



Sofia, 7 December 2011

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

H.E. Ranko Krivokapić, President of Parliament of Montenegro
Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 10
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H.E. Igor Lukšić, Prime Minister
Karadorđeva bb
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Montenegro

Honorable President of Montenegro,
Honorable President of Parliament of Montenegro,
Honorable Prime Minister,

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences works actively with the national Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts since more than ten years for strengthening the co-operation among the SEE countries and between them and the rest of Europe. Both national academies are members of various pan-European organizations within which they collaborate for advancing the role of the European research area. Now, we learned that a new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is planned to be adopted. It seems that the new Law is proposing a method of becoming the member of a national academy, absolutely unknown in the national academies worldwide. As it is practiced since many centuries, one can become member of a national academy only by elections by peers as a result of peer review procedure based on scientific and artistic achievements.

We want to pay your attention that if it happens that the new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts imply membership in MASA by verification or in any other way, instead of election on the basis of scientific or artistic achievements, this might produce

problems in recognizing Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts as member of national science academies' family, and may negatively reflect on our further cooperation. Certainly, this would mean that the political will is over scientific integrity and autonomy of scientific institutions in Montenegro.

Your Excellency we would like to ask you to reexamine the solution that you are proposing with the new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts regarding the procedure for becoming member of national academy, as well as to protect its' current membership from expelling. We are very committed to continue keeping good relations with Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts as a very active and well recognized institution in the world of national academies. However, this is much conditioned by its' success in preserving autonomy in electing new members as well as ensuring scientific integrity.



Professor Nikola Sabotinov, FBAS

President