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page 1

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Ministarstvo nauke

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Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of Montenegro, I would like to express our high appreciation for your letter.

I would also like to thank you for your suggestions concerning new Law for Academy of Science and Arts. However, we are deeply concerned that some of the conclusions you made imply that you might have received some information that differ from the actual situation and processes that our Government is leading.

Therefore, please let me introduce the situation in our country concerning policies that might affect institutions that you are concerned for.

New strategy for scientific research and activities in Montenegro, among others, has two identified goals: one is to concentrate all possible and active scientists and young researchers in centres of excellence, that would be fully supported by the Government and, already approved, 20 million euro project of the World Bank. Secondly, our aim is to concentrate all academics into one institution. For the moment, our academicians are organized in two academies of science, one of which being the national, Montenegrin Academy of Science and Art (MASA), fully financed from the State and Doclean Academy of Science and Arts (DASA), financed from donations and their scientific activity. Following EU integration process, which is leading us toward need to increase our scientific capacities and to increase the level of financial support in science and research, we need to proceed with the implementation of this strategy. I would also like to mention that our country has only 40 scientific and academic institutions with, at this moment, 1032 active researchers that are recognized in our database and, therefore, have to implement the strategy of accumulation of all scientific potential in order to gain synergy and not conflicts among institutions and scientists.

From these reasons, as well as need to make our Law on Academy of Science and Arts in accordance with the Constitution of Montenegro as an independent State, as well as with EU laws, we have decided to proceed with the adoption of the new law, in order to have it approved by the Parliament of Montenegro before we start the negotiation process with the EU.

I will assure you that the new law fully recognizes autonomy and scientific integrity of the MASA (Montenegrin Academy of Science and Arts), proposing that all questions concerning election, organization and, even, financing of the Academy will be subject of MASA's documents.

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Apart from that, for the first time in our country, this law recognizes MASA as the only institution in Montenegro that will be allowed to have words «academy of science and arts» in its name, therefore, proclaiming our national academy the only academy in our small country. Question of members of the other academy, that have passed the same election procedure in DASA (Duclean Academy of Science and Arts), following European standards, will be transferred into MASA following certain procedure. The Council of MASA, in accordance with its autonomy and competence will analyze documents of DASA (Duclean Academy of Science and Arts) members, that will state that they have already passed the election procedure in other academy, and that they fully comply with all other rules of the new law. This situation is well known in our region, in occasions when Ex Yugoslavia's republics became states and therefore formed their own academies of science and arts and had to accept members of other academies, following the short procedure of acceptance of their elections in other academy. It is also well known as the way academies of science accept members of other academies in the world.

We are sure that this solution will be the most effective for our country and will give us possibility to finally have National Academy of Science, which would be fully prepared to coordinate strategic projects for our country, without continuous misunderstanding between two academies and their academicians on the matter of culture, identity, language etc. These all will be questions resolved and analyzed within the academy, following the mission of academies of science to provide huge benefits for the society, driven by its excellence and commitment of their members. Therefore, we would highly appreciate your support in this process and we are sure that you will understand the specific situation and will that our Government has to establish a new dimension in our society, which would focus science and research as our priority and competitive advantage of our small country.

Finally, on behalf of our Government, it is my pleasure to invite You to be our guest in Podgorica and use the opportunity to clarify all eventual misunderstandings.

Assuring you that our Government is strongly supporting science and scientific research as main generators of our development, we are sending our best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Srdja Vlahovic Ph.D
Minister of Science

