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FUTURE CAN NOT BE BUILD THROUGH DENIAL OF THE PAST

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) is advocating, for years, opening of the facing with past process in Montenegro in an effective manner in order to reinforce regional cooperation and consequently the success of European integration.

Therefore, the statement of the political director of Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Predrag Sekulic, that the initiative of CCE for the formation of a commission that will deal with the analysis of the work of journalists during the 90s marked with war is “one in a series of those looking at the past” does not respond to the truth. Sekulic says “At this time, Montenegro needs to be more committed to the future than to deal with things which happened in the past”. It seems that he forgets or doesn’t want to know that **the prerequisite of the sustainable future is exactly the conduction of process in which those who inspired war events, those who have directly violated the provisions of humanitarian law and also those who done that by command responsibility must be taken accountable for that. War crimes can’t be dismissed as well as the pain and memories of the victims.**

V Regional Forum on transitional justice in post-Yugoslav countries, in the organization of CCE and Action for Human Rights, on behalf of the CORECOM, was recently held in Budva. It gathered app. 400 participants from the region. Within opening session, the representative of the European Commission, Pierre Mirel, Director of the Directorate for Western Balkan countries in DG Enlargement Pierre was clear in his message: **“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”**. We believe that this statement by one of the highest EC representatives, also focusing on Montenegro, in the best way explains the doubt to what extent we may deny our recent past and what we are expected to do in that regard and on the road to the EU. CCE has published Mr. Mirel’s speech in the last issue of its monthly magazine on European integration, *European pulse* No. 44, which can be found on the www.cgo-cce.org.

It is clear that Sekulic’s duty is to defend the party leadership whose certain members were not random witnesses but active participants at that time, by the positions they occupied and activities they inspired or they had to know and to be in charge of. Nothing can delete that fact, neither time nor some “reward for peace and humanism”. Also, Sekulic maybe want to defend some of the colleague journalists from “Pobjeda”, who at the time subordinated professional norms to the hate speech. However, this is not a justification that the whole state and people bear collective responsibility if there are mechanisms to determine by name who was writing what at the time and what, who was giving orders, who was implementing it and so on. Only in this way the state of Montenegro and its citizens will be released from the burden of the past and able to stand in front of its neighbors, to develop an effective cooperation and to build its European future.

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