



ATLANTIC  
COUNCIL  
of MONTENEGRO

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015

# **IMPRESSUM:**

Atlantic Council of Montenegro

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends of the Atlantic Council,

Before we introduce all activities, I would like to express deep satisfaction and pride, and expressions of confidence, since 28 members of NATO Alliance invited Montenegro to start accession talks in order to become the 29th member, which was, in my opinion, the best confirmation of the quality of implemented reforms. People from the Atlantic Council of Montenegro have been very diligent and committed to promote the idea of Euro-Atlanticism, and their efforts paid off.

2015 was a historic year for Montenegro, since it has officially received the invitation for full NATO membership.

With maximum engagement of the entire state administration, what we did not manage last year, we have managed this year. In the Montenegrin history this year will remain as a year when we strengthened our traditional values with the new values of modern democracy and when we stepped on the international scene with more responsibility for global peace, stability and progress.

Of course, this is not the end of the road. Important work remains to be done - the adaptation of defense, especially on pursuing domestic reforms and reforms on the rule of law. We are moving closer to becoming a NATO member, however we have to ensure building public support for Montenegro's membership.

Also, the year ahead is important because we are hosting the sixth 2BS Forum, which will be held on May 5-7, two months before the Summit in Warsaw, as well as because of other important events that lead to the stabilization of the region and the reform of the security sector. I hope that this year will intensify activities in order to become 29th NATO member.

Sincerely Yours,  
Dr. Savo Kentera



## ABOUT

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro (ACM) was founded in 2006 and since then has been a preeminent institution devoted to promoting Euro-Atlantic values and international security . The Atlantic Council of Montenegro was admitted into membership of the Atlantic Treaty Association at the General Assembly held in Athens in 2006 .

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting the international challenges of the 21st century .

The Atlantic Council stimulates dialogue and discussion on critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate and promoting consensus on appropriate responses in Government, the corporate and non-profit sectors, and the media in Montenegro and among leaders in Europe and the USA . At the same time, important contributions by the Atlantic Council include identifying and shaping responses to major issues facing NATO and transatlantic relations, as well as building consensus among political parties towards NATO and Euro-Atlantic integration .

The objective of Atlantic Council is to actively shape the security and international policy discourse in Europe and beyond by fostering dynamic involvement of Montenegro and South East Europe Region in international affairs . The Atlantic Council is the main organizer of 2BS Forum, the largest politico-security conference in South East Europe .

The Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) is very important pillar of the Atlantic Council, with its young members who participate in many activities in the country and abroad, including various visits to relevant

institutions, meetings with ambassadors, attending schools and seminars, and participating in international conferences .

YATA Montenegro is very active in promoting Euro-Atlantic ideas and values among Montenegrin society . Atlantic Council is educating YATA Montenegro members in order to create a team of young people who can contribute to these activities as well as participate in international activities .

YATA Montenegro contributes and works together with YATA International in order to raise youth's interest in issues of great importance for the world at large .



## MISSION

**Vision: Ensuring Montenegro's full membership into NATO as well as the EU.**

**Mission: The Atlantic Council of Montenegro is engaged in implementing all necessary measures and activities, including lobbying, educational programs and security sector reform, influencing decision makers, as well as academic community which will lead to the overall social level changes that are required for Montenegro's full membership into NATO and the EU.**

Besides this Atlantic Council of Montenegro aims to:

- stimulate dialogue and discussion about critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate
- conduct educational and exchange programs for successor generations of Montenegro leaders so that they have the knowledge and understanding necessary to develop effective policies
- engage students from across the Euro-Atlantic area in the processes of NATO transformation and enlargement

## GOALS

- Raising public awareness on NATO and Euro-Atlantic ideas and values
- Emphasize the role and the importance of small countries as Montenegro which can be place for debates and discussions on global issues
- Promoting Euro-Atlantic integration in Montenegro and within the region
- Improvement of the collective security system
- Strengthening regional cooperation
- Youth educational and exchange programs

## ACTIVITIES

February 27, 2015 - **ROUND TABLE “ROLES AND ACTIVITIES OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE PROCESS OF THE EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION”** - YATA Montenegro has organized round table on the topic „Roles and activities of youth organizations within the process of the Euro-Atlantic integration“. Participants of the round table were representatives of youth organizations promoting the accession of Montenegro to NATO, such as Alfa Centar, MAPSS, MAYAA, as well as

the representatives of youth organizations of political parties DPS, SDP, PZP, Pozitivna Crna Gora, Bošnjačka stranka, LPCG and CDU. Crucial issues discussed at the round table concerned the accession to the Euro-Atlantic integration and the role of young people within it. Participants expressed positions of their organizations regarding the Montenegrin membership to NATO, emphasizing the

conducted activities and evaluating the previous engagement. Special attention was paid to the results of the research “Position and delusion of young people concerning NATO in Montenegro“, carried out by the agency DeFacto Consultancy, Krš Students’ Radio and Students’ Portal Tragom, which confirmed the lack of interest and high level of ignorance regarding the integration of Montenegro to NATO.





March 10, 2015 - **ROUND TABLE “MONTENEGRO TO MEET THE DECISION ON NATO MEMBERSHIP”** brought together leaders of political parties of Montenegro and ambassadors of NATO countries and was accompanied by all relevant Montenegrin media. The round table was opened by the President of the Atlantic Alliance of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera and on this occasion he welcomed the distinguished guests and thanked the presence. Keynote speakers were the President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapic, Deputy Prime Minister

and Justice Minister Dusko Markovic, Minister of Defence professor. Dr. Milica Pejanovic-Djurisic, US Ambassador Margaret Ann Uehara. The aim of Montenegro is not only joining NATO, but also achieving standards, and within this commitment fighting corruption, improving the rule of law and strengthening democracy. It was pointed out that this conference is a significant segment of the public dialogue on the issue of the Euro-Atlantic road of Montenegro. Ambassadors of NATO member states in Montenegro have confirmed support to Montenegro in terms of joining the Alliance, but stressed the necessity of achieving the standards. They believe that Montenegro is on the right track towards membership, and that progress in key areas of reform is evident. They spoke of the positive experiences and the benefits of membership in NATO, and on that occasion offered unconditional support and assistance to Montenegro on its path of reforms.



April 4, 2015 - **NATO DAY CELEBRATION** - Atlantic Council of Montenegro in cooperation with the Government of Montenegro and Capital Podgorica, with support of NATO, for the second time celebrated the 4th of April - NATO Alliance Founding Day. Day-long celebration of NATO Founding Day was marked by variety of activities. It started with planting of 29 trees at Gorica Hill, 28 of which symbolize NATO member states, and the 29th represents Montenegro as the future NATO member state. Citizens from different segments of society, Members of Parliament of Montenegro, high state officials, as well as persons from diplomatic corps participated in trees planting. The goal of this celebration was to show to both citizens and international partners that Montenegro put all its efforts in order to achieve one of the key foreign policy goals - membership to NATO. Celebration of NATO Day in Montenegro gains in importance also due to decision from NATO Summit in Wales concerning the intensified and focused dialogue with Montenegro which will bring us to the invitation for NATO membership, as the Atlantic Council of Montenegro hopes for.



May 26, 2015 - **PANEL DISCUSSION “STRENGTHENING STABILITY IN THE BALKANS THROUGH NATO ENLARGEMENT”** - Atlantic Council of Montenegro and Atlas Foundation in partnership with Balkan Policy and Heritage Foundation organized panel discussion “Strengthening Stability of Balkans by NATO Enlargement” at the conference hall of the hotel Podgorica. Speakers were Mr. Robert Aderholt, U.S. Congressman, Mr. Bob Mc Ewen, former U.S. Congressman, and Mr. Fatmir Mediu, former Minister of Defence of Albania. Moderator of the discussion was Dr. Savo Kentera, President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. In a very vivacious and direct communication, panelists spoke about benefits for Montenegro through its potential membership to NATO in terms of greater security and stability as preconditions for more investments and successful business results.



June 4-6, 2015 - **FIFTH 2BS (TO BE SECURE FORUM)** - 2BS Forum is an annual high-level conference dealing with global, transatlantic issues, as well as the issues in the South-Eastern Europe. The organizer of 2BS Forum is the Atlantic Council of Montenegro under the auspices of the Government of Montenegro, while traditional partners of the Forum are NATO, the U.S. Embassy in Podgorica and Balkan Trust for Democracy. This year's 2BS Forum speakers concluded that, with the reforms implemented, Montenegro deserved the invitation for membership in the Alliance and that NATO is fully committed to open door policy, which represents foundation of safety leading towards economic prosperity and security. One of conclusions was that it is necessary to redefine key tasks of NATO bearing in mind that

NATO represents a channel for reestablishment of relations with Russia which is an important factor of security in Europe. On this occasion, Montenegro was strongly encouraged by numerous prominent guests, among others, by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Kolinda-Grabar Kitarović, who stated that Montenegro should join community of people that shares same values since it certainly belongs there. First Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia, Vesna Pusić, declared that Montenegro is absolutely ready to receive invitation for membership by the end of this year, while Ted Whiteside, Assistant Secretary General for NATO Public Diplomacy stressed that Montenegro is a leader of the region. Main topics of this year's 2BS Forum were: integration of the Western Balkan countries through NATO enlargement, NATO-Russia partnership, foreign fighters as a growing threat, crisis in Ukraine, current terrorist threats, as well as threats to European security.



June 13-14, 2015 - **PROJECT "SECURITY ON WHEELS"** - Project was held under the auspices of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro. Training of secure driving for the citizens - motorcycle riders, was held at the Police Academy and on a training ground of the military barracks "Milovan Šaranović" in Danilovgrad. The training was organized by: Police

Directorate of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro - General Police Directorate, IPA Section Montenegro, IPA Section Serbia - Motorcycle Club Gendarmerie. Training was held by the officials of the Traffic Police of both Montenegro and Serbia - members of IPA Sections of the two countries. The aim of the training was to acquire knowledge and skills in order to enhance the level of security on the streets as well as to make the motorcycle riding safer for the citizens.

September 24, 2015 - **CLEANING ACTION OF RIBNICA RIVERBED** - Members of YATA Montenegro, members of the Montenegrin Army, workers of the public companies „Zelenilo“ and „Čistoća“, as well as MPs Nada Drobnjak and Andrija Popović, removed more than 80 cubic meters of plant waste (14 trucks) in the action of cleaning the Ribnica riverbed. At the same time, more than 100 plastic bags of non-organic waste were removed. In this action, with the aim of raising the ecological awareness of people participated around 80 citizens, which makes it one of the largest of this kind.







October 19, 2015 - **ROUND TABLE - UKRAINIAN CRISIS: EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES ON NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONS**". Atlantic Council of Montenegro, with the support of NATO, the US Embassy in Podgorica and the NATO Membership Council's Communication Team, has organized a round table on the topic " UKRAINIAN CRISIS: EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES ON NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONS".President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Savo Kentera, in his opening speech explained that the situation in Ukraine can be transferred to Montenegro, but not in terms of war and/or consequences of what is happening in Ukraine. Kentera commented on the statement of the Russian Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, in which they stated that Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro do not lead to consolidation and prosperity. President of the Atlantic Council Savo Kentera, who was moderator of the second panel, said that Montenegro can not be prevented by anyone on its path towards Euro-Atlantic integration. Invitation for participation at the round table was sent to the Embassy of Russian Federation in Montenegro. Representatives of Moscow in Podgorica, however, refused to take part although the round table is directly related to the country they represent in Montenegro. The round table is part of the project “Montenegro as a member of NATO.” In the framework of this project, Atlantic Council of Montenegro will realize a series of activities aimed at strengthening public support for NATO membership of Montenegro by the end of the year.

December, 2015 **9<sup>th</sup> ISSUE OF THE “SECURITY” MAGAZINE** – “Security” Magazine is an independent, interdisciplinary and international magazine dealing with security issues in the broad sense following the current topics on global, regional and national level . After the “break” caused by financial crisis, Atlantic Council of Montenegro has been able to start publishing Security magazine again . This new 9th issue of the “Security” Magazine has a completely changed concept aimed at giving a chance to young people, future leaders and professionals in their spheres of interest . (9th issue can be found at the following link: <http://www.ascg.me/index.php/en/explore-2/security-magazine/1321-security-magazine-9>



## PARTICIPATION



March 14, 2015 - **VISIT TO THE US NAVY SHIP** - Members of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro visited the US Navy Guided Missile Destroyer, USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109), which sailed into the Port of Bar on March 13, 2015 as a part of the US-Montenegrin bilateral cooperation in the field of security.

March 4, 2015 - **ROUND TABLE "ASSESSMENT OF CORRUPTION RISK IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR"** - Representatives of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera and Luka Darmanović, participated in the round table entitled "Assessment of Corruption Risk in the Defence Sector" organized by Center for Monitoring and Research (CeMI) funded by Canada Fund Program within Embassy of Canada to Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro.





March 31st – April 2nd, 2015 - **NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – 88th “ROSE-ROTH” SEMINAR** - President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera participated at the 88th “Rose-Roth” seminar of NATO Parliamentary Assembly which was organized in cooperation with National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in Belgrade. Dr. Kentera had a speech during the second panel of the seminar on topic “Western Balkans and Euro-Atlantic Integration”. He emphasized the commitment of Montenegro towards the Euro-Atlantic integration as well as the importance of NATO Alliance for the countries of the Western Balkans and its enlargement within this region.

April 9, 2015 - **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “NATO – ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW GUESTS”** - Delegation of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro took part in the international conference held in Zagreb. The delegation consisted of Robert Ivitsa Shushich, Radosav Šušić, Nikolina Šćepanović and Jelena Đurković. The host of this international conference was the Atlantic Council of Croatia, which celebrated its fifteenth anniversary.



April 22 – 23, 2015 - **TEXAS-EU BUSINESS SUMMIT 2015** - President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera stayed in the USA at the fourth Texas-EU Business Summit which took place in Austin, Texas. During the first day of the Summit, at the panel “Emerging Opportunities in Europe”, Dr. Kentera spoke about potentials and opportunities for the future investments in Montenegro. He also emphasized that the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro provides favorable environment for future investments, bearing in mind that security of any country represents one of the key factors for attracting the potential investors.

April 30, 2015 – **STUDENT SIMULATION “NATO AFTER THE WALES SUMMIT- CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES”** - Delegation of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro took part at the fifth student simulation held in Skopje. The delegation consisted of Robert Ivitsa Shushich, Milena Savović and Nikolina Šćepanović. The host of the simulation was the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia which provided students with the opportunity to see what the highest level of decision-making within NATO looks like.

May 5, 2015 – **CONFERENCE “BENEFITS OF MONTENEGRIN MEMBERSHIP TO NATO”** - President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera took part in the conference held at the University of Donja Gorica in Podgorica. He participated as speaker on the topic “Realization of the conclusions reached at Wales Summit at the stage of intensified and focused dialogue between Montenegro and NATO”.

May 11-14, 2015 - **YOUTH MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TURKEY** - On behalf of YATA Montenegro, Robert Ivitsa Shushich participated at the Youth Ministerial Meeting held in Antalya, Turkey. The aim of the meetings was to create the link between NATO and young professionals in security and defense. Ministerial Meeting was organized by NATO and the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) in cooperation with YATA TURK.

June 8, 2015 - **CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL NETWORKS - NATO** Public Diplomacy Division and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro organized the event on social media entitled: "Social Media: Empowering Partners" in Podgorica. The event brought together a great number of participants from the country, region, NATO member states and the international community, as well as the distinguished speakers who discussed current topics in the field of social networks. On behalf of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, the forum was attended by Robert Ivitsa Shushich, Đovana Elezović and Nikolina Vujičić.

June 25, 2015 - **VISIT TO THE U.S. NAVY SHIP** - Representatives of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro visited the U.S. Navy ship, Whidbey Island Dock Landing USS Fort McHenry (LSD-43), which sailed into the port of Bar, as part of the bilateral cooperation between the USA and Montenegro concerning the security area. The ship is named after the port fortress where the USA national anthem was composed 201 years ago.



June 19-21, 2015 - **GLOBSEC** - President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera participated at the 10th jubilee Global Security Forum (GLOBSEC), held in Bratislava. Current issues and challenges that international community is facing with, such as cyber security, the Ukrainian crisis, perspective of NATO and EU, and other issues that are important for global security, have been discussed at the Forum.

July 17, 2015 - **ROUND TABLE: COMPATIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NATO** - Representatives of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Mr. Robert Ivitsa Shushich and Ms. Milena Savović, participated at the round table organized by the European Movement in Montenegro in Podgorica. Panelists discussed compatibility of the EU and NATO integration as well as the effects of the integration process in the areas of security and rule of law.

September 28, 2015 - **INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND NATO PDD REPRESENTATIVE BARBORA MARONKOVA** - Informal meeting was held between representatives of the political parties on the local level and Ms. Barbora Maronkova from NATO's Public Diplomacy Division. The meeting was attended by Miško Rađenović (DPS), Ljubo Filipović (SDP), Veselin Marković (SNP), Mišo Pejović and Dragan Krapović (Democrats), Jadranka Ilić (LP), and the president of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera.

September 23, 2015 - **"V SPEAKING TOUR"** - Panel discussion on NATO - NATO Membership Council's Communication Team, Visegrád Group and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to Montenegro in cooperation with partners from local self-government organized Panel discussion on NATO. Participants discussed benefits of Montenegro regarding its



membership to NATO with the aim of getting higher security and stability level as preconditions for bigger investments and successful business results.

October 14-17, 2015 – **BALKAN SAYS** - On behalf of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Ms. Nikolina Šćepanović and Mr. Vladimir Rakocević participated in the 3rd, BALKAN SAYS conference, held in Bled, Slovenia. The conference was organized by Youth Section of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia.

November 18, 2015 - **61ST ATA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BRUSSELS** - On behalf of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Azra Krastanović, Milena Savović and Robert Ivica Shushich participated at the General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association held in Brussels. Also, they took part in the conference Cooperative Security Threats and Interconnected. During



the welcoming dinner, president of the Atlantic Treaty Association, Prof. Fabrizio W. Lucioli in his speech expressed his satisfaction with the progress of Montenegro, with an emphasis on activities of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro and the importance of 2BS Forum, which in the 5 years of existence, has managed to become the most relevant security forum in the Balkans and beyond. He also said that Montenegro has made remarkable progress and deserves an invitation to join NATO.



December 10-11, 2015 - **NATO AND SHAPE VISIT** - Representatives of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Milena Savović, Aleksandra Đakonović, Svetlana Martinovic, Stefan Laković, Mihajlo Damjanović and Radosav Šušić, visited NATO headquarters in Brussels. Montenegrin delegation was greeted by Ms Barbora Maronkova from Public Diplomacy Division of NATO, and she explained to the ACM representatives functioning of NATO and current plans of this international organization. Maronkova congratulated Montenegro for its efforts in the Euro-Atlantic integration process, which resulted in an invitation for NATO membership.

## PLAN OF ACTIVITIES 2016

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro has a long list of activities and projects that will be implemented in 2016. The ACM will continue to implement projects aimed at promoting Euro-Atlantic Integration in Montenegro, as well as youth activities which are very well accepted. Bearing in mind various activities planned for this year, here we will only list the most important ones:

### 2BS FORUM 2016

The 2BS Forum is a constructive element of the most important meeting of influential international and Montenegrin representatives, who discuss essential questions of international security and security in SEE. This Forum aims to encourage significant discussion regarding the most important dilemmas in the field of international security. 2BS Forum 2016 will address some of the major challenges of the decade. Through discussions, 2BS Forum aims to analyze these modern challenges, risks and threats and explore policy responses. The sixth 2BS Forum focus will continue to be the future of Southeast Europe integration into European and Euro Atlantic institutions.

### NATO WEEK CELEBRATION

On April 4, 2013, the first time the Atlantic Council of Montenegro in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Montenegro and the Army of Montenegro organized a celebration in order to mark the day when Washington Treaty was signed and NATO established. Having in mind the success of the first organized NATO Day celebration, we intend to continue with this project and to establish it as our traditional event.

## **PUBLICATION - THE SECURITY MAGAZINE**

We are planning to continue publishing Security magazine having in mind its importance, significance and contribution to the security processes in the region . The “Security” Magazine is an independent, interdisciplinary and international magazine dealing with security issues in the broad sense following the current topics on global, regional and national level . Immediately upon issuing the first edition in 2007, this magazine was recognized by many senior executives from Europe and across Atlantic as a high quality and a valuable contribution to the security .

## **ANNIVERSARY-10 YEARS OF THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF MONTENEGRO**

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro from its very establishment has main goal – the accession of Montenegro to NATO. The process of Montenegro integration into NATO is a long-term process, which has lasted since it gained independence in 2006. Nowadays, we can say we are midstream since we have the invitation for membership to this political and military Alliance in “our hands”. The invitation represents the crown of strenuous work on achieving strategic goals of Montenegro, i.e. full membership to NATO. Nine years ago Montenegro started its path by the Partnership for peace accession and it succeeded to earn the trust of the partners and finally got the invitation for membership. That is the testimony of our successful activities, which makes this jubilee even more important.

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