



***Government of the Republic of Montenegro  
Anti-Corruption Initiative Agency***

Dear Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will use this opportunity to inform you, briefly, about the actions in the anti-corruption area, that have been undertaken in our Republic, during two - three years.

Being a full member, Republic of Montenegro took part in all SPAI meetings and has made the recognized efforts in public promoting of this Initiative. Moreover, the measures and actions that have been laid out for its implementation mostly comply with the requirements presented in the Compact and Action Plan and SPAI Recommendations.

During this above-mentioned period, the reform of the legal system has been the priority anti-corruption activity of the Montenegrin state bodies. In cooperation with international organizations and institutions (especially World Bank, Council of Europe, OECD, OSCE and USAID), non-governmental organizations and civil society, the following reform laws are drafted and adopted - **Public Procurement Law, Law on Budget, Law on the Central Bank, Law on Courts, six Tax Laws, Law on Enterprises, the Law on Accounting**. These laws, which are based on the relevant international standards and instruments, comprise the most important provisions that need to be used in a successful fight against corruption.

Furthermore, on December last year, our Parliament has adopted the **Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Law on State Prosecutor** which, among other things, introduce the institution of Special Prosecutor for fighting organized crime, system of special investigative means, criminal liability of legal persons, etc. In this respect, the general preconditions have been created for successful fight against corruption and organized crime, as well as for efficient and fruitful reform of judicial system.

During last year, the Anti-Corruption Initiative Agency has prepared the Draft **Anti-Money Laundering Law**, which has adopted by Montenegrin Parliament, on September, last year. Meanwhile, the Government of the Republic of Montenegro has established the independent operative and investigative body - FIU that will perform the activities and measures for preventing and combating money laundering. The director of this FIU has been appointed on February this year.

Anti-Corruption Agency, in cooperation with non-governmental and civil sector, as well the international organizations and institutions (Council of Europe, OSCE, USAID, ABA/CEELI) have drafted the **Law on conflict of Interests**. Last month, Parliament of Montenegro adopted this Law and shall set up the Commission, which will create all necessary preconditions for efficient implementation of this law. However, the President of the Republic has, in accordance with his constitutional authority, returned this Law to the Montenegrin Parliament to revise and reconsider this legal text (a disputable provision of the article 15 of the Law, where it is said that "exceptionally, a public official may be the member of not more than one commercial company board owned by the state or local self-government bodies"). But we are about to expect that the Law on conflict of interests will come into force, during May of this year.

After becoming a full member of Council of Europe, the Anti-Corruption Initiative Agency actively takes part in the work of its Working bodies, such as **GRECO** (Group of states for combating corruption) and undertakes the activities in order to implement the recommendations of the Council of Europe for efficient prevention and fight against corruption. The Republic of Montenegro is, also, actively involved in the implementation of the PACO IMPACT and CARDS projects on corruption, which is about to start next month.

The cooperation of the Anti-Corruption Initiative Agency with non-governmental organizations, civil society and business associations is maintained, at the central and local level, what is realized through numerous activities such as joint developing of certain legal projects, participating in public campaign and debates, organizing of joint round table and similar. In this regard, it should be mentioned that the Agency has actively participated in drafting the **Law on financing the political party**, prepared by the NGO sector, which Montenegrin Parliament has adopted, on March, this year.

Also, the Anti-Corruption Initiative Agency is actively involved in drafting of the **Program for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime in Montenegro**. The coordinator of this project is the Ministry of Interior. The drafting of this Program is in final phase (Council of Europe has submitted its opinion and suggestions) and we could expect that our Government will, very soon, discuss and adopt this strategic material.

Speaking about the assistance it could be required, I would like to emphasize that the Republic of Montenegro is, clearly, committed to undertake efficient measures aimed at curbing of corruption. It is committed to intensify the process of general reforms of the legal, economic and financial system of the Republic, which has

already started, and to implement international documents, instruments and standards related to the fight against corruption as soon as possible. In this context, **Montenegro needs strong and swift financial, technical and expert's support from the donor countries and international organizations and institutions, especially in the area of development and realization of specific capacity – building programs.**

In the Republic of Montenegro, completing process of anti-corruption legal framework, based on the international standards, has almost been finished, so it is necessary to start with the stage of implementation of new law regulations.

Thank you for your attention,

DIRECTOR  
**Veselin Sukovic, LLM**