



OAW
Austrian Academy
of Sciences

President
Professor Helmut Denk

President
H.E. Filip Vujanovic
Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 12
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro

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P/ap/BPI

Dear Mr. President,

We have been informed that it is planned to adopt a new law on the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA). As far as we have learned, this law is proposing a procedure to enable members of NGO Doclean Academy of Sciences and Arts becoming full members of MASA. The election mode for new MASA members is the same as practiced by other national academies worldwide: becoming a member is only possible by elections, which are preceded by a strict peer review procedure based on scientific and artistic achievements of the respective candidates. We were informed that NGO is a self-proclaimed academy, whose members have not been elected on the basis of scientific or artistic quality, in compliance with good practice of national academies. In case the new law implies that the membership in MASA can be achieved in any other way than by election on the basis of scientific or artistic excellence, we want to stress this might have a negative effect on further cooperation with other national science academies, as it will no longer be recognized as such. Certainly, the implementation of that law would mean that political will dominates over scientific integrity and autonomy of scientific institutions in Montenegro.

Your Excellency, we would like to strongly recommend re-evaluation the new law with respect to the foreseen procedure to award membership in the MASA. Please understand our concern that an administrative election stands in strong opposition to the basic principles of national academies, their autonomy and the international standards of scientific integrity. This would be a step unknown elsewhere and strongly to be rejected. The current election procedure as well current membership status of the MASA should be protected.

We are very interested to continue keeping good relations with the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts as a very active and internationally well recognized institution. However, this depends on its success in preserving its scientific integrity and autonomy in electing new members.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2
1010 Vienna, Austria
Phone +43 1 51581-1203
Fax +43 1 51581-1209
helmut.denk@oeaw.ac.at