



Niš
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MONTENEGRO AIRLINES FLIES FROM NIŠ

Starting from February 25, 2010, the greatest European destinations can be reached from the Niš airport Constantine the Great via Podgorica by Montenegro Airlines.



Flights from Niš via Podgorica to all European destinations

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and the Montenegro Airlines company president Zoran Djurišić held joint press conference to announce the regularly scheduled flights from Niš via Podgorica to European destinations.

Mr. Djurišić announced 6 flights from Niš to Podgorica

every week and he added that the Montenegro Airlines was extremely satisfied with the achieved results on this market during the summer season and that it was the reason why they decided to continue the everyday traffic to Podgorica and even further to many European destinations.





Montenegro Airlines company president Zoran Djurišić and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

The flight schedule has been adapted to enable the passengers to reach in the most convenient way many European destinations.

The Montenegro Airlines planes will fly from Niš to Podgorica every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 07.00am, every Saturday at 8.00 am and every Friday and Sunday at 6.50am.

Flights to Vienna from Podgorica airport are available on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Frankfurt can be reached from Podgorica every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You can fly to Zurich from Podgorica on every day except Tuesday.

The passengers will be able to reach Rome via Podgorica every Thursday, Friday and Sunday; flights to London from Podgorica are available every Wednesday and Sunday; Montenegro Airlines flies to Moscow every Monday and Wednesday and to Paris every Thursday and Saturday.

The City of Niš and Montenegro Airlines prepared special offers. The return ticket Niš-Podgorica will cost 94 EUR with all taxes included, while the return ticket to European destinations via Podgorica will cost 199 EUR with all taxes included.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović pointed out that the primary task of Niš City was to speed up the city economic development and the revival of Niš airport was the precondition for the achievement of this priority.

"New flights from the Niš airport to many European destinations and the cooperation



Montenegro Airlines first flight to Podgorica from the Niš Airport Constantine the Great

with the company Montenegro Airlines are the first steps towards the realisation of the air traffic development plans. The cooperation with the company Montenegro Airlines and the initiation of the new air traffic routes unambiguously shows that the City of Niš has taken one of its biggest chances for the development of the city and whole region", said Mayor Simonović.

Mayor Simonović announced the opening of Montenegro Airlines office in Niš. Opening the company office in Niš is another proof of the Montenegro Airlines commitment to cooperation with the City of Niš through the strategic partnership. The Montenegro Airlines branch office in Niš will employ the people from this region.

"The City of Niš tried to open new possibilities for its economic development and the economic development of this region and we did not wait for the support from the state. By taking the responsibility for the development of the airport, the City of Niš proved that it had a clear vision about the improvement of the economy in the South and East of Serbia", said Mayor Simonović.

FLIGHT TIMETABLE:

- **MONTENEGRO AIRLINES**
www.montenegroairlines.com
- **AIRPORT NIŠ CONSTANTINE THE GREAT**
www.nis-airport.com

PRIORITIES FOR 2010

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović held the press conference at Niš City Hall presenting the proposed activities and city priorities for the year of 2010.

Mayor Miloš Simonović announced that the priority for the following year would be solving the problems of the legalization of illegally constructed object. It is estimated that there were about 30.000 illegal objects on the territory of Niš City. In order to resolve this problem, the fee for the legalization of the objects should be reduced so that it could be acceptable for the most of the citizens. The deadline of adopting this new ordinance on the fee for the object legalization is 30 days and the fee itself should be in the amount between 5.000 and 200.000 dinars per object.



Press Conference

According to Mayor Simonović another priority was the adoption of new Urban Master Plan for the period between 2010 and 2025 by June this year. Also, several strategic documents need to be adopted in the course of this year and these documents are: Revised Niš City Development Strategy for the period 2009 - 2020, Niš City Strategy for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for the period 2009 - 2013, middle-term plan for the development of the primary health care and Nis City Sustainable Development Action Plan for the period 2010 - 2014. Those documents are expected to be adopted by March this year.

Political consensus is needed related to the objectives for the development of the air traffic and perspectives of the airport Constantine the Great. Any subsidy to the airport must be with the objective of increasing the passenger number, increasing the airport generated income and reaching the sustainability of this company.

This year the City of Niš will select strategic partner for solid communal waste management and it will develop local and regional plan for waste management.

According the jurisdictions of local and republic authorities, the City of Niš expects the realisation of the railway direction Prosek - Crveni Krst with the deadline for the completion of the works which coincides with the deadline for the electrification of the railway corridor Niš - Dimitrovgrad. Mayor Simonović said that Republic Parliament members from Niš should request from the Serbian Government prime minister and Serbian Parliament president the realisation of these projects.

The political consensus is needed for the adoption of the agreement between state company in charge of the waters in Serbia - Srbijavode and Niš City on the exchange of land property. This agreement envisages taking over the process of land expropriation and land property development along the River Nišava and its inflows. The deadline for the adoption of this agreement is June 2010.

March 2010 is the deadline for giving the approval on the agreement related to the land

properties owned by RS Ministry of Defense on the territory of Niš City. The subject of this agreement is 170 acres of the land property where the airport Constantine the Great is located and 15 acres of the land property where military complex Bubanjski heroji is located. The agreement also envisages the transfer of the ownership over these land properties to the City of Niš. The responsibility of the city will be to expropriate the land on other location for the needs of the RS Ministry of Defense during the period of next 10 years and to make available 20% of the flats that will be constructed on the location of Bubanjski heroji to the same ministry.

The programme of volunteering retirement for Nis City administration employees is in the process of the implementation. 112 employees from different city administration department and city institutions volunteered for retirement according to present valid regulations with severance fees paid out. This downsizing will bring savings of 80 million dinars for the city budget. According to the law on defining the number of employees in local administrations, the City of Niš should downsize its labor force for 214 employees. 112 employees will retire; some will be transferred to the newly formed communal police department and there will be about 60 workers left whose employment status needs to be resolved by the end of March.

SIMONOVIĆ: NIŠ IS THE MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović has said today that it was up to the City of Niš to be the driving engine of the development in the Southeast Serbia since it was the biggest center of the region.

The development of the Niš Airport Constantine the Great is one of the measures which can boost the development in the region.

"If we look at the experiences of other regions we can see that one new job opportunity at the airport opens seven new job opportunities in other fields", said Mayor Simonović to RS National News Agency TANJUG.

Once the Agreement on Open Sky was ratified in the Republic Parliament, the City of Niš decided to intensify the negotiations with the companies which were interested in flying from Niš and which saw the business potentials in this region.

"The result of those negotiations was the establishment of the regular air traffic from Niš and Podgorica six times per week with Montenegrin Company Montenegro Airlines and the regular flights Niš - Bolonja with low-cost Italian company Wind Jet. Thus we have connected this part of Serbia with European and world destinations", said Mayor Simonović.

The good news is that Wind Jet plans to introduce flights to new destinations in Italy and Europe.

"We talked to the representatives of the airport in Rijeka, Croatia, who conveyed to us their interest in introducing direct flights to Niš", added Mayor Simonović.

All stated above shows that this part of Republic of Serbia has great potentials and that it is

necessary to have more faith in ourselves and to take better care of ourselves. We should not wait for Belgrade or for other republic institutions to do our job. It is up to us to create the vision of what we expect this region to be in 10 or 15 years time.

Mayor Simonović pointed out that what had been started at the airport should be used in other areas of economy, culture, sports, tourism and that it was the chance for the whole region of South and East Serbia.

Niš airport is also interesting for the development of the cargo traffic and the airport has the necessary conditions.

Mayor Simonović announced that all administrative obstacles would be removed in next few weeks so that the construction could start.

"Two months ago we signed the Protocol with RS Ministry of Defense and we agreed to resolve all the problems in relation to the ownership over the land where the cargo center should be constructed", stated Niš City Mayor.

Mayor Simonović said that the city invested 10 million Euros together with the donation of Norwegian government so that the airport could be reconstructed after the bombing in 1999.

Niš Airport representatives and the representatives of the Austrian company EyeMaxx signed the Contract on the construction of the cargo and logistics center worth



Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

60 million Euros in October 2008.

Logistic, commercial and cargo centre includes the construction of 135. 000 square meters of the facilities located next to the Constantine the Great Airport. The premises for storages, offices and hotel will be allocated within this new construction. 500 people are expected to be employed. On the occasion of signing the contract, the General Manager of Austrian company Eyemaxx Mr. Michael Miller said the investment could reach 100 million Euros in case there were other interests in the construction of the office premises and shopping mole.

Talking about the development strategy for Niš airport, Mayor Simonović said that total capacity in passenger transfer could be 450.000 passengers per year. Presently, 200.000 passengers are being transferred from Niš airport and it represents only 10% of the airport capacity. 2 million potential users of the services provided by Niš Airport live in the area of South and East Serbia. 46% of our Diaspora originates from this region.

PUBLIC CALL WITHIN THE HELP PROJECT - SUPPORT TO LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH SERBIA

The project -Support to Local Sustainable Development in South Serbia is financed by Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade, German Government through Stability Pact for SEE, and by the cities included in the project: Niš, Vranje and municipalities of Bujanovac, Gadžin Han, Pirot, Preševo and Surdulica.

The project is implemented by German humanitarian organisation HELP in cooperation with the local NGOs ENECA from Niš and EDEAS from Bujanovac.

The project focuses on the educational and economic support to local development in south Serbia with the main aim to increase the employability.

Within this public call, the project will support ten people who would like to start up or extend their businesses on the territory of Niš City.

The approved grant will be allocated through the provision of the equipment and/or production material without any cash being paid out. Average donation is 2.000 EUR.

The condition set by HELP is that companies should secure at least 50% (minimum 2.000EUR, maximum 6.000 EUR) of the initial investments through bank credits.

Main obligations of HELP clients will include: to repay 20% of the total value of the donated equipment and/or material, to

perform at least 15 hours of communal work within the local community, to register his/her business activity in accordance with the Serbian legislation before receiving donation, to attend trainings specified by HELP.

The application forms are available at the HELP office.

Address: **7/1, Nemanjina Street**

More information about the project can be obtained at the above stated address and on the phones:

018/429-44-92 and 429-44-94

SIX ATTRACTIVE CITY LOCATIONS FOR POTENTIAL INVESTMENTS

Having in mind the interests of the local community and the need to attract new investments with the objective of encouraging local economic development, the City of Niš decided to launch the public auction for the lease-holding of the unconstructed land and publicly owned construction sites at the locations of Skopljanska, Duvanište (three separate land slots), Industrial Zone Sever (two separate land slots) and Donje Medjurovo.

The public call was announced on February 12, 2010. The auction for the location in Donje Medjurovo is scheduled for April 6, 2010. The other five locations will be auctioned on March 19, 2010.

The Location in Skopljanska street is intended for the construction of object of general purpose such as: banks, post offices, hotels, cultural objects, shops, restaurants and residential buildings.

One location in the settlement of Duvanište is intended

for the construction of residential object, while the other two locations are intended for the construction of the business premises.

The land located in the Industrial Zone Sever is intended for the construction of production facilities in accordance with the Regulation plan for the complex of small and medium sized enterprises.

The location Donje Medjurovo will be leased for the construction of storage and production service facilities with

the mixed and limited usage.

The land slots will be leased for the period of 99 years.

More details on the urban planning parameters for all locations could be found at the web site: **www.zurbnis.rs**, current valid plans page.

Data about the land development fees, communal infrastructure and the responsibilities of the lease holders and investors can be found at the official Niš City web site **www.ni.rs**.

PRESENTATION OF THE NIŠ CITY ECONOMIC POTENTIALS IN GERMANY

Nis City delegation led by Nis City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Nis Regional Chamber of Commerce Milovan Kocić went for a study visit to Germany from February 17 to February 20, 2010.

The visit was organised by Niš Regional Chamber of Commerce and Office of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce in Frankfurt.

During the study visit, the delegation met with high political and business officials in Germany and in the German Federal State of Hessen such as Mr. Roland Koch, minister president of the German Federal State of Hessen, Mr. Jorg Uwe Hahn, GFS Hessen Minister of Justice and European Integration. The Nis City representatives also met with the Mayor of Oberursel

Mr. Hans Georg Brum and the Mayor of Bad Homburg Mrs. Ursula Jungherr. The meetings were also held with the representatives of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce and its branch office in Frankfurt.

On February 19, the presentation of Niš City and Niš region economy entitled "The City of Niš - Opportunities for Business Cooperation" was held at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce office in Frankfurt. The presentation was attended by the representatives of



Frankfurt

the leading German companies in the fields of electronics, mechanical engineering and metal industry. The representatives of the German banks and organisations for international economic cooperation were at the presentation as well.

This study tour was supported by the General of Consulate of Republic of Serbia in Frankfurt.

NIŠ CITY DELEGATION VISITED LJUBLJANA

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović together with the representatives of Niš City public utility enterprises visited Ljubljana in order to learn more about the functioning of the public enterprises in that city and the development projects that the city was implementing.

Mayor Simonović met with the Mayor of Ljubljana Mr. Zoran Janković and they discussed the possibilities of preparing and developing joint projects.

Niš City delegation attended the presentations on the restructuring and functioning of the public utility companies in Ljubljana: public company Energetika which performs the activity of remote supply of heat (hot water and steam) and the supply of natural gas; public company Snaga, which has been cleaning Ljubljana and its surrounding municipalities for more

than eighty years; public company Vodovod and Kanalizacija whose basic mission is to supply healthy drinking water to people and systemically drain and treat waste water from the sewage system. These activities are performed in the area of the Municipality of Ljubljana and partly in the areas of the suburban municipalities.

This visit was very important for the representatives from Niš City public utility companies because they could find more about the ways of applying for EU funds.



Ljubljana

SWISS AMBASSADOR IN SERBIA VISITED NIŠ

Niš City Mayor, Miloš Simonović, Member of National Parliament from Niš-Dušan Milisavljević and Member of City Council Miodrag Radović, had a discussion with Ambassador of Switzerland in Serbia, His Excellency Erwin Helmut Hofer.

Mayor Simonović said that the City of Niš had realized numerous significant projects in cooperation with Government of Switzerland and Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) within the program of support to municipalities. SDC donated funds for construction of school in Medoševac and for the equipment for Regional Center for Professional Development of Educators in Niš as well as the funds for the improvement and strengthening of human resources.

The ambassador Hofer pointed out that the city should take advantage of its geographical position and try to make its investment locations as attractive

as possible for the investors. He said that Swiss investors could find an interest to start doing business in the region.

Ambassador Hofer and Mayor Simonović agreed that both Switzerland and Serbia set as their priority the education and investments into science and education and that the potential future cooperation could be in these particular areas.

Ambassador Hofer visited Regional Center for Professional Development of Educators in Niš and the primary school in Medoševac. The primary school Milan Rakić in the settlement of Medoševac was reconstructed with the Swiss



Ambassador of Switzerland in Serbia
His Excellency Erwin Helmut Hofer

donation of approx 375 000 EUR in February 2001, within the School Rehabilitation Program (1999-2002).

Mayor Simonović and Ambassador Hofer also visited Niš Airport where the airport management delivered the presentation about the airport for potentials.

MACEDONIAN AMBASSADOR IN NIŠ

His Excellency Ambassador of Macedonian Republic in Serbia Mr. Ljubiša Georgijevski met with the Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Niš City Council member Miodrag Radović at Niš City Hall.

The discussions were focused on the possibility of renewing tripartite cooperation Niš - Sofia - Skopje. The re-establishment of this triangle can be very productive for the development of the cross-border and regional cooperation as well as the cooperation among these three cities.

The Macedonian Ambassador also visited the Association of Macedonians living in the City of Niš in order to provide the support to the cooperation between

Macedonian associations in Serbia before the elections for National Council. Mr. Georgijevski said that he was very satisfied with the position of the Macedonian community in Niš and in the South of Serbia.

Council Member Miodrag Radović informed the ambassador about the cooperation between the technical schools from Skopje and Niš. Within the project of the knowledge and skills exchange, the pupils from Electrotechnical School from Skopje are visiting the secondary Niš Electrotechnical school.



His Excellency Ambassador of
Macedonian Republic in Serbia
Mr. Ljubiša Georgijevski
met with the Niš City Mayor
Miloš Simonović and Niš City Council
member Miodrag Radović

RS MINISTER OF EXTERIOR VUK JEREMIĆ VISITED NIŠ

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović met with Republic of Serbia Minister of Exterior Vuk Jeremić at Niš City Hall. Mr. Jeremić is the first Serbian minister of external affairs in recent history to visit the City of Niš.

The Mayor Simonović and the minister Jeremić discussed the organisation of the celebrating 17 centuries since the Edict of Milan signing and they agreed that the City of Niš had the ambition and privilege as well to be the leader in the organisation of such an important anniversary. However, the national support for this particular event is more than necessary.

Minister Jeremić added that the most important form of the cooperation between the local self-government and the state was

the cooperation in the organisation of celebrating 17 centuries of Christianity recognition.

Another topic for discussion was the establishment of the Crisis Management Center in Niš which would position the city from the geostrategic aspects.

Mayor Simonović and Minister Jeremić met with the representatives of the diplomatic missions in the city and honorary consuls. They discussed the ways of enlarging this particular community.



Republic of Serbia Minister of Exterior Vuk Jeremić

MINISTER OF CULTURE IN NIŠ

RS Minister of Culture Nebojša Bradić visited the City of Niš on the occasion of promoting the cultural cooperation with the City of Niš and the project Art of Giving.

Within the scope of the program Serbia in Serbia, the project Art of Giving brought to the City of Niš several eminent art directors and actors as well as musicians with the support of the Ministry and all this was done with the objective to stir the culture environment in Serbia and to change the centralized approach to cultural contents and to replace it with new one through the decentralized cultural network.

Minister Bradić talked to Miodrag Radović, the member of Niš City Council about the cooperation in the domain of the culture. "The programme Serbia in Serbia is the result of three-side cooperation among the City of Niš, RS Ministry of Culture and the project Art of

Giving.", said Mr. Radović.

Mr. Bradić pointed out that the Ministry of Culture supported more than hundred projects last year and some of them were implemented in Niš.

"Our main objective is the public. It has been proved that the institutions which had the vitality, mobility and activism could overcome the crisis and could establish themselves on the cultural map of Serbia. Ministry of Culture will continue to be the partner of Art of Giving since the project itself establishes the important parameters: art, humanitarian work and public. This is one of the models by which art, giving, institutions and the citizens of Serbia can work jointly", said minister Bradić.



Art of Giving Project Press Conference

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF CULTURE

Two-day conference entitled "DIRECTIONS AND MODALITIES OF NIS CITY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF CULTURE" was held on February 18 and 19, 2010 at Media Center in Niš.



Predrag Cvetičanin (Niš, Serbia), Eckart Koehne (Trier, Germany), Michael Woodward (York, GB), Amendine Leopold (Arles, France), Piero Bordin (Art Carnuntum, Austria), Patrizia Frontini (Milan, Italy)

This conference was a part of the project - Developing Programme Base and Promotion of Nis City Office for International Cooperation in Science, Education and Culture. It was preceded by three-month long consultations with important figures of the cultural policy in the City of Nis. The conference was the final step before establishing Nis City Office for International Cooperation in Science, Education and Culture.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to the exchange of the opinions and suggestions coming from the partners outside the city - RS Ministry of Culture, RS Ministry of Exterior, attaches for culture at foreign embassies present in our country, representatives of foreign cultural centers, of the donor community and national and international experts in the area of cultural policy.

The second day was dedicated to the presentations of the experiences and lessons learned in the field of research, protection, valorisation and promotion of cultural heritage in so called Constantine's cities: Trier (Germany), Arles (France), Milano (Italy), Izmit - Istanbul (Turkey), Carnuntum -

Petronelli - Vienna (Austria), York (Great Britain) and Niš (Serbia).

The City of Niš hopes that this conference will be the starting point for the process of networking of Constantine's cities which will have the crucial importance for all oncoming cultural activities.



International conference on cooperation in the domain of culture

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

On the basis of the Cooperation Protocol signed between the City of Nis, Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Nis and UNESCO European Network in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics - SEENET-MTP), the project Developing Programme Base and Promotion of Nis City Office for International Cooperation in Science, Education and Culture has been initiated.

The international conference entitled Excellence in Basic and Engineering Sciences and Education in Southeast Europe, was held in Nis from February 18 -21 as the part of project activities of UNESCO-BRESCE Venice, Faculty of Science and Mathematics Niš, Southeastern European Network in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics - SEENET-MTP Network and Niš International Office for Science, Education and Culture - NIOSEC (to be established), supported by the Serbian Ministry of Science and Technological Development, under the auspices of the City of Niš.

[www.seenet-mtp.info/ebes2010]

The conference gathered 70 experts from Serbia and the region. Basic and Engineering Sciences and Education occupy a central place in educational and scientific system of modern society and their development has a great impact on many segments of the economy and society. Creating a database of



International cooperation in the domain of science and education

scientific capacities, working through the examples of Niš and Craiova, will be used to exchange ideas about sustainable development strategy of Science and Education in the region. Assessment of capacity in the Balkan region in the Basic and Engineering Sciences and Education, especially in Physics and Mathematics was the basic theme of the meeting.



Niš City Hall

The possibility of forming a proposal elements and priority areas of joint scientific-educational policy, the establishment of networks of institutions and individuals at the regional level, connecting basic science with the economic and cultural trends, the inclusion of local government in such projects and experience of scientific and technological parks are the subject of the round table that is part of the meeting.



Miodrag Radović (Niš City Council member), Predrag Cvetičanin (Niš Office for Cultural Development) and Goran Đorđević (Faculty of Science and Mathematics Niš)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL HOUSING

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović participated at National Conference on access to social and affordable housing and sharing policies on housing policies in Serbia and other European countries”.

Niš City Mayor was the only representative of local self-government who, besides Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning - Oliver Dulić, representative of EU Delegation in Serbia and international organizations, in his opening speech, spoke about the most important activities aimed at creation of agreeable ambient for taking direct steps towards establishment of a system which should bring to regulation and improvement of housing situation, both in the state and on local level.

Mayor Simonović especially emphasized the importance of the Law on Social Housing whose aim is establishment of basic institutional and strategic instruments which would provide conditions for long-term and sustainable system of social housing.

Pursuant to Law on social housing, local self-governments are entrusted to, among other, to adopt local social housing strategies and programs and to plan the funds for implementation of those programs as well as for the establishment of local housing agencies. Mayor Simonović emphasized that the City of Niš was the first one to adopt the Program of Social Housing and Housing Strategy as the basic strategic document, with an aim to achieve full legal security of housing sector. City of Niš founded a Public Utility Company “City Housing Agency”. This company is a basic manager of activities in realization of Housing strategy and implementation of

Program for development of Social housing. Mayor Miloš Simonović pointed out the most important activities from the area of social housing. He said that program of UN Habitat and City of Niš called “Housing program and permanent integration of refugees” (SIRP) was successfully realized and that first facilities for social housing (75 flats) in Majakovskog Street in Niš were built. In accordance with Program of social housing in Niš, there is an ongoing realization of the project “Construction and acquisition of flats for social housing in Niš” which anticipates construction of 97 flats, said Mayor Simonović and added that two new locations were provided for construction in Niš, for which it will be applied for means from EU funds for social housing.

Mayor of Niš, Miloš Simonović emphasized the importance of Law on planning and construction, adopted at the same time as the Law on Social Housing which enables municipalities to gain ownership over construction land. It is especially important for unconstructed land, because municipalities can now freely intend it for social housing construction and there are no obstacles such as obtaining approval from Directorate for property. In that way new possibilities are opened for municipalities to lead adequate land policy, said Simonović.

Based on everything done in the city of Niš in previous period in this area undoubtedly comes that the City of Niš, together with



Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović participated at National Conference “Access to social and affordable housing-Sharing policies on housing policies in Serbia and other European countries”

its resources, firmly stands behind the program of social housing which will be done in the period to come because social housing is an element of local self-government that cannot be excluded, conclude the Mayor of Niš.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL CENTER FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Upon the invitation of the RS Ministry of Interior, Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović participated at the ministerial conference entitled "Experience of Member Countries in Facing Natural Disaster Crisis and the Need for Establishment of the Regional Center for Crisis Management".

The conference participants were greeted by the RS Minister of Interior Mr. Ivica Dačić and Russian Federation Minister for Crisis Management Mr. Sergey Shoygu. The objective of organizing this kind of conference was to determine priorities of the countries which were interested in participating in the work of Regional Center for Crisis Management through the exchange of the experiences in

facing the challenges of natural and technical disasters. Serbia, as the host of the conference, presented the conceptual idea of the regional center, the planned activities, the observed priorities and possibilities for international cooperation in this particular field. The focus of the conference was the initiation of the procedure for establishing international center in Serbia. The conference was attended by the



Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

delegations coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, Cyprus, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Croatia, Monte Negro, Serbia and by the representatives of the international organisations RCC DPPI, UNDP, UNISDR, Council of Europe and European Commission.

ROUND TABLE ON DRAFT LAW ON SOCIAL CARE

Round table on Draft Law on Social Care was held in the City Hall.

UNICEF consultant and member of the Group for development of Draft Law on Social Care Vladan Jovanović, member of City Council Dušica Davidović, Gorana Đorić from City of Niš University as well as numerous representatives of city institutions and civil society organizations, took part at the Round Table.

Organizer of this meeting is Association for Protection and Improvement of Mental Health of Children and Youth and Contact Organization of Civil Society for Children, supported by Team for Social Inclusion and Reduction of Poverty of the Government of the

Republic of Serbia.

This round table was organized within the framework of consultation process aimed at exchange of experience, collection of suggestions, comments and proposals for improvement of Draft Law on Social Care from the aspect of protection of human rights, social inclusion and approach of each of vulnerable groups.

Member of City Council Dušica Davidović expressed her satisfaction for the fact that Round table was held in our City.

- New law brings adaptation to standards prescribed by European Union, as well as a range of new

issues dealing with services that will be financed from City budget. We will have so called "public announcement" for the services that we are going to finance. As well, NGO s could participate in financing this kind of services, by creating market competition for the priorities recognized by the City as priorities important for all our citizens, and especially for the children, pointed out Dušica Davidović.

She also announced that the City of Niš will create its budget in line with new law and regulations prescribed by it.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL FOR IDPs IN NIŠ

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Niš City Council member Dušica Davidović visited the Branković family and presented to them the construction material.



Mayor Miloš Simonović and Council Member Dušica Davidović are handing out the free construction material

This family with eight members moved to Niš 10 years ago from Obilić in Kosovo. The city donated construction material, worth 375 thousand dinars, will enable this family to continue the construction of their family house. This is the fourth family which received the assistance from the city in the form of the construction material.

The City of Niš is the first city in Serbia which received the money for improving the living conditions for the refugees and IDPs within the scope of the support for the implementation of Local Action Plan for the improvement of the position for refugees and IDPs. The City of Niš received 1.5 million dinars which could be allocated through the provision of the construction material to the refugees and IDPs residing on the Niš City territory.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović formed the city commission for the selection of the potential beneficiaries. The commission selected 4 families of

IDPs and each of them was given the non-refundable assistance in construction material worth 375 thousand dinars. The City and the beneficiary families signed the contracts by which the beneficiary families were obliged to build in the received construction material into their residential units in the period of 6 months from the reception of construction material.

Local Action Plan for the position improvement of refugees and IDPs residing on the territory of Niš City for the period from 2009 to 2013 is the result of the Niš City participation in the project "Support to the Institutions of Republic of Serbia Government Responsible for Refugees and IDPs", which has been implemented with the support of the IOM and RS Commission for Refugees.

This strategic document shows long term commitment of the local self-government to improve the living conditions for refugees and IDPs working together with the partners.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN ROMA COMMUNITY

The City of Niš, the Niš Clinic Center Department for Infectious Diseases and Institute for Public Health started the campaign for the prevention of hepatitis A and B.

By the middle of March this year, the free voluntary vaccination of the Roma community engaged in collection of the disposed waste with the support of pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline. The volunteers from the Roma Association Osvit joined the campaign and they would go from door to door in order to inform the Roma population about the necessity of vaccination and about the consequences of not taking prevention measures.

According to Mr. Žarko Ranković, the member of Niš City Council, the epidemiologists estimated that the Roma population collecting the disposed waste was at greatest risk to contract the hepatitis A and B. The donors secured 270 vaccination units and made commitment to deliver more if the interest in vaccination grew.

The vaccination will be carried out by the mobile teams of Niš Health Care Center working in two shifts at the community centers in the city.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović said that there was no other city in Serbia which invested more efforts to improve the position of IDPs. The IDPs can use benefits from the domain of social care, such as free public transport.

NIŠ CLUSTER FOR RECYCLING – UNIQUE INITIATIVE IN SERBIA

Mr. Bojan Djurić, the state secretary from RS Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning came in a working visit to Niš.

Mr. Dejan Jovanović, the head of Niš City Administration for Communal Services, Energy and Traffic met the delegation from the ministry and during that meeting the possibilities of intensifying the cooperation between the city and the ministry in the area of waste treatment were discussed.

The visit of Mr. Djuric was a good opportunity to gather the representatives of the companies on the territory of Niš City which will form the cluster for recycling as the part of the Niš City Development Strategy.

"Niš has been one of the first cities in Serbia which started in 2001 to prepare the most important strategic documents for waste treatment. There was four-year halt in those preparations and then, last

year, the work on the project of waste management was intensified. Today, the City of Niš is on the way to become the model for the rest of Serbia and to show how the waste should be treated and how the clusters should be formed", said Dejan Jovanović.

Mr. Jovanović announced that PUC Medijana would open 50 recycling islands on the territory of Niš City where the citizens could dispose the aluminum and PET waste and metal waste.

Mr. Djurić, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning state secretary pointed out that the Ministry had a very close cooperation with the City of Niš.

"I am here, in Niš, today to discuss the variety of topics from

the implementation of the project Let's Clean Serbia, to the application of the law regulations, financial assistance and cooperation on the projects of the regional importance", said Djuric.

He expressed his satisfaction that Niš business community recognized the importance of the cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

The president of Niš City Council for Environment Protection, Mrs. Sonja Popovic, emphasized that the formation of Niš cluster for recycling is unique initiative in Serbia.

"There are serious companies in our city who deal with waste management according to European standards and which have capacities which exceed the city needs", said Mrs. Popovic. She pointed out that the Niš City Mayor initiated the discussion with city business community to involve them as the partners to the City of Niš in waste management.

NEW RECYCLING ISLANDS

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Manager of PUC Mediana Dragan Radisavljević have opened a new recycling island on the corner of Dušanova and Obrenovićeva streets, where citizens can dispose PET packaging and metal waste in separate bins.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović emphasized that 50 new recycling islands were set up on the territory of the City of Niš as the continuation of the project started a year ago, to systematically organize management of waste in our City.

"After signing the contract with SEKOPAK, 10 days ago, this is a next step. It is the project financed by the City in the amount of 7.5 million dinars and it anticipates waste separation before it is disposed. In that way raw material for domestic recycling industry is

provided, and this industry would open new jobs. At the moment, Niš cluster for recycling industry is being formed to allow for this branch of industry to develop in best possible way", said Mayor Simonović.

The Mayor made an appeal to the citizens to do their best to separate waste before they dispose it. Next step towards systematization of waste management is the construction of so-called recycling yards, which would provide possibility to separate as much raw material as possible at the very



Recycling island

beginning, which in turn would be one of the conditions for selection of strategic partner, upon the adoption of the Regional Plan for Waste Management.

The manager of PUC Mediana Dragan Radisavljević emphasized that residents, if they promptly separated waste, would be freed from paying tax for landfill management.

SEKOPAK ESTABLISHES PACKAGING WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF NIŠ

Mayor of the City of Niš Miloš Simonović and manager of Public Utility Company "Mediana" Dragan Radisavljević, signed up the Contract on establishing a new system for management of all kinds of packaging waste with SEKOPAK, an organization founded by Serbian economy which deals with packaging waste.



Manager of PUC "Mediana" Dragan Radisavljević, SEKOPAK representative Rebeka Božović and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

With this contract, SEKOPAK, City of Niš and PUC Mediana establish a system for management of all kinds of packaging waste, i.e. they introduce primary separation of all kinds of packaging waste: plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, wood and all metals, performed by citizens, industry and commercial sector.

Sekopak, being an organization of responsible companies which place their consumer goods on Serbian market, obliged itself to financially support activities of public utility in the City of Niš, related to collection, separation, bundling, transport and recycling of packaging waste.

On behalf of the City, the contract was signed by the Mayor, Miloš Simonović and manager of

Public Utility Company "Mediana" Dragan Radisavljević and on behalf of SEKOPAK it was signed by Rebeka Božović, general secretary and Miroslav Premović, operations manager. At that occasion all signatories of the Contract emphasized that the aim of this operation is to offer citizens a chance to separate home waste for its future processing, i.e. recycling.

Niš City Mayor mr Miloš Simonović emphasized that, with joint efforts of signatories, citizens of Niš would be introduced with all advantages of participation in recycling by separation of home waste, which will make our City cleaner and thus contribute to cleaner environment.



New partners in packaging waste management



Contract signed



SEKOPAK presentation

ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT BREAK FROM GERMAN - NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP

The German-Nazi Concentration Camp was located in the buildings which used to be military storage facilities before the German occupation.

It was one of the most notorious and the biggest concentration camps in Serbia. During four years, more 15.000 patriots and supporters of National Freedom Movement, imprisoned partisans, Roma people and Jews were imprisoned there. It is especially known for the escape of 105 prisoners on February 12th, 1942. After the great camp break, 1100 people were shot as the retaliation for 11 killed German soldiers. The organized escape from the concentration camp was the unique event in the occupied Europe of that time.

68 years later the Niš City honors the day of big break. The memorial service was held at the premises of the camp which has been turned out into memorial museum. Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović spoke on this occasion saying that the memorial museum was the witness to the important part of Serbian history and the history of Niš City. The museum itself is unique since it is one of the few preserved facilities in Europe which used to be concentration camp.

"Today we are reminded of the evils that the fascism brought



Memorial complex "12.februar"

to the humanity almost seven decades ago, and it is the warning to us and to all future generations not to repeat the mistakes of the past by letting the hatred and intolerance take the best of us. We must respect our tradition and our past", said Mayor Simonović.

The complete adaptation of the complex is planned to start this year which will bring back the authentic outlook to the premises.

CITY OF NIŠ HOSTING RADIVOJ KORAĆ CUP

Niš was the venue of the Serbian National Basketball Cup - Radivoj Korać for the third time in a row.

From February 18 to February 21, eight teams (Partizan, Crvena zvezda, Hemofarm, FMP, Vojvodina, Lajons from Vršac Borac from Čačak and Metalac from Valjevo) which made into finals fought for the cup and Basketball Team Partizan has won the cup for third time in a row.

Before the actual matches, Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović held the meeting with the president of the Basketball Federation of Serbia Mr. Dragan Kapičić and the president of the Regional Basketball Federation of East Serbia Mr. Zoran Živković.

"Radivoj Korać Cup is becoming the traditional sport manifestation in our city and it represents great recognition of the efforts the City makes. Last year the greatest number of sport events was held in Niš. We will try to be good hosts to all top sportsmen who come to our city", said Mayor Simonović.

Serbian Basketball Federation president Mr. Dragan Kapičić expressed his gratitude for the support that the city was providing and the Mayor himself. He pointed out that the organisation of



Serbian Basketball Federation president Mr. Dragan Kapičić and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

such a cup placed the City of Niš at the top of Serbian basketball where it belonged.

East Serbia Regional Basketball Federation president Mr. Zoran Živković said the interest in this event was great and that all the tickets were sold out.