



Centar za demokratsku tranziciju - CDT

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POLITICAL PARTY AGREEMENT ABOUT RULES OF CONDUCT DURING THE CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTIONS ON 20 OCTOBER 2002

We believe that signing of the Code of Conduct prior to April elections in 2001 and local elections in May 2002 was a positive step toward development of democratic processes and cooperation among parties. With the aim of having fair and democratic elections, we decided to adopt changes and amendments to some of the provisions of this Agreement prior to the parliamentary elections and local elections (in Podgorica and Tivat), which will be held on October 20, 2002.

Freedom of political campaigning in accordance with the law and democratic norms is one of the most important aspects that influence the development of democratic processes. Every party has the right to promote their political principles and ideas. Of course, activities and actions of every political subject carry a certain level of responsibility to ensure that their content will not jeopardize rights of other parties.

The participants in the elections who have signed onto this Code of Conduct have agreed to direct their activities toward further development of fair and democratic principles. According to this charter, each party is obliged to take responsibility for actions of its candidates and activists.

The political parties who have signed onto this agreement have accepted and agreed to the following:

I TOLERANT RELATIONS

A. INTER PARTY RELATIONS

- The political parties will respect the rights of other political subjects to participate freely in the election contest.
- Political parties who have signed onto this agreement will not influence negatively republic and municipal election organs for the purposes of advancing their own political objectives during the election campaign.
- During public presentations, parties are obliged to avoid statements that can be interpreted as a threat to other parties or their supporters, as well as to refrain from giving information that is not supported by precise evidence in an effort to discredit or defame their political opponents.

B RELATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC



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- During the election campaign, parties are forbidden to spread any form of intolerance or hatred toward citizens of different nationalities or confessions.
- The political parties, candidates and activists will not influence the electoral will of voters by offering them money, gifts or any kind of benefits.
- The political parties are obliged not to blackmail or intimidate voters in any way, especially by threatening to fire or move them to another job position.
- Parties must not prevent journalists from performing their duties in accordance with the rules of their profession and election rules and with the aim of objectively and correctly informing citizens.

II RESPECT OF THE PROCEDURE AND LAW IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

- All parties should consider it a responsibility to educate supporters and members about respect for the election procedure and the secret ballot, as well as about the provisions of this agreement.
- The political parties and their candidates will provide all necessary assistance to members of election boards and commissions in order to secure respect for voters' rights.
- The funds from the Republic and Municipal budgets, which are not allocated by the Law, as well as funds and services of public enterprises and institutions, must not be used for the purposes of any individual party.
- Political parties shall publicize their election campaign expenditures within 10 days of Election Day.

III PROPER PROPAGANDA AND ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

- The activists from each party must respect public and private property. Therefore, they are not allowed to post propaganda materials or paint graffiti in non-designated places.
- Parties who have signed onto this agreement condemn in advance possible printing and distributing of anonymous propaganda materials, especially of those that incite political, national or religious intolerance, or those with a shameless content and inferences.
- The political parties, candidates and activists will not disrupt public gatherings nor destroy propaganda materials of the opposing parties.
- All political parties should try to avoid arrangements involving public gatherings at the same time and in the same place or in nearby areas. If such a conflict of time and



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place should arise, leaders of the parties should cooperate in good faith to find a reasonable accommodation.

- Parties are especially obliged to instruct their supporters and members that no weapon may be brought to any public gathering, voting place or nearby area.

IV RESPECT FOR THE ELECTORAL WILL OF THE CITIZENS

- All political subjects participating in the elections are obliged to respect the will of the citizens expressed in the election if there were no major violations of the election process.

V JOINT COMMITTEE

- In the interest of building trust building between political parties, party representatives who signed this Code are obliged to participate in meetings in order to review the implementation of the foreseen agreement.
- Signatories of the agreement invite NDI, the organization that cooperates with all parliamentary political parties, to chair these meetings. We also invite the Center for Democratic Transition, a nonpartisan organization that monitors the electoral process, to inform political parties about the violations of the signed agreement.
- The work of the committee will be regulated by the rules and regulations.