

COLLEGIUM CANNOT REPLACE THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO IN IMPLEMENTING THE EC RECOMMENDATIONS

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) believes that it is inappropriate for the Collegium of the Parliament to work on those activities that do not fall within its jurisdiction as this represents a dangerous message from the legislative authority.

Analyzing jurisdiction of the working bodies of Parliament and comparing them with the competences of the Collegium of the Parliament, which consists of the president, vice presidents and the presidents of the Parliamentary group, it seems that this body is overloaded with commitments under the Action Plan and is often a sublimata of risk in fulfillment of the obligations by the Parliament, undertaken in the process of implementation of the recommendations of the European Commission.

It was never explained to the public why this practice was established, but it is clear that the working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro are largely marginalized in this process, which has an enormous social impact. The fact that the Collegium decides to form necessary working group, and not the Parliament, as defined by the Rules of procedure, after which the Collegium very often takes responsibility and claims the right to work even on the legal texts, is very concerning. The most current example is the "hard work" of the Collegium in drafting the electoral law. The role of the Collegium is to ensure the conditions for the work of the Parliament and not to take over its power. It is therefore unacceptable and a dangerous practice that is being established through the production of specific solutions by the Collegium and sending the same to the relevant working groups and the Plenary for consideration and adoption.

This approach represents a political pressure from the Collegium to the relevant working bodies, with the affirmation of partitocracy and contrary to the European principles and best practices. The alleged commitment to meeting the EU recommendations is actually used in order to limit the jurisdiction and importance of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, the Administrative Committee, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Legislation Committee, the political system, the judiciary and the administration, etc. **Instead of contributing, through this process, to strengthening the role of Parliament and its bodies, particularly its control function which is an essential requirement of the EU, democratic approach and broad participation of all interested parties, the principle of effectiveness is being abused, and the process itself becomes nontransparent and strictly controlled by the politics at the expense of the public interest.**

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