



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS SHOULD BE OPEN FOR EVERYONE

Centre for Civic education (CCE) is again asking President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapic to use his constitutionally and legally granted authority and to influence the formation of the National Council for European Integrations (NCEI) as soon as possible.

CCE had serious objections during the previous, or to be more exact first, formation of the NCEI concerning the appointment of the representatives of the NGOs dealing with the process of European integration. CCE assessed then that, instead of the genuine NGO representatives from this field, people who were politically suitable for certain political parties were appointed, which represented an act of serious violation of Decision on formation of NCEI, both in formal aspect and in terms of the spirit it understands. Constitution of the new NCEI is an opportunity to correct this.

At the same time, CCE expresses concerns over several recent statements by the president of DPS parliamentary club, which are practically announcing abolition of this body.

There's no doubt that previous team of NCEI faced many challenges in its work, but it is clear now that the ruling coalition never actually wanted to have a body with any members that don't entirely share their views, even in a limited scope as this one.

Opinion of Miodrag Vukovic, an official of DPS, which promotes the principle of breach of the legal framework is unacceptable, and surely opposite to the frequently voiced European standards. Vukovic, as the MP, but also as member of the NCEI, and president of the Committee for International Affairs and European integration, had more than a year to start the procedure of changing Decision on formation of NCEI, for which DPS also voted. But, he didn't do it. As a lawyer he knows that valid legislation should be respected, although the party he belongs to has shown numerous times, so far, that the law is valid for it as long as it is convenient and in contrary it is violated in most various forms.

President of the Parliament, if he is truly dedicated to the process of European integration of Montenegro, should within his authorities contribute to formation of this body as soon as possible, and also to enable the conditions for its work.

CCE considers that it is important to have the body of this kind gathering opposition and civil society. The process of European integration is not and can't be exclusive right of the Government or only of the ruling coalition. This body could enable wider spectrum of the political and social actors to be engaged in adequate manner, and to jointly respond to the challenges ahead of Montenegro, which is confirmed by the experiences from the region.

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