



Parliament of Montenegro
Mr. Damir Davidović, Secretary General

Podgorica, 11/07/2011

Subject: Request to make public information on the votes of individual MPs in the public voting procedure at plenary sessions

Dear Mr. Davidović,

In accordance with Article 51 of the Constitution of Montenegro, as well as Articles 112, 113 and 124 of the Rules of the Assembly of Montenegro, Centre for Civic Education (CCE) and Institute Alternative (IA) would like to request that you upload to Parliament's website the documents containing the record of votes for all members of the Parliaments per individual items on the agenda, for all sessions in which the procedure of electronic (public) voting was used since the introduction of this technology.

Taking from the many recommendations aimed at improving the transparency of the Parliament's work, and strengthening the credibility of this institution, we believe that it is essential to genuinely allow the public their right to know how their representatives in the legislature voted on specific issues. There is no doubt that the act of uploading the documents from public sessions on the Parliament's website meets the principles of openness and public scrutiny of public institutions. Only the voters who have an insight into the past record of their representatives' choices can hold them accountable at the elections.

We are well aware that we have every legal right to request the information on the voting record of the MPs via procedures specified by the Law on Free Access to Information, and we believe that we could also obtain it in this manner. Nevertheless, we decided to ask that you make this information available to the public at large, as we believe that this is the only effective approach which would also fully serve the public interest.

The Parliament of Montenegro must demonstrate by example the readiness of public institutions to open up to the society on which they are based and which they exist to serve. Scrutinising the work of the Parliament over a longer period we have noted substantial progress in communication with the public and availability of documents, and we suggest that you also make available the records of the voting procedures, which are anyway considered public by law.

Trusting that you will have full understanding for our request,

Sincerely,

Daliborka Uljarevic,
Executive Director of CCE

Stevo Muk,
President of the Board of Institute Alternative