

EU states approve Montenegro's application for candidate status

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European Union member states have approved Montenegro's application to become a candidate for membership in the bloc. EU officials must now consider whether the tiny Balkan country has made "the necessary progress in implementation of reforms" needed for candidacy. Mirek Topolanek, prime minister of the Czech Republic, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, said the whole volatile region needed to "see interest" from the bloc to keep moving forward. Montenegro's Prime Minister, Milo Djukanovic, filed the candidacy application in December and won a landslide parliamentary election victory last month