

Follow up – Response of the State Officials to the HRA Reform proposals:

**1. Regarding "Proposed Reform of Liability for Breach of Honor and Reputation in Montenegro (reform of defamation law)"**

At the meeting with the EU ambassadors on 31 January 2011, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Dusko Markovic, stated the following: "In February we will propose amendments to the Criminal Code, which will, inter alia, decriminalize defamation...However, the liability for public speech will be ordered by improvement of the civil law".<sup>1</sup>

At the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights, held 3 February 2011, the member of the Committee from the political party Movement for Change, Mr. Koca Pavlovic, proposed that a separate meeting be held in order to discuss the HRA "Proposed Reform of Liability for Breach of Honor and Reputation in Montenegro", pointing out that the proposal offers great solutions.<sup>2</sup>

**2. Regarding 109 proposals from the "Assessment of the Reform of Appointment of Judges in Montenegro"**

At the meeting with the EU ambassadors on 31 January 2011, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Dusko Markovic paid special attention to strengthening judicial independence, announcing amendments to the Laws on Courts, Public Prosecution, Judicial Council and Prosecutorial Council, which will be discussed at the spring session of Parliament, so as to improve the selection criteria for holders of judicial functions and lay down clear criteria for their career advancement, i.e. disciplinary liability.<sup>3</sup>

At the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights, held 3 February 2011, a member of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights Mr. Ervin Spahic, told our representative that the Committee analyzes our "Assessment of the Reform of Appointment of Judges in Montenegro" and will invite us to a meeting in order to further discuss our recommendations.

**3. Regarding ongoing project "Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Law on the Right to Trial within a Reasonable Time"**

On 13 January 2011 we received a letter from Mr. Dusko Markovic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, in which he has expressed his interest and willingness to cooperate in implementation of our project Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Law on the Right to Trial within a Reasonable Time.

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<sup>1</sup> "The state helps the media and NGOs", *Daily Vijesti*, 1 February 2011

<sup>2</sup> "All ready to work, Dinosa having lunch", *Daily Vijesti*, 4 February 2011

<sup>3</sup> "The state helps the media and NGOs", *Daily Vijesti*, 1 February 2011

At the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights, held 3 February 2011, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ms Branka Lakocevic, confirmed that the Ministry focused on the above project.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.