

## **PARLIAMENT TO URGENTLY ENABLE THE FUNCTIONING OF RTCG COUNCIL**

Non-governmental organisations that have again nominated members to the RTCG Council urge the President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapic to include selection and appointment of RTCG members in the agenda for the first extraordinary session of the Parliament, scheduled for 5 February, in order to formally confirm appointments to the RTCG Council.

The repeated process of appointments to the Council of RTCG was completed on 28 January. NGOs have nominated the same representatives for these positions: in the area of human rights Ms Biljana Zekovic, executive director of SOS telephones for women and children victims of violence, in the area of sport, tourism and environment Mr Dzelal Hodic, executive director of NGO Green Step and in the area of the protection of the rights of children, youth and family, education, health and social protection Mr Goran Djurovic, executive director of Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations.

Should the Parliament, obeying the Law, confirm the appointments of new members to the Council of RTCG, it will terminate the agony of the public service and enable the Council to fulfill its functions: *adopt general acts regulating the issues of programme and professional standards of RTCG; approve programmes of the Radio Montenegro and Television Montenegro; analyse and decide upon violations of the broadcasting principles established by the Law on media, Law on Public Broadcasting, Law on the Broadcasting Council of RTCG and by the broadcasting documents and suggests adequate measures to the director of Radio Montenegro or director of Television Montenegro.*

Only the Council of RTCG can provide for genuine fulfillment of the principles of public service: truthful, objective, unbiased and timely information for the public on the events and phenomena in country and abroad that are of public interest; contribute to the respect and promotion of the fundamental human rights and freedoms, democratic values and institutions, pluralism of ideas, enhancement of the culture of public dialogue, respect for privacy and dignity of the citizens.

By establishing this Council, one ensures adequate media coverage of the upcoming presidential campaign. Only the Council is allowed to adopt and confirm the relevant programme, which falls outside of the competence of both political parties and the editorial board of RTCG.

This would certainly enable the public service to independently, free of political influences, responsibly pursue its task of offering objective public information.

We urge all political parties to express their public support for this proposal of NGOs and therefore contribute to the public service. We also urge all parties not to consider the proposed issue on parliamentary agenda regarding media coverage of the presidential

elections. If the political parties refuse to endorse our suggestions, they will make it clear both to their own citizens and to the international community that they are against the law and against independence of the public service.

Should they ignore our proposal, we will consider it a lack of will to finally implement the law on Public Broadcasting Services of Radio Television Montenegro. The responsibility lies with the President of the Parliament and political parties.

1. Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO), Podgorica
2. SOS – Telephone for women and children victims of violence, Podgorica
3. Centre for Monitoring
4. Association of the Blind of Montenegro, Podgorica
5. Action for Human Rights
6. Foundation for Roma Scholarships
7. Centre for Civic Education
8. JEF, Podgorica
9. Association for Democratic Prosperity, ZID, Podgorica
10. ANIMA – Zinec, Centre for Women's and Peace Studies, Kotor
11. Gerontological Society of Montenegro, Podgorica
12. Green Home, Podgorica
13. Council of associations of parents of children and youth with difficulties in development "Our Initiative", Podgorica
14. Coalition of the Roma NGOs – Roma Circle, Podgorica
15. SOS Telephone for children and women victims of violence, Niksic
16. Open School, Danilovgrad
17. NGO Parents for Students. Kolasin
18. NGO Children's Horizons, Podgorica
19. European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM), Podgorica
20. Plagus M, Plav
21. PR Centre, Podgorica
22. Montenegrin Cultural Circle, Cetinje
23. Centre for Civic Initiatives, Berane
24. Bona Fides, Bar
25. Youth Parliament of Montenegro, national network of youth and students' organisations
26. SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence Pljevlja
27. Civic Home, club of non-governmental organisations of the city of Cetinje
28. Centre for high-school students of Montenegro, Podgorica
29. Students' cultural centre of Montenegro, Cetinje
30. Bono Modo Centre, Tuzi
31. The house of Hope, Podgorica
32. Agency for local democracy and partnership in Montenegro
33. Women's Action
34. Women's Initiative, Zeta
35. NGO "Woman for the new millennium"
36. SOS telephone for the women and children victims of violence, Plav
37. Global answer to drugs – Montenegro
38. SOS telephone for the women and children victims of violence, Ulcinj
39. SOS telephone for the women and children victims of violence, Bar
40. NGO Heggarr
41. Post-Pessimists of Montenegro, Kotor
42. SOS telephone for the women and children victims of violence, Bijelo Polje
43. Open Centre "Bona Fide"
44. Civic centre for information and education, Pljevlja
45. SOS telephone for the women and children victims of violence, Rozaje
46. "Manus Feminae", Podgorica
47. Institute Alternative, Podgorica
48. Juventas, Podgorica