



Podgorica, 2 February 2007

## **CDNGO AND CCE WELCOME THE APPEAL FOR PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP IN PARLIAMENT**

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO) welcome the initiative by Miodrag Vukovic, Had of the DPS parliamentary group for the profesionalisation of parliamentary groups.**

Bearing in mind the new competences granted to the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro, the recent changes in its functioning, implementation of the new Rules of Procedure requiring full commitment of the MPs, projected dynamics of the Government of Montenegro that intends to submit 141 draft laws to the Parliament in 2007, as well as numerous obligations that await us on the road to Europe, professionalisation of the MPs will be of key importance for the adequate positioning of the Parliament in these processes.

Professionalisation of the function of MPs will contribute to a more professional fulfilment of the roles of MPs, as well as numerous other public offices in local administration, public institutions and enterprises, which are currently occupied by MPs.

We believe that the professional status of the MPs should be stipulated by the new Constitution of the Republic of Montenegro, and by the Rule of Procedures of the Parliament.

CDNGO and CCE welcome such positive initiatives, especially the fact that it comes from the ruling party, and we want to believe that it will bring about a significant improvement of the quality of work of the DPS MPs in the Parliament of Montenegro, who up to date frequently played the role of mere transmitters of the government's will as an apparatus for authorising its proposals.

CCE and CDNGO urge other parliamentary groups to promote and implement similar initiatives in their parliamentary groups, thereby contributing to the efficient functioning of the Parliament of Montenegro.

Non-governmental organisations will be closely following further developments in professionalisation of the Parliament, its openness and transparency, as well as its cooperation with the civil society organisations.

We will support every constructive, democratic initiative coming from the political actors and we are ready to contribute our assistance, to the extent that NGO capacities and expertise will allow.