

To: Mr. Zaal Lomtadze
Chairman of the Bureau of the CEP

Dear Mr. Lomtadze,

Regarding call for submission of the views to the UNECE secretariat about EfE process prior to the 15th session of the CEP on 21-23 April, Ministry of Tourism and Environment here proposes some aspects that should serve as the basis for discussion:

The Belgrade Declaration is devoted to the reform of EfE process through efficient sub-regional cooperation and support to the countries in realization of actions oriented activities in accordance with the specific needs of developing countries. Montenegro finds that future reform of the EfE process should provide it to be important political framework and forum for actions in the field of environment in the region of South Eastern Europe. In the context of the Process of Association and Stabilization to EU, as the vehicle for reform in this region, EfE process should be structured in a way that provides this 2 processes to act in a coordinated manner and to be supportive for ongoing and planned institutional and legislative reforms at national levels.

From the perspective of Montenegrin national policy in the field of environment, we find that EfE process should be streamed toward capacity building for implementation of UNECE conventions. In doing so UNECE and EfE can significantly improve the entire capacities in the field of environment.

Montenegro also expresses the support to the on-going reform of the UN system, particularly in providing more synergy in acting of different UN agencies. Coordination of UNEP and UNECE activities in that respect is necessary. The future position of EfE process should be defined in respect to that concept.

The assessments and recommendations given in Second EPR for Montenegro, as well as the findings prepared under umbrella of Belgrade Conference, indicate that implementation of UNECE environmental agreements in Montenegro is too slow. Taking into account these facts, as well as the Action Plan of the National Programme for Integration to EU and Programme of Work of the Government of Montenegro that defines obligation to ratify certain number of UNECE MEAs during 2008, UNECE and the Secretariats of respective conventions should provide support in capacity building of National Focal Points, assessment of MEAs impacts on national system, and particularly in creating of the capacities for there implementation.

Sincerely,

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