



## TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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1 December 2011

H.E. Igor Lukšić,  
Prime Minister of Montenegro  
Karadordeva bb  
81000 Podgorica  
MONTENEGRO

Excellency,

We have recently been informed that the new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA) is planned to be adopted soon. As far as we have been informed, according to the new Law, members of the national academy will not be elected on the basis of scientific or artistic merit but will be nominated administratively or politically. It is worldwide known that such a nomination procedure is against the autonomy and scientific integrity of academies of sciences. According to the universal rule concerning academies and as it is practiced in the national academies worldwide, one can become member of a national academy only by elections, which are preceded by a peer review procedure based on scientific and artistic achievements.

We would sincerely like to draw your attention to the fact that if the new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is enacted, it would create problems of recognition of MASA by other Academies and Unions of Academies and would result in a loss of prestige of MASA vis-à-vis scientific communities in the world. This would also mean that the integrity and autonomy of scientific institutions have been overrun by the political power in Montenegro.

It is also noticeable that this inclination of governments to interfere with the independence of science academies is seen in countries where science academies have a relatively recent history. I believe that one day the political authorities in such countries will understand the value of independence of science and art and that all decisions interfering with the autonomy of science academies will be corrected.

Excellency, we would like to ask you to reconsider the new Law on Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts.

The Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts is a very active and well recognized institution in the world of national academies. We sincerely hope that it will maintain its autonomy and scientific integrity.

Cordially yours,

Prof. Dr. Yücel KANPOLAT  
President  
Turkish Academy of Sciences