

Podgorica, 30 July 2009

LESSONS FINALLY LEARNED

By verifying the appointments of members of the Council of national media public service of Radio and Television of Montenegro (RTCG), the Parliament of Montenegro went back to respecting the Law and the choice of the civil society. This is a very important progress which upholds the importance of the civil society and its role in continuation of consolidating democracy and rule of Law in Montenegro.

We publicly congratulate to all the members of Council of RTCG, and wish them a successful work, while expecting from them a full dedication to further development of RTCG as the genuine public service. We especially congratulate to our colleague Goran Đurović, director of Centre for Development of Non Governmental Organizations (CDNGO), who is now recognized as a symbol of patient, benevolent and constructive efforts of Montenegrin civil society for a change of political exclusion and authoritarianism.

Đurović was yesterday, after four previous denials, verified by the Parliament of Montenegro as a member of Council before the organizations from the field of protection of human rights and liberties. In all of the previous cases, the Parliament denied his appointment solely due to the lack of political will and the fear to implement the Law in effect at the time and validate the majority will of the NGOs. The citizens of Montenegro were thus denied the adequate communication and connection with their public media service, and the only criterion of such decisions of the Parliament of Montenegro was the political inexpediency.

Appointment of Mr Đurović is very important. On the symbolic scale, it represents an end of a road which started back in 2006, which was dominated by the obstructions of the ruling coalition and efforts toward destruction of the concept of public service. Let us hope that now the time is come for constructive and responsible relations between the Parliament and the civil society, which did show a full consistency in its work, which was often very hard, as well as resistance to all kinds of political and other pressures.

It seems that we have a case of lessons learned, and it is very encouraging that there are quality changes within the decision makers who turned to the wider social interest and the struggle to make the RTCG a genuine public media service of the citizens of Montenegro.

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