

## **Press Release**

### **Dukaj-Luciani: Strengthening Local Self-Governance System**

Minister of Public Administration of Montenegro, Marash Dukaj, met with the Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Claudia Luciani, on the sidelines of the General Assembly of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of Southeast Europe.

Minister Dukaj emphasised important areas in presenting the work and priorities of the Ministry of Public Administration to Director Luciani, including the Analysis of the Functioning of Local Governance System and the preparation of a new Law on Local Self-Government.

"We are committed to the process of decentralisation and empowering local self-governance system in Montenegro. We are taking action to improve the functioning and sustainability of local self-government units, in order to ensure efficient provision of services to citizens, as well as deepening cooperation and addressing the issues that burden the work of local authorities," said Minister Dukaj.

Director Luciani noted the reform efforts of the Ministry and emphasised that the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities identified some challenges in its Monitoring Report on the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Montenegro. In this regard, recommendations have been provided, that can serve as guidelines for a new legal framework of local self-governance.

The interlocutors highlighted that there is a wish for more intense cooperation in the follow up to these recommendations and exchange of best practices in the field of regulating local self-governance system.