



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

ROYAL NETHERLANDS ACADEMY
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

H.E. Filip Vujanović,
President of Montenegro
Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 12
81000 Podgorica
MONTENEGRO

Amsterdam, 30 November 2011
CVW/EL/5277
Subject: letter of support to protect the
scientific integrity and autonomy of
Academy members of MASA

Committee for the Freedom of Scientific Pursuit
Contact Mr drs. F.J.G. (Erik) van de Linde
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The Honourable President of Montenegro, Mr. Vujanović,

In most countries worldwide, a national Academy of Arts and Sciences represents the national scientific community. National academies cooperate internationally in various networks with the aim to continuously improve science and to strengthen the contribution of science to society through research, education and innovation. This international cooperation is based on the fact that individual members of these academies are the most excellent scientists each country has to offer. Excellence and membership are determined by an objective, peer reviewed process.

I have been informed by the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts that there is a new law under consideration in Montenegro, that, if it were to be adopted, would result in a radical change of this internationally accepted procedure. Membership would then no longer be based on scientific excellence, but rather on political assignment.

If this information is correct I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed law. The Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts would gravely impair its independent advisory capacity, and will, as I expect, encounter serious difficulties in its functioning, not in the least with respect to the possibilities for international cooperation, if its members were to be politically assigned rather than purely on scientific merits.

Most sincerely yours,

Robbert Dijkgraaf
President KNAW