

Written by Dragan Hajdukovic*

Open Letter to the European Parliament and the European Commission Why the European Union closes its eyes to the unprecedented environmental destruction in Montenegro

Dear Madam/Sir

Montenegro is the unrivalled European champion in the environmental destruction which is de facto a crime against future generations. Destruction is happening in spite of the Constitution of Montenegro (Montenegro is the only constitutionally ecological state in Europe) and in spite of the fact that Montenegro is in the process of the membership negotiations and before the opening of the Chapter 27: Environment.

I will mention only one of many examples: the beginning of massive construction of houses for the market in the heart of a National park of fascinating beauty (please see the Appendix 1). The construction of houses in the Skadar Lake National Park is not only advocated but it is also forced by the Government and the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism. Simply, there are rich people in the world ready to buy such houses for an extremely high price in what is a well-elaborated system to assure big money for a small group of privileged tycoons inseparably mixed with the Government.

I do not ask you to trust me; instead of it I invite you to come and see. Please send urgently to Montenegro a team composed from the representatives of all groups in the EU Parliament and other experts and representatives you may consider necessary.

Let me clarify that I am not involved in politics and I am not member of any political party; simply as a citizen, a scientist and humanist with a deep love for both humanity and nature I must oppose the savage destruction of territory. And I must oppose the attitude of political leaders who act as if they are proprietors of the country and not in the service of the country.

Yours faithfully

Dragan Hajduković

* I am a Montenegrin physicist mainly known for the theory of the gravitational properties of the quantum vacuum¹ (as a potential solution to the problems of dark matter, dark energy and matter-antimatter asymmetry in the Universe) and for the project of an Ecological State in Montenegro envisaged as a pilot project and a worldwide example of a new organization of human society².

¹My scientific work has been popularized in media as BBC, Discovery Channel (with Morgan Freeman) ... and in leading journals devoted to popularization of science. For instance

<http://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/through-the-wormhole/videos/does-antimatter-fall-upward/>

<http://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/spaces-deepest-secrets-2/how-do-matter-and-antimatter-interact/>

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21729014-500-dwarf-planet-eris-may-reveal-quantum-gravity/>

<http://physicsworld.com/cws/article/news/2014/jun/26/dwarf-planet-could-illuminate-the-dark-sector>

²Note that the project of an Ecological State was proposed 26 years ago before the breakup of Yugoslavia. For the first time it has been made public in Montenegro in 1990, while the first English presentation can be found in a small book, entitled "Montenegro – towards the first Ecological State", printed in Lugano, Switzerland in 1993, and reviewed in the section "Book Reviews" of a Cambridge University Press journal (See the Reference: [Roger H Charlier, Environmental Conservation, Year 1995, Volume 22, Issue 3, Page 287.](#))

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Appendix 1: Urgent action is needed to save the Skadar Lake National Park; we witness the beginning of massive construction of houses for the market in the heart of the National park, an apocalyptic construction forced by the Government of Montenegro.

Let me start with a few photos



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A few days ago, in the heart of the National park, construction of hotels for tourists and houses for the market has started. In fact luxury houses for the market are the absolute priority of “construction mafia” as citizens popularly call the presumed alliance of tycoons and Government. Simply, there are rich people in the world ready to buy such houses for an extremely high price in what is a well-elaborated system to assure big money for a small group of privileged tycoons inseparably mixed with the Government. We already have a terrible example how this system works: within the last fifteen years the Montenegrin coast was savagely destroyed by massive construction of flats and houses for the market; Montenegrins have lost their coast forever while “construction mafia” made enormous profits measured by billions of euros.

I kindly ask you to act as the Members of the European Parliament in two different ways.

- First you should raise the question in the Parliament how a country which is in the process of the membership negotiations and before the opening of the Chapter 27 (Environment) can start destruction of a National park.
- Second, you must urgently send to Montenegro a delegation composed from members of all Political groups in the European Parliament to visit the National park.

The Skadar Lake is the the largest lake in the Balkans and the only national park dominated by aquatic and wetland ecosystems. North swampy coast (about 20,000 ha) offers ideal conditions for the development of wildlife, especially bird life. On the lake lives, nests, wintering or moved 281 species of

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birds, but Lake has the status of areas of international importance for birds (IBA) and is located on the world list of aquatic habitats of international importance (RAMSAR). In the park are 48 species of fish, 50 species of mammals (only water is representative of the otter), numerous amphibians, reptiles and insects. A diverse plant life both in the lake and in its surroundings, and in the summer month's water lily meadows and water chestnut can be provided for miles. Skadar Lake has a rich history and culture, as evidenced by numerous archaeological sites, medieval Monastery and churches, fortifications and folk architecture (fishing villages, old bridges, mills and wells).

For more details please visit for instance the web sites :

<http://www.nparkovi.me/sajt/np-skadarsko-jezero> ,

<http://www.undiscoveredmontenegro.com/about-lake-skadar> ,

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-weekly-2013/> ,

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/montenegro/lake-skadar-national-park> ,

<http://epod.usra.edu/blog/2015/01/lake-skadar-national-park.html>

Please act immediately; in sixty days it will be too late.

The project of devastation was developed in keeping citizens uninformed in order to prevent the timely civic resistance; at least the construction must be postponed for 12 months to give chance to experts and citizens to oppose with arguments in a democratic way.

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