



ROMANIAN ACADEMY

President

BUCHAREST,
NOVEMBER 28th, 2011

His Excellency
Mr. Filip Vujanović
President of Montenegro
Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 12
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro

Dear Mr. President,

We have been informed by MASA that a new Law of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is being prepared for adoption. It appears that according to this new law, people not recognized or known internationally could become members of the Academy. It is the general rule in all national academies and internationally used practice that **somebody can become member of an academy only by election**, based on careful and competent analysis of his/her scientific or artistic merits of highest quality and appreciated by the scientific or cultural community. High national and international reputation is also included in the criteria for election in any academy.

I take the liberty to call your attention that any other way of selecting new members for MASA, by any other procedure than election by Academy members, and not by considering the scientific or artistic merits, can severely harm the prestige of MASA and its recognition worldwide, by other academies and international organizations of science and culture, as a legitimate national academic institution. This could negatively influence the chance of inter-academic collaborations. This would be extremely regrettable, since MASA gained a high appreciation in the region and Europe, through its initiatives and activities at international level. This Academy is highly respected in the family of national academies and this should continue.

Excellency,

We underline that any political interference with the scientific integrity and autonomy of the national Academy of Montenegro would be extremely harmful since only it happened in the past under Communist regimes. Therefore, we respectfully ask you to reconsider the prepared new law of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, in respect to the procedures for establishing the membership and to protect the current members from expelling. In all national academies the members are elected for life, and only in extreme situations of severe acts sanctioned by justice, a member can be excluded.

We are seriously interested and committed to continue our excellent relations with the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, and our collaboration on European and worldwide level. This will be possible only if MASA will preserve its scientific integrity and its autonomy, out of political influences and interference. The Academy should, like in any national academy, be the only one able to select the candidates and elect its members.

Looking forward to a favourable and reasonable decision, I remain, with highest esteem,

Yours sincerely,


Academician Ionel Haiduc