



Crna Gora
Uprava za statistiku

Adresa: IV Proleterske 2
81000 Podgorica, Crna Gora
tel: +382 20/230-811
fax: +382 20/230-814
www.monstat.org

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For: **Mariana Kotzeva, EUROSTAT, Director General**
Subject: Population Census in Montenegro

Dear Mrs. KOTZEVA,

Considering the most recent information that the European Parliament adopted the Commission Report on Montenegro, we have observed that the Population Census has the important role in it.

We have noticed that European Parliament "Urges Montenegro to conduct the long-overdue population and housing census in line with EU and international standards as soon as the political stalemate in the country ends, so that this important matter is not used as yet another pretext to enhance the polarisation of society; expects this to be conducted in an open and transparent manner without any political interference, with all recognised national minorities counted properly without fear of intimidation or prosecution;".

In the first draft of the same report it was noted that European Parliament "invites Montenegro to conduct Population Census by the end of year".

We are receiving contradictory messages from the EU, mainly through media statements, so we consider that we should be informed about the expectations regarding the Census, primarily from Eurostat, as the highest statistical authority in the EU, especially in terms of possible changes in opinions.

We stand with our goal to prioritize the European integrations, and it is our role to keep it strictly statistical, so Eurostat's official opinion on the Census is of high importance, since politicians in Montenegro, and now EU, national minorities councils and part of the NGO's have already stated their own attitude.

Looking forward to your clarification and official opinion from the position of Director General of Eurostat.

Since we are in the final phases of the preparations for the Census, we would appreciate if you send us your feedback as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


DIRECTOR

Miroslav Pejovic