



H.E. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro
H.E. Ranko Krivokapić, President of Parliament of Montenegro
H.E. Igor Lukšić, Prime Minister of Montenegro

Brussels, 6th December 2011.

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Your Excellencies,

Your connections will confirm that we are long-standing friends of Montenegro without ulterior motives. Our advice is hence confidential and meant in the best interest of Montenegro's international standing, credibility and EU prospects.

It is thus with the greatest respect that we take the liberty to write you in the delicate matter of the planned new Law on the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts.

If we understand the new Law correctly, it is proposing a method of becoming member that would seriously jeopardize the respectability and international scientific standing of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and Montenegro in general.

National academies worldwide have the societal, historic and democratic mandate to be beacons of scientific excellence and fortresses of scientific and cultural knowledge independent of party-politics and other outside pressures. Therefore national academies worldwide adhere to the unique practice of only electing and allowing new members through a process of independent peer review based on scientific and artistic achievements.

Any divergence from this tried, tested and well-established practice will seriously imperil the eminent standing of Montenegro and the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts.

One must guard against the danger of demoting the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts to the irrelevant plethora of so-called "Academies" that can be found everywhere. Even on the Internet one can find more than fifty so-called "European Academies" of various kinds.

It is necessary to be aware of the fact that neither "Academy" nor "European" are copyrighted and don't necessarily imply any specific quality criteria, neither official recognition by national- or international authorities. This is the sole privilege of independent "National Academies".

Your Excellencies, we earnestly hope that our short advice has been helpful and we remain at your disposal for any further advice that you might require.

Sincerely Yours,

*Dr. Gilbert Fayl
President*