



Podgorica, 16 July 2007

PARTY AFFILIATION BEFORE THE WILL OF AUTHORIZED NOMINATORS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) finds that in refusing to appoint Goran Đurović as a member of the RTCG Council the rulling coalition continues to pose obstacles to the RTCG becoming a genuine public service of all citizens.

The decision of the rulling coalition MPs to abstain from vote and therefore prevent the genuine representative of the non-governmental sector (representing six large groups: protection of the rights of children, youth and family, education, health and social protection) from finally assuming his place in the RTCG Council, is a continuation of a deliberate course of action since the coming into force of the Law on PBS RTCG aimed at preventing the RTCG from ever transforming into a public service. The method has been changed compared to the previous cases, but the goal has remained the same. Allies in the effort to illegally refuse to appoint Goran Đurović are only relevant to the extent that they reveal the capacity of each of these subjects to make a committed compromise in order to enact genuine reforms.

The spokespersons of DPS and SDP, or the heads of their parliamentary clubs are now set to once again denounce the "jungle of NGOs", "impossibility to recognise the credible ones", "manipulations with the law" etc. Yet, after the appointment of Dalibor Todorović, who commanded support of "600 non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights", for a post in the BA Council, without a single question on the part of the party tribunes fretting over the future of the NGO sector in Montenegro, the age-old rhetoric is now wearing out. The obvious conclusion, continuously pointed out by CCE, is that anyone not in the liking of the DPS-SDP parliamentary club will simply never become a member of the RTCG Council. It is now up to the DPS and SDP to explain to the Montenegrin public their criteria in making such different decision in these two cases. As members of the national parliament, they are first and foremost responsible to this same public, although the experience suggests that most accept only the judgement of their own party.

CCE urges the President of the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro, during whose mandate media laws have been most brutally breached in a manner inspired and supported by his own person, to make sure that in the next call for the appointment of new members to the RTCG Council he shows the kindness of setting





a detailed description of the required and preferred candidate, finally displaying for the benefit of the public his own and the intentions of his larger coalition partner.

CCE also urges other non-governmental organizations who expressed prior interest in this issue to react in accordance to their principles and earlier activities in the cases Todorović and Đurović.