



Centar za demokratsku tranziciju - CDT

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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE BEGINNING OF THE REALIZATION OF THE MONITORING OF THE EARLY PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN PODGORICA AND TIVAT IN OCTOBER 2002

Center for Democratic Transition will monitor early parliamentary and local elections (in Podgorica and Tivat), which will be held on October 20, 2002. We would like to remind you that these are the fifth elections that CDT will monitor.

We welcome the agreement of the political parties about the harmonization of the amendments on the Election Law. We also appeal for the election of the Constitutional Court as soon as possible in order to obtain the necessary conditions for conducting elections.

The Center strongly condemns the appearance of vulgar and offensive graffiti as an incorrect method of political struggle against political opponents. It is incomprehensible that, after 12 years of a multi-party system, no party has learned to get the trust of the citizens with a good party program and solutions that can pull the country out of the difficult economic crisis, rather than through offense language and accusations against political opponents. Instead of their laconic dissociation from the contents of the graffiti, the best possible way to show their rejection of those messages of hatred is by walking down the streets of Podgorica with pots and brushes and cleaning the acts of the political activists during the breaks of the Parliamentary sessions, which are recently very frequent.

It is with incredible ease that parties do not abide the Law on Financing of Political Parties, which was adopted in the Parliament by them. The Law says "the parties who have MPs in the Parliament will sign a special agreement that will provide for the observance of the limitations of the expenses of the election propaganda within 15 days from the day of calling the election." We would like to note that the deadline passed a long time ago and that in this way the parties have flagrantly violated the Law. Instead of giving a good example to others in their adherence to principles, as well as in abiding by the Laws, they avoid their application and, by doing so, keep out of the public sights their finances – forgetting that the money in the budget that is provided for financing of the pre-election campaign is money from Montenegrin citizens.

Within its activities, the Center for Democratic Transition would monitor the pre-election campaign of political parties, the work of the Republic and Municipal organs in charge of the administering the election process. We will also observe with our monitors and mobile teams the voting procedure and counting of the results, as well as the post-election period and verification of the expressed will of citizens.



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Taking into consideration that a proper and democratic pre-election campaign is a very important segment of fair elections, CDT decided to offer to the political parties a Code of Conduct during the campaign. Noticing deep divisions between the Montenegrin parties, we would like to contribute in this manner to help to overcome and calm down political tensions. A similar Code was signed before the previous Parliamentary and Local Elections, which was evaluated by local, as well as international institutions, as a positive step toward further improvement of the cooperation between participants of the political match. The Center will follow its observance and inform the citizens about the possible violations. On the basis of our high quality communication with REC, we will try to contribute through our cooperation to the strict observance of the legal procedure.

Based on the reports of its monitors, Municipal and Regional coordinators, the Center for Democratic Transition on election day will continually inform the public of all eventual mistakes and violations of procedure and publicly announce our opinion about the quality of the electoral process.

Podgorica, 14 September 2002