



Visit of Igor Lukšić, Montenegrin Prime Minister, to José Manuel Barroso: extracts from the joint press briefing

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On 03/03/2011 in Brussels, José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, welcomed Igor Lukšić, Montenegrin Prime Minister, before their joint press briefing. They discussed the ongoing efforts of Montenegro on its path to the EU. In the last months, Montenegro implemented the visa free regime, and last May the stabilisation association agreement became effective and the country was granted a candidate status country. President Barroso congratulated the Prime Minister for his commitment and efforts in addressing the Commission's recommendations. Montenegro was on the right track, but its next steps towards the EU depended on its own achievements. President Barroso assured Prime Minister Lukšić that the Commission will continue to support Montenegro in all the stages of the enlargement process.

[Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.](#)

| TIME | DESCRIPTION | DURATION |
|----------|--|----------|
| 10:00:00 | Title | 00:00:05 |
| 10:00:05 | Exterior view of the European Commission building, Brussels | 00:00:04 |
| 10:00:09 | Arrival of José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, and Igor Lukšić, Montenegrin Prime Minister, and handshake (2 shots) | 00:00:12 |
| 10:00:22 | Arrival to the office | 00:00:14 |
| 10:00:36 | Round table (3 shots) | 00:00:19 |
| 10:00:56 | Arrival to the VIP corner for the press briefing | 00:00:06 |
| 10:01:02 | SOUNDBITE (in ENGLISH) by José Manuel Barroso: today we have mainly discussed the ongoing efforts of Montenegro on its path to the EU. Montenegro is at a decisive stage, the candidate state obtains a fair recognition of its achievement. Now we have to build on this status to make progress, because this status of candidate is also a great responsibility for the future, a responsibility to prove that Montenegro is ready to deliver on all its obligations. | 00:00:29 |
| 10:01:31 | Cutaway of journalists | 00:00:03 |

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| 10:01:35 | SOUNDBITE (in ENGLISH) by Igor Lukšić: we are enjoying visa free regime, we have proved that Montenegro could implement the visa free regime without any problem. Secondly, last May the stabilisation association agreement became effective. And thirdly, we concluded last year with being granted a candidate status country. That raises expectations. That raises the need for the government to become a more responsible, a more mature in order to implement the action plan which was passed two weeks ago. I also thank for the support in terms of the European Commission experts that helped us debate through the action plan which was passed two weeks ago, and I pretty much believe we will be able to implement all the items of that agenda. | 00:00:53 |
| 10:02:28 | Cutaway of journalists | 00:00:03 |
| 10:02:32 | SOUNDBITE (in ENGLISH) by Igor Lukšić: it is obvious that we cannot resolve all those seven issues or problems that could be read through those seven criteria during the next four or five months. It will take years to resolve the problem of displaced people. There is no country in the world that could say: "Yes, we have weeded out corruption or other organised crime". But I believe that in the next four or five months, we could prove responsibility, commitment and willingness to tackle all those specific fields of action. | 00:00:34 |
| 10:03:06 | Cutaway of journalists | 00:00:03 |
| 10:03:09 | Handshake between José Manuel Barroso and Igor Lukšić, and departure (2 shots) | 00:00:07 |