



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for civic education

Podgorica, 11.4.2011.

## NCEI MUST START TO DELIVER RESULTS

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) considers that continuous and professional work is mandatory to all the bodies entitled to deal with European affairs. In that context, it is hard not to notice lack of activity of one of the bodies mapped as being amongst the most important – National Council for European Integration (NCEI), especially in the process of fulfillment of the seven conditions for obtaining the negotiation date with the EU.**

The Parliament of Montenegro still does not use all its capacities, and by examining the first monthly Report on implementation of commitments from the Action Plan for monitoring the implementation of recommendations from EC opinion, it is evident that nothing is essentially undertaken to change current state of affairs.

The role and position NCEI are to be questioned, since it was formed in order to make more efficient the control function of the Parliament in the process of European integration, as well as to increase the degree of participation of all relevant social groups. However, this body is not recognized as such, and even in the Action Plan they are no visible measures that would strengthen its role. Rare and mostly protocol meetings of the NCEI (after nearly four years) are not an adequate response to more than important social role that this body should have in policy shaping and decision making.

**NCEI would have to provide the social credibility of the process by producing suggestions and guidelines for the essential recommendations of the EC recommendations.** An example of this would be the initiation of the necessary constitutional changes as a precondition for faster construction and reaffirmation of the judicial system as one of the EC conditions, which requires the establishment of the independence of courts and judges, as a probable guarantee of fair and impartial trial within a reasonable time, then the adoption of recommendations on decriminalization of defamation, raising the issue of efficiency of the constitutional complaint and capacity of the Constitutional Court, and so on. In this way, NCEI could become a body that will help the Parliament to get involved in a more concrete way in the process and put into force its important function that should continue to lead to faster and more concrete results of the executive branch.

If the activities and results of the parliamentary body continue to miss, it is realistic to open a question on justification of existence for NCEI, as well as the need for reorganisation of this body and change of the methodology of its work. **By restructuring the current NCEI, the role of the Parliament would be reinforced, especially by establishing a continuous cooperation between NCEI and the Committee for European Integration and Foreign Affairs, and also the cooperation with the Joint Committee of the Montenegrin and European Parliament.** All these three bodies would have their special responsibilities, and by joint actions contributed to the faster progress of Montenegro towards the EU.

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