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Podgorica, 17 November

European Broadcasting Union

Noel Curran, Director-General

Dear Mr Curran,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2017 regarding the support of the Parliament to the activities of the RTCG Council.

I fully agree that the Public Service Council has enormous significance in deciding about investments and financial plans and outputs of the Public Broadcaster. I assure you that the public of Montenegro is aware of the activities of the Council and its members individually, given their great presence in both RTCG and all other Montenegrin media. Therefore, I consider that the Council has even greater responsibility to take care of the credibility of the Public Service by removing any controversy over the unquestionable actions of the members of this highest body of the RTCG.

The Parliament of Montenegro fulfils its legal responsibility of appointing the members of the Council and, accordingly, it also fulfils its legal obligation of their dismissal if the legally prescribed procedure shows that there are conditions for the dismissal of a member of the RTCG Council. The Administrative Committee is a parliamentary body that, under the Law and parliamentary Rules of Procedure, is responsible for the implementation of the procedure for appointing and dismissing the members of the RTCG Council, while the Parliament of Montenegro takes a position on the proposed decision of the Administrative Committee. So far, in its work, the Administrative Committee has shown a high degree of safeguarding the integrity of its members and the Parliament as a whole, despite the enormous pressures to

which it was exposed in numerous occasions since the constitution of the 26th Parliament, and this is also true in this case relating to the reviewing legality of the activities of the members of the RTCG Council.

At yesterday's meeting, following the statement by Nikola Vukčević, member of the RTCG Council, the Committee unanimously found that Vukčević - as a member of the RTCG Council - has violated Article 26, paragraph 1, point 5 of the Law on Public Broadcasting Services of Radio and Television of Montenegro, and unanimously decided to propose to the Parliament of Montenegro to dismiss Nikola Vukčević from the position of a member of the RTCG Council. MPs will decide on this Proposal for the Decision by the Administrative Committee at one of the following plenary sessions.

Bearing in mind the importance of the Public Service in informing and educating citizens of Montenegro, as well as the reform activities that you are talking about, I assure you that the Parliament of Montenegro and me – as a person on its top position, have the highest interest to check and remove before the competent state authorities any doubt about the existence of a conflict of interest among the members of the RTCG. Likewise, I believe that the legal certainty of the members of the Council will diminish tensions on the media scene of Montenegro and mutual accusations about the pressure on the work and illegal activities of the Public Service Council and commercial media, regardless of their editorial policy.

I am convinced that we share a common position - that everybody from their own area of authority should support further professionalization of the media, which will contribute to the development of a free and progressive society.

Ivan BRAJOVIĆ