



**CULTURAL CORRIDORS OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE
COMMON PAST AND SHARED HERITAGE -
A KEY TO FUTURE PARTNERSHIP
A REGIONAL FORUM**

Varna, May 20-21 2005

**SPEECH BY H.E. MR. FILIP VUJANOVIC,
PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO**

(Summarized, the original text is not available)

- The President thanked to the Bulgarian President for having organized the forum in Varna and for the stress, which has been put on the cultural corridors, which emphasized the significance of the cultural heritage not only for the economic development, but also for the peaceful existence of the countries in the region;
- Highlighted some special features of the Montenegrin culture, which can be useful for the common cultural image of South East Europe:
 - The Montenegrin cultural heritage is spread on a region with rich culture, but small area;
 - The population of the country is only 650 thousand, mainly Montenegrin, Albanian, Muslim and this is quite an eloquent demographic picture of Montenegro, in which neither of the ethnical groups has the majority and actually on this basis the Montenegrin state is built up;
- Informed, that one of the oldest archeological sites dating from the Paleolithic Age was situated in the heart of Montenegro. Added that there were two archeological sites dating from the Lirian and Roman period in the country, as well as plenty of monasteries, churches, mosques, which were of tremendous cultural and historical significance and which, especially the monasteries, had contributed a lot to raising the level of literacy among population;
- Stated that Montenegro had very rich written culture and manuscript and thank to its enlighteners, there was the first printing house, which had been functioning since 15th century;
- Added that Montenegro was proud of the fact, that one of its cities was included in the World Heritage List, so this country had its contribution to the project of the cultural corridors, and also to the European cultural heritage, through the South East Europe's.