



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

Podgorica, 25 Januar 2007

NGO SECTOR AND INDEPENDENT MEDIA CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESPECT OF LAW

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) estimates that thanks to the efforts of non-governmental organizations and independent media, the Law on the Conflict of Interests is being gradual enforced, despite the evident lack of political will and awareness of the importance of its implementation.

The example of the Supreme State Prosecutor, Ms Vesna Medenica, shows that those who should be the most responsible for meticulous enforcement of the Law in this system are themselves inclined in various ways to ignore the regulations completely, consciously compromising their personal and professional credibility.

CCE expresses its satisfaction at the fact that the State Prosecutor finally reacted in the only possible and socially acceptable way, choosing to obey the Law and allow the Commission for the Conflict of Interests to continue its work.

CCE supports the initiative of the civil society and recommendations of the European Commission which warn that the Law on the Conflict of Interests must be made effective and more concrete in terms of sanctions. It is unacceptable that high state officials such as Ms Medenica should avoid all legal consequences for robbing the state property.

CCE wishes to emphasise this significant contribution of the NGO sector and the independent media to the narrowing of the space for manoeuvre for manipulations by the state officials and decision makers.

Additional note:

CCE sent on 18/01/2007 a letter to the President of the Commission of Identifying Conflict of Interest requesting to check the circumstances in which this gift is received, where it is exactly placed at the moment, what is its value and whether it is recorded within Commission. The letter was accompanied with the magazine „Index“, in which the interview with Ms Vesna Medenica was publicised, illustrated with a lot of personal, family and ambiental photos, among which was a photo of the watch luxury decorated with details of Moscow and certain stones, with an indication that it is „a gift of the Russian prosecutor“.