



Parliament of Montenegro in co-operation with Capacity Development Programme

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Round Table: The role of the Parliament in harmonization with Acquis in the process of implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement**

We wish to inform you that tomorrow, on **Monday October 29th, at 10 am** a round table on the ***Role of the Parliament in harmonization with Acquis in the process of implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement*** will be held in **Blue Hall of the Parliament of Montenegro**, jointly organized by Parliamentary Committees for International Cooperation and European Integration and for Constitutional Issues and Legislation, and Capacity Development Programme (CDP).

**The round table will be hosted by Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration at the Government of Montenegro, Gordana Đurović, PhD and Mr. Garret Tankosić Kelly, UNDP Resident Representative a.i./UN Interagency Focal Point in Montenegro.**

The introductory presentations on harmonization of legislative system will be held by CDP International Consultant and former Secretary of the Committee for European Integration of the Parliament of Slovenia, **Mr. Primož Vehar** and **Ms. Jožica Velišček**, CDP International Consultant and former Secretary General of the Parliament of Slovenia.

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The Government of Montenegro, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI) first established the CDP in September 2003. The realization of the new phase of this programme started in February this year. The CDP Supervisory Board is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration. The main role of the CDP is to contribute to the efforts of the Government of Montenegro to develop its institutional and administrative capacities for the European integration process.

After the official signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), the main objectives of Montenegro will be the implementation of the SAA and further preparations for EU membership. Harmonization of national legislation with Acquis has key role in achieving these objectives. This is exactly where new challenges for the Parliament lie, especially for its Committees for International Cooperation and European Integration and for Constitutional Issues and Legislation. Therefore, thanks to the UNDP's donations, in July this year CDP started a project on strengthening of these two committees's capacities. Namely, the implementation of the SAA creates new roles for the Parliament of Montenegro primarily in connection with harmonization of legislation and monitoring of the work of the Government, as well as with establishing of a joint parliamentary committee for stabilization and association with the European Parliament. At this round table, members of the Parliamentary Committees and their colleagues from Slovenia will have an opportunity to analyse relevant comparative experiences.

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