me/vijesti/politika/32523/kongres-evropskih-pokreta-u-budvi.html>

<http://www.rtcg.me/vijesti/politika/32543/djukanovic-spremni-i-za-ostala-poglavlja.html>

<http://www.rtcg.me/vijesti/politika/32573/luksic-eu-integracije-odgovornost-cijelog-drustva.html>

[http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2013&mm=11&dd=22&nav\\_category=167&nav\\_id=780530](http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2013&mm=11&dd=22&nav_category=167&nav_id=780530)

[http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2013&mm=11&dd=23&nav\\_category=167&nav\\_id=780897](http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2013&mm=11&dd=23&nav_category=167&nav_id=780897)

<http://www.mvpei.gov.me/vijesti/133159/Potpredsjednik-Vlade-i-ministar-vanjskih-poslova-i-evropskih-integracija-Igor-Luksic-na-Kongresu-evropskih-pokreta-i-civilnog-dr.html>

<http://www.gov.me/Najave/133177/Predsjednik-Vlade-Milo-dukanovic-otvorice-u-Budvi-Kongres-evropskih-pokreta-i-civilnog-drustva-Jugoistocne-Evrope-2013.html>

<http://www.pobjeda.me/2013/11/20/epucg-i-emim-organizuju-u-budvi-kongres-evropskih-pokreta-i-civilnog-drustva-jugoistocne-evrope-2013/#.UpcbDMTuLss>

<http://www.pobjeda.me/2013/11/22/dukanovic-otvaranje-poglavlja-23-i-24-bice-zeleno-svijetlo-i-za-otvaranje-ostalih/#.UpccjMTuLss>

<http://www.pobjeda.me/2013/11/24/intervju-branko-ruzic-realno-je-da-crna-gora-i-srbija-do-2020-godine-postanu-clanice-eu/#.Upcc1cTuLss>

<http://www.pobjeda.me/2013/11/22/luksic-i-ruzic-crna-gora-i-srbija-intenziviraju-saradnju-na-putu-ka-eu/#.Upcc88TuLss>

<http://www.pobjeda.me/2013/11/22/luksic-ruzic-jacati-saradnju-na-polju-evropske-integracije/#.UpccfcTuLss>

<http://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/dukanovic-crna-gora-je-uspjesna-prica-putu-eu-integracija-clanak-161908>

<http://antenam.net/web/index.php/drustvo/3472-otvoren-kongres-medunarodnog-pokreta-i-civilnih-drustava-jugocne-evrope>

<http://portalanalitika.me/politika/vijesti/124258-luki-evropske-integracije-odgovornost-cijelog-drutva>

<http://www.mojevijesti.ba/novost/176175/Moramo-se-ozbiljnije-pozabaviti-politickom-i-ekonomskom-stvarnoscu-BiH->

<http://www.blic.rs/Vesti/Drustvo/421899/Ruzic-Civilni-sektor-kao-korektivni-faktor-na-putu-ka-EU>

<http://www.dan.co.me/?nivo=3&rubrika=Vijest%20dana&datum=2013-10-31&clanak=403822>

<http://glassrbije.org/%C4%8Dlanak/po%C4%8Deo-kongres-evropskih-pokreta-dr%C5%BEava-regiona-u-budvi>

<http://www.tanjug.rs/videodet.aspx?galID=110777&videoID=639578>

<http://www.24sata.info/vijesti/regija/171240-djukanovic-svi-ce-se-morati-pozabaviti-problemima-u-bih-i-to-sto-prije-to-bolje.html>

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**For more pictures, please refer to:**

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