

#### Appendix 4. Thirty-five NATO–Russia Actions–Reactions, 3 June 2006 to 5 June 2017

NATO–Montenegro relations timeline	Russian response
<p>4 June 2006 NATO hailed Montenegrin independence. Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop’s declaration followed a referendum in favor of Montenegro’s separation from Serbia, which was “certified free and fair”</p> <p>29 November 2006 The NATO Allies invited Montenegro to join the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program at the Riga Summit</p> <p>3 December 2006 Montenegro obtained observer status in the Adriatic Charter, based on an initiative from the NATO summit in Prague</p> <p>14 December 2006 Montenegro joined the PfP</p>	<p>2006 According to official data from the Ministry of Culture of Montenegro, fifteen print media in Russian have been registered in Montenegro since 2006. The founders of a majority of those outlets are Russian citizens and their bases are in the resort of Budva. The tone of these media outlets is strongly anti-NATO and anti-EU</p>
<p>25 April 2007 The Security Information Agreement was signed between Montenegro and NATO</p> <p>15 August 2007 In support of NATO’s efforts to equip and train the Afghan national army, Montenegro donated weapons and ammunition</p> <p>26 November 2007 A transit agreement was signed that allowed NATO troops to move across the territory of Montenegro</p> <p>December 2007 Harmonization of Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP) and Individual Partnership Program (IPP)</p> <p>December 2007 The Government adopted the Information on Accession of Montenegro to Individual Partnership Action Plan NATO–IPAP</p>	<p>December 2007 Russian money and investments flooded dangerously into Montenegro and were a major subject of press articles and political discussions, which later turned critical of its path to NATO as Russia tried to transform its soft power through investment as an intercession. By December 2007 Russian investors’ total share in inward Foreign Direct Investment ( FDI) stock was 8.1% (compared to 2.8% at the end of 2005)</p>
<p>January 2008 The IPP of Montenegro was accepted by twenty-six member states of NATO</p> <p>4 February 2008 Montenegro agreed the IPAP with NATO, which focused on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to its aspirations to membership</p>	

<p>3 April 2008 At the Bucharest summit, Allied leaders agreed to start an Intensified Dialogue with Montenegro on its membership aspirations and related reforms</p> <p>25 September 2008 Montenegro was invited to join the Adriatic Charter of NATO aspirants</p>	
<p>April 2009 In the closing declaration of the NATO summit in Strasbourg and Kehl, strong support was given to Montenegro with a promise that the Allies would soon discuss Montenegro's request for the Membership Action Plan (MAP)</p> <p>29 December 2009 The parliament reached a decision on the involvement of representatives of the army of Montenegro in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the waters of Somalia (ATALANTA – within the EU mission)</p> <p>4 December 2009 NATO foreign ministers invited Montenegro to join the MAP</p>	
<p>February 2010 Montenegro decided to contribute to the ISAF in Afghanistan</p> <p>16 June 2010 Meeting of Montenegro and the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on the occasion of the termination of the biennial cycle of the IPAP, held in Brussels. This meeting closed the implementation of IPAP with a positive assessment by NATO</p> <p>28 October 2010 Montenegro submitted its first Annual National Program under the MAP</p>	
<p>12–13 May 2011 Six ambassadors from NATO members (Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Holland, Poland, Slovenia) visited Podgorica within an initiative aiming to introduce progress that Montenegro would need to achieve in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration with NATO members</p> <p>29 June 2011 The NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen visited Montenegro, where he met President Filip Vujanović and Prime Minister Igor Lukšić. During his trip, he delivered a major speech on</p>	

<p>“NATO and the Western Balkans” at a meeting of the Adriatic Charter</p>	
<p>21 March 2012 Prime Minister Lukšić addresses the North Atlantic Council</p> <p>21 May 2012 US President Bill Clinton, during a NATO summit in Chicago, said, “I believe this summit should be the last summit that is not an enlargement summit”</p> <p>27 June 2012 The Secretary General praised Montenegro’s commitment to implementing the reforms needed to meet NATO membership standards, after talks at NATO headquarters with the country’s Foreign Minister Milan Roćen and Defense Minister Milica Pejanović-Durišić</p> <p>30 October 2012 The Third Annual National Program was introduced at the meeting North Atlantic Council (NAC)+Montenegro at the NATO headquarters by which the third MAP cycle for Montenegro was started</p>	
<p>7 March 2013 The government of Montenegro adopted the Report on Implementation of the Third Annual National Program of Montenegro within the MAP process; the Council for PFP was renamed Council for NATO membership; a National Coordinator for NATO was appointed</p> <p>26 March 2013 Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović visited NATO headquarters for meetings with the Secretary General and the North Atlantic Council</p> <p>16 October 2013 President Vujanović visited NATO headquarters for a meeting with the Secretary General to discuss progress in Montenegro’s reform agenda and growing cooperation</p>	<p>September 2013 Moscow made an official request to use the Montenegrin port of Bar as a naval logistics base en route to Syria</p> <p>29 November 2013 The Russian ambassador to Serbia, Alexander Chepurin, compared Montenegro’s aspirations to join NATO to a monkey running after a banana. At the same conference in Belgrade, the Russian ambassador to Montenegro, Jacob Gerasimov, said that Russia would have to reconsider its relationship with Montenegro once it joined NATO</p>
<p>21–22 May 2014 NATO Secretary General Rasmussen visited Podgorica for talks</p> <p>29 May 2014 The Slovenian and Croatian foreign and defense ministers urged NATO’s Secretary General in a letter to consider inviting Montenegro to join NATO during the 2014 summit in Wales</p>	<p>23 April 2014 The official Russian government daily, <i>Rossiiskaya Gazeta</i>, published an article headlined “The Unfriendly Face of Montenegro,” which cited a Moscow State University report and attacked Podgorica’s European integration course. The article quoted unnamed “diplomatic sources” as saying that “getting rid of the ‘unnecessary’ Russian presence” in Montenegro was a “fundamental demand” of Podgorica’s prospective NATO partners</p>

<p>25 June 2014 Following a meeting of NATO foreign ministers, the Secretary General announced that NATO would open intensified and focused talks with Montenegro and would assess whether to invite Montenegro to join the Alliance</p> <p>5 September 2014 Rasmussen said that NATO would open “intensified and focused talks” on Montenegro’s candidacy and that an assessment on whether the Western Balkan country could join NATO would be made by the end of 2014. Rasmussen warned Moscow that no third country had a veto on NATO expansion</p>	<p>24 April 2014 <i>Rossiiskaya Gazeta</i> reported that Moscow planned to abolish its visa-free regime and trade preferences with Montenegro</p> <p>7 May 2014 A nationalist deputy in the Russian Duma, Mikhail Degtyarev, warned Montenegro not to join NATO, saying the country could potentially be targeted by Russian missiles</p> <p>18 November 2014 Russia banned meat imports from Montenegro</p>
<p>15 April 2015 NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg praised Montenegro, saying it had made “real progress towards membership of NATO.” He called Montenegro “a champion of regional cooperation” and said it had repeatedly shown that it shared “our values”</p> <p>14 September 2015 Vice President Joe Biden told Montenegrin Prime Minister Dukanović in a telephone call that the United States would support extending a NATO membership invitation to Montenegro at the group's foreign ministers’ meeting in December, so long as it continued to make progress in those areas</p> <p>12 October 2015 NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg said that he was encouraged by recent reforms in Montenegro and saw “growing support” for inviting the Balkan country to join the military alliance</p> <p>14–15 October 2015 The NATO Secretary General and the ambassadors of the North Atlantic Council paid a two-day visit to Montenegro to assess the country’s progress on reforms and its prospects for membership of the Alliance</p> <p>15 October 2015 Stoltenberg praised Montenegro for carrying out reforms in its armed forces: “we recognized the progress that this nation has made in pursuing reform, in contributing to international security, in promoting cooperation within the western Balkans”</p>	<p>13 August 2015 Montenegrin pork was added to the food import ban</p> <p>27 September 2015 Newly established pro-Russian opposition groupings launched anti-NATO and anti-government protests. The peaceful protests quite quickly developed into a blockade of Montenegrin state institutions when a tented camp was set up in front of the Office of the Government and the Assembly of Montenegro (Skupština), effectively blocking one of the main streets of the capital. The government gave the protesters permission to use the public area until 10 October 2015</p> <p>17 October 2015 When police started to clear up the almost empty opposition camps in the streets, as at that time it was already deemed an “illegal gathering on public property,” dozens of protesters and leaders were quickly summoned to the scene, leading to a number being wounded in the process and others being arrested. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd</p> <p>23 November 2015 The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said that Montenegro’s entry into NATO would be “another blow to European security and to relations between Russia and NATO”</p> <p>24 October 2015 Russia supported the anti-NATO protests and the opposition alliance, issuing</p>

<p>2 December 2015 NATO foreign ministers invited Montenegro to start accession talks to join the Alliance, while encouraging further progress on reforms, especially in the area of rule of law</p>	<p>statements in favor. Protesters hurled Molotov cocktails at police. Dozens of demonstrators and police were reported injured</p> <p>28 November 2015 Pro-Russian parties instigated turmoil in the run-up to the meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels on 1–2 December</p> <p>2 December 2015 Russia warned Montenegro not to join NATO. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said “The continued eastward expansion of NATO and NATO’s military infrastructure cannot but result in retaliatory actions from the east, i.e. from the Russian side, in terms of ensuring security and supporting the parity of interests”</p> <p>5 December 2015 Russia warned Montenegro that it would “freeze joint projects with Montenegro” if it went ahead and joined NATO</p> <p>12 December 2015 Pro-Russian opposition parties organized a large protest against membership of NATO, demanding that a referendum be held on the issue</p>
<p>27 January 2016 Forty-two MPs voted in favor of Prime Minister Dukanović’s cabinet over NATO’s membership offer, whereas 20 MPs opposed</p> <p>15 February 2016 Montenegrin representatives conducted accession talks with NATO International Staff at NATO headquarters</p> <p>19 May 2016 Allied foreign ministers signed the Accession Protocol, which gave Montenegro “invitee” status and started the ratification process in Allied capitals</p> <p>9 July 2016 At the NATO summit in Warsaw, Allied leaders underlined their readiness to conclude the ratification of the Accession Protocol, and Montenegro’s continued progress on reform, before and after joining the Alliance</p>	<p>17 June 2016 Speaking at the St Petersburg Economic Forum, Russian President Vladimir Putin said: “The Soviet Union has collapsed, and the Warsaw Pact no longer exists, but NATO is still approaching our borders. It is hard to understand why Montenegro would want to join the alliance. Where is the threat coming from? There is an absolute disregard for our position [on this matter]”</p> <p>22 June 2016 The State Duma of the Russian Federation drafted an address to the parliamentary assemblies of NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), as well as to national parliaments of the Balkan states, warning of the possibility of a new Cold War</p>
	<p>16 October 2016 Serbian and Montenegrin nationals who had ties to the Russian security services – GRU –had a plan to storm the parliament on election night and to kill the then Prime Minister</p>

<p>31 October–4 November 2016 Montenegro hosted a very large field exercise, “Crna Gora 2016,” jointly organized by its Ministry of the Interior and NATO’s Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC)</p> <p>3 November 2016 Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller congratulated Montenegro on its progress toward NATO membership, underlining that the Alliance looked forward to welcoming the country as NATO’s twenty-ninth member in the near future</p> <p>28 November 2016 New Prime Minister Dusko Markovic pledged that his government would complete, by the end of 2017, the years-long process of Montenegro's integration into NATO</p>	<p>Dukanović. In this way they wanted to achieve the installation of a pro-Russian, anti-NATO government. A US Senate committee said that Russia had interfered in the Montenegrin elections</p> <p>16 October 2016 Russian hackers played a role in downing several websites on election day</p> <p>31 October–13 November 2016 Russian–Serbian military exercise “The Slavic Brotherhood 2016” started in Serbia</p> <p>9 December 2016 Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he believed “frantic attempts are being made to pull Montenegro into NATO” before the end of US President Barack Obama’s term in January. He said that NATO should “hold consultations” with the Montenegrin people over the Balkan country’s membership bid</p>
<p>29 March 2017 The US Senate overwhelmingly approved a resolution supporting Montenegro's membership of NATO</p> <p>31 March 2017 NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg said the military alliance had reaffirmed its commitment to aiding the security of the Western Balkans and Ukraine. He also said he expected Montenegro’s membership of the Alliance would be fully ratified in June</p> <p>11 April 2017 US President Donald Trump signed the ratification documents for Montenegro's entry into NATO</p>	<p>3 March 2017 Pro-Russian opposition leaders who were alleged to have foiled an election-day plot to overthrow the government and block Podgorica’s NATO membership bid wrote to White House senior adviser Steve Bannon, seeking his help to halt the Balkan country’s bid to join NATO</p> <p>25 March 2017 Russian television stations and online media outlets campaigned to undermine the Montenegrin tourism industry, which relies heavily on Russian visitors. The media described Montenegro as a country of “crime, minefields, and dirty beaches.” They also wrote that the water, meat, and vegetables in Montenegro were dangerous for one’s health</p> <p>13 April 2017 Russia’s MFA said US approval of Montenegro's bid to join NATO was a “deeply mistaken” move that created divisions in Europe. “We consider the course towards including Montenegro in NATO is deeply erroneous, goes fundamentally against the interests of people in this country, and harms stability in the Balkans and in Europe as a whole,” the Russian ministry said</p>

<p>28 April 2017 Montenegro's parliament ratified the country's accession to NATO</p>	<p>15 April 2017 The Russian MFA warned potential Russian tourists that “there is an anti-Russian hysteria in Montenegro.” “We do not rule out the possibility of provocations, arrests for suspicious reasons or extradition to third countries of Russians,” Zakharova said</p> <p>26 April 2017 Russia banned Montenegro's largest winery and one of the country's best-known exports owing to sanitary failings</p> <p>28 April 2017 The Russian MFA issued a statement criticizing the West and the Montenegro government for the decision to join NATO, despite “the will of nearly half the country’s population that comes out against” the accession. Russia warned the West that it would bear responsibility for the Russian response</p> <p>26 May 2017 Russian news agency TASS ran a story relating online comments about the Trump incident (Trump shoved PM aside to a group photo at the NATO summit) by Montenegrins, who it said were demanding an apology from Trump and even calling for “sanctions” against the US for “humiliating” Prime Minister Markovic</p> <p>29 May 2017 Moscow expelled a Montenegrin MP, Miodrag Vukovic, who was travelling to Minsk in Belarus and was only briefly in transit in Russia at Moscow airport</p>
<p>5 June 2017 Montenegro joined NATO</p>	<p>6 June 2017 The Russian MFA warned it would take retaliatory measures on the basis of reciprocity</p> <p>17 September 2017 The largest joint military exercise since the Cold War was held with Russian and Belarusian troops on the Baltic Sea</p> <p>15 February 2017 The Montenegro government accused Russia of launching coordinated and sophisticated cyber-attacks on the websites of the Montenegrin government and several state institutions, as well as some pro-government media</p>