



Podgorica, 13 January 2007

WHO WANTS TO DECLARE MORATORIUM ON THE RESPECT FOR LAW?

In the last months, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) has pointed at, and through practical examples demonstrated structural errors in media laws and unwillingness of the political elite to allow genuine functioning of the rule of law in Montenegro.

CCE urges all media and journalists not to fall into traps of certain high state officials, persons who keep on breaking the law and (ab)use deep divisions in Montenegro for the sake of their individual financial interests, as well as of those media representatives who manipulate the facts in order to show that the membership of Mr Ćalić and Mr Mirković does not involve conflict of interests.

CCE repeats that the Law on the Conflict of Interests has no relation whatsoever to the present issue, and that all attempts to show their membership in the light of this law represent an attempt to relativise the problem, to confuse the public and absolve those who are breaking the law.

CCE calls upon the President of the Commission for the Conflict of Interests to direct his efforts towards his own work, and to leave the RTCG Council out of his displays of devotion to the centres of power to which he himself belongs.

Mr Ćalić and Mr Mirković are breaking the Law on PBS RTCG, particularly the Article 23 which clearly states that the members of the RTCG Council cannot be "persons elected, chosen, or appointed to the Government of Montenegro". CCE already presented proofs of the Law being breached in both cases. CCE is also investigating into the truthfulness of statements presented by Ćalić and Mirković on the occasion of their candidacy before the Parliament of Montenegro.

As for those who feel that the public, including our organisation, has no right to insist on meticulous enforcement of laws, we would like to direct them to the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Mr Ranko Krivokapić, to request a moratorium on the respect for laws in Montenegro that would last at least as long as the period of tolerance for Mr Ćalić and Mr Mirković regarding their breach of the Law.