Basic information

2013/2882(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the 2013 progress report on Montenegro **Subject** 8.20.01 Candidate countries **Geographical area** Montenegro, from 06/2006	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	TANNOCK Timothy Charles Ayrton (ECR)	02/10/2013
	Shadow rapporteur IBRISAGIC Anna (PPE) FÄRM Göran (S&D) VAJGL Ivo (ALDE) LUNACEK Ulrike (Verts /ALE) CHOUNTIS Nikolaos (GUE /NGL) BELDER Bas (EFD)	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3287	2013-12-17

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations	FÜLE Štefan

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/12/2013	Debate in Council		

05/02/2014	Debate in Parliament		
06/02/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0104/2014	Summary
06/02/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
06/02/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/2882(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/7/14245

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE524.561	09/12/2013	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0072/2014	28/01/2014	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0104/2014	06/02/2014	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)414	18/06/2014	

Resolution on the 2013 progress report on Montenegro

2013/2882(RSP) - 06/02/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 474 votes to 42, with 34 abstentions, a resolution tabled by the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the 2013 progress report on Montenegro.

Accession negotiations: Parliament welcomed the opening of five new negotiation chapters in December 2013, as well as the government's action plans on Chapters 23 and 24. It encouraged swift continuation of the accession negotiations, provided that reforms were pursued and implemented, and concrete results delivered. Members commended the inclusion of civil society representatives in the negotiation structures whilst noting that maximum possible transparency must be shown by engaging a broader selection of organisations in the working groups and conducting extensive nationwide consultations.

Political criteria: Members stressed the importance of the enforcement of the rule of law, notably through judicial reform, and the fight against corruption and organised crime. Stressing that **additional efforts are needed in the fight against corrupti**on, they insisted that impunity for criminals convicted of corruption or organised crime offences is not acceptable;

Although welcoming the enhancing of the Montenegrin Parliament's oversight role, Parliament called, nevertheless, for reinforced follow-up of hearing conclusions, stronger oversight of the implementation of adopted legislation, and more active parliamentary involvement in the negotiations. It regretted

the fact that a committee of inquiry formed to investigate alleged misuse of public funds for party-political purposes failed to draw political conclusions in its final report, and that judicial follow-up remains incomplete in this regard.

Members also stressed the need to **improve public confidence in the electoral system and democratic structures** and called on the Montenegrin Parliament to speed up the electoral reform in line with the long-standing OSCE/ODIHR recommendations and in full transparency, involving civil society. Supporting the Commission's call for a clear, broadly accepted delineation between public and party interests to be established, they wanted the Government to publish proactively information on state aid for individuals and companies, employment in the public service sector and other expenditures that might affect voting behaviour.

Parliament insisted on the importance of public administration reform for applying the acquis, and called for further legislative and other measures to be taken and implemented in order to diminish the politicisation of the judiciary in practice.

Expressing grave concern about the increase in verbal and physical intimidation of journalists, Parliament underlined the importance of **free, independent and unbiased media** in a functioning democracy. It was deeply shocked by the fact that since August 2013 at least two bomb attacks and around half a dozen physical attacks have been carried out against journalists, and deplored the fact that Montenegro is now ranked 113th in the Reporters Without Borders media freedom index.

Socio-economic issues: Parliament wanted the government to focus on increasing economic growth to combat poverty and improve living standards of all citizens. It called for enhanced efforts to tackle the large informal sector, to improve protection of intellectual property rights and the overall legal system in order to systematically fight corruption and improve the business environment, and to **implement structural reforms with a view to attracting and sustaining foreign direct investment**. It emphasised the need for commercial dispute resolution processes to be free from political interference and based on the rule of law in order to further improve the business climate, and also encouraged a swift resolution of the KAP aluminium plant dispute. Members expressed concerns regarding **the unchanged labour market situation and high unemployment,** and wanted measures to improve the poorly performing labour market.

Regional cooperation: Parliament welcomed Montenegro's proactive participation in initiatives on regional reconciliation and the 'Western Balkans Six' project, and called on Montenegro to **enhance its cultural and economic cooperation with neighbouring EU Member States.** Whilst commending the government for maintaining good bilateral relations with all its neighbours, including Kosovo, Parliament stressed the need to swiftly settle the dispute with Croatia on land and maritime borders, and the final delimitation of borders with Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. It also called on the to assist the Montenegrin Government to resolve the issue of internally displaced persons, and help close a painful chapter in the region's history.

Lastly, Parliament welcomed the Montenegrin Government's **commitment to joining NATO,** but noted the strong divergence of opinion among parliamentarians and in society at large. It commended Montenegro's contribution, despite its limited defence resources, to UN and CSDP missions.