

EU TO ASSIST MONTENEGRO'S EU INTEGRATION

- ☒ The ambassadors of EU member states last week met with Montenegrin Prime Minister, Zeljko Sturanovic, and during the talks they reaffirmed their countries' readiness to assist Montenegro on the road to EU integration. The meeting was initiated by German envoy Thomas Schmitt who pointed out that Montenegro should approve the new constitution very soon and by which the country's European course will be confirmed. Last week also, Montenegro hosted an international conference in Podgorica on an integrated approach to asylum, migration and visa management in the Western Balkans. Montenegrin Minister of Foreign Affairs, Milan Rocen, clearly stated that Montenegro is dedicated to European values and standards implementation, but at the same time he pointed out that the country is not burdened with deadlines. [Balkan Times; Vjesti 18/06/07; Tanjug, 19/06/07]

SERBIA'S AMBITIOUS PERSPECTIVE

- ☒ Serbian MP, Goran Svilanovic, stated that although, Serbia is formally far from Europe because of many problems, the country is essentially

closer to Europe than most of the Former Yugoslav countries. Serbian economy has a growth rate of over six percent the last six years and in economic and political scene is just a little behind the regional average. The country's main concerns are the open issues such as Kosovo and ICTY cooperation, which prevent Europe from seeing Serbia's advantages. Serbian Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Bozidar Djelic, recently visited European Union institutions and met the Commission Vice-President, Franko Frattini and exposed Serbia's plan of getting on the Schengen White list within next two years. A trip to Luxemburg and visit of European Parliament were also planned. In his statement, Mr. Djelic said that Serbia wishes to receive candidate status by the end of 2008, which, he admitted, is very ambitious. [Tanjug, 18/06/07; B92, 20/06/07]

MACEDONIAN ASSEMBLY ADOPTED NATO DECLARATION

- ☒ Declaration for seeking support for NATO membership, last week, was adopted by Macedonian Assembly. 90 percent of the deputies in the 120-seat parliament voted in favor of the motion. The Declaration displays strong will and support on NATO integration of all political factors (parties, subjects etc.) in Macedonia. The motion was initiated by

Mr. Gjorgji Orovcanec, an independent deputy in Macedonian Assembly. He stated that this declaration should point out that NATO's enlargement towards the Western Balkans "will create firm regional geopolitical conditions for the effective and peaceful solution of Kosovo's status and for lasting peace in the Balkans". Although this was an important Declaration, none of the ministers in Macedonian Government was present during the debate. However, both government and opposition parties expressed support for the document. [SEEurope.net; Dnevnik; Utrinski Vesnik, 20/06/07]

CROATIANS DO NOT EXPECT BENEFIT FROM EU ACCESSION

- ☒ 72 percent of Croatian population support EU Enlargement, 67 percent would support European Union Treaty, but only 29 Percent of Croatian population find EU membership good and useful. These are the results of last Eurobarometar survey on public opinion of Croatian citizens regarding EU integration. Last week, European commission adopted a Strategy for Financial Support towards Croatia that in the period 2007 – 2009 will help Croatia strengthen its institutions and support the implementation of Agriculture policies as well as Cohesion Policy. [Jutarnji list, 21/06/07]