

Government of Montenegro
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
To the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Government of Montenegro
Mr Milan Roćen

Podgorica, 21 July, 2009

Your Excellency,

In the context of the social and parliamentary debate on foreign relations and the quality of the national diplomacy, we assess as significant to draw your attention to the process of facing the past within the process of appointment of our diplomatic representatives.

During many of the international conventions and meetings with your colleagues, you personally supported and gave a great importance to the affirmation of measures taken in overcoming negative heritage from past, especially within the framework of development of good neighbourhood and European policies, which is exceptionally important and complimenting.

This relates to the diplomatic representatives of Montenegro that are already appointed or about to be appointed, as well as to certain persons whose work, especially in the domain of the media, is linked with the very negative context by the general public, but also by the provisions of the Criminal Code, and characterised as war advocacy journalism.

Some of them made initial steps towards an apology to the domestic political public, but not to the wider social community, and especially to the regional public towards which they had a very negative orientation in the past.

We appeal to you to completely stop proposing for the work in diplomatic service the persons who were recognized by the misinforming of the citizens, promotion of the hatred and support for the war.

Also, we invite you to ask the persons appointed for ambassadors of Montenegro to personally do what is necessary to send the adequate feelings of remorse and sincere apology to the public of the countries where they currently work and diplomatically represent our country, especially in regard to their own reporting.

That would prevent possible campaigns and activities of subjects of the civic society from the entire region and contribute the preservation of the credibility of the country they represent.

Respectfully,

Stevo Muk
President of the Managing board of the Institute „Alternativa“

Daliborka Uljarević
Executive Director of the Centre for Civic Education

Aleksandar Saša Zeković
Human Rights Violation Researcher