

**Title:** Montenegro: Australia recognises the Republic of Montenegro

**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** FAF Posts

**Cc:**

**From:** Canberra  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From File:**

**EDRMS**

**Files:**

**References:** The cable has the following attachment/s -  
s 22(1)(a)(ii) Media Release Montenegro recognition.doc

**Response:** Routine, Information Only

### Summary

Australia has officially recognised the independent state of Montenegro. Please see attached Media Release.

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text ends

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**Sent by:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Prepared** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**by:**

**Approved**

**by:**

**Topics:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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# MEDIA RELEASE

## MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALEXANDER DOWNER

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

27 June 2006

### AUSTRALIA RECOGNISES THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

Australia has decided to recognise as an independent state the Republic of Montenegro.

Montenegro held an independence referendum on 21 May where an internationally recognised mandate for independence was achieved. Australia respects the decision of the people of Montenegro.

I welcome the assessment from official international observers that the conduct of the referendum was deemed free, fair and in line with international standards for democratic electoral process. On 3 June the Montenegrin Parliament adopted a Declaration of Independence following certification of the referendum results.

Australia welcomes the Republic of Montenegro's assurances that it will be based on principles of liberty, democracy, social justice, safety, human rights, environmental protection and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Australia also welcomes the Republic of Montenegro's pledge to observe the principles of international law and all treaties to which the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro was party.

Australia will consider the establishment of diplomatic relations with Montenegro in the near future.

*Media contact:* s 22(1)(a)(ii)









**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

28 June 2006

His Excellency Foreign Minister Miodrag Vlahovic  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Podgorica  
Republic of Montenegro

Dear Minister

I am writing to offer my congratulations on the recent independence referendum held in your country. I welcome reports by the EU and OSCE that the conduct of the referendum was free, fair and in line with international standards for democratic electoral process.

I am pleased to inform you that Australia now officially recognises the Republic of Montenegro as a sovereign state.

Australia's relationship with the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro was based primarily on close community links, and I expect that this will continue with the independent Republic of Montenegro. Australia welcomes Montenegro's commitment, as the newest member of the international community, to upholding democratic traditions and all principles of international law.

The creation of a new independent State is an exciting time, and I wish you every success at this critical moment in history. Thank you also for your expression of willingness to establish diplomatic relations with Australia. We would be pleased to consider this request and will advise you accordingly.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Alexander Downer







THE HON ALEXANDER DOWNER MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

27 JUN 2006

H.E. Mr Miodrag Vlahovic  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Podgorica  
Republic of Montenegro

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Dear Minister

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The creation of a new independent State is an exciting time, and I wish you every success at this critical moment in history. Thank you also for your expression of willingness to establish diplomatic relations with Australia. We would be pleased to consider this request and will advise you accordingly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Downer', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alexander Downer







PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

4 AUG 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Dear Prime Minister', written in a cursive style.

Allow me to offer you my personal congratulations, and those of the Australian Government and people, on the Republic of Montenegro's peaceful, democratic and orderly transition to sovereignty and statehood.

I warmly welcome your country's declared commitment to work with the international community towards the peaceful resolution of conflict and to assist in international peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. Australia supports your government's undertaking to foster a society based on democracy, personal liberty, freedom from discrimination and the rule of law.

Australia enjoyed close people-to-people links with the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and recognises the valuable contribution the vibrant and active Montenegrin community in Australia has made to our society. I note the potential that these community links have to enhance our bilateral relations into the future and look forward to our governments working together to develop closer ties between our countries.

Yours sincerely

A large, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'John Howard', written in a cursive style.

(John Howard)

H E Mr Milo Đukanović  
Prime Minister  
PODGORICA  
REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO







THE HON ALEXANDER DOWNER MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

10 AUG 2006

H E Mr Miodrag Vlahovic  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Podgorica  
Republic of Montenegro

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 4 June 2006 in which you referred to your desire to establish diplomatic relations with Australia.

I am pleased to agree to the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries which I am confident will provide opportunities to enhance relations in a range of fields. I propose, with your agreement, that we formally announce the establishment of relations with effect from 1 September 2006.

I wish you well with your expanded portfolio responsibilities and every success for Montenegro as an independent State.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander Downer".

Alexander Downer

