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South–East Europe Leadership  
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## The European Union’s Perspective of the Fight against Corruption - the Case of Montenegro

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# New approach

- Starting negotiations with chapters relating to the judiciary, human rights, the fight against corruption and organized crime (23 & 24 Chapters)
- Council's request in which the reports on compliance of Montenegrin legislation with the *acquis* under chapter 23 and 24 must be accompanied by a report of the European Police Office (EUROPOL) on the state of organized crime in the country.

# Commission Opinion on Montenegro's application for membership, 7 key priorities

- 4. *“Improve the anti-corruption legal framework and implement the government's anti-corruption strategy and action plan; establish a solid track record of proactive investigations, prosecutions and convictions in corruption cases at all levels.”*
- 6. *“Enhance media freedom ....and strengthen cooperation with civil society.”*

# Reforms in 2011

- Strengthened legal framework - (Amendments to the Law on conflict of interest; Law on political party financing; Law on public procurement; Law on civil servants and State employees)
- The Government adopted a risk assessment - Six areas of particular risk have been identified: local self-government, spatial planning, public procurement, privatisation, education and healthcare
- Implementation and monitoring - unsatisfactory

# CSO & EU Integration process

- Action Plan for implementation of recommendations from EC's opinion on Montenegro's application for membership - public debate in January and February 2011.
- Monthly reporting to the Parliament of Montenegro on the implementation of the Action Plan
- Government of Montenegro adopted two important Regulations:
- The Decree on the manner and procedure for cooperation between state authorities and non-governmental organizations (Government of Montenegro, 22. 12. 2011),
- and the Decree on the procedure and conduct public debate in preparing the legislation, the Government of Montenegro, 2.2. 2012).
- EU Negotiations (Government includes CSO in the negotiating working groups) - 2012

# Fight against corruption in Montenegro - Key Challenges

- Capacity of the State Election Commission, the State Audit Institution and the Commission for the Prevention of Conflict of Interest, DACI needs to be enhanced.
- Low number of track record of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in corruption cases.
- Control of the Public Procurement System needs to be strengthened.
- Poor legal framework for PPP and concessions

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# Thank you !

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