



ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sarajevo, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

Your Excellencies,

Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its deepest respect to President of the Republic of Montenegro, President of Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro and Prime Minister of the Republic of Montenegro.

We are writing in support of preserving autonomy of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts. Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts as a very active and well recognized institution in the world of national academies is enjoying an authority and respect in between international academy organizations and their members, much higher than it could be expected for one academy from one rather small country. Such a level of respect of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is a consequence of its active and principal approach in solving interacademy problems and to interacademy activities as well as in promoting and keeping strong moral, scientific and artistic criteria in selection of its membership.

Therefore, it was our pleasure to develop good relationship and strong cooperation between our two academies which we are very committed to continue.

Therefore, we were very disturbed by information that the new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is planned to be adopted, proposing the method of becoming the member of national academy of sciences and arts on very unusual way: without procedure of elections.

We would like to point out that according to international practice, one can become member of national academy only by elections, which are preceded by peer review procedure based on one's scientific and artistic achievements.

There is no restriction that members of other scientific organizations or bodies can be elected as national academy members, but through the mentioned election process only, but in accordance with generally adopted criteria without mechanical integration of the two organizations.

Otherwise, such an organization is losing its scientific and artistic credibility and it is hardly to believe that such organization could become member of families of national academies of sciences and arts with equal rights, suffering all accompanying consequences.

Therefore, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina sincerely hope that you personally as well as political bodies you represent will undertake necessary measurements to prevent adoption of the Law endangering independence, scientific and artistic level as well as dignity of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and its position in the society of academies of sciences and arts in Europe and worldwide.



President of Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Academician Božidar Matić