



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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PARLIAMENT IS BREAKING ITS OWN LAWS AND DEFYING EU RECOMMENDATIONS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses its concern over the newly demonstrated obstinacy of the Montenegrin Parliament. Instead of respecting the will of the civil society and appointing its representatives to the Council, the Parliament rejected candidacy of all civil society representatives, in defiance of recommendations by the European Parliament.

CCE warns that in taking such decision the **Parliament unambiguously demonstrated that the laws passed by this same body do not apply to it** – the Parliament is merely responsible for *confirming* the appointment of nominated members, as stipulated by the Article 16 of the law on public broadcasting services “Radio Montenegro” and “Television Montenegro”.

Voting on the appointments, instead of simply confirming them in line with the legal provisions, **ignores the autonomous will of the civil sector and defies the purpose of the nomination procedure.** Unfortunately, this behaviour of the Parliament of Montenegro, and of its president in particular comes as no surprise. It is not the first time that he and the ruling majority apply the laws selectively. Only today the president violated Rules of Procedure by denying a break demanded by the opposition, thus depriving the public of full information on the voting process, since the vote took place during the prime news time of RTCG. In the meantime, the President and DPS and SDP MPs violated the law.

Genuine transformation of RTCG into a public service will be impossible without participation of all societal sectors, and cannot take place while those deemed politically unsuitable are prevented from contributing to the process.

While their decision made the future of Montenegro all the more uncertain, the MPs also **directly defied European Union, which cannot contribute to improving the image of Montenegro, and especially of its Parliament, in the eyes of EU institutions.** Just the opposite: this is another confirmation of EU judgements, which the ruling coalition was wholeheartedly trying to deny, and which concern the lack of will on the part of the ruling elites to allow for a genuine transformation of the society in order to become a part of EU.

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