

Montenegro
PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO
-Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget-
No: 00-51174-7515
Podgorica, 24 July 2014

PODGORICA

With regard to the Meeting of Members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro with Members of the Economy and Finance Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, on the subject: "Parliamentary dimension of cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Albania in the field of transport", held within the activities of the Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans, and with the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, on 15 June 2014, in Ulcinj, Montenegro, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, at its 67th meeting, held on 24 July 2014, determined

PROPOSAL FOR ASSESSMENTS AND POSITIONS

Taking into account that the field of transport was marked as a development opportunity in the Western Balkans, and thereby Montenegro and the Republic of Albania, and that better transport connection contributes to stability, puts a stop to negative demographic trends and promotes economic development, and that joint work on priority transport projects was a crucial condition of better connectedness of the countries of the region, improvement of regional cooperation and a precondition for faster economic growth and progress towards European integration, it was necessary to intensify cooperation in the field of:

- a) railway transport. Committees state that the route Podgorica - Shkodër - Tirana is of special significance for the region, and that it is not realistic to expect it to be profitable, if the passenger transport is organized with outdated technology (diesel traction). In this regard, it is necessary to examine the possibility of providing the necessary funding to perform electrification, and the revitalization of the railway line Podgorica - Shkodër.
- b) road transport. Committees assess the construction of the road Plav - Podgorica, through the Republic of Albania, is a priority project of mutual interest, and that it should be built as a modern two-lane road, of 6m width. It was stated that, given that the specified road would link two countries and provide benefits to citizens of underdeveloped areas of northern Montenegro and Albania, it was necessary to provide financial means as urgent as possible in order to complete the construction of the specified road.

At the same time, the Committees also point to the importance of transport connection of Montenegro and the Republic of Albania with the nearest transport link across the River Bojana, in the hinterland of Velika plaža. It is necessary to examine the possibility of building a bridge across the river, that would connect the Ulcinj region with the region of Velipoje.

- c) sea transport. In relation to the restoration of the shipping route Virpazar – Shkodër, Committees stress the importance of joint assessment of the potential of the Lake Skadar, in terms of realization of the navigable route of the River Bojana flow, and putting the specified potential in tourism and agricultural purposes of both countries. It is necessary to continue the activities of the joint assessment of economic potentials of the Skadar Lake.

Committees point to the need of use of complementary advantages of ports Bar and Durrës, and the need to define Ulcinj as an international port, in a way to introduce the ferry route between Ulcinj and Durrës, which, as was agreed, would be a very attractive offer for tourists who visit these cities.

- d) air transport. Committees assess as purposeful the implementation of activities to create further assumptions for future continuous cooperation of airports in Podgorica and Tirana.
- e) Moreover, Committees state that, given the strategic partnership, Montenegro and the Republic of Albania should jointly apply for the realisation of various projects in the field of transport connections with international institutions and funds. It was specifically pointed to the need for both sides to recognize their interest through joint development projects, by applying for the use of EU instruments for pre-accession assistance (IPA funds).

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Aleksandar Damjanović

