WEEK 10

As the date of Donald Trump’s presidential entrance is coming, US politicians are trying to resolve as much as possible. That counts also for Montenegro’s possible future acceptance as a Nato member state. At this moment, the White House and Pentagon are backing up the Montenegro question, the main danger remains in the Senate, as it should express the support of the Nato expansion. *„Congress taking action on this would be regarded as a positive step by our European allies, certainly,“* said Evelyn Farkas, former policy chief for Russia in Pentagon.[[1]](#endnote-1)The Montenegro process has been slowed down when Senate haven’t found any floor or place to discuss it. And time is what they might not have. President Barack Obama, who is approving the entry, is leaving the office on 20th January and his successor is unpredictable. He seems to have good relations towards Russia, which is against the approval. This situation unsettles traditional Nato supporters all over the world. Whether the Senate will discuss Montenegro’s accession before changes of leaders is to be seen in the future.

Montenegro as a Nato’s member has been in the process since 2010. This Balkan state could be considered as a test case, since their historic connection to Russia. That should be taken seriously, even though Montenegro’s government has already voted for joining Nato, which could harm their economical and political bounds with Russia, which is their largest foreign investor. The accession has been dividing allies ever since – Turkey, along with Croatia and Bulgaria are pro-join, meanwhile France and Germany are double thinking about the possibility of Russian agression.[[2]](#endnote-2)

Sources:

1) *Montenegro’s accession to Nato faces hurdle as US Senate session nears end*. The Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/07/montenegro-nato-us-senate-balkan-states-trump-russia (aproached on 11 December)

2) http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-120616 (aproached on 11 December)

3) MARCUS, Jonathan. *Montenegro: Nato’s newest and last member*? BBC. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36311644 (aproached on 11 December)

4) LESNIEWSKI, Niels. *Will the Senate Keep Montenegro Out of NATO?* Roll Call. http://www.rollcall.com/news/policy/will-senate-keep-montenegro-nato (aproached on 11 December)

5) CHADWICK, Vince; VON DER BURCHARD, Hans. *Montenegro to join NATO*. Politico. http://www.politico.eu/article/montenegro-to-join-nato-russia-stoltenberg/ (aproached on 11 December)

1. *Montenegro’s accession to Nato faces hurdle as US Senate session nears end*. The Guardian. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. CHADWICK, Vince; VON DER BURCHARD, Hans. *Montenegro to join NATO*. Politico. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)