



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Podgorica, 23 January 2007

MEMBERSHIP IN THE RTCG COUNCIL BASED ON UNTRUTHFUL STATEMENTS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) gained access to the documents accompanying appointment of Branislav Čalić and Žarko Mirković to the RTCG Council and found that both had given untruthful and inadequate statements.

Namely, Žarko Mirković signed the following statement: “There are no obstacles to my appointment regarding the Article 23 of the Law of Public Broadcasting Services of the Radio Television Montenegro”, which is plainly not true, considering that he was appointed by the Government on 13 April 2006 to the function of temporary director of the public institution Musical Centre of Montenegro. Mirković has occupied this function for almost 10 months, and it is legally absolutely irrelevant whether this is “temporary” or not, which he tried to use as a justification in the public – either way, it is infringement upon the Law. CCE emphasises that there is no such thing as “temporary breaking of the Law” which could be exempt from sanctions, and regrets that Mirković, as a representative of academic community, does not harbour fervent commitment to the rule of law, and severely damaging instead the reputation of the very University of Montenegro.

Accepting his candidacy, Branislav Čalić also stated that there are no obstacles to his appointment to the RTCG Council, although at the time he was already a representative of the Government of Montenegro in the Board of Directors of the Montenegrin Post.

CCE asks the relevant parliamentary services and the Secretary General to immediately act upon these findings, as they are responsible for accepting untruthful statements; President of the Parliament of Montenegro, who is responsible for the legality of work of these services, and it demands that Čalić and Mirković be individually held accountable for signing these statements.

CCE urges the authorities to initiate the procedure for dismissal of these members of the RTCG Council, whose presence in the Council has been for months an act against the Law, therefore representing an obstacle to the genuine transformation of RTCG into a public service.



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CCE wishes to draw public attention particularly to the facsimile of the justification given by Vladimir Vukmirović, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro regarding the appointment of Branislav Čalić to, in his words “to this and all other assemblies of the RTCG Council”, which leaves one wondering as to whether the Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce has granted Čalić a membership for life:

“RTCG Council, as an independent regulatory body, completed the first phase of transformation of the Montenegrin public broadcaster, thereby accomplishing a normative and institutional framework for an encompassing reform of the sphere of media in Montenegro.

In terms of its programme, RTCG is ever more a place of permanent dialogue of all citizens, and such programmes which promote the interest of the citizens are becoming an element of comprehensive democratisation and development of the civil society and the state.

A significant contribution to the transformation of the Montenegrin public media into a public service was given by the RTCG Council and its president, Mr Branislav Čalić, representative of the Chamber of Commerce in the Council and President of the Council. His active commitment and professionalism, together with contributions of other members of the Council, resulted in guiding and creating of numerous decisions and solutions that positively affected the transformation of a state broadcaster into a public service of the citizens.

Bearing this in mind, ***we believe that Mr Čalić possesses professional and moral qualifications which entitle him to membership in the Council also in the future mandates.***

Vladimir Vukmirović«