

Having regard to the core values the European Union is built on;

Aware of the process and challenges the European Union is facing in reaching those values;

Promoting traditional qualities of Montenegro and its differences;

Protecting economic interests of Montenegro;

Following majority will of the people of Montenegro to join the EU and wishing to permanently express it;

Stating that the strategic programme guideline of all parliamentary political parties is full membership of Montenegro to the European Union;

Having regard to the positive orientation of civil sector toward the EU and its role and importance in the process of integration, as well as the fact that civil sector participates in the negotiating work structures together with representatives of state administration;

Pointing out that the Parliament of Montenegro adopted Declaration on Accession to the European Union (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 36/05) on 8 June 2005, and other strategic documents confirming our European path;

Pointing out the importance of entering into force of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Montenegro and the European Union and Member States on 1 May 2010 and its implementation;

Underlining the Decision of the European Council of 29 June 2012 on opening the accession negotiations of Montenegro to the European Union;

Taking into account that, in accordance with the new approach of the European Commission, Montenegro basically starts the accession negotiation with the demanding chapters 23 and 24 related to judiciary and fundamental rights, and justice, freedom and security;

Emphasizing that the screening process began on 26 March 2012, and , negotiation chapter 25 – Science and Research was officially opened and temporarily closed on 18 December 2012, and , that the same was done with negotiation chapter 26 – Education and Culture on 15 April 2013; that the screening process for 33 negotiation chapters ended on 27 June 2013 and the Government of Montenegro adopted action plans for negotiations chapter 23 and 24 on 27 June 2013;

Aware of the overall situation in Montenegro, challenges and decisions to be made to determine, in the long run, the content and quality of all segments of social and economic life;

Expressing the need to enhance overall democratic capacities and strengthen the confidence in election process in Montenegro;

Respecting the fact that the level of socio-economic status of every citizen of Montenegro does not essentially depend only on fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria nor the membership in

the European Union but above all on economic and social policy and development model applicable to Montenegro;

Aware that in the process of accepting all rights and obligations that the European Union and its institutional framework are based on, covered by the term *acquis communautaire* of the European Union and divided into 35 negotiation thematic chapters, professional, efficient and mutually synchronized public administration is needed;

Pointing out to the role of legislative power determined by the Treaty of Lisbon of 2007;

Considering that the Parliament of Montenegro has to take a more active role in the process of European Integration aimed at strengthening transparency and control over the process;

Advocating further decentralization based on the principles and trends in the European Union, respecting specific qualities of Montenegro, aimed at strengthening democratic structures, protection of minorities, sustainable development and increasing capacities of local self-government;

Expressing gratitude to the European Union and its institutions for expert, technical and financial support provided to Montenegro on its path to the EU;

Pointing out the importance of the Parliamentary Committee for Stabilization and Association, as a crucial and unique joint body of the Parliament of Montenegro and the European Parliament, stemming from the first contractual relationship between Montenegro and the European Union – Stabilization and Association Agreement;

Pointing out that good neighbourly and regional cooperation, based on the principles of mutual consideration and respect and foundations of the European region, is of a key importance for the European path of the entire region;

Certain that, for the following stages of the integration process, it is necessary to demonstrate concrete political will, create wide consensus of all structures of the society, reach certain strategic decisions, enhance many segments of public administration in order to fulfil Copenhagen criteria in a more quality and fast manner;

Pursuant to Article 82 Paragraph 1 Item 3 of the Constitution of Montenegro, the Parliament of Montenegro of the 25th Convocation, at its Eight Sitting of the Second Ordinary (Autumn) Session in 2013, on 27 December 2013, adopted

RESOLUTION
ON MANNER, QUALITY AND DYNAMICS OF
INTEGRATION PROCESS OF MONTENEGRO TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. Parliament of Montenegro confirms that the strategic interest of the state shall be fast and quality accession of Montenegro to the European Union as an equal, reputable and respected member state.
2. Parliament of Montenegro shall continue to work on preserving multi-ethnic and multi-confessional values, strengthening and enhancing them in accordance with the European values until reaching full harmonisation, thus enriching the European Union itself.
3. Parliament of Montenegro, as a key constituent of parliamentary system, shall dominantly contribute to achieving high quality of European integration and these historical goals.
4. Parliament of Montenegro points out the importance of active participation of a larger number of social factors in the process of negotiation, transparent negotiation process and quality and timely informing the citizens on all effects of negotiation.
5. Parliament of Montenegro shall enhance, with the aim of implementation of the above, the cooperation with the Government of Montenegro, local and foreign experts and representatives of civil society to the required extent.
6. Parliament of Montenegro points out to the importance of an active approach of institutions at state and local levels in using resources from the European Union funds.
7. Parliament of Montenegro shall particularly advocate for establishment of the highest democratic standards of the election process, as the basis of free expression of the political will of citizens of Montenegro.
8. The Parliament of Montenegro stresses that the key precondition for the establishment of the state of law and rule of law in full sense, provision of legal certainty and strengthening the system of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and for the functional market economy is efficient and independent judiciary along with effective fight against corruption and organised crime resulting in swift and efficient determining of responsibility for misuse at all levels, including misuse of state resources as well as fighting against all types of discrimination, particularly discrimination in employment.
9. The Parliament of Montenegro stresses that fundamental economic reforms must provide preconditions that shall discontinue the current negative trends and provide a long-term sustainable development, valorisation of natural and economic resources based on best European practice, and especially full valorisation of domestic knowledge, which shall result in continuous economic development, particularly development of energy and traffic infrastructure, through increase of competence and productivity of human resources and economy capacities, enabling prosperity, full social security and improvement of living standard of all citizens.
10. During the consideration of negotiating positions, the Parliament of Montenegro shall insist on the protection of Montenegro's interests, for those parts of EU acquis where the

negotiation is possible, ensuring exceptions and transitional periods, and in terms of action plans for certain chapters, the Parliament shall take care of structure and content which shall provide necessary pace and continuity of adopting the standards and quality of changes.

11. The Parliament of Montenegro stresses that the precondition for quality European integration is effective and professional functioning of state institutions, and in that regard the Parliament shall:

- Implement the Conclusions on Building Trust in the Election Process of 31 May 2013;
- Implement Constitutional amendments in line with Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro following the time frame defined by the Constitutional Law for Implementation of Amendments I to XVI to the Constitution of Montenegro;
- Amend the set of the election laws.

12. For the purpose of full contribution to the quality of European integration process, the Parliament of Montenegro shall establish the necessary relationship structure with the Government of Montenegro, representatives of civic sector and institutions of the European Union in the following manner:

- On behalf of the Parliament of Montenegro and as a holder of activities in the accession process, the Committee on European Integration shall monitor negotiations on Montenegro's accession to the European Union, oversee and assess the course of negotiations, provide opinion on prepared negotiating positions, consider information on negotiation process, consider and provide opinion on issues arising during the negotiations, consider and assess activities of negotiation team.
- The Committee on European Integration shall, in cooperation with a lead committee competent for a field covered by a negotiation chapter, chief negotiator and negotiators for certain chapters, consider the prepared negotiating positions thoroughly in respect of certain chapters;
- The Committee on European Integration shall adopt the opinion on negotiation chapters by a majority of vote of total number of members. If the Committee on European Integration reaches a negative opinion, the Government shall be obliged to state its position within eight days. No later than five business days after the Government states its position, the Committee on European Integration shall provide a final opinion on the Draft negotiating position;
- The Committee on European Integration shall monitor assistance programmes that the European Union intended for Montenegro;
- The Committee on European Integration shall propose measures, initiate procedures for speeding the process of European integration and quarterly discuss reports on the course of European integration at meetings attended by the chief negotiator;

- The Committee on European Integration shall adopt the Annual Activity Plan;
 - Lead committees shall, within their competences, monitor and assess the compliance of Montenegrin laws with the EU acquis, and on the basis of Government's reports, monitor and assess enforcement of laws, particularly laws that yield commitments harmonised with the EU acquis;
 - The Parliament of Montenegro shall consider semi-annual reports on European integration course, during ordinary sessions, at sittings attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
 - The Parliament of Montenegro shall harmonise its work plan with European commitments of Montenegro, and laws that are to be harmonised with the EU acquis and labelled eu.me shall be considered in a manner that shall enable timely fulfilment of such commitments;
13. The Government of Montenegro shall, prior to the Spring Session in 2014, submit to the Parliament of Montenegro the following strategic documents for consideration:
- Montenegro Accession Programme to the European Union, for the period 2014-2018;
 - Communication Strategy for Informing the Public on the European Union;
 - Pre-accession Economic Programme 2014-2018.
14. In the first quarter of 2014, the Parliament of Montenegro shall adopt the Action Plan for Strengthening the Legislative and Oversight Role of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014.
15. The Parliament of Montenegro invites all political parties and other constituents of society to make a full contribution to meeting the concerned goals.
16. The Parliament of Montenegro shall submit the Resolution to the European Parliament and European Commission.
17. On the day of entering into force of this Resolution, the Resolution on the Fulfilment of Obligations of Montenegro within Stabilization and Association Agreement (Official Gazette MNE, no. 2/08) shall cease to have effect.
18. The Resolution shall be published in the Official Gazette of Montenegro.

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 EPA 366 XXV
 Podgorica, 27 December 2013

PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO OF THE 25TH CONVOCATION

PRESIDENT
 Ranko Krivokapić