

PRESS RELEASE

Representatives of non-governmental organisations in Montenegro who nominated Goran Đurović for a member of the Broadcasting Council of RTCG addressed an appeal to the international organisations and diplomatic representatives in order to draw their attention to the repeated violation of the Law on PBS RTCG by the ruling coalition in the Constitutional Assembly of Montenegro. The letter addressed today to the European Commission Delegation in Montenegro, OSCE Mission in Montenegro, OSCE representative for the freedom of the media, Council of Europe office in Montenegro, Media department of the Council of Europe, diplomatic representatives in Montenegro and the media states:

“On behalf of 630 non-governmental organisations who supported the candidacy of Goran Đurović, programme director of the Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations for the membership in the RTCG Council in accordance with Article 16 of the Law on PBS RTCG, we use this opportunity to draw your attention to the renewed violation of this law by the MPs.

The said set of media laws was adopted in 2002 with support of the relevant international organisations, most importantly Council of Europe, European Commission, OSCE and others. They came into force during the same year. Unfortunately, even 5 years since the implementation of the existing regulations began, there has been no genuine transformation of RTCG into a public service, as testified by numerous reports, including the Montenegrin Progress Report for 2006 issued by the European Commission.

The ruling coalition has been continuously violating media laws in order to preserve full control over the Broadcasting Council of RTCG and the Council of Broadcasting Agency. Accordingly, when the first candidates of the civil society appeared who were impervious to political influence, the ruling coalition introduced the practice of parliamentary non-confirmation of nominations of those candidates that were judged to be less than loyal to the authorities.

Through its numerous activities, the non-governmental sector gives full contribution to the process of European integrations in Montenegro. An integral part of this process is democratisation of the media, first and foremost transformation of RTCG from a state-run media into a public service. Refusal of all opportunity to the genuine representatives of the non-governmental sector to articulate the interests of broader constituencies that they represent within their activities in the RTCG Council is certainly not contributing to a quality transformation of RTCG that has been lagging for too long.

We urge you to use the powers within your mandate to ensure that the media laws in Montenegro are respected by the MPs finally, thus contributing to the efforts of the non-governmental sector to participate in implementation of these laws in accordance with their spirit and European standards.

Trusting that our common efforts in this direction will lead to transformation of RTCG into a public service, and contribute to the overall media image and democratisation of Montenegrin society...”

The letter was signed by 50 non-governmental organisations from different areas that submitted their nominations for Đurović:

1. Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (CDNGO), Podgorica
2. Anima, Kotor

3. Association of the Blind of Montenegro, Podgorica
4. Gerontology association of Montenegro, Podgorica
5. Association of the Paraplegics of Montenegro, Podgorica
6. Network of associations of parents with children impaired in development “Our initiative”, Podgorica
7. Employers’ association of Montenegro, Podgorica
8. Coalition of Roma non-governmental organisations “Roma circle”, Podgorica
9. Centre for Monitoring (CEMI), Podgorica
10. Association for Democratic Prosperity “ZID”, Podgorica
11. Montenegrin Association for fight against AIDS – CAZAS, Podgorica
12. Youth Cultural Centre “Juventas”, Podgorica
13. Centre for Civic Education, Podgorica
14. SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence, Podgorica
15. Foundation for Roma scholarships, Podgorica
16. Human Rights Action, Podgorica
17. SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence, Nikšić
18. Open School, Danilovgrad
19. Parents for students, Kolašin
20. New horizons, Ulcinj
21. “Children’s horizons”, Podgorica
22. Children’s association of Bijelo Polje, Bijelo Polje
23. Green home, Podgorica
24. Natura, Kolašin
25. Eko centre Delfin, Kotor
26. Developmental cultural and informational centre MOST, Žabljak
27. Survival, Pljevlja
28. European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM), Podgorica
29. Network for affirmation of European integration processes, Pljevlja
30. Institute of European studies, Podgorica
31. Bonum, Pljevlja
32. Young European Federalists – JEF, Podgorica
33. Diagonals, Podgorica
34. NGO “Hope”, Herceg Novi
35. AHA, Herceg Novi
36. Centre for social rights of Montenegro, Podgorica
37. Plagus M, Plav
38. Nevidio, Mojkovac
39. PR Centre, Podgorica
40. Montenegrin cultural circle, Cetinje
41. Women’s media centre, Cetinje
42. Centre for Civic Initiatives, Berane
43. Ikre, Rožaje
44. Monigreni, Mojkovac
45. Bona fides, Bar
46. Festadjuni, Budva
47. Network “Youth Parliament of Montenegro”
48. Centre for high-school students of Montenegro
49. NGO club Civic Home
50. Students’ cultural centre of Montenegro