

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Regional Ministerial Meeting “Strengthening Efficiency of Judiciary through the Promotion of Mediation“**

**What:** One of strategic preferences of all countries in the region being a right to a fair trial, of which dispute resolution is a key element, the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro, jointly with the United Nations System Montenegro and the International Finance Corporation, will organize a Regional Ministerial Meeting with an intention to define directions of further development of mediation in the countries of the region.

**The Regional Ministerial Meeting will be opened by:**  
**Mr. Svetozar Marović, Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro**  
**Mr. Miraš Radović, Minister of Justice of Montenegro**  
**Mr. Alexander Avanesov, UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro**

**When: Wednesday, December 1st 2010, at 10am**

**Where: Splendid Hotel, Bečići**

Presenters at the Ministerial Meeting will be Ministers of Justice and high officials of the Ministries of Justice of the countries in the region. Participants will be Ministers of Justice, as well as representatives of institutions relevant to the field of mediation from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the FYR Macedonia; also the Minister of Justice of Slovenia, representatives of the UNDP and UNICEF Offices in Montenegro and the region; representatives of the International Finance Cooperation (IFC), the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. Also, it is expected that the countries participating in the Conference will support the Declaration on Mediation.

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Mediation is a term usually reserved for dispute resolution process, which involves mediation by an unbiased third person with intention to encourage parties in dispute to reach an agreement voluntarily. One of the aims of mediation is providing parties with an opportunity to manage their own disputes and resolve them to a mutual satisfaction. This implies that parties themselves should take over a more active and constructive, even sometimes a more innovative role in resolving a dispute.

The Western Balkan countries have achieved significant progress in the past years in harmonizing national legislations with the EU legislation in the area of the rule of law, but it is necessary to widen equal accessibility to mediation services and undertake measures that stimulate and establish functional mediation programmes in a wider geographical area.

Mediation is a fairly young concept in the countries of the Western Balkans, which requires further development, affirmation and raising citizens' awareness. Improvement of mediation, as one of the alternative dispute resolution tools, is a possibility available for legal entities and natural persons in order to increase efficiency and decrease costs in a dispute resolution process.

**For additional information, please contact:**

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