



## Montenegro

Last update:	22 December 2010
Author:	
Population:	666,730 (July 2010 est.)
Prime minister:	Ikor Luksic (DPS)
President:	Filip Vujanovic
Governemental type:	Republic
Ruling coalition:	Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Croatian Civil Initiative (HGI) and Party of Bosniacs (BS)
Last election:	Parliamentary 29 March 2009
Next election:	Parliamentary March 2013, presidential April 2013
Sister parties:	Social Democratic Party, SDP (full member), Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro, DPS (full member)



Montenegro's politics and population has long divided over the question whether Montenegro should stay in one state with Serbia or not. The establishment of Serbia and Montenegro in February 2003 led to political instability and a call for early elections. However, in a referendum on 21 May 2006, the majority of the Montenegrin population declared to be in favour of independence. Montenegro now is an autonomous state. Montenegro's first parliamentary and presidential elections as an independent state did not bring any big political changes. Still, a coalition of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) is the major force in government. Filip Vujanovic (DPS) was elected president for a second term. On 1 December 2006, the EU and the government of Montenegro finalised the technical negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), which was signed on 15 October. With the adoption of the constitution on 31 July 2007, a chapter in Montenegro's independence has started.

### ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL SITUATION

#### Parliamentary elections 2006

The parliamentary elections on 10 September 2006 were the first elections since the Montenegrins spoke out for independence in a referendum four months before.

At stake were the 81 seats of the unicameral parliament, elected for a four-year term by proportional representation. Parties need to receive at least 3 percent of the vote to earn representation in Parliament. The outgoing parliament, elected in 2002, only contained 75 deputies. The amount of seats was adjusted to meet the constitutional requirement that all members of parliament should represent 6,000 voters. Based on the number of registered voters, it was therefore decided to add 6 seats. Seventy-six mandates are allocated based on the results in all polling stations in Montenegro. The remaining five mandates are allocated, under special rules, based on the results of 70 polling stations located in areas where Albanian minority voters reside. The ballots in these polling stations are printed bilingually.

The Republican Election Commission (REC) submitted all 12 lists that registered before the 16 August deadline. They included five parties, six coalitions and one group of citizens.

The incumbent central-left government, which was formed by the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and the



Social Democratic Party (SDP), again formed a pre-elections coalition. Observers identified the coalition of the Socialist People's Party (SNP), the People's Party (NS) and the Democratic Serbian Party (DSS) as its main contender. Other challengers were the pro-Serbian "Serbian List" (a coalition of the Serbian People's Party (SNS) and some smaller pro-Serbia parties), and the Movement for Change (GZP) (a civic movement that entered the elections for the first time in 2006).

The campaign for the general elections mainly continued the lines of the earlier referendum campaign. Pro-independence parties, such as the DPS and the SDP, campaigned on the issue of acceleration of the process EU integration, while the Unionist parties, those in favour of Montenegro being part of the State Union with Serbia, presented themselves as advocates of the Serbian population. However, now that Montenegro is an independent state, issues such as economic development, employment and environment were also addressed. The incumbent government, and in particular Prime Minister Djukanovic, were also the subject of critique. With the long period of DPS leadership in Montenegro, the opposition has blamed the party for the stagnation of political reforms and accused it of cases of corruption. Opposition was however divided and was unable to turn the tables for the incumbent government.

The coalition of the DPS and the SDP received 47.7 percent of the votes, 41 seats, maintaining the position of biggest bloc in the government. Of the two Serbian contesters, the Serbian List of the SNS surprisingly came out second with 12 seats. The other Serbian coalition of SNP, NS and DSS with 11 seats garnered fewer seats than expected. Newcomer party GZP secured just as many.

#### The government

On 3 October 2006, after the elections, Milo Djukanovic announced that he would not accept another nomination for Prime Minister. The DPS instead picked Zeljko Sturanovic as a Prime Minister candidate. Sturanovic then assembled the 14-member cabinet, which was elected by the parliament on 10 November 2006. The candidates from the DPS fill most of the positions in the new cabinet. Its coalition ally Social Democratic Party has one deputy prime minister and two ministries, and the Albanian Democratic Union (DUA) controls one ministry.

However, on 5 February 2008, the Montenegrin parliament formally announced the resignation of prime minister Sturanovic, nearly a week after he himself had already announced to step down for health reasons. He was diagnosed with a rare type of lung cancer. Immediately after Sturanovic's official resignation, parliamentarians speculated about a return of Milo Djukanovic to the post of prime minister. The long term Montenegrin leading politicians had during a course of 17 years served as president once and prime minister four times before announcing to retire from active politics in 2006. On 6 February, the leading DPS nominated him for the post of prime-minister designate, and on 20 February president Filip Vujanovic officially nominated Djukanovic as prime minister. On 29 February, his new government was approved by the parliament.

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#### Presidential elections 2008

Montenegro's latest presidential election took place on 6 April 2008, and was the first presidential election held in the country since it declared itself independent after the 21 May 2006 referendum. The election was called as incumbent president Filip Vujanovic's term would end on 22 May 2008.

Several potential candidates announced their intention to run in the elections. In order to compete, they had to gather supporting signatures of at least 1.5 percent of the electorate (7.266 signatures), which had to be signed at the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) of the respective supporters, in front of two MEC members. Although Nebojsa Medojevic (Movement for Change) filed a complaint against this procedure, on the grounds of violation of the equality and secrecy of the ballot, the Constitutional Court ruled on 28 February that these constitutional principles were not violated by the procedure, and it was thus kept intact.

Four candidates met the signature collection criteria and were able to compete in the elections, including incumbent president Filip Vujanovic of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS). The candidates challenging him were Nebojsa Medojevic (Movement for Change; PzP), Andrija Mandic (Serb List; SL) and Srdjan Milic (Socialist People's Party; SNP), all from opposition parties.



International election observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) noted that the choice between 4 candidates "provided voters with a genuine choice," and that the election campaign was conducted in a "peaceful and constructive" manner. All candidates actively campaigned with their own platforms. Mr. Vujanovic (DPS), the incumbent president, focussed on stability and security, and promoted NATO and EU integration. Mr. Medojevic (PzP) focussed on change, criticising corruption and criminality in Montenegro and calling for an end to the long-term rule of the DPS, which according to him stifled any real reforms. Mr. Mandic (SL) focussed on the economic development of Montenegro, specifically on the need for infrastructural development and revival of industry, and on health care and pension reform. Mr. Milic (SNP) stressed local issues, furthermore focussing on pension reform, family values and overcoming divisions. All of the candidates refrained from overtly nationalistic statements. Mr. Medojevic and Mr. Vujanovic also specifically tried to appeal to the national minorities in Montenegro.

There were no obstacles for the candidates to campaign, and all four of them campaigned actively. Especially since 19 March, with the formal registration of the candidates, there was a noticeable increase in campaign activities, mainly focussed on the media and on voter rallies, which were usually attended by 100–500 people. The campaigns of Mr. Vujanovic and Mr. Medojevic were most visible. Media was on the whole relatively neutral, with "a substantial degree of information on [all] candidates, so that [the voters] were able to make an informed judgement about all candidates." However, there was a slight imbalance in favour of the incumbent. Election regulations include provision of 30 minutes of free airtime for each candidate; two free five-minute reports on candidates' rallies, and one ten minute report on the candidates' final rallies. Furthermore, a live television debate between the candidates was staged. However, the broadcast of the debate, which was reportedly viewed by 74 percent of the population, was delayed by almost 15 minutes, in which time a paid advertisement featuring prime minister Djukanovic, who played a prominent role in the campaign of incumbent president Vujanovic, criticizing Mr. Medojevic was broadcast.

Another problem that was noted by the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission was the "continued evidence of a blurring of state and party structures." Reportedly, Mr. Vujanovic, the incumbent president from the governing DPS, throughout the campaign mixed his personal campaign rallies with official happenings on which he was present as acting head of state.

Conduct at the day of the elections was "orderly and peaceful", and observers "evaluated the process [in polling stations] as good or very good in 98 percent of the cases."

All in all the OSCE thus concluded that "[n]early all aspects of the election were found to be in line with OSCE Commitments and Council of Europe standards for democratic elections." Meanwhile, the opposition, and especially the Socialist People's Party, alleged election fraud. However, these claims could not be substantiated, although the authorities also did not do much to reject them.

#### Official results

Candidate	Percentage votes
Filip Vujanovic (Democratic Party of Socialists)	51.89
Andrija Mandic (Serb List)	21.3
Nebojsa Medojevic (Movement for Change)	14.7
Srdjan Milic (Socialist People's Party)	12.8

Elections were won in a single round by Filip Vujanovic, who managed to get just over half of all the votes. He was sworn in to a second time in office during a ceremonial session of parliament on 20 May. During the inauguration, he pledged continued support for Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic integration efforts. Several opposition parties did not attend the inauguration out of protest over different issues. The Socialist People's Party boycotted the inauguration over alleged fraud during the elections; the Movement for Change didn't come out of protest to a decision to end tv coverage of parliamentary sessions; and the pro-Serbian People's Party (NS) did not attend out of protest to the playing of the Montenegrin national anthem during the ceremony.



**Parliamentary elections 2009**

On 29 March 2009, early parliamentary elections were held. The early poll was announced after the government’s proposal to shorten Parliament’s mandate was approved, and President Filip Vujanovic called on early elections.

The ‘European Montenegro’ coalition headed by the ruling Democratic Party of the Socialists (DPS) of leader Milo Djukanovic won 51,9% of the votes, gaining 48 seats in the 81–seat Assembly. Other main parties running for Parliament were the Socialist People’s Party (SNP) that came in second with 16% of the votes, the New Serbian Democracy that gained 9% and Party for Changes (PzP) that won 6%. The remaining parties did not met the threshold.

Official results	Party	Votes	Seats
	Coalition for a European Montenegro: Social Democratic Party (SDP), Croatian Civil Initiative (HGI) and Party of Bosniacs(BS)	51.94%	48
	Socialist People's Party of Montenegro (SNP)	16.84%	16
	New Serbian Democracy (NSD)	9.22%	8
	Movement for Change (PzP)	6.03%	5
	People's Coalition: People's Party (NS) and Democratic Serbian Party (DSS)	2.92%	0
	Coalition For a Different Montenegro: Liberal Party (LPCG) and Democratic Center (DC)	2.70%	0
	Democratic Union of Albanians	1.47%	1
	New	0.91%	1



Democratic Power FORCA		
Albanian List – List Shqiptare – Democratic Alliance in Montenegro	0.89%	1
Albanian Colition – "The Perspective"	0.81%	1

Turnout: 66%

The European coalition has a four-year term mandate and has as priority European integration and economic security. The new government –headed by PM Djukanovic on his sixth term– will have seventeen ministries –of which eleven go to the DPS– and of which four are new.

The international election observer mission –consisting of the OSCE and the Council of Europe– concluded that the poll met “almost all international standards, although the process again underscored the need for further democratic development”. One of the main challenges is public confidence, the frequent allegations of electoral fraud and a “blurring of state and party structure” that have created a negative atmosphere among many voters, as was stated by the monitoring mission.

#### Local elections 2010

On 23 May local elections were held in Montenegro. The ‘Coalition for European Montenegro’, led by the ruling DPS won seven out of 14 municipalities. Yet in the capital of Podgorica it did not gain a majority, and thus it will have to seek support from the SDP. According to unofficial results, the DPS-led coalition will hold 28 seats in the 57-seats City Council of Podgorica. The united opposition coalition ‘A Better Montenegro’, consisting of 12 opposition parties, will hold 24 seats while the SDP will have five.

The opposition coalition only obtained a majority in Pljevlja and Pluzine. It still has a majority in Golubovci, a part of Podgorica with its own municipal assembly. After finally uniting against the ruling DPS, the opposition parties hoped for a real breakthrough in the local poll. The coalition’s main priorities were combating crime and corruption.

Although the DPS won in the half of the municipalities, besides in Podgorica it also has to form coalitions in four other municipalities, most likely with the SDP. The opposition has in the meantime stated that it is "ready to talk with the SDP to form a government" in Podgorica. "They can decide whether they want the status quo and that for the umpteenth time, after the big words, return to the embrace of DPS, Milo Djukanovic and [incumbent Mayor Miomir Mugosa], or they can go with us," opposition leader Nebojsa Medojevic said.

According to officials from the municipal election commissions, in most of the cities the turnout was over 50 per cent. In Podgorica the turnout was 60 per cent, which is at the level of the 2009 parliamentary elections. The elections, unlike previous elections, were not monitored by domestic nor by foreign election observers. Whilst the Electoral Commission stated that the vote was held without major irregularities, the opposition refused to recognise the elections results in Podgorica complaining about numerous irregularities during the voting process.

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In December 2010 PM Djukanovic resigned. On a news conference on 20 December he announced his decision to



step down as PM saying he would still play an important role in the ruling DPS. Djukanovic emphasized he was stepping down after serving in top posts for two decades, and not because he was being forced to. "This decision of mine is not sudden or rash, and was not reached, as certain irresponsible individuals claim for reasons known only to themselves, under anyone's pressure, either from the inside or from the outside," he said. "Today, conditions have become ripe for my withdrawal from the executive authority", he added.

He said the time was right for a change and that his party's leadership had already proposed Deputy PM and Finance Minister Igor Luksic to lead the new government. Djukanovic also said he wants to continue his professional life "in a more relaxing business environment". Referring to the Balkan cigarette smuggling case for which he face charges in the 1990s (see section "Human trafficking and cigarettes smuggling"), he said "I am withdrawing from the executive authority with a clean conscience [...]".

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## IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES

### Representation of women

Women remain significantly underrepresented in Montenegrin politics. In the Presidential election of 2008, no female candidates competed.

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### Independence

On 21 May 2006, 86.49 percent of all eligible voters in Montenegro cast ballots of whom 55.53 percent said to be in favour of independence. The threshold of 55 percent, as stipulated by the EU, was narrowly passed.

EU Foreign Affairs Commissioner Javier Solana therefore congratulated Montenegro on its independence: "I want to congratulate the Montenegrin people for the successful referendum that took place yesterday. It seems that the process was orderly and we have to congratulate everybody for that."

Although a majority of Montenegrins chose for independence, a high number of Montenegrins opted for remainder of the Union with Serbia. Of those who preferred the State Union, many belong to the thirty percent of those who define themselves as Serbs. Momir Bulatovic, President of Yugoslavia from 1998 to 2000, led the unionists.

On 31 July 2007, a new chapter in Montenegro's chapter of independence was written. On this date the parliament adopted the draft-constitution, which was developed after the country's independence in May 2006. The draft-constitution states that Montenegrin will be the official language and that church and state are separated. The Montenegrins coat-of-arms will remain the golden two-headed eagle. The flag will remain red with the coat-of-arms in the centre. The Cyrillic and Latin writing will be considered equally official and the draft also calls for the direct election of the president, which will serve a maximum of two 5-year terms.

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### The State Union

In 2003 Serbia and Montenegro adopted a resolution, which entailed that the two countries would become part of a State Union for three years. In 2006, both states were allowed to decide on its future independence.

The agreement signed in 2003 did not satisfy either of the republics. Montenegro wished to get independence whereas Serbia wanted a strongly centralised state. The EU insisted on preserving a Union between Montenegro and Serbia since it feared that the prospect of Montenegrin independence would have a negative input on the status of Kosovo and a destabilising effect on the rest of the region. In exchange for the agreement on the State Union, the EU offered more rapid process towards European integration of Serbia and Montenegro. Montenegro agreed to the establishment of the State Union under the condition that the country was permitted to begin independence procedures within three years.



The State Union replaced the federal structure, which existed before Yugoslavia fell apart. The new central government and parliament however lacked authority. Montenegro resisted all efforts to create an effective and functional State Union out of fear for Serbian dominance.

The Montenegrin government only truly cooperated on the central level in the Foreign Ministry and the Supreme Defence Council. Cooperation in the institutions was aimed respectively at putting the independence of Montenegro on the agenda internationally and at placing the army under civilian control in order to control the those forces inside the military which are interested in influencing Montenegrin politics.

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#### Montenegrin independence and the EU

The dysfunctional state of affairs of the State Union also resulted from the fact that Serbia's economic, political and social development differed significantly from the Montenegrin's. In addition, Serbia's bad relations with its neighbours hampered the integration process of the State Union. The Montenegrins felt infringed in their rights when the EU suspended the talks on the SAA, in May 2006, as a result of the behaviour of the Serbian government. This helped the pro-independence campaign. It strengthened the argument that Montenegro would move faster to European integration without Serbia.

The Montenegrin government has continuously opted for being more responsive to EU interests. On the issue of cooperation with the ICTY, the government made it clear that it would extradite all those accused of war crimes and has never questioned the legitimacy of the Hague-based Tribunal.

Now that Montenegro is an independent state, the EU started to adapt the instruments of the Stabilisation and Association process to the new situation. Thus, an Enhanced Permanent Dialogue meeting with Montenegro was held on 24 July in Podgorica. On the same day the Council adopted a mandate for the negotiation of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Montenegro based on the previous mandate for negotiations with the former State Union. The European Commission launched SAA negotiations on 26 September. On 1 December 2006 the technical negotiations were finished. Once the EU member states have ratified the SAA, the agreement will be enacted.

The SAA aims at the creation of a free trade zone between the EU and Montenegro and provides for extensive liberalisation in a number of economic fields. It also implies that Montenegro undertakes to adopt Community legislation in areas such as customs and trade, competition, public procurement, electronic communications, protection of intellectual property rights and other fields. A number of provisions will provide for advanced cooperation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security. Similar to the "Europe Agreements" with countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the SAA will provide a legal framework for the relations between the EU and Montenegro for the entire period prior to the possible future accession.

The government in Montenegro has always had good relations with the Kosovo government; it has not interfered on the status of Kosovo, has not opposed to the policy of the international community and recognizes the passports and license plates issued by UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo).

Montenegro also has good relations with Croatia and has even offered to pay € 375,000 as war reparations during the attacks on Dubrovnik. The Montenegrin government has even apologised to Croatia for the involvement of Montenegrin soldiers during the attacks on Dubrovnik.

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#### Poverty

In the period of the State Union, Montenegro had a separate currency, and while Serbia had a protectionists policy toward domestic industry, Montenegro attracted far more foreign investment (€87 (first to quarters of 2005) versus € 376 (first three quarters 2005). Although Montenegro had an estimated 4.1 percent GDP in 2005, compared to Serbia's 6.1, the inflation in Montenegro was 2.3 percent compared to Serbia's 18 percent in 2005.

In Montenegro the real GDP has recovered slowly from drop back in 1999 due to the Kosovo crisis. Inflation has



been steadily falling, from 24% in 2001 to around 6.5% in the first half of 2003 and the economy is considered to be stable though stagnating.

Although the government has been engaged in an economic reform agenda, the Montenegrins face poverty in their daily lives. Around 12 percent of the population of Montenegro lives below the poverty line and unemployment is high at 30 percent according to some official figures. Also there are a lot of people living just above the poverty line, which indicates that many could easily drop into severe poverty.

Internally displaced people, Roma and women are among the most vulnerable. The poorest region in Montenegro is the North. Most of the registered unemployed are either economically inactive or work in the grey economy. At the same time, almost a third of the "true" unemployed are not registered by the labour offices. The prospects of the poor competing for jobs are troubled by labour market discrimination against the most vulnerable and the inadequate skills of the poor.

Previously within the State Union, foreign aid was largely dependent on compliance of Serbia to co-operation with the ICTY. In March 2004 U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, decided to suspend temporarily at least million in aid since the state authorities do not fully cooperate with the tribunal by arresting suspected war criminals.

Social poverty is one of the main issues the opposition parties campaign on, claiming that the DPS-SDP governments are not doing a good job to solve this problem.

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#### Human trafficking and cigarettes smuggling

The government of prime minister Milo Djukanovic came under severe pressure over cases of human trafficking and cigarette smuggling. The affairs led to criticism by the European Union, the United States, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). One scandal involved a Moldovan woman who claimed to be sexually abused in a brothel by top officials. Several high-ranking officials were forced to resign, and the Interior Ministry admitted in November 2003 that Djukanovic himself was under investigation by Italian prosecutors over accusations of cigarette smuggling.

In Montenegro as in Serbia the worlds of politics, business, the security forces, and organised crime mix and move together in ways hidden from public view. Tensions rose even more when on the 27th of May a journalist, Dusko Jovanovic, of the pro-SNP newspaper "Dan" was assassinated. In recent years the newspaper and Jovanovic have been subject of 30 lawsuits stemming from charges published in the daily that Djukanovic has been involved in cigarette smuggling and human trafficking.

Speculation among the public at large and in much of the media turned to possible political motives behind the killing, with members of Jovanovic's own family hinting that unnamed people close to Djukanovic might have been involved. Fellow journalists tend to see his killing as a direct attack on the freedom of the press.

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## SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES

### Social Democratic Party (SDP)

The SDP was founded in June 1993 after a merger of the Social Democratic Reform Party and the Socialist Party of Montenegro. The party is firmly anti-war oriented and strongly opposed Milosevic. The main goal is a "democratic internationally recognised and independent Montenegro that keeps abreast with Europe in order to provide better life, greater rights, freedoms and happiness for every person and for all people." SDP is part of the ruling coalition together with the Democratic Party of Socialists and within this coalition (41 seats) holds 7 seats

The SDP is a full member of the Socialist International.



Party leader: Ranko Krivokapic  
Website: <http://www.sdp.cg.yu/>

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#### Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS)

The party, which was founded in 1991 is a successor to the former leading League of Communists. The party has been a proponent of a democratic, internationally approved and independent state of Montenegro. DPS holds the opinion that this is the main condition for the development and Europeanization of Montenegro. Furthermore, main issues are tolerance and better life for every citizen in Montenegro. Former President Momir Bulatovic used to be party leader, but was ousted in July 1997. Former prime minister Milo Djukanovic, who after the 2006 parliamentary elections did not accept another candidacy for premiership, is the current president of the DPS.

The DPS is a consultative member of the Socialist International.

Party leader: Milo Djukanovic  
Website: <http://www.dpscg.org>

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## OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES

#### Socialist People's Party (SNP)

The SNP is the main pro-Belgrade party in Montenegro. Former federal Prime Minister Momir Bulatovic, considered as a puppet of Milosevic, was party leader until February 2001. He was replaced by Predrag Bulatovic. The SNP formed a pre-election coalition with the NS and DSS and within this coalition (11 seats) holds 8 seats in the parliament. After the 10 September 2006 elections, which turned out a big disappointment for the SNP, Predrag Bulatovic announced his resignation. Srdjan Milic was elected new party leader on 26 November 2006.

Party leader: Srdjan Milic  
Website: [www.snp.cg.yu](http://www.snp.cg.yu)

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#### Serbian People's Party (SNS)

The SNS is an ethnic Serbian party and is a member of the 'Serbian List', which holds 12 seats in the current parliament. Its main goal used to be to protect Serbs in Montenegro and further establishment of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro in consonance with the constitutional charter. Also membership of the European Union is a main issue.

Party leader: Andrija Mandic  
Website: [www.sns.cg.yu](http://www.sns.cg.yu)

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#### People's Party (NS)

NS is a pro-Serbian party. Until December 2000 it participated in the ruling "For a Better Life" coalition of Djukanovic. It left the coalition, because of disagreement with the pro-independence policy of Djukanovic. NS competed the elections together with SNP and DSS. At the moment NS has 2 seats in the parliament.

Party leader: Predrag Popovic  
Website: [www.narodnastranka.cg.yu](http://www.narodnastranka.cg.yu)

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#### Movement for Change (GZP)



The GZP was founded by top economists and academics in September 2002 as a group seeking to promote Montenegro's EU accession and acceleration of reforms. On 15 July 2006, Nebojsa Medojevic, Chairman of the Movement for Change modified the statutes of his organisation in order to turn it into a political party under the name, Movement for Change (GZP). The new party that will be running in ten municipalities in the local elections would like to have a government of experts responsible for the revision of privatisation and the adoption of a new Constitution. The party is not only part of the opposition to the present government but it also rejects the present system based, in its opinion, on unstable and faulty foundations, corruption, theft and ignorance. The GZP holds 11 seats in parliament.

Leader: Nebojsa Medojevic

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#### Democratic party of Montenegro (DS)

Predrag Drecun, former Employment and Social Affairs Minister became the president of the new Democratic Party of Montenegro (DS). This party, which formed a coalition with the pro-Serbian SNP and NS before the 2006 general elections, wants to establish privileged relations with neighbouring countries is emphasising the country's economic problems and the divisions that exist within the population. Predrag Drecun says his new party lies to the right of the political scale.

Leader: Predrag Drecun

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#### Liberal Alliance of Montenegro (LSCG)

The Liberal Alliance is a traditional liberal party founded in 1990 and is member of the Liberal International. The party supported the disbandment of Union State with Serbia, but rejects nationalist rhetoric. The LSCG is strongly anti-war oriented and popular among younger people. The Liberal Alliance changed co-operation several times, firstly co-operating with the social democratic oriented parties in government, followed by co-operation with the Serbian oriented parties in order to get rid of the social democratic government. However, co-operation with these parties has not been free of problems because of disagreements on the independence issue. In the 2006 elections, the party founded its own coalition with the smaller Bosniak Party of Montenegro (BS) and thus secured a total of 3 seats.

Party leader: Miodrag Zivkovic

Website: [www.lscg.cg.yu](http://www.lscg.cg.yu)

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## BIOGRAPHIES

Milo Đukanovic

Prime Minister of Montenegro

Milo Đukanović was born on 15 February 1962 in Nikšić. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro, Podgorica.

In 1979 while still in high school, Đukanović joined the Yugoslav Communist League. By 1986 he was a presidency member of the Socialist Youth Alliance's (SSO) Montenegrin branch as well as the presidency member of its federal-level parent organisation. As a member of the party's various youth bodies he earned the nickname Britva ('Straight razor') for his direct, fiery and forceful rhetoric. Progressing steadily up the party ladder, by mid-1989 Đukanović became a member of the League's highest decision making body, the Central Committee. He became the Secretary of the Presidency of the League of Communists of Montenegro, a post he held until the parties' transformation into Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS).

In 1991 he was elected prime minister, becoming the youngest PM in Europe. On January 15, 1998 he was sworn in



as President of the Republic, after winning the presidential elections. In the same year he was elected Chairman of DPS. Having led the Democratic Coalition for a European Montenegro to victory in the parliamentary election in October 2002, he was nominated PM Designate of Montenegro. On January 8 he was elected PM for his fourth term. In May 2006 he led the Block for Independent Montenegro at a referendum in which 55.5% voted in favor of Montenegrin independence. In the 2006 elections his Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS and Social Democratic Party, SDP) won an absolute majority.

Although he chose to step down in late 2006 he remained president of DPS. He returned to office as PM after his coalition won the 2009 early elections with an absolute majority, securing him a sixth term in office. Since 2010 rumors circulate that Đukanović might leave politics on short notice.

In July 2003, the public prosecutor's office in Naples linked Đukanović with an organised crime network, mainly related to tobacco smuggling during the UN embargo on Yugoslavia. Đukanović denied the allegations as a "loathsome political trick", aimed at criminalising him and his country. The Italian authorities dropped all charges against him in April 2009.

In December 2010 Đukanović for the second time resigned his post as PM, saying he would still play an important role in the ruling DPS. Announcing his resignation he said "the conditions have been created for him to step down".

Milo Đukanović is married and has one son.

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#### Filip Vujanović President of Montenegro

Filip Vujanović was born on 1 September 1954 in Belgrade. After he graduated from the University of Belgrade's Law School, he worked in one of the city's Municipal Courts, and later as an assistant at the Belgrade District Court. In 1981 he moved to Podgorica (at that time Titograd), working as a secretary at District Court and lawyer.

In 1993 Vujanović joined the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and became Minister of Justice upon the invitation of then Montenegrin federal President Momir Bulatović. From 1996 to 1998 he was Interior Minister. During the 1997 DPS leadership conflict, Vujanović initially declared neutrality. He eventually sided with Đukanović who won the presidential election.

In February 1998 Đukanović appointed Vujanović as the first Prime Minister of Montenegro, which was at that time still part of Yugoslavia. In November 2002, he became Speaker of the Montenegrin parliament. Vujanović ran in the December 2002 presidential elections and won a landslide victory, securing 86% of the vote. However, the election was ruled invalid as the turnout was less than 50%. The elections were held again in February 2003, with Vujanović winning 81% of the vote, but again turnout was below 50%. The elections were held for a third time in May, with the minimum turnout rule abolished, and Vujanović winning again with 63% of the vote. He became president on 19 May 2003. President Vujanović was a supporter of the Montenegro independence referendum, though PM Đukanović was much more involved in the referendum campaign. Vujanović's messages often focused on Montenegro's and Serbia's ability to have a peaceful separation and post-independence cooperation.

At the 2008 presidential election, Vujanović ran for the second presidential term, and secured another five years in office in the first election round, winning 51.89% vote. PM Đukanović and President Vujanović have been controlling the political landscape in Montenegro since 1991. Filip Vujanović is married and has three children.

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#### Ranko Krivokapić Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro, leader of the Social Democratic Party

Ranko Krivokapić was born on 17 August 1961 in Kotor. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. In the



late 1980s he became politically active and became member of the presidency of Reform Forces of Yugoslavia, headed by the last Prime Minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Ante Marković.

He was elected a representative in the Montenegrin Parliament six times, the first time in 1989. Furthermore, Krivokapić was Montenegrin representative to the Parliament of Yugoslavia from 1993 to 1997. From 2003 to 2006, Krivokapić served as the Speaker of Parliament of Montenegro within the state union of Serbia and Montenegro (SCG). Following the ratification of an independence referendum held in 2006, he became the Speaker of Montenegro's parliament.

Krivokapić is leader of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro (SDP), a coalition partner of the Democratic Party of Socialists in the current government. Furthermore, he was one of the founders of the SDP in 1990.

Ranko Krivokapić has two children.