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**SAREC: MONTENEGRO CAN CONCLUDE EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS BY THE END OF THE YEAR IF IT MAINTAINS PROGRESS IN THE RULE OF LAW**

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Vijesti Online (25 February 2026)

Montenegro can conclude negotiations on accession to the European Union (EU) by the end of this year if it maintains progress in the rule of law and political stability, said the European Parliament's (EP) permanent rapporteur for Montenegro, Marjan Šarec.

Šarec today, presenting the draft progress report on Montenegro to the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), stressed that Montenegro remains the most advanced candidate country for EU membership.

He said that tangible progress was made last year, with additional negotiation chapters temporarily closed, bringing their total number to 13.

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