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Nº 12-1830/1

H.E. Igor Lukšić, Prime Minister of Montenegro

Skopje, 19 December 2011

Your Excellency,

We have recently learned about the content of a new Law in which some fundamental changes in the composition and procedures concerning the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA). Since our Academy has a rather long and fruitful history of cooperation with MASA, we would like to express our concerns with respect to the proposed new law.

Clearly, we are in no position to directly influence the policies of the authorities of Montenegro and do not want to suggest changes in the proposed law if such changes are contrary to the interests of your country in general and MASA in particular.

Nevertheless, we strongly believe that some provisions of the proposed law are counterproductive and should not be included in the law in question or any other law in the future. Instead, the law should adhere to the internationally accepted standards. Among the problematic issues are: the intention to add members to MASA in an administrative way (without proper election procedures based on scientific and artistic achievements) as well as the idea of reducing the present membership in a similar way. It is our belief that both these issues and their possible solution belong to MASA which must be autonomous in solving the problems of its membership.

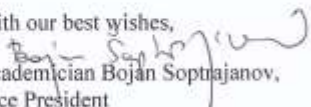
In view of the considerations outlined above, we would be grateful if you and the government of Montenegro reexamine the proposed law and bring it in accord with the internationally accepted standards.

We are strongly committed to keeping good relations with Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, not only because of our good relations with MASA but also because MASA is a very active and well recognized institution in the world of national academies (ALLEA and other international organizations of national academies). Because of all that we believe that MASA should preserve its autonomy in the procedures of renewal of its membership.

Finally, we would be extremely grateful if you take this letter as a sign of good will rather than as meddling in the internal affairs of Montenegro and its authorities.

We take the liberty of sending analogous letters to H.E. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro, and to H.E. Ranko Krivokapić, President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

With our best wishes,


Academician Bojan Soptrajanov,
Vice President

Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

