



**COUNCIL OF  
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**Second meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro  
at Deputy level  
Brussels, 31 March 2014**

The second meeting of the Accession Conference with Montenegro at Deputy level was held today in Brussels to open two negotiating chapters: Chapter 7 - Intellectual property law, and chapter 10 - Information society and media. Chapter 7 covers, inter alia, copyright and neighbouring rights, industrial property rights and the enforcement of intellectual property rights. The *acquis* under Chapter 10 aims to eliminate obstacles to the effective operation of the internal market in electronic communications services and networks, promote competition and safeguard consumer interests in the sector, including the universal availability of basic modern services. It also includes rules on information society services and a regulatory framework for audiovisual media services in line with European standards.

The European Union delegation was led by Ambassador Theodoros Sotiropoulos, Greece's Permanent Representative to the EU. The Montenegrin delegation was led by Ambassador Andrija Pejović, State Secretary for European Integration and Chief Negotiator for Negotiations on Accession of Montenegro to the European Union.

The EU considered that some benchmarks were required to provisionally close both chapters. These include legislative amendments as well as the administrative capacity to implement and enforce the relevant *acquis* in the respective chapters.

**P R E S S**

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For chapter 7, the benchmarks to be met are the following:

- Montenegro completes all necessary legislative amendments to ensure Community exhaustion of rights in all areas from the date of accession.
- Montenegro adopts amendments to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights to complete alignment with the *acquis*.
- Montenegro adopts the new Law on Patents to complete alignment with the *acquis*, particularly on supplementary protection certificates.
- Montenegro ensures a sufficient administrative capacity to register intellectual property rights and provides a track record of investigation by customs and effective enforcement through civil and, where appropriate, criminal justice.

For chapter 10, the benchmarks to be met are the following:

- Montenegro brings its legislation in line with the *acquis* as regards the provisions on the independence of the National Regulatory Authority for electronic communications as well as the *acquis* in the area of audiovisual media services.
- Montenegro demonstrates that it will have sufficient administrative capacity to enforce the *acquis* in the fields of electronic communications, information society services and audiovisual media services, including as regards regulatory independence, by the time of accession.

The EU also underlined that it would devote particular attention to monitoring all specific issues mentioned in its common positions, with a view to ensuring Montenegro's administrative capacity and its capacity to complete the legal alignment in the relevant areas. In relation to chapter 10, the EU also highlighted the importance it attaches to the protection of media freedom and media pluralism.

Monitoring of progress in the alignment with and implementation of the *acquis* will continue throughout the negotiations. A final assessment of the conformity of Montenegro's legislation with the *acquis* and of its implementation capacity can be made only at a later stage of the negotiations. The Conference will have to return to these chapters at an appropriate moment.

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A further Accession Conference at Ministerial level is planned for June in order to take the process forward.

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