



Government of Montenegro
Deputy Prime Minister

***CIDS – NATO Seminar on Mechanisms for
Good Governance in the Defence and Related
Security Sector – Enhancing Institutional
Effectivnes and Resilience***

***Dr Dritan Abazovic – the Vice President of the Government and the
Coordinator of all the Security Services of Montenegro***



Political Context for the Reform of the Security Sector

First democratic change of Government, after 30 years of domination of one party and inherited problems in the security sector – August 30, 2020.

Governing majority committed to adhere to a set of principles, some of them being:

- To fully respect all international commitments taken by the country, strengthen and enhance the cooperation with NATO Alliance. To implement all the reforms needed for the full-rights membership of Montenegro in the EU.
- To fully depolitize the key Government institutions, aimed at securing the uncompromising fight against crime and corruption.
- No retribution based on the political or any other grounds, adoption of the new or revision of the existing laws in order to fully align them with the EU standards and requirements...



Reforms in the Security Sector

Security sector reform, with a special emphasis on the Police Directorate, the National Security Agency and the Military Intelligence Agency, is of particular importance. To this end, the Government took the following steps immediately after its formation:

- The new Police Director recruited. The procedure was fully based on the principle of merit;
- Appointed the new director of the National Security Agency and changed the management, appointing the best people from the system;
- Appointed a new director of the Military Intelligence Service in the Ministry of Defense and changed the previous management;
- Promote the best people from the system, proven professionals and experts;
- Legal processing of some of the top officials from the security sector due to irregularities during their mandate.



Government of Montenegro
Deputy Prime Minister

Fight against organized crime and corruption

The priority of the new Montenegrin Government is a strong fight against organized crime and high-level corruption.

After establishment of the new Government, we created the National Council for Fighting Against High-Level Corruption which includes the most recognizable anti-corruption activists in Montenegro.

The National Council has already collected and reconstructed a large amount of documents, in order to investigate potential major corruption cases that shook Montenegro, such as the scandal of illegal distribution of apartments to prosecutors and judges, the international scandal of the „Mozura“ wind farm, the Chinese Highway Agreement and many others.



Without the rule of law, no democracy

Strengthening of the rule of law important, no high-quality democracy without meeting this precondition.

Incapacity or unwillingness of the state institutions such as the State Prosecution or Courts to exercise their authority over the state officials clear sign of the democratic deficit.

In the situation in which the political leaders are not held accountable, can twist and turn the state institutions for their own benefit and with no consequences it is not possible to have a proper democracy.

Housing arrangements for the prosecutors and judges a clear example of attempt to purchase their loyalty for the benefit of the previous ruling elite;

Current reforms in the Prosecution Service concrete step in protecting democracy;



Government of Montenegro
Deputy Prime Minister

NATO more than a military organisation

NATO is a community of values based on the democracy and the rule of law.

Montenegro wants to continue to cooperate with NATO on strengthening its democracy and the rule of law, which was systematically undermined by the previous ruling elite.

Important to have a full support from the NATO partners and to continue to deepen our cooperation in order to strengthen democracy, to properly root the rule of law in order to enhance our security sector institutional effectiveness and resilience.