



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 19 May, 2009

A STEP FOWARD

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) welcomes the decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finally act in accordance with the provisions of the Law on free access to information regarding the letter of CCE, which was related to the availability of data on the diplomatic and official passports.

CCE considers that this is a step forward for the MFA in terms of cooperation of this state body and non-governmental sector. Free access to information is prerequisite for the development of democracy, and therefore it is necessary that all elements of society, especially the state authorities, give their quality contribution to the implementation of the Law on free access to information and thus provide the transparency of data, which on a direct or indirect way, contribute to the life of citizens Montenegro.

Montenegro diplomatic passports are issued for **307** Montenegrin citizens in accordance with the Law on Travel documents (Official Gazette No. 21-08), and on the basis of the Regulation of the Government of Montenegro on persons that are eligible to get diplomatic and official passports (Official Gazette No. 21-08). Art. 1 Regulation **87** passports that are issued to persons who are holders of public functions of the first order: President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, MPs and others. Art. 4 Regulation 63 passports, which are issued to persons who are holders of public functions of the second order of which are: 55 advisors, ambassadors, directors, heads of offices, deputy ministers and the rest are wives and children of mentioned. Art. 3 Regulation 86 of the: 55 judges, mayors, advisor, ambassadors, directors, heads of offices, warranted Ministers, and the rest are wives and children of above mentioned. Number of valid diplomatic passports issued on FRY form is 157 (of which 123 for diplomatic-consular representatives). Diplomatic passports on the old forms of former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were issued to Montenegrin diplomats who are working in the diplomatic and consular representative offices and members of their families. There are a total of 86 valid diplomatic passports. They contain diplomatic visas issued for a period of 4 years. Following the change of the state status of Montenegro, 146 Montenegrin citizens with diplomatic passports send the passports to be cancelled. In accordance with the Law on Travel Documents (Official Gazette No. 21-08), 59 citizens of the Montenegro gain a Montenegrin official passport.

CCE hopes that the example of Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be followed by



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the Ministry of Interior and Public Administration, given that we still did not receive a response from that body about the *civil passports*, even though the legal deadline has expired long time ago. In this case, CCE also considers unacceptable and for every condemnation the recent statement by Minister Kalamperović that he personally will never reveal the identity of those persons to whom the Montenegrin citizenship was granted, since he has no legal or professional foundation for such an attitude towards work and citizens.

Therefore, CCE expects to get the information on the number of Montenegrin passports issued on a new form from the date of entry into force of the Law on Travel documents (Official Gazette No. 21/08), the number of Montenegrin passport on old forms that were canceled after the issuance of passports on new form, as well as on the number of Montenegrin passports issued on old forms with valid visas after the entry into appliance of the Law on Travel documents (Official Gazette No. 21/08). As for the controversial statement of Minister Kalamperović, and according to the provisions of the Law on Travel documents and the Law on Data Protection, as well as the Constitution, it is clear that this statement is not based on the Law on Data Protection, which has not yet come to force. Also the requested information will not endanger the state structure, but improve the legitimacy of this document.

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