



Podgorica, 21 August 2007

## **PAINFULL FACING WITH THE REALITY**

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) believes that the announced change in the method of collecting subscriptions for RTCG, by economic enterprises Telekom, is logical and every even remotely well intentionally and capable leadership of this house could a long time ago anticipate it and timely respond.

CCE estimates that the immediate action had to start by implementation of the Law, even five years ago. However, taking into the account that RTCG does not produce information to the public, but is committed to the needs of politicians in the complex Montenegrin political spectrum and for the needs of one political option, it is quite reasonable these days publicly expressed panic of the leaders of RTCG. The appeals of eternal and illegal president of the RTCG Council and other "concerned" prove the best their awareness of the authenticity of our earlier allegation that RTCG is biased, unprofessional, irresponsible media that works in nontransparent and illegal manner in many segments. Apropos, the **various Calic's finally recognize what civil society, international institutions and many other subjects have for long claimed: RTCG did not become a public service, but its caricature.** It is therefore legitimate concern of Calic, because neither him nor other incompetent managers and uneducated journalists, for which the law and the press code is not the basis, **public will not pay voluntarily.**

**CCE recalls that five years of so called RTCG transformation into a public service has been marked by numerous scandals and illegal activities, by textbook examples of biased and orchestrated reporting, and the persecution of dissenters and positioning of RTCG as court TV. Therefore, there remains the question of who really wants to pay for such a TV, when:**

- Council members do not represent the interests of those social segments through which they came to these positions but one political option at whose meetings they are frantically applauding. Their decisions have clearly shown that the highest body called public services is implementing the party politics of DPS which is still the only "owner" and "editor" of the RTCG.
- Council members are working illegally and do not have the strength to speak out about the problems that shake the house, or responsibility and intellectual honesty to resign if they can not confront violations of the Law.
- At least two members of RTCG have not been appointed in accordance with the Law on PBS RTCG and it is proven that people from the highest confidence in Government are sitting in the RTCG Council and representing the Government in its enterprises and institutions. Parliamentary majority by unwritten but

omnipotent criteria of party (non)conformity decides who can and who can not be in Council of the RTCG. All this is a violation of fundamental principles of media laws and regulations, as well as an insurmountable obstacle to the transformation of RTCG in public service.

- Management of RTCG does not fulfill the legal obligation to inform the citizens through a newsletter about their work, even though it spends the money of those same citizens. There is not a single one of these on the RTCG website [www.rtcg.cg.yu](http://www.rtcg.cg.yu) (of 13 that should be!), except introductory newsletter, and all of those according to the Law on PBS must be available to the citizens of Montenegro. Today is 21/08/2007 and the final decision of the Council is published on the website is dated on 27/05/2004 what makes Montenegrin public being denied more than three years for fundamental right to information.
- RTCG is not publishing financial statements about work nor financial plans, and it is unclear who in the state of Montenegro controls business of the PBS RTCG? Namely, in newsletters, which are not on the site, should be found also periodic and annual reports of the authorized auditor. Article 15 paragraph of the Law that clearly states that the Council "elects an authorized auditor of periodic and annual accounts of the RTCG and his findings publishes in the Bulletin of RTCG." Do citizens of Montenegro who pay subscriptions to finance the work RTCG have to beg the Council for information on how their money and tax money is spent from supporting RTCG budget of Montenegro? Why are they above the law?
- Board of Directors after the end of its mandate has not filed a report on its work nor gave answers to many questions. In this regard, the Board of RTCG gave no explanation as to renting a satellite link, and presented to the public the relevant documentation. In addition, the Board did not explain whether the Public Procurement Law applies to RTCG. The obligation of the Board to present to the public and which are exactly actions taken so far as subscription term, as the main source of funding RTCG would not be questioned was not never fulfilled.
- RTCG does not report in free, objective and professional manner about problems in their house, especially in the functioning of the RTCG Council nor about many other in Montenegrin society, and instead of producing quality educational programme and other content, RTCG makes great efforts to enforce the Montenegrin public opinion on "who are the good and the bad guys," and they are not shy of absolute flagrant violation of the law when it is in the interest of those it works for, which is certainly far from the interests of the citizens.
- "Objectivity" in access of the RTCG can not be measured, in addition to numerous daily examples, and those from RTCG site where the full video archive recommends only 3 interviews with politicians in the following schedule: Milo Djukanovic (Chairman DPS, 87 min), Ranko Krivokapic (President of SDP, 71 min) and Filip Vujanovic (vice president of DPS, 57 min). For RTCG there are no other political and social actors whose views are worth the presentation of the above, as part of a parallel reality that has the same RTCG trying for years to qualify.
- Even today, eight months after the CCE publicly pointed out, the editor of the news programme, Radojka Rutović, is illegally at that position, with the silence

agreement even other media, where it is clear that solidarity with lawbreakers is not helping the RTCG itself?<sup>1</sup>

Public service RTCG seeks and deserve responsible, benevolent and legitimate relation. The absence of such an approach, starting from the Parliament in which its president, Ranko Krivokapic, even previously identified himself as passionately interested party and publicly demonstrated the selective application of the law and violation of the appointment of members of the Council, was a sure way to destroy a chance to turn RTCG into public service. Of course, Krivokapic was and still is a voluntary fist of stronger coalition partner, and it had / has the support also of the authorities who kept silent above the breaking the law (Ministry of Culture, Media and Sport in charge of monitoring the implementation of media laws and public institutions of culture, University of Montenegro, whose rector is not muster the strength to stop the unacceptable bringing the university and the academic community in the context of the scandal with serious elements of the violation, the Chamber of Commerce and openly defend the violation of the Act, various inspections that did not visit RTCG, etc.. ).

**CCE has continuously pointed to structural errors in media law and irregularities in work of RTCG, just in a desire to contribute to the transformation of RTCG into public service. The apparent lack of genuine political will for a substantial and qualitative changes in the work of this important media, whose activity significantly (not) contribute to the democratization of Montenegrin society begins to pay tribute. Unfortunately, like so many times before RTCG and losers are the citizens of Montenegro, and various Calic's will be fed by other positions as they completed the task successfully.**

Daliborka Uljarević,  
Executive director

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<sup>1</sup> **Article 80 RTCG Statute**, which is directly subject to the Article 23 Law on PBS RTCG. As a reminder, the Law on Article 23, paragraph 3 says that Council members can not be persons "*elected, appointed officials in the Government of the Republic of Montenegro (ministers, their deputies and assistants, as well as heads of separate units under the direct control of the government and other officials)*" in paragraph 4 of "*political party (party presidents, members of the presidency, their deputies, members of the executive and general committees and other party officials)*", "and in paragraph 7 of" *persons who are spouses of persons named in this article and with them are related, in a straight line, regardless of the degree of kinship*. "This article in the RTCG Statute is directly applicable to the editors of the program. In this light, **public needs to know that brother of Radojka Rutović senior official of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and the Deputy Minister of Culture, Media and Sport Zeljko Rutović**. He was in these positions at the time of the appointment of Ms Rutović.