

Source: [Montenegro has opened the Chapter 27](#)

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**Podgorica, 9th of December 2018**\_Coalition 27, a network of 20 non-governmental organizations dealing with the environment and climate change, thinks that official Montenegro should understand that the opening of Chapter 27 is a concrete EU step towards stricter requirements and the application of more serious mechanisms, and therefore it would be more appropriate to inform the public about concrete plans for the future period and concentrate on closing the process, instead of the unruly enthusiasm of certain leaders, who do not absolutely have any merit for this decision of EU member states.

Croatia has opened and closed the negotiation chapter within 10 months, which would be fatal to Montenegro, in a situation where state institutions do not have the necessary administrative and financial capacity to optimally implement the values and legal acquis of the EU.

A decade after the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, Montenegro has managed to transpose a significant number of European regulations, while on the other hand their implementation is seriously lagging behind, especially in the area of nature protection, waste management, water quality, air emissions,

Montenegro failed to respond in 10 years to the priority task, defined subsequently, and the Accession Strategy (NSAP with action plan) regarding the significant strengthening of the capacity of the environmental inspection system in accordance with the Recommendation 2001/331/EC providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections.

Montenegro failed to provide temporary protection of potential Natura 2000 areas in which devastation of natural values – such as devastation of the Tara River, Cijevna, NP Skadar Lake and Durmitor, marine areas by pollution of hydrocarbons resulted in devastation of the natural and unplanned development, while the protection of Ulcinj Solana despite all international and national communications has not yet been reached.

It did not provide for the goal of preserving good ecological status of waters, according to the Water Framework Directive, given the planned and significant degradation of numerous watercourses in the north of Montenegro, caused by the construction of hydroelectric facilities.

For the 13 most demanding directives, we committed to 2016 (NSAP) urgently, and by the end of 2018, we will adopt Specific Plans for the Implementation of Directives (DSIP), and in particular for directives on waste, water, air pollution emissions of key importance for the cost recovery component and will be highly present in the funding strategy over a longer period of time. This was also one of the basic prerequisites for defining transition periods, and the absence of these plans shows how much we are ready for the opening and future negotiation process. In the further we are seriously worried about the planning and management of finances now estimated at 1.6 billion euros and whose amount can not be reduced, but it is increasing compared to the estimated 1.4 billion in the previous year, especially knowing that the state is now invested 200 million euros.

The country's critical unwillingness is related to waste management and the situation that two local governments have not established a waste management system in accordance with the law, while in the whole country there are only 4 city wastewater treatment plants with an unacceptable dynamics in the construction of new plants and sewerage networks. After decades, the institutions are fighting with 350 illegal dumps, urban dumps, unknown quantities of landfilled, waste to fractions and different waste streams.

According to the latest report of the World Health Organization, Pljevlja is on the list of the most polluted cities in the world in spite of all legal obligations and standards that limit the excessive emissions of polluting particles. There is no long-term plan at either local or national level to solve the problem, and so far the measures have not yielded any effects. Thermal power plant continues to pollute air in Pljevlja without paying any compensation for damage to health of people and the environment.

Instead of the Government of Montenegro and the competent ministry seriously examining the problems and accumulated obligations in the implementation of regulations and inviting all interested social actors to the necessary cooperation, they conduct a campaign of discrediting the non-governmental sector and concealing the real situation in the public.

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