



Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for civic education

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## THE RULE OF LAW DOES NOT LIVE IN MONTENEGRO

**Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses its concern about the frequent examples which continuously indicate that respecting the law in Montenegro is a matter of voluntarily decision, political interest or personal interests of ruling coalition rather than an imperative on which society based on the rule of the law can be built.**

This is clearly shown by perennial violation of the Law on public broadcasting service RTCG. Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) gave different ineffective reasons to justify their violation of this Law. Recent events when they refused to verify appointed representatives of civil society and their calculation on possible suitable members of the RTCG Council certainly represent the highest point of the numerous violations. **Absolute governance in Montenegro perceives its absolutism only in demonstration of power, but certainly not in accountability as well. This seriously endangers the process of democracy building in Montenegro and its way towards EU.**

Statement of Mr. Miodrag Vukovic, chief of Parliamentary Club of DPS, in which he says that this party didn't support Mr. Esad Kocan's appointment for RTCG Council because "the law forbids for the owners of radio and TV stations and editors in chief to apply for this function" and reminding that "DPS attitude towards RTCG Council hasn't change since beginning" is extremely hypocritical. The Law on PBS doesn't prevent Mr. Esad Kocan in any way to become a member of RTCG Council in opposition to the others for whom DPS and SDP flagrantly violated the law.

CGO has repeatedly warned the public that membership in RTCG Council of Ms. Radmila Vojvodic, theatrical director and now a member of board of directors of "Prva banka", was unlawful. Namely, from the moment when she was appointed in the Council and during her entire mandate, she was a director of marketing agency MAPA. The article 23, para 5, clearly prescribes that the member of the Council can not be a person "who, as owner, shareholder, member of ruling bodies, employer and similar, has interest in legal entities which produces radio and TV programmes, because membership of such person in RTCG Council could lead to conflict of interests." This didn't prevent Vukovic and his partners to unlawfully elect Zarko Mirkovic, even though in the moment of appointment he was acting director of Musical Centre of Montenegro appointed by the Government, nor Branislav Calic,



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regular and loyal visitor of DPS's forums, who in both mandates on behalf of Montenegrin Government was at the same time a member of Board of directors of Montenegrin Post Office and both of these nominations in opposition to the article 23, para 3.

In addition, the argumentation on chaos in NGO sector, in this case, has no foundation in reality. Furthermore, there were no objections in NGO sector, heterogenic as in whole world, against appointment of Biljana Zekovic or Goran Djurovic for the Council, whose nominations DPS and SDP constantly refuses to verify.

**It is clear that in Montenegro the law is becoming very relative category and that we have already entered the zone in which for absolute power and for those who are in its perception suitable everything is allowed. To those citizens of Montenegro who have different standpoint or have dared to express a critical attitude or think differently not even the law can help.**

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