

Podgorica, 8 July, 2009.

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE OF THE CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION ON THE OCCASION OF PROPOSAL OF ADOPTION OF SREBERENICA DECLARATION**

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Human Rights Action (HRA) welcome putting on the agenda of the Proposal of Declaration on acceptance of the European Parliament Resolution on Srebrenica, which was submitted by Vice President of the Parliament Mr Rifat Rastoder, considering the opening of discussion about this issue within the Parliament of Montenegro as an important step in the process of facing the past which is an obligation of the region on its way towards EU.**

At the opening of the Fifth Regional Forum on Transitional Justice, in the organization of CCE and HRA, on behalf of the Coalition for Establishment of a Regional Commission for determination of facts on war crimes and serious violation of human rights (RECOM), representative of the European Commission, Mr Pierre Mirel, Director for Western Balkan countries stated: “The Western Balkan countries progress towards European integration and EU membership depends also on the success of transitional justice, starting with how they deal with the war crime issue”.

CCE and HRA express hope that the Parliament of Montenegro will pass the Declaration, whose part is the Resolution of European Parliament on Srebrenica, where it is emphasized that “institutionalization of a day of remembrance of Srebrenica genocide is the best way for homage to victims of the massacre and for sending a clear message to future generations.” European Parliament invited, through this Resolution, European Commission to declare the 11 July as a day of remembrance to the Srebrenica genocide in the EU, and “specifically invited all the countries of Western Balkans to do the same.” Passing of the Declaration on acceptance of the Resolution of EP on Srebrenica would mean that Montenegro, not only condemns this crime, but also adopts mechanisms for homage to victims.

**CCE and HRA expect that acceptance of this Declaration along with the Resolution of European Parliament on Srebrenica will initiate similar activities of other parliaments of the region and intensify the process of facing the past, which has been suppressed for a long time in Montenegro.**

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