

institut alternativa

INSTITUTE ALTERNATIVA'S DAILY BRIEF No. 269 06 October 2009

Dear Reader,

This collection of daily news is distributed free of charge from Monday through Friday.

The Friday issue every week contains a commentary or an op-ed, aimed at presenting different views on issues important in the socio-political context of Montenegro.

We hope that you will enjoy reading Institute Alternative's Daily Brief,

Editorial Team

POLITICS

PzP asks for inspection of tobacco transit business

PzP has submitted a request for formation of the ad hoc committee which would deal with assessment of damage to the budget and property of Montenegro caused by the tobacco transit business, in the 1998-2001 period. The proposal addressed to the President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić states that the total damage caused to Montenegro by hiding of the profit on offshore accounts instead of paying to state budget, might be over 400 million euros. The assessment is based on the data from the indictment of Italian prosecution from Bari.

In the PzP proposal it is suggested that this working body should have expert help from state institutions responsible for issues of tax, customs, budgetary policy, as well as money laundering and conflict of interest. The committee would have nine members, five from opposition, and would conclude its work by preparing a report which would be given to the Parliament for discussion.

Vuković: No more ultimatums

Head of the Working Group in charge of harmonizing the electoral legislation Miodrag Vuković commented on the statements of leader of DUA and Minister of Human and Minority Rights Ferhat Dinoša by saying that it is not good for the Working Group to function on the basis of ultimatums. Dinoša has earlier said that abolition of separate electoral units for Albanian minority would not be acceptable and that his party will not give up on maintaining them in the electoral law.

Vuković said that Dinoša has the right to express his stance and point of view, but stressed that the Working Group does not function on the basis of ultimatums and that the highest level of consent and approval is now being searched for. Separate electoral units and guaranteed mandates for the representatives of minorities is a solution already rejected by the Constitutional Court, and DPS is now suggesting that every minority should be given a seat in the Parliament. He also considers that it would not be good if the Working group does not have the support of Albanians in its work and final conclusions.

Apart from MPs representing Albanian minority in the Parliament, the Bosniacs are demanding that the rejected solution from the Law on minority rights and freedoms is reinstated in the electoral legislation.

ECONOMY

Development Fund contributes to municipal infrastructure projects

By the end of September, the Development Fund has bought off municipal bonds worth 10,2 million euros, which was used for financing construction or reconstruction of infrastructural objects, said Director of the Fund Dragan Lajović.

He said that the Development Fund has until now been the only municipal bonds investor, and that he expects the situation to change in the future, with investment funds, insurance agencies and business banks participating as well. Lajović stressed that this would give an impetus to the bond market in Montenegro and raise the level of corporate social responsibility of all subjects

participating, bringing benefits not only of income value, but enabling a higher level of living standard of citizens as well as stimulating development of motivated entrepreneur ambient.

The so-called 'municipal bonds' are actually securities by which the local governance as an emitter obligates itself to pay off loaned means with a certain interest. Their purpose is similar to the one of state bonds, with a difference that acquired means are used for financing projects of local and regional significance.

First Bank pays off its debt

First Bank of Montenegro has paid off the remaining 11 million euros to the Government, thus settling its debt of 44 million, approved in December last year because of liquidity problems. Ministry of Finances issued a statement in which it says that the procedure for removing the deposits from First Bank's shares is initiated, in accordance to the contract on credit support.

Vijesti writes that the timely pay off was caused by the successful realization of the process of recapitalization and partial privatisation of Electric Company of Montenegro (EPCG). Thanks to that transaction, more than 300 million euros has entered economic system of Montenegro, and that money arrived, by the decision of the Italian company which bought EPCG, A2A, through the First Bank.

It is now expected that the Central Bank of Montenegro (CBCG) lifts the special measures which prevented the First Bank from approving new credit lines.

SOCIETY

Prosecution: Ratko Knežević will be interrogated

Higher State Prosecution will interrogate businessman Ratko Knežević regarding his statements about the assassinations in Montenegro, and the existence of the alleged tobacco cartel.

Higher State Prosecutor's office in Podgorica decided that the Trier of the High Court will be instructed to undertake investigative actions against unknown perpetrators of the crimes in which Goran Žugić, Darko Raspopović and Blagota Sekulić were murdered.

Prosecution has decided that, beside Knežević, several persons he mentioned in statements published in the media will also be interrogated.

Alleged attackers on Krivokapić denied guilt

Four young men who are suspected to have attacked the President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić and his security escort have denied guilt. After giving statements before the Trier they were released from custody.

Their parents wrote to Krivokapić and demanded that he tells the truth whether his bodyguards have exceeded their official powers.

Krivokapić said he regretted the incident happened, and deemed it as an attempt of youth expression, 'in an inappropriate manner'.

Version of what happened told by the alleged attackers is quite different from the official. Young men have also denied that they had a wooden pole, which is mentioned in the statement of the Police Directorate.

EU INTEGRATION

Croatian translations?

President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapić is officially in Croatia, in a three-day visit, during which he will meet with numerous Croatian officials, including President Stjepan Mesić and Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor. Krivokapić has already met with President of the Croatian National Committee for monitoring the EU accession negotiations Vesna Pusić.

Pusić has offered concrete help and support to Montenegro, regarding the EU integration process. She stressed the readiness of Croatia to deliver translations of the EU legal norms, *acquis communautaire*, which would make the process of negotiating a lot quicker for Montenegro.

Former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader has promised the same two years ago, but gave up on the idea because of the opposition of the public.

Đurović on boycotting the Working Group

Minister of European Integration Gordana Đurović deemed as unsound boycotting the Parliamentary Working Group in charge of answering the part of European Commission's Questionnaire, announced by a part of opposition MPs.

She said the same for announcements of sending separate answers to the Questionnaire to Brussels.

Representative of NSD in the Working Group Goran Danilović said that he will not participate in the work of that body, emphasizing the fact that several months since its formation, it is still undetermined what are its tasks, the rules according to which it functions nor the coordinator or why did it meet just once. Vice President of PzP Branko Radulović said earlier that his party is preparing its own version of answers to the Questionnaire, especially to those questions relating to political criteria.

Đurović announced that the Working Group is supposed to meet on Wednesday, when the members should submit their opinions in written. She stated that no official reactions have been received so far.

GLOSSARY

This glossary contains the most commonly used abbreviations. It is subject to revision.

ANB	Agency for National Security
ARD	Broadcasting Agency
BS	Bosniak Party
CGO	Centre of Civic Education
CRNVO	Centre for the Development of Non-Governmental Organisations
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU
CoE	Council of Europe
DC	Democratic Centre
DPS	Democratic Party of Socialists
DSCG	Democratic Alliance in Montenegro
DSS	Democratic Serbian Party

DUA	Democratic Union of Albanians
EC	European Commission
EMIM	European Movement in Montenegro
EU	European Union
IA	Institute Alternativa
IPA	Instrument Pre-Accession Assistance
LSCG	Liberal Alliance of Montenegro
LP	Liberal Party
MANS	Network for the Affirmation of Non-Profit Sector
MOC	Montenegrin Orthodox Church
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NS	People's Party
NSD	New Serb Democracy
NSS	People's Socialist Party
PZP	Movement for Change
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SDP	Social Democratic Party
SL	Serbian List
SNP	Socialist People's Party
SNS	Serbian National Council
SOC	Serbian Orthodox Church
SRS	Serbian Radical Party
SSR	Party of Serbian Radicals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

DISCLAIMER

INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS BRIEF COMES FROM LOCAL DAILY NEWSPAPERS (DAN, POBJEDA AND VIJESTI), WEEKLY 'MONITOR', E-ZINE ARTICLES, WEB PORTALS, AND NEWS AGENCIES' BRIEFS, AS CITED THROUGHOUT THE TEXT.

THESE INFORMATION ARE SUPPLEMENTED BY INSTITUTE ALTERNATIVA'S OWN ANALYSES AND OPINIONS.

Institute Alternativa is a Podgorica-based non profit organisation, specialising in policy analysis.